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TREATS TO THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GREECE

Letter dated ²⁶ 23 November 1951 from the Head of the Delegation
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, addressed to
the President of the General Assembly

23 November 1951

His Excellency Mr. Padilla Nervo
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations
Paris
Sir,

I have received the following communication from the relatives of twelve Greek patriots sentenced to death on 16 November 1951 by the special military court at Athens (Greece):

"On the eve of the dissolution of the special military courts, the special military court at Athens has sentenced twelve accused persons to death. Most of those sentenced are intellectual workers and trade union leaders. Among those sentenced are five women, one of whom is a young mother.

"We wish to emphasize that the execution of the death sentences would be disastrous for the restoration of peace within the country. Your intervention may prevent the addition of yet another bloodstained page to the tragic recent history of Greece.

"We appeal to you to save our children and thereby help the Greek people to attain internal peace and take its place among the free democratic nations.

Beloyannis, Grammenos, Maniatis, A. Kanellopoulos, Kalofolia, Papadopoulos, Dromazos, K. Kanellopoulos, P. Kanellopoulos, Georgiadis, Papanikolaou, Kottos".

I would ask you to be guided by the human approach to the question

of the protection of the victims of political terror in Greece adopted at the third and fourth sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and through the United Nations to take urgent steps to secure the repeal of the death sentences passed by the special military court at Athens on these twelve Greek patriots, whose lives are in the greatest danger owing to the imminent threat of execution of the death sentences at any moment.

Please arrange for my letter to be issued as a General Assembly document and distributed to all delegations.

I have the honour to be etc.

(signed) A. Vyshinsky

Head of the delegation of the Union of
Soviet Socialist Republics