

JOHN T. MALAKASSES

THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON GREECE'S CLAIMS
TO SOUTHERN ALBANIA.
THE AGITATION OF THE NORTH EPIROTAN IRREDENDISTS
AND THE GREEK GHURCH IN WASHINGTON

The American representative¹ in Tirana in 1946, J.E. Jacobs in a telegram to the State Department of September 3, 1946, was quite categorical of the determination of the Albanians, «regardles of political beliefs», to defend their country's sovereignty and integrity on the attempts, whatsoever by the Greek right to challenge the territorial integrity of the southern most part of their country. Moreover, the same diplomat, seemed to be of the firm opinion that he, as the representative of the United States on the spot, with the understanding, of course, that experience there was providing him, could not support the claims advanced by the Tsaldaris government in Athens and the ultra nationalist elements centered around the Greek church on the issue of ceading to Greece the area of the so-called North Epirus.

For not withstanding, his expressed abhorrence of the communist regime², he J.E. Jacobs, was quite steadfast in his defence and upholding

1. Following the disputes with England and the United States, the insistence by both to influence the course of events in Albania in favor of a prowestern regime, the American diplomatic presence in the Albanian capital was kept to a minimal.

2. «All information I have from Dept. indicates we do not support Greek claims which in justice to Albanian people, (I hold no brief for present regime), we cannot support....». National Archives of the United States, Post Reports, 820 Tirana, U.S. Mission, General Records, 1945-46, Box. 9. Telegram by Jacobs to the State Department of September 3, 1946. I am the first to use those materials, declassified under my request.

The feeling among Albanians about the possibility of dismemberment of their country by Greece was so intence and catholic that Mr. Jacobs did not hesitate to warn the State Department of the immense peril to the American personell accredited to Tirana, in case, of course, that the United State was to take a public stand in favor of it: «Can we not do something to stop continued agitation of this problem and thus save time debating it by declaring publicly that we will not support Greece in

of what he considered the recognized and just international boundaries in the area. «Because present boundaries were settled fairly as humanly as possible by international action after the last war», and also as a matter of principle since, «...to approve Greek claim would create new minority problem by placing five hundred thousand Albanians under Greek rule for a small Greek minority of fifty thousand at most.»¹

These views of a relatively minor functionary of the State Department were however, but a reflection of the established policy of Washington on the issue of «Northern Epirus.» Indeed, in anticipation of the forthcoming Paris Peace Conference in the fall of 1946, the Pentagon at the request of the State Department² had submitted a special study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff JCS 1654/1, «Strategic Value of Northern Epirus to Greece and Albania». In it among other things the American military experts emphasized the following cardinal points:

- a. Greece can defend herself against Albania along present border but not against any important coalition no matter where the border moved.
- b. On the other hand, northern Epirus is important to Albania both economically and strategically.
- c. Ceasing this territory to Greece is likely to be followed by guerrilla warfare which could endanger peace in the Balkans³.

This seemingly sudden interest of the State Department in a relatively minor dispute of two Balkan states was prompted not only by

this. In any event if our delegation at Paris or at the UN intends to favor or support this Greek claim then, in the interest of safety of our personnel here I should be so advised so that at least six women here can be sent away.» *Ibid.*

1. *Ibid.*

2. «Greece making determined effort to get Albanian - Greek problems brought within scope of Paris Conference. Byrnes (Secretary of State) has agreed to back Greece getting place on agenda to present arguments for this: If Greece succeeds, the question of claims for Epirus will arise. Any War Department views this question in light present overall situation would be helpful». Message by colonel Bonesteal of the American mission at the Paris Conference to the War Department attention general Norsted of August 30, 1946—. RG 319, Records of the Army Staff, P & O, 092 (Section IV) Case 44/2. *Ibid.*

3. «Question of whether Greece should be permitted to bring Greek - Albanian problems before the Paris conference would appear to be one to be settled on political grounds, possibly as a matter of Conference tactics. As for the substance of Greek claims, military aspects are covered in JGS 1657/1.» Message of general Norstad to the State Department of Sept. 1, 1946. *Ibid.*

the intrigues of the Tsaldaris administration and its unrelenting efforts to bring the issue to the Paris Peace Conference, but as it has already been indicated elsewhere here by the lobbying of «northern Epiro-tans» in Washington. It was largely due to their undertakings that as early as February 19, 1946, Senator Pepper the leading senator at the Committee of Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, a well known new dealer on the Roosevelt tradition, submitted the following resolution to be adopted by his committee:

Resolved, that is the sense of the Senate that Northern Epirus (including Corytsa)... where a strong Greek population predominates, should be awarded by the Peace Conference to Greece and become incorporated in the territory of Greece¹.

While, indeed, it was a significant diversionary publicity victory for the besieged and discredited right at the wake of the British bloody intervention of December 1944, the resolution adopted in toto by the said committee, in essence was a hollow one. For the Senate, reflecting the trends in the executive branch of the government, did not deem appropriate to take any action on it, but it simply tabled it. Nevertheless, the activities of the Greek right in Washington provoked a prompt, resolute if not violent reaction in Albania².

For in addition to demonstrations against these potential threats to their national integrity and a general mobilization of the meagre military forces which could be mustered, not surprinsigly, the very head of the Albanian revolution himself took the lead to counter these threats.

1. Memorandum by the State Department to the American Legation in Tirana of May 11, 1946, containing the resolution offered by Senator Pepper. *Ibid.*

2. «As reported in various recent telegrams sent to the Department by this Mission, there has been an increase in attacks on Greece and Greek official in the Albanian official press and over the official radio». Despach by Jacobs to the Secretary of State of March 28, 1946. In Tirana the daily BASHKIMI on March 27, 1946, carried a speech by a certain major Misto Traska, where among other things said the following: «The fate of Northern Epirus» is also flung on the teeth of the men of the «Great Idea» (megalo-idhea-Greater Grece) and of all the Monarcho-Fascists of Athens. «Vorioepiros» is simply an offspring of the ill fancy of the men who are ever in search of trouble and to distrurb the peace in the Balkans and Europe.

Nobody dare move even for a single inch the pyramibs marking our southern border said the Commander today because there will be bloodshed.

There exists no «Vorioepir». There are only minorities in Albania and Greece». *Ibid.* Extracts from the aforementioned article as it appears in the English translation of Jacob's despach to Washington.

On April 12, 1946, Enver Hoxha despatched the following communication to the American representative in Tirana:

It has always been the desire of the Albanian Government to eliminate misunderstandings that might impair the relationship between Albania and the United States....

We are in doubt as to the truthfulness of this news (Pepper's resolution)...tending to weaken the friendship existing between our two countries. I would, therefore, appreciate clarification of these reports concerning a resolution passed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs...¹

State Department's response certainly went a long way to set at ease the alarm in Tirana. While upholding the Senate's prerogative to «express its views on any matter it so desires», it dismissed the resolution as not «binding the executive branch of the Government.»²

It should be added here, that as the American representative in Tirana Jacobs was eager to emphasize to the State Department, in spite the strained relations of the United States with Albania «it will be difficult to explain the authorities here the fairness of such a resolution.»³

The Senate's Foreign Relations resolution was coordinated with the activities of a delegation of the «Central Committee for Northern Epirus», headed by the former bishop of Argyrokastrò Panteleimon⁴, whom Enver Hoxha in his communication to the American representative in Tirana had called «the Greek agent Panteleimon Kotokos»⁵ that was visiting Washington at the time. The committee was received at the State Department by the senior members of the Near Eastern Division, Henderson and Allen on February 21, 1946. Panteleimon who was the group's spokesman attributed what he described «discrimination» of the

1. Note by Enver Hoxha to the head of the American legation in Tirana of April 12, 1946. It should be noted that this communication had been addressed to Jacobs in Albanian. *Ibid.*

2. Memorandum by the State Department to the head of the Albanian government of May 11, 1946. *Ibid.*

3. Despatch by Mr. Jacobs to the State Department of April 13, 1946. *Ibid.*

4. The following comprised the delegation of the Central Committee for Northern Epirus that visited the State Department, besides the former bishop, Mr. Basil Ioannides, Dr. John Kondylis, Mr. Peter Mamopoulos, Mr. Miltiades Spiromilios. *Ibid.*

5. Note by Enver Hoxha to the American representative in Tirana of April 12, 1946. *Ibid.*

Greek population by the Albanian authorities to charges that it was fascist, an event, of course, which was applicable to the ideological proclivities of the committee itself. The main thrust of the bishop's message to the State Department was that the United States should «assist» to have the region incorporated into Greece¹.

In the ensuing conversation Mr. Henderson underlined that the appropriate forum for such an arrangement would be at a peace conference which should end the state of war between Albania and Greece. And to make the strongest possible impression on his visitors the head of the Near Eastern Division «pointed out that the United States had not recognized the state of war declared against this country (USA) by the Albanian regime and at the present time considers Albania to be a friendly independent nation»². The refusal of the State Department officials to consider the issue had an indirect warning to the Tsaldaris administration, that Greece prior to any arrangement with the neighboring state ought to normalize its relations with Tirana ending the state of war which had been declared by an Italian puppet regime. That the continuation of the state of war was but an indication on the part of Athens for aggression against Albania and that it was used as a pretext to harbor Greek expansionist designs against the latter which the United States, irrespective of the government in power in Tirana, was not willing to support. In fact the administration in Washington regardless of party affiliation, would be steadfastly against any rearrangement to the borders of the Balkan states³.

The views expressed by both Allen and Henderson were once again reiterated to Senator Pepper whom the Greek committee had immediately approached after its futile encounter with the State Department. When Senator Pepper rather insistently, demanded an unofficial view on the matter Mr. Allen's reply was at first evasive and then non-committal:

1. Memorandum of conversation at the State Department between the North Epirotan delegation and the representatives of the State Department. *Ibid.*

2. *Ibid.*

3. The STATE-WAR-NAVY COORDINATING, COMMITTEE in memorandum to the Secretary of State on May 11, 1946, on the subject of «Strategic Elements Involved in Greek request to Rectify Greco-Bulgarian Frontier» after judging against it on strategic reasons it concluded: «Transfer of this territory from Bulgaria to Greece would likely be followed by violent resentment and partisan activities. The peace of the Balkans would thereby be endangered without decisive strategic gains». *Ibid.* RG 218, Records of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, CCS 323.33 (4-30-46).

When Senator Pepper asked him what the Department's views would be in connection with his resolution for the return of Northern Epirus to Greece he (Mr. Allen) had said that the only way for the Senator to get a formal expression of opinion from the Department was for the Senator of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee formally to ask for such an opinion. When Senator Pepper asked what the Department's reply would be in such an event, Mr. Allen said that the Secretary had often stated that territorial questions should be finally settled at the peace conference and that this might be the Department's official view. When Senator Pepper asked about Greece and Albania in this connection, Mr. Allen replied that Greece still considered itself at war with Albania and that eventually he thought there would have to be a peace conference at which time the Northern Epirus question might possibly come up¹.

The Greek ambassador at Washington Cimon Diamantopoulos who in a coordinated fashion had sought an audience with Mr. Allen at the bishop's urging did not fare better. The administration in Washington could not support the Tsaldaris' territorial designs against Albania. And that irrespectively of the regime in Tirana the integrity of the country, Albania, would be upheld.

Tsaldaris' agitation and that of the extreme right's while it served to divert Greece's attention from the mounting civil war and governmental persecution of dissidents in reality it counteracted. It helped create, and rightfully so, a climate of hostility and apprehension in Albania straining the relations of the two countries for years to come, while it demonstrated the impressive lack of any international support, USA's in particular, for this jingoistic policy of aggression against the small neighbor at the northwest. And successive governments in Athens continued to insist on maintaining the state of war thus covertly upholding the aggressive designs against the southern part of Albania.

1. *Ibid.* 820, Tirana, U. S. Mission Central Records, 1945-46, Box 9.

APPENDIX

The documents listed are from the National Archives of the United States. The majority from the Department of State, (Post Records Tirana, U.S. Mission). One is from the Records of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Those of the State Department have been declassified under my request on February 23, 1983, and thus I am the first one to present and utilize them.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: February 21, 1946.

SUBJECT: Delegation of Central Committee for Northern Epirus.

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Henderson and Mr. Allen (NEA)
Mr. Lewis Jones and Mr. Stuart Reekwell (NE)
Mr. Barbour and Mr. Mekisson (SE)
His Beatitude Panteleimon, Archbishop of
Argyrocastre.
Mr. Basil Ioannides. Dr. John Kondylis.
Mr. Peter Mamopoulos. Mr. Miltiades Spiromilios.
COPIES TO: SE; Athens, Moscow, Tirana (by stamp)

At the request of His Beatitude Panteleimon, Archbishop of Argyrocastre, who has recently arrived in this country from Greece accompanied by Mr. Basil Ioannides, Dr. John Kondylis, Mr. Peter Mamopoulos and Mr. Miltiades Spiromilios, a meeting was arranged in Mr. Henderson's office to hear the views of the above-mentioned visitors, who constitute the delegation of the Central Committee for Northern Epirus. Mr. Henderson was spokesman for the Department, and Archbishop Panteleimon spoke for the delegation through his interpreter, Mr. Ioannides.

The Archbishop first expressed his thanks to the Department's representatives for receiving the delegation, and described the warm sympathy which his countrymen feel for the United States. He then went on to outline the history of the problem of the Northern Epirus region and its inhabitants of Greek descent. The Archbishop's remarks substantially followed the line of the attached mimeographed memorandum, which was furnished to the Department's representatives by the members of the delegation. His Beatitude described the sufferings of the Greek population of Northern Epirus both at the hands of the Italians and Germans during their invasion of Albania and also at the hands of the Albanians themselves, who, he said, are discriminating against the Greek population on the ground that it is Fascist and on other equally unfoun-

ded charges. According to His Beatitude, the Greek population of Northern Epirus ardently desires that the region be returned to Greece, and looks to the United States for sympathy and assistance in achieving this end. The Archbishop went on to say that the Albanian Government is mistreating its Greek speaking Northern Epirus minority, but that the Greek Government, if Northern Epirus should be returned to Greece, would permit such Albanian inhabitants as elected to remain in the territory in complete liberty. Throughout his discourse the Archbishop demonstrated an unfriendly attitude toward the Government of Albania. He said that the Albanians had collaborated with the Italians during Italy's invasion of Greece and inflicted great suffering upon the Greek speaking population of Northern Epirus.

Mr. Henderson thanked the Archbishop and the members of the delegation for their kindness in coming to present their views to the Department, and stated that the Department was grateful for the information His Beatitude had made available concerning the situation in Northern Epirus. He said that it was the desire of the Government of the United States to see that, insofar as possible, justice was done everywhere in the world. Mr. Henderson declared that the members of the Department had listened to the Archbishop with great interest, and that the problem of Northern Epirus would be given detailed consideration.

The Archbishop then brought up the question of when it would be appropriate to make a decision about the future of Northern Epirus. The discussion which resulted brought out the fact that Greece still considers herself to be at war with Albania and that accordingly the best time for consideration of the Northern Epirus question would be the peace conference which ended the state of war between Albania and such countries as still might consider themselves to be at war with Albania. Mr. Henderson pointed out that the United States had not recognized the state of war declared against this country by the Albanian regime and at the present time considers Albania to be a friendly independent nation.

The members of the delegation stated that they expect to be in this country about a month and that they would visit other cities, including New York, Boston, and Chicago so that they might present their views to the Greek communities there.

Attached to this memorandum, in addition to the historical record of the Northern Epirus question, are biographical notations on the members of the delegation and a map indicating the atrocities alleged to have

been inflicted upon the Greek population in Northern Epirus during the war. At Mr. Allen's request, a member of the delegation drew upon the map a line delineating that portion of Northern Epirus which the delegation felt should be awarded to Greece. The line did not leave a single Greek-speaking village in Albania.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: March 1, 1946.

SUBJECT: Visit of Greek Ambassador to Department March 1, 1946.

PARTICIPANTS: Cimon P. Diamantopoulos, Greek Ambassador
Mr. Allen (NEA)
Mr. Rockwell (ME)

COPIES TO: SE; Tirana, Belgrade, Athens, London, Moscow (by stamp)

The Greek Ambassador called on Mr. Allen by appointment. He took up the following topics:

Clarification of Mr. Allen's remarks concerning Northern Epirus.

The Ambassador then went on to say that Archbishop Panteleimon understood from Senator Pepper that Mr. Allen had said that Russia would oppose Greek demands for Northern Epirus but that the United States and Britain would support these demands, and also that Albania would have to sign a peace treaty with Greece. Mr. Allen said that this was not quite correct. When Senator Pepper asked him what the Department's views would be in connection with his resolution for the return of Northern Epirus to Greece, he (Mr. Allen) had said that the only way for the Senator to get a formal expression of opinion from the Department was for the Senator of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee formally to ask for such an opinion. When Senator Pepper asked what the Department's reply would be in such an event, Mr. Allen said that the Secretary had often stated that territorial questions should be finally settled at the peace conference and that this might be the Department's official view. When Senator Pepper asked about Greece and Albania in this connection, Mr. Allen replied that Greece still considered itself at war with Albania and that eventually he thought there would have to be

a peace conference at which time the Northern Epirus question might possibly come up. Mr. Allen emphasized that these were his personal views. With regard to Senator Pepper's remarks about Russia, the United States and Great Britain, Mr. Allen commented that this was evidently an exaggeration of an example he had used in discussing the matter with Senator Pepper, when he had said that territorial settlements often go beyond the countries directly concerned and that you might have Russia on one side of a question not directly concerning her and Great Britain and the United States on the other. The Ambassador said that he understood perfectly now and would put the Archbishop right.

With regard to Senator Pepper's resolution, the Ambassador believed that it would be best for the Senate to go ahead without a formal opinion from the Department.

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tirana, April 12, 1946

NO. IX/013/G

Dear Sir:

It has always been the desire of the Albanian Government to eliminate misunderstandings that might impair the relationships between Albania and the United States of America. It would be greatly appreciated therefore, if you would be so kind as to clarify the degree of truth in statements broadcast by Radio London, Reuters, and the American press.

Radio London in its broadcast in the Italian language at 11 p. m. March 27, 1946, stated as follows:

«American Senator Vandenberg advises that the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has passed a Resolution stating that the Dodecanese Islands and «Northern Epirus» should be given to Greece».

Also, the Reuter Agency on March 30, in reporting the journey of the Greek agent Pandeimon Kotokos to Washington, stated among other things, «The American Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs has expressed sympathy for the Greek cause in connection with «Northern Epirus.» In addition, a large number of U. S. papers and those in other countries contain similar reports.

We are in doubt as to the truthfulness of this news emitted from these news agencies tending to weaken the friendship existing between our two countries. I would, therefore, appreciate clarification of these reports concerning a resolution passed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs as mentioned by Radio London, Reuters, and the American press.

Hoping that we shall receive a clarification as soon as possible from Your Excellency, please accept my highest regards.

Primes Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs

SEAL /s/ ENVER HOXHA
Colonel General Enver Hoxha

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 52

American Mission
Tirana, April 13, 1946.

My dear Colonel - General Hoxha:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of April 12, 1946 stating that it has always been your desire to eliminate misunderstandings which threaten the friendly relationships existing between the United States and Albania and requesting clarification of reports which have come to your attention through Radio London, Reuters and the American press concerning the resolution alleged to have been adopted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States Senate expressing sympathy for the Greek claims to «Northern Epirus».

I have communicated your request to the Department of State in an urgent telegram and shall not fail to inform you as soon as I have received a reply.

Please accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,
 J. E. Jacobs,
 American Representative

TELEGRAM SENT

To: SECSTATE

Date: April 13, 1946, 12 Am

No. : 216

Code: Restricted

Charged to:

Operational Priority

I have received note from Prime Minister Hoxha dated April 12 stating «that it has always been his Govt's desire to eliminate misunderstandings which might impair friendly relationships between Albania and the United States» and requesting clarification of reports which have come to his attention through London radio, Reuters and American press of a resolution passed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs expressing sympathy for Greek claims to Northern Epirus. He adds that as various news agencies have been broadcasting reports tending to weaken friendship existing between the two countries he would appreciate being advised concerning the truth of the matter. I have advised Hoxha that his request is being referred to the Dept.

In response to my telegram to Rome repeated to Dept as 190 I was advised in Rome's 19, April 4 that such a resolution introduced by Senator Pepper was approved by the Senate and that an official announcement was carried in Radio Bulletin March 27 which has not yet reached me and probably will not arrive until April 19 or 20, as the usual plane has not arrived this weekend. I should appreciate being advised therefore as soon as possible concerning reply to be made Hoxha.

Although our relations with Albania are already so strained that the matter may not be considered by the Dept as important, it will be difficult to explain to the authorities here the fairness of such a resolution since Albania's side of the case was not presented to the Senate and since Senator Pepper who introduced the resolution is a leading Democrat concerned with our foreign relations.

JACOBS

Enclosure No. 1, despatch No. 190, April 15, 1946, Tirana, Albania, «Senate Resolution regarding Northern Epirus».
Translation

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

No. 55

American Mission
Tirana, May 11, 1946.

My dear Colonel - General Hoxha:

With reference to your letter of April 12, 1946, and my reply thereto, No.52, dated April 13, 1946, concerning reports about a resolution alleged to have been adopted by the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate expressing sympathy with Greek claims to «Northern Epirus», I have the honor to enclose a memorandum on this subject which I have been instructed by the Department of State to communicate to you.

Please accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,
J. E. Jacobs,
American Representative

Enclosure:

Memorandum

Colonel - General Enver Hoxha,
 Prime Minister,
 The People's Republic of Albania, Tirana.

AMERICAN MISSION
 Tirana, May 11, 1946

MEMORANDUM

The Government of the United States refers to the communication of April 12, 1946, in which Colonel - General Hoxha asserts the desire of the Albanian regime to remove misunderstandings that might prejudice relations between the United States and Albania and requests clarification of reports by Radio London, Reuters and the American press regarding the Resolution presented in the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee concerning «Northern Epirus». The United States Government, motivated by an equal desire to eliminate any misapprehensions which might stand in the way of early resumption of normal relations between the United States and Albania, invites General Hoxha's attention to the following facts in connection with this matter:

1. On February 19, 1945 (note 1945 and not 1946), Senator Pepper submitted the following Resolution which was referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations: «Resolved, that it is the sense of the Senate that Northern Epirus (including Corytssa) and the twelve islands of the Aegean Sea, known as the Dodecanese Islands, where a strong Greek population predominates, should be awarded by the Peace Conference to Greece and become incorporated in the territory of Greece».
2. The foregoing Resolution was reported out of the Committee, without amendment on March 27, 1946. The Senate to date has taken no action on this Resolution.
3. It is a prerogative of the United States Senate to express its views on any matter it so desires.

4. However, action taken by the Senate in such an instance is not to be construed as indicating the attitude of the Executive Branch of the United States Government as to merits, pro or con, of the substance of proposals in question.

CLEAR COPY

CG, WBS, Paris, France

Signed WDGPO Reference OCD 127 pass to Bonesteel

Question of whether Greece should be permitted to bring Greek - Albanian problems before the Paris conference would appear to be one to be settled on political grounds, possibly as a matter of Conference tactics. As for the substance of Greek claims, military aspects are covered in JCS 1654 / 1 which concludes:

a. Greece can defend herself against Albania along present border, but not against any important coalition no matter where the border might be moved.

b. On the other hand, northern Epirus is important to Albania both economically and strategically.

c. Ceding this territory to Greece is likely to be followed by guerrilla warfare which could endanger peace in the Balkans.

JCS 1654/3 covers similar questions connected with Greek claims on Bulgarian territory. Paper concludes that if claim were to be granted it would assist Greece strategically as against Bulgaria alone, but would not help much in a real war.

Believe you have these two JCS papers but extra copies are being forwarded to make sure.

OCD 127 is CM-IN-50, 1 Sept

LAURIS NORSTAD

Major General, GSC

Director of Plans & Operations

TELEGRAM SENT

To: AMENBASSY, PARIS 52

Date: Sept 3, 1946

Rptd Dept 463

No.:

Code: Secret OP

Charged to

For sometime have been reporting mobilization Albanian army allegedly because of Greek claim to southern Albania which is one thing that unites all Albanians regardless of political beliefs. Reports spreading here that U.S. will join G. B. in supporting this claim and local people already stirred up over veto Albania's UN application are becoming surly. Believe these reports inspired by Soviet and Jug representatives but Senator Peppers's Resolution and our opposition to regime for other reasons lend color to plausibility such stories.

All information I have from Dept indicates we do not support Greek claim which in justice to Albanian people (I hold no brief for present regime) we cannot support because present boundaries were settled as fairly as humanly possible by international action after last war, and to approve Greek claim would create new minority problem by placing five hundred thousand Albanians under Greek rule FOR SMALL GREEK MIMORITY OF FIFTY THOUSAND AT MOST.

Can we not do something to stop continued agitation of this problem and thus save time debating it by declaring publicly we will not support Greece in this. Can well understand why G. B. so closely tied up in Greece cannot take such action but we are not so committed.

In any event if our delegation at Paris or at UN intends to favor or support this Greek claim then in interest of safety our personnel here I should be so advised so that at least six women here can be sent away.

Repeated Dept as 463.

(JACOBS)