



Fifth session

## REPATRIATION OF GREEK CHILDREN

Letter dated 11 September 1951 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

New York, 11 September 1951

It is a matter of sad irony that those who have consistently flouted the moral and legal authority of the General Assembly in a humanitarian question such as the repatriation of the abducted Greek children, are cynically invoking, in a note circulated as document A/1871, the relevant resolution in order to promote their questionable ends. Though any elaboration on Cominformist moral standards in international intercourse is by now superfluous, I think it necessary to raise a point of substance touched upon by the Soviet communication under reference.

Resolution 193 C (III) adopted by the General Assembly, in its third regular session explicitly "recommends the return to Greece of Greek children at present away from their homes when the children, their father or their mother, or, in his or her absence, their closest relative, express a wish to that effect".

Resolution 288 B (IV) adopted by the General Assembly, in its fourth session, also provides "for the early return to their homes of the children in accordance with the aforementioned resolution". It refers to the "repatriation of Greek children", the etymological meaning of the word "repatriation" being return to the native land.

Resolution 382 C (V) adopted by the present General Assembly is based on the two previous ones and calls for their implementation.

Accordingly the Soviet invocation of the "General Assembly resolution on the question of Greek children" for the "return of children and close relatives who are now in Yugoslavia to their parents and relatives residing in Czechoslovakia", beside being a piece of preposterous hypocrisy, runs counter to the spirit and

letter of resolutions 193 C (III), 288 B (IV) and 382 C (V).

The restoration of some Greek children formerly held in Yugoslavia to their parents, who had in the meantime emigrated to Australia, has not been effected in contravention to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. As a matter of fact the return of these children to their families in Australia was accomplished after previous agreement with the Greek Government and on the basis of freely submitted requests.

I leave it to the reader to gauge the degree of freedom of will enjoyed by the signers of the requests enumerated in the Soviet note, with the sole indication that these hapless persons have also been forcibly abducted from their homes in Greece by communist guerrillas.

I would be grateful to Your Excellency if you were kind enough to cause this letter to be circulated as a General Assembly document.

(Signed) Alexis KYROU  
Permanent Representative of  
Greece to the United Nations

-----