

LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
DATED 10 MARCH 1947

No. 678

March 10, 1947

Mr. Secretary-General,

I have the honour, under instructions, to communicate to you the views of my Government in regard to allegations made by the Representative of Albania at the meeting of the Security Council held on Wednesday last, February 19:

"With reference to alleged violations of Albanian territorial waters on the part of Greek vessels, reports received from the competent Greek Authorities establish the following facts:

(1) Alleged incidents cited by the Albanian Representative under Nos. 1-5 and 7 (S/P.V./109, pages 27, 28). At no time did a Greek vessel fire against the Albanian coast or arrest an Albanian boat within the territorial waters of Albania.

Albanian boats which attempted to carry out contraband traffic and violated Greek territorial waters were arrested within those waters and conducted into Corfu.

In July 1945 Greek corvettes stationed at Corfu merely carried out firing practice in the channel north of Corfu, a zone internationally free.

(2) As regards the alleged incident number 6 (reference as above), on the 27th October, 1945, six Greek vessels rendered naval honours to the officers and men lost in the submarine "Proteus". The honours took the form of the dropping of a wreath by the Mayor of Corfu.

No violation of Albanian territorial waters occurred, and the character of the ceremony was manifest.

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(3) As from the date above-mentioned, 27th October, 1945, orders were issued by the Greek Ministry of Marine prohibiting even the mere passage of Greek naval vessels through the channel. The purpose of these orders was to obviate the possibility of any misunderstanding.

(4) The Greek Government took cognizance of repeated violations of Greece's territorial waters and of other provocative activities committed by the Albanians of which a brief summary is appended:

a) On 6th June, 1946, at 8.30 a.m., the Turkish motor-vessel "Ince", while passing through the channel to the north of the Strait of Corfu, en route for Italy, was fired upon by an Albanian battery. This incident was confirmed by the Turkish Government.

b) On 9th July, 1946, at 6 p.m., two Albanian guard-posts situated opposite Corfu at points on either side of the Gulf, at the mouth of the River Pova, opened fire in the direction of Corfu with heavy cannon. A number of shells were fired in a cross direction and fell extremely close to the shores of the island.

c) On 18th July, 1946, Albanian batteries opened fire for a period of fifteen minutes upon a Turkish motor-vessel passing through the Strait of Corfu in a southerly direction.

d) On 30th August, 1946, at 6.30 a.m., an Albanian coastal defence vessel entered Greek territorial waters, sailed along the Greek coast from Sidarion to Kassiopi and fired upon a motor-vessel which had escaped from Chimarra.

e) On 29th October, 1946, at 10.30 p.m., an Italian tug-boat sailing through the northern section of the Corfu Channel and towing three small cargo vessels, which had been supplied by UNRRA, for delivery to the Port Authority of Corfu, was fired upon by Albanian guard-posts near to the point Examilia. Thirty shots were fired, but without causing damage.

f) On 7th December, 1946, at 9.15 p.m., an Albanian destroyer entered Greek territorial waters in company with two motor-vessels, which approached to a distance of 1,500 metres from Kassiopi. On being fired upon by Greek guard-posts they put off in the direction of Albania.

The Greek Government lodged protests in due time with the Allied Powers in respect of the violations cited under b) to e) above, and with the United Nations in respect of those cited under d) and e)."

I shall be grateful if you will be so good as to bring the above communication to the notice of the members of the Security Council.

I avail myself of the opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

The Permanent Representative of Greece

/s/

V. DENDRAMIS
Ambassador.
