

DR. C. N. SPANOS  
STATE THEATRE BUILDING  
335 5TH AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH 22, PENNA.

February 21, 1956

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles  
The Whitehouse  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am enclosing for your information papers issued by the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America describing the atrocities committed by Turkish mobs on the night of September 6th and 7th.

It is hard for many Americans to understand the silence of our Government in the face of such barbarism. It cannot be reconciled with the great concern shown for the "rights" and problems of many peoples who were never our allies - the Moroccans, the Hindus, the Indo-Chinese. If they ever were friends they have been friends in name only whereas no peoples have stood as steadfast for us and at such a sacrifice as the Greeks.

England's position in this entire matter is indefensible and for our government to support the British is contrary to the principles on which this country has grown great.

Yours truly,

*C. N. Spanos*

C.N. Spanos

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PUBLIC SERVICES DIV.

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# CHRONOLOGY OF TERROR

September 6, 1955

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## CONSTANTINOPLE

- 5:50 P.M. A FLAG IS RAISED SIGNALLING THE START OF A PLANNED NIGHT OF TERROR! QUICKLY THEREAFTER SHOPS WERE BROKEN INTO, LOOTED AND COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
- 6:15 P.M. GIGANTIC INFLUXES OF TURKS RUSHED INTO THE GREEK SECTIONS OF THE CITY PILLAGING AND DESTROYING SYSTEMATICALLY ALL THE COMMERCIAL STORES OWNED BY TURKISH CITIZENS, OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX FAITH, WHILE POLICE OFFICERS STOOD BY ENJOYING THE VANDALISM. STORES BELONGING TO NON-ORTHODOX CITIZENS REMAINED INTACT AND UNTOUCHED.
- 7:30 P.M. THE SUBURB, KARARKOI, THE BANKS WERE BROKEN INTO AND LOOTED.
- 10:10 P.M. FIRST FIRES BREAK THROUGHOUT CITY.
- 10:15 P.M. BOSBOROUS - LANDING ON ISLAND GROUPS COMPLETELY RAVISHING THE ISLANDS. STORES, NEWSPAPER PLANTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND CHURCHES REDUCED TO A SCORCHED EARTH.
- 12: MIDNIGHT CONSTANTINOPLE - PARAN - THE GREEK AIRLINE TERMINAL ATTACHED AND DESTROYED - A CLOCK REMAINING AS A WITNESS WAS POINTED OUT BY A TURKISH POLICEMAN STATING "WHY DON'T YOU COMPLETE YOUR JOB - POINTING TO THE CLOCK?" THE FRENZIED MOB CHEERFULLY OBEYED.

## SEPTEMBER 7

- 12:30 A.M. 80 OUT OF 85 EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES BURNING AND COMPLETELY GUTTED.
- 1:00 A.M. ADOLESCENTS OF BOTH SEXES WERE RAPED - YOUNG WOMEN SEDUCED - ELDERLY WOMEN CRIMINALLY ASSAULTED.
- NUMEROUS WOMEN COMMITTED SUICIDE RATHER THAN FACE THE SHAME OF THE NIGHTMARE.
- AND THROUGH THE NIGHT THE TERROR CONTINUED.
- OUT OF 85 CHURCHES ONLY 5 WERE SPARED - THE FIRST COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
- CEMETERIES DESECRATED - GRAVES DUG UP - BONES OF PATRIARCHS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS WERE SCATTERED AND TRAMPLED UPON.
- ARCHBISHOPS, PRIESTS, AND MONKS WERE ATTACKED, BEATEN AND BURNED ALIVE! ALTARS OF CHURCHES WERE DEFILED AND HOLY CHALICES USED FOR BIOLOGICAL RELIEF.
- HOLY RELICS AND CROSSES OF GOLD WERE LOOTED AND SOLD.
- AS THE SUN ROSE AFTER THE NIGHT OF TERROR, THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS WERE LEFT HOMELESS, DESTITUTE, HUNGRY AND FEARFUL FOR THEIR FUTURE.

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TELEGRAM TRANSMITTED TODAY TO HIS EXCELLENCY SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES, STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C. A RESOLUTION PREPARED BY THE UNDERSIGNED ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS AND REVEREND CLERGY OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GREEK ARCHDIOCESE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, ON SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1955.

WE ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS AND CLERGYMEN OF THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN UNITED STATES, REPRESENTING OVER 6,500,000 COMMUNICANTS WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS, RAISE OUR VOICES IN STRONG PROTEST AGAINST THE INHUMAN AND UNPRECEDENTED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND BARBARIANISM OF THE TURKISH MOBS AGAINST THE GREEK ORTHODOX IN CONSTANTINOPLE AND IZMIR ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1955, THE DESTRUCTION OF CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS, THE HOMES AND BUSINESS PLACES, USAGE OF THE SACRED CHALICES FOR BIOLOGICAL RELIEF, THE DESECRATION OF GRAVES, THE RAPING OF INNOCENT CHILDREN OF BOTH SEXES, AND THE MANY OTHER ACTS OF VANDALISM. WE RESOLVE IN THE NAME OF ELEMENTARY DECENCY AND HUMANITARIANISM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE BULWARK OF HUMAN DIGNITY, TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR ACTS IN THE FUTURE AND TOTAL REHABILITATION OF THE DESTROYED CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS, AND HOMES AND COMMERCIAL SHOPS, AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF OUR FELLOW COMMUNICANTS IN TURKEY.

(SIGNED:) MICHAEL, ARCHBISHOP OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH IN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA  
LEONTY, ARCHBISHOP OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
METROPOLITAN ANTONY BASHIR OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL DAVID OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
BISHOP BOHDAN OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
ARCHBISHOP PALLADIUS, OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
ARCHBISHOP IHCR, OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
BISHOP ATHENAGORAS, OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
BISHOP GERMANOS OF NYSSA, OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
BISHOP GERMANOS OF CONSTANTIA OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH  
CLERGY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CARPATHO-RUSSIAN AND  
RUMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES  
ARCHPRIEST GEORG GRABBE REPRESENTING RUSSIAN  
ORTHODOX CHURCH

copies to: President Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Vice President Richard Nixon

March 9 1956

Dear Dr. Spanos:

I have been asked to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of February 21 to Secretary Dulles and the enclosed copy of a resolution concerning the disorders which occurred last September in Turkey against persons of Greek nationality or Greek origin, signed by certain officials of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the United States. I believe that you will be interested in the enclosed statement concerning these incidents.

I presume that in your last paragraph you refer to the Cyprus question. As you know, the United States Government opposed the inscription of the Cyprus item on the Agenda of the General Assembly of the United Nations last year because it was believed that discussion of this issue in that Assembly would serve only to intensify the strong emotions of the parties concerned, and would afford, to countries who seek to divide the free world, an opportunity to exploit these emotions. It appeared that the best hope of a settlement of the differences among Greece, the United Kingdom and Turkey would be through private talks, which would not encourage the intervention of unfriendly elements. Such conversations have been going on for some time now, and indications are that considerable progress has been made toward bringing the differing points of view closer together.

In his speech last year in the United Nations General Assembly, Ambassador Lodge stated that the United States would continue to take an active interest in the Cyprus question and reserved the right to reconsider whether

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it should, at some later date, be discussed in the United Nations. The Department of State continues to encourage the efforts being made to settle this matter by direct negotiations among those to whom it is of immediate concern.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Meagher  
Chief  
Public Services Division

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