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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION
CONCERNING GREEK FRONTIER INCIDENTS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL, DATED 17 JULY 1947 AND ENCLOSED TELEGRAM

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit, for the information of the members
of the Security Council, the telegram received on July 17th 1947, from
the Chairman of the Subsidiary Group concerning the investigation of the
alleged frontier incident at Beles Prokhoma on the Greco-Yugoslav border.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(signed) Z. GAWRAK

Chairman of the Commission

Dr. Oscar Lange
President of the Security Council
Lake Success, N.Y.

COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING GREEK FRONTIER INCIDENTS

TELEGRAM FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY GROUP TO THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMISSION RECEIVED 17 JULY 1947
CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BELES PROKHOMA INCIDENTS

I have honour informing you that on July 7, after hearing statements made by Greek Liaison Representative and Brigadier General Afthymios Vasilas, the Subsidiary Group decided to investigate incidents of Beles Prokhoma of 5 July 1947. Hereunder follows a summary of the above-mentioned statements.

Kambalouris, Liaison Representative, declared that during mopping up operations on Mount Beles on 5 July, Greek troops could not proceed to their goal because Andartes were using Yugoslavian territory and attacks from Yugoslav territory were led by Andartes on flank of Greek troops while ammunition transports came from Yugoslavia.

Brigadier Afthymios Vasilas stated that Greek troops were unable to take crest line of Mount Beles which is on the border line with Yugoslavia during mopping up operations on 4, 5, and 6 July, because of the following five violations committed by the Yugoslav:

Firstly, on the morning of 5 July, Greek troops operating near Height 1849 were fired at from crest line by machine guns and from Yugoslav territory by artillery or mortar;

Secondly, on the same day, at 10:00 hours, during engagement with Andartes at Height 1874, bandits crossed into Yugoslav territory where Yugoslav forces with officers were in fighting positions. Andartes transported their wounded into Yugoslav territory. On that occasion discussion took place between Greek and Yugoslav officers.

Thirdly, on the same day, at 18:00 hours, Greek troops operating on

Height 1219, noticed Column 60 Andartes coming into Greek territory at a point 500 meters east of point 1644 where is located Yugoslav post. Greek troops were fired at from the same part of the Yugoslav frontier.

Fourthly, on the same day, at 19:00 hours, attack by Andartes was followed by counter-attack by Greek troops. Andartes retreated into Yugoslav territory. Attack launched by Andartes was supported by heavy machine-gun fire from Yugoslav territory. Greek troops at Prokhoma noticed mules and a car carrying ammunitions to Yugoslav frontier post, wherefrom Andartes brought ammunition on own mules.

Fifthly, evidence proving collaboration of Yugoslavs with Andartes is contained in a captured message addressed by a liaison officer to a chief of Andartes named Homiros. This message states:

"We are holding border line from Triethnes to platoon of Themis" Themis is the junction of border between Greece, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The Subsidiary Group has decided on 16 July to inform the Yugoslav Government of its decision to investigate those alleged incidents and to request its full co-operation in the investigation. The Polish Delegation objected to the sending of this telegram because in its opinion the Subsidiary Group had not yet sufficiently studied the documentation concerning this case and the necessity of sending this telegram. Regarding the text of the telegram, the Polish Delegation considered that it repeated previous errors which could not contribute to promote and assure the co-operation of interested governments. A telegram sent to Belgrade on 16 July reads as follows:

"His Excellency, Minister Foreign Affairs Belgrade.

"Subsidiary Group of Commission of Investigation of Greek Frontier Incidents has begun investigation of an incident brought to its attention by the Greek Government and alleged to have occurred on the Greco-Yugoslav frontier. Incident is described as

/Beles Prokhoma

Beles Prokhoma incident and is alleged to have taken place during Greek Army operations on Mount Beles on 5 July 1947. In connection this incident it is alleged (a) that Greek troops near Height 1849 were fired on by mortars located inside Yugoslav territory in neighbourhood of Height 1849; (b) that Greek guerillas at Height 1874 pursued by Greek troops crossed the frontier into Yugoslavia taking their wounded with them in the presence of two Yugoslav officers with whom Greek officer held a conversation; (c) that at a point about 500 meter east of Height 1644 and near a Yugoslav frontier post about 12 Greek guerillas with pack animals entered Greek territory from Yugoslavia; (d) that Greek troops on Height 1219 were fired on by machine guns located around a pyramid on the frontier line; (e) that Greek troops west of Prokhoma (Height 412) were fired upon from a Yugoslav frontier post and were attacked by Greek guerillas who crossed the frontier from Yugoslavia and subsequently withdrew into Yugoslav territory; (f) that Greek guerillas with pack animals were present in Yugoslavia territory in area west of Prokhoma; (g) that Greek guerillas took supplies from a Yugoslav frontier post in area west of Prokhoma and brought them into Greece.

"Subsidiary Group considers that in order to make complete investigation of alleged incident, it will be necessary for Subsidiary Group to extend its investigation to both sides of Greco-Yugoslav frontier. Subsidiary Group therefore requests fullest cooperation of Yugoslav Government in order to assure both completeness and impartiality of investigation. Subsidiary Group believes that cooperation between Subsidiary Group and Yugoslav Government in connection this incident would be greatly facilitated and administrative arrangements would be simplified if Yugoslav Government could send qualified representative Salcnika for consultation at earliest possible date.

Subsidiary Group desires to enter Yugoslavia at frontier post

Doiran on or after 26 July. Subsidiary Group will despatch telegram to Yugoslav Government three days prior to exact date of arrival at frontier post Doiran.

Subsidiary Group therefore requests Yugoslav Government to take necessary steps to ensure that on Subsidiary Groups arrival at frontier post Doiran it will find that preparations have been made to facilitate

- (1) its crossing of frontier;
- (2) interrogation of witnesses referred to below;
- (3) "on the spot" examination of terrain in Yugoslav territory in following areas

(a) frontier area between Height 1644 and a point one kilometer east of Height 1644;

(b) frontier area opposite Greek Heights 511 and Prokhoma (412);

(c) such other places or localities as Subsidiary Group may later in course of hearing evidence decide necessary for a complete investigation.

Yugoslav Government preparations should include arrangements for transportation, lodging and feeding Subsidiary Group against payment during its stay in Yugoslav territory and such other arrangements as are necessary fully to facilitate Subsidiary Group in its work. Subsidiary Group further requests that Yugoslav Government be prepared to present such witnesses in connection with Beles Prokhoma incident as Subsidiary-Group wishes to hear including two Yugoslav officers mentioned above, as having conversed with Greek officer at Height 1874.

Subsidiary Group proposes to bring with it for hearing in Yugoslavia the following two Greek witnesses Banakis Emmanuel and Marokos Georgios.

Yugoslav Government is invited to present such evidence and produce such witnesses as it may deem desirable in connection with Beles Prokhoma incident.

Copies of all documentation submitted by Greek Government as

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well as list of delegations, Members of Secretariat, Press, Greek witnesses and other persons who will accompany Subsidiary Group will be forwarded by Subsidiary Group courier who will arrive at frontier post Djevdjelja 18 July.

Subsidiary Group invites comments of Yugoslav Government on above programme and requests that proposals of Yugoslav Government regarding itinerary, time table and hearings in Yugoslavia be communicated in time to reach Subsidiary Group at Salonica before 26 July. Subsidiary Group requests favour of an immediate reply."

Commandant Housse,
Acting Chairman
Subsidiary Group.

