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TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1974

ELIAS P. DEMETRAKOPOULOS
FAIRFAX HOTEL
2100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008
1202) 293-2100

April 16, 1974

Honorable William Fulbright
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The seventh anniversary of the military ambush of Greek democratic government occurs this Sunday, April 21, 1974. I respectfully use this occasion to remind you of our correspondence last year on the political deterioration in Greece under the colonels who seized power illegally in 1967.

On March 23, 1973, I urged that your Committee authorize a study of both that deterioration and its consequences for American interests in Greece. As you know, the following months of 1973 saw a collapse of the Papadopoulos dictatorship and its replacement by an even more repressive and incompetent military government. The recent excellent report on Greece since the 1973 coup, by your colleague Congressman Donald M. Fraser of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, shows, as of his visit in January, 1974, the dismal political and economic status of the country which the Administration has maintained is an important bastion of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The latest instances of political repression in Greece illustrate the direction of the new dictatorship. Former Minister George Mavros, a leader of the moderate Center Union party, and three other political figures, were recently arrested and exiled to the infamous prison island of Yaros. There they joined several hundred other prisoners, of all political persuasions, who have been arrested and imprisoned without trial or even, in many cases, notice to their families of their fate.

I urge that your committee review again, with appropriate urgency, the situation in Greece, including this series of arrests and exiles to Yaros. The events of 1973, the intensified repression this year, and the continuing inability or unwillingness of the Administration to initiate a complete review of its Greek policies, indicate that your Committee represents the only institution with the means and the will to conduct such a review. A part of that study should be, in my view, the discussion with Secretary of State Kissinger, either privately or in executive session with the Committee, of the urgency of the Greek situation and alternatives for its successful resolution by a concerned United States.

ELIAS P. DEMETRACOPOULOS

FAIRFAR HOTEL
2100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008
12021 293-2100

American concern should include, in my opinion, the recent negative role of Greece in the Middle East war and the position of that country in the Balkans where Tito's precarious tenure threatens the stability of the area, as I indicated in detail in my testimony in 1971 before the House Subcommittee on Europe.

The contemplated transfer, within the State Department, of Greece from the Near East to the European Bureau would likewise provide an opportunity to discuss with Secretary Kissinger the heightened concern in Western Europe, especially in the NATO countries, for the downward spiral under the only dictatorship which has even come about under the NATO alliance.

Sincerely yours,

Elias P. Demetracopoulos

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 23, 1973

Mr. Elias P. Demetracopoulos
Fairfax Hotel
2100 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Elias:

I refer to our earlier correspondence relative to your suggestion that the Committee ought to undertake a further staff study of the situation in Greece. You will recall that I said I would present the proposal to the Committee.

Your suggestion was discussed at a meeting on May 17th with rather inconclusive results -- some members feeling that the Committee should not focus its attention on Greece exclusively; others feeling that such a focus was exactly what the situation requires.

In any event, I anticipate that some of our staff people may be in the Near Eastern area before too long.

Sincerely yours,


J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 30, 1973

CARL MARCY, CHIEF OF STAFF
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Mr. Elias P. Demetracopoulos
Fairfax Hotel
2100 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20008

Dear Mr. *Elias* Demetracopoulos:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd regarding a staff study on the situation in Greece. I will present this proposal to the Committee for its consideration at an early date.

The reports in the newspapers are indeed very distressing, and it is embarrassing for this government to be so closely associated with and identified with the regime which persists in torturing its citizens.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Bio Fulbright
J. W. Fulbright

*It is outrageous that we still
send any thing to the Colonels.*

JWF:t

ELIAS P. DEMETRAKOPOULOS
FAIRFAX HOTEL
200 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008
(202) 293-2100

March 23, 1973

Honorable William Fulbright
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Our last meeting of March 5th was both informative and useful and has provided the basis for this letter.

The student demonstrations in Greece, which continue as I write, and the Junta's brutal attempt to suppress them, form an appropriate occasion for the Congress to review American policy toward Greece. It will be six years next month that the colonels seized power from the Greek king and parliament. No real steps have been taken, or even contemplated, I believe, toward a democratic restoration. Yet American policy continues to treat Greece as a loyal ally, as a NATO member, and as a strategic location for the United States defense interests in the Mediterranean.

I believe that the student unrest is but one evidence of a deteriorating political atmosphere in Greece. The public renunciation by the Junta of U. S. grant military aid was another. These, and other signs, indicate that Colonel G. Papadopoulos presides over an increasingly unstable situation. Yet stability in Greece was the American goal for which so many other values were sacrificed. Without stability, what value have U.S. air and naval bases in Greece and the new homeporting project for the 6th Fleet in that country?

The time is appropriate for the two Houses of Congress to resume an active examination of where American interests in that country are headed. Greece is one of the few areas where the Senate and House have worked well together in critical study of a flawed and dangerous American policy.

I believe a discreet joint staff study in Greece soon can identify
1) How American interests are affected by the present student turmoil;
2) How the U.S. Embassy follows and understands these events; 3) How American military interests are affected over the long-term by the present political climate in Greece, and 4) Where present political developments point.

I would be happy to meet with you again, at your earliest convenience, to supply additional information in support of this suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

EPD/mf

Elias P. Demetrapoulos