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October 2, 1972

The Honorable
Senator Philip A. Hart
The United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hart:

Under the increasing pressure of the world public concern for the inhuman conditions of the Greek antiquated prisons, where the political prisoners that opposed the tyranny of their dictators are held, the Greek junta decided to transfer their detained victims in the prison of Korydallos in the major Athens area. Thus, the relatives and friends of the prisoners will not be subjected to long excruciating and onerous for their bad economic conditions trips to the various horrible prisons of the past century scattered all over the country. Hopefully they will be allowed to visit their beloved ones more often, possibly talk to them with no security men present and bring them clean clothing and decent food.

I do not know if any other Greek prison had the honor to house such high quality human material in the past. For us, who have not lost our faith in human dignity and moral values, Korydallos will be transformed into a monument of the highest ideals of man. Because we believe that out of this distinguished group of heroic and highly respected individuals a new political leadership will spring that will rejuvenate our moral values, that will reorient our goals and aspirations and that will inspire old and young to meet their highest responsibility to the whole: which is the safeguard of democracy in times of its normal functioning but above all in moments of peril and threatening darkness.

After the open and the behind the scenes coward support of the Greek dictators by the U S Government all these years, after the resumption of the U S military aid, after such shameless, false and dishonest statements by responsible members of the Nixon Administration about accomplished and intended efforts of the Greek junta to restore democracy, about the happiness of the Greek people under their present oppressors and about the economic miracles of the notoriously inefficient present Greek usurpers of power, there is the need, dear Senator Hart, to show to the Greek people and to the other concerned members of the world community that there is a part of the American people that are worried about the morally unacceptable attitudes of

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their Government; that they are deeply concerned about the hypocrisy, the arrogance and the near-sightedness of their administration and that above all are determined not to allow their country to become the prey of the growing octopus of the military - industrial complex and the victim of the bigotry, the selfishness and the stupidity of a rising militarism.

It seems to me, therefore, dear Senator Hart, that a group of distinguished members of the U S Senate ought to visit Greece and get to see the beloved and true representatives of Greek people in the prison of Korydallos. I am sure you will be interested to hear their experiences from the time they were arrested up to now. You may want to discuss with them the overt and covert involvement of the American Embassy, CIA and U S Military Mission in the Greek political life during the pre-coup years; also what events led to the coup and how the latter was organized. Above all it will be important to share their views on the future of the so dangerously strained Greek - U S relations.

By so doing, dear Senator Hart:

You will lift the aspirations and morale of the frustrated Greek people, thus discharging your moral responsibility as representatives of the American people.

You will show to the world that America is not morally dead; that the serious credibility crisis between governed and government has not been met with apathy by the American people and that it may not be too long before America will be on the go again in restoring its own faith and that of the entire world to the forgotten and so badly abused American Ideals.

Sincerely,

Athanasios Alexiou
Chairman
Society for Democracy in Greece

AA:aa P.S. Please raise your voice of protest for the fate of Stathis Panagoulis and his friends who for almost two months now are in the hands of the torturers of the Greek military police for "interrogation" in absolute isolation.