Campobello Island  
New Brunswick, Canada  
August 3, 1947

My dear Mr. Raben:

Upon receipt of your letter of April 20th, I asked the proper authorities for a report on the National Solidarity of Greece, and have only just received a report of this investigation.

I find that the organization was dissolved by an order of the Athens Court of First Instance, because it was felt that aid was given exclusively to communist element and sympathizers.

Very sincerely yours,
Dear Eleanor:

Your letter of April 28, inquiring about the organization known as the "National Solidarity of Greece", reached me only last week, having been forwarded from Washington to Athens by sea mail.

The Embassy has been informed that the "National Solidarity of Greece" has recently been dissolved by an order of the Athens Court of First Instance. It appears that the Nomarch of Attica filed a suit on May 1 against this organization, demanding the cancellation of its charter, maintaining that it had "deviated" from the aims set forth in its charter, namely, to extend charity to all regardless of political creed. The Nomarch's evidence indicated that the organization had extended charity exclusively to communist elements and sympathizers, that it had lent material aid and assistance.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
29 Washington Square West,
New York 11, N. Y.
assistance to communist guerrillas; and that it had maintained relations of a conspiratorial nature with the Communist Party. The hearings lasted two days, the trial concluded on May 2. The Court rendered its decision on June 1, declaring that the charges had been established and ordering the revocation of the organization's charter. Interestingly, immediately after the Court rendered its finding, the local communist newspaper RIZOSPASTIS carried an article proclaiming the National Solidarity's intention of continuing its "charitable works" legally or illegally. If the organization is still in existence, it has no legal character.

It is always a pleasure to hear from you, and I hope that you will not hesitate to communicate with me whenever any questions arise upon which I may be in a position to throw some light.

Affectionately yours,

[Signature]
April 28, 1947

Dear Lincoln,

I have received a letter stating that the Greek Government is trying to dissolve the organization known as the "National Solidarity of Greece." They have an office at 8a Phokionos Street, Athens, Greece.

I was told that this group's only aim is to relieve the unfortunate. Will you give me what information you have on this organization?

Affectionately,
American Relief for Greek Democracy, Inc.
111 West 42nd Street • New York, N.Y. • Wisconsin 7-6744-5

April 20, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square W.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Enclosed you will find a letter from Messrs. Svolos and Simos, officials of National Solidarity of Greece, together with material indicating the persecution now being waged against this organization.

National Solidarity of Greece was organized in the first days of the Nazi invasion and acted as a relief organization through all the bitter years of occupation and the ensuing period of civil strife and disorder. Today, the Monarchist Government of Greece seeks by any and all methods to suppress this organization. Its intent evidently is to starve those who will not conform.

I do hope that you will find it possible to do something to help National Solidarity continue its humanitarian work.

Very sincerely,

William S. Rabin
National Director

[Handwritten notes on the page]
To: Excellence Madam

ELEANOR F.D. ROOSEVELT
New York

Excellence,

You will undoubtedly have been informed about the intention of the Greek Government to dissolve the "National Solidarity of Greece" - an action of part of the district - which asking for this dissolution will be discussed at the Court on April 30th, 1947.

The dissolution of an organisation aiming only at the relief of misfortune wherever it comes from, proves once more the spirit reigning to day in our poor country.

Please forgive us the exception we make in submitting you a copy of the appeal we sent to the heads of friendly Governments, in the hope that they may help to avert on more challenge to the democratic conscience, as well as the need of appeasement in Greece, by the premeditated dissolution of our Organisation.

We apologise for taking however little of your valuable time and ask you to consider that your name here is synonymous with the real liberal spirit of America. We therefore take it you would not wish to ignore a measure turned against our humanitarian work and motivated by the narrowest political antagonism, at a time when America's interest in our country has become so direct.

In this critical hour when the Greek People fears of losing its "Mother" - as they called the National Solidarity, during the German occupation - we beg to accept the leading, of the fighting to save our organisation.

We are sure that you will once more stand by the Greek People and the National Solidarity, and that you will contribute with your personal authority to avoid this new misfortune.

Very respectfully yours,

The President
For the Central Directing Council of National Solidarity of Greece

The General Secretary

[Signatures]
SOLIDARITÉ NATIONALE
DE GRÈCE
---
ETHNIKI ALLILENGHYI
ELLADOS
---

Athènes, le 4 Avril 1947

Excellence,

L'intérêt et la sollicitude dont vous avez donné déjà tant de hautes témoignages au peuple Grec nous ont incités à nous adresser à Vous, au moment où la Solidarité Nationale court le danger d'être disputée, par un acte arbitraire et incompréhensible du Gouvernement Hellénique. Votre intervention amicale, dictée par le seul souci de venir en aide aux êtres qui souffrent, peut encore sauver notre Organisa- tion. Vous joindrez, nous en sommes assurés, votre voix à la nôtre.

La Solidarité Nationale est la première organisation résistante de Grèce. Elle était fondée un mois après l'occupation d'Athènes par les Nazis. Son activité fut essentiellement d'ordre social et humanitaire. Elle apportait secours et assistance aux victimes des envahisseurs. Elle put ainsi réaliser une œuvre qui gagna rapidement la reconnaissance du peuple grec tout entier.

Quand les armées ennemies quittèrent notre pays, la Solidarité Nationale poursuivit son action humanitaire, en tâchant de panser les plaies sanglantes encore de la Grèce, secourant tout particulièrement les enfants, les orphelins, et toutes les victimes de la guerre et de l'occupation, sans distinction aucune d'opinion politique.

Vous trouverez dans le Mémorandum ci-joint un bref exposé de cette activité.

Or voici que le Gouvernement Grec actuel intente, par le moyen du Préfet de l'Attique, un procès contre notre organisation. Son but précis est de la dissoudre. La date du procès vient d'être fixée au 30 avril.

Notre organisation, les victimes et toutes les personnes qui ont été secourues, enfin tout le peuple Grec, qui n'a jamais cessé de nous entourer de son respect et de son affection, nous ayant vus à l'œuvre dans les heures les plus cruelles de son esclavage, tous protestent vivement contre cette décision du Gouvernement. Mais, pour que sur l'arbitraire l'emporte la cause de l'humanité, nous comptons tous sur votre influence morale. Nous Vous demandons simplement d'exprimer le regret de voir disparaître
en Grèce une œuvre sociale qui a su demeurer en dehors des passions partisanes et dont l'efficacité actuelle peut se glorifier d'une action qui contribua à soutenir le moral du peuple grec dans sa lutte héroïque au côté des Grandes Nations Alliées, alors que l'ennemi semblait vainqueur partout et pouvoir imposer au monde entier la pax nazistico. La Solidarité Nationale a des droits à la fois et des lettres de noblesse.

En sauvant de la dissolution la Solidarité Nationale de Grèce, Vous aurez, Excellence, fait aussi à l'égard du peuple grec un geste de solidarité humaine et de compréhension morale, qui sera pour lui d'un grand réconfort dans sa souffrance et sa misère actuelles.

Et, de la part du Peuple Grec, nous vous en exprimons d'avance, Excellence, toute notre profonde et respectueuse reconnaissance.

Pour le Comité Central d'Administration,

Le Président

Le Secrétaire Général
To Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

On January 7th I sent you a message from the island of Ikaria where I was kept for 3 months as a deported hostage by the present Government, to express the gratitude of thousands of my companions in exile and my own personally for your humanitarian interest in our ordeal.

I do not know whether my letter reached you for the present Monarchist Government, though in theory has not imposed censorship officially, yet in fact confiscates letters as both I and many fellow-exiles ascertained.

In view of this I venture to repeat my message to you both on behalf of all the democrats in exile and myself and thank you for that you have done and may yet do in favour of the Greek people as a worthy successor of the great man who was your husband, the unforgettable President Roosevelt.

The American Relief for Greek Democracy in N.Y.C. has been notified and may submit you the memorandum which the exiles and myself as their President, handed over to the U.N. sub-committee which visited the island and which you may like to read, it contains in summary the full documentation on the political persecution and the situation of the deportees.

I remain dear Madam
With deep gratitude and regards,

The Chairman of National Solidarity

[A. Loulis]

[A. Loulis]
Central Committee of E.A.M.  
Women's Section  
Athens, March 14th, 1947

Honorable Mrs. Eleanor F. Roosevelt  
American Relief for  
Greek Democracy  
New York

Dear Madam,

The vivid response which our pain always found in your heart, and your life, devoted wholeheartedly to the struggle for the liberty and prosperity of the people, proclaimed to the world by your ever memorable husband, gives us the courage to address ourselves to you at this critical moment.

We, who so many times derived courage from your struggles for Liberty and Democracy in our country, from the protesting voice you always raised against our slavery and oppression, send through you an appeal to all American women and request you to help us at this time also.

We address ourselves to you, the widow and continuator of the great work of a brilliant politician of the century, and we ask you to raise your voice again. To persuade, with your authority, your Government to give to our tortured people the real help it requires and not arms for them to be killed with.

The thousands of deported women, the orphans whom you saved with your affectionate care and all Greeks, heard with relief of your attitude towards the latest proposals of President Truman, and believe that this time as well, your voice will find response in your heart, and that you will continue effectively your struggle.

With great esteem

For the Women's Section  
Central Committee of E.A.M.

[Signature]
APPEAL OF THE WOMEN'S SECTION
OF THE A.A.N. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

To the;
Honourable Mrs Eleanor F. Roosevelt
The National Council of American Women
The American Council for a Democratic Greece

Two years have passed since the day of the anti-fascist victory, but in Greece we have not yet seen the sun of liberty. Fascism, maintained this time by the British occupation, destroys our unfortunate country again. The same men who persecuted our children with the Germans, persecute them now. For a second time the concentration camps, the deserted islands and prisons are full of anti-fascist Greeks. The thousands of murdered patriots (500 are the men murdered in the last eleven months) raise their terrible accusation against fascism. We live again the terror and the martyrdom of the occupation in every day blood, the tortures, the violations, the executions. Again the quislings are ruling and again the persecuted patriots take to the mountains to preserve their lives and the liberty of the country.

The foreign occupation and the fascist Government spread the Civil War in order to strangle the will of the people and to maintain themselves in power through fire and blood. But they see that they are unable to break the indomitable struggle of our people for Independence, Reconstruction, Liberty, Democracy, and therefore they are now asking for American intervention. All you are told is not true, that the help will be given for the reconstruction of our tormented country or for the protection of Democracy. No democratic Government needs foreign arms to maintain itself. The help is given to the fascist regime which strangles the liberties of the people. It is given for the construction of the foreign occupation and civil war which ravages us.

In this tragic moment, when a new danger threatens our Independence and the Peace of the World, we address ourselves to you, the American sisters of the anti-fascist struggle and ask you to stand at our side to frustrate the intervention which your Government is considering. Prevent the sending of arms and reinforcements to the murderers of our children. Help the Greek people to win their Liberty and Independence and to remain far from the antagonisms of the Allies, with the security of Greece's neutrality within the framework of the U.N.O.
Answer the aggressive proclamations which attack allied collaboration and peace, with your unshaken resolution to become its guardians. Every help to the fascist hearth in Greece represents a direct danger for your children. Do not let them be thrown into a war against a people who gave all for the allied victory and is determined not to live in slavery.

As, unitedly, we defeated Hitlerite fascism, so unitedly now we shall struggle to clear away the fascist hearths, to preserve peace, to assure for our children a life without fear, hunger or oppression, as the Great Roosevelt proclaimed.

Athena - March 14, 1947.

The Women's Section of the E.A.M. Central Committee

Galatia Zazellini

Maria Mandala

Efi Panteloumou

P. Papastamatidou

Rhida Hroni

Evangelina Kosti

Kreussa Karali

Olga Kritikou
I have your letter of May 7. I was pleased to hear you shift through the winter grape. I fear this record is thought by the Communists to have been made only through other organizations. Can you get your materials distributed?

Of course such a thing should be continued. The public should be informed. You must be patient. I cannot approve of the present situation, but I hope that it is something that will soon be changed.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas Cherson
Co-Chairman

EC/MC

I thought you said I would see the letter. I shall put the person to whom it is directed to know about it. If you know about it, I shall ask you to do so.

I thought you said I would see the letter. If you know any of the people who have been talking about it, I shall ask you to do so.

I have not heard from you and am writing to you now.
Dear Mr. [Name]

I have your letter of May 7. I thought you shifted through another group. I fear this Society is thought to be Communist-dominated only through other organizations. Can you get your materials distributed?

There is nothing I can do personally.
May 7, 1947

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square West
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mrs. Roosevelt,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a translation of a letter received from Greece, as well as a copy of a letter sent to Secretary of State, George C. Marshall. Both letters are self-explanatory.

It seems such a crying shame that the clothing we have sent to Greece should be withheld from the people who need them so badly. I do hope there is something that you can do to help us in this present difficulty. It is not only a question of the present shipment. We have nearly 80,000 lbs. of clothing in the warehouse being readied for shipment to Greece. It would be a tragedy if this gift of the American people could not reach its destination.

Please let me hear from you and advise as to what can be done in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dr. Nicholas Chersonis
Co-Chairman

[Handwritten note on the bottom of the page]

I thought you'd be interested in this, but I hope you've already read it. I think it's a good idea to try to get the shipment through. It's destroyed.
May 7, 1947

Honorable George C. Marshall
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Secretary,

Word has just reached us from Athens, Greece that the 67 bales of used clothing which American Relief for Greek Democracy, Inc. shipped to National Solidarity of Greece for distribution amongst needy persons is being held by the Greek authorities who claim that various legal requirements have not been met. For example, they ask for a Health Certificate, a Certificate that the clothing has been sterilized, as well as a detailed accounting of how many jackets, children's shoes, dresses, etc. are enclosed.

A shipment of over 11,000 lbs. of clothing makes a detailed check rather difficult. However, we have no quarrel with the government of Greece and, if that is their requirement, we will certainly comply with it in the future. The same is true with any other requirement which they may have. However, the fact remains that the clothing is now in Athens and that hundreds of needy persons are desperately in need of this clothing.

It seems tragic that technicalities should deprive the suffering people of an opportunity to clothe their pain-watched limbs. It is clothing that Americans, out of the goodness of their hearts, have donated and they would fail to understand a situation where 11,000 lbs. of clothing is kept in the warehouse while hundreds clamor for a rag with which to cover their nakedness.

We beg you to use the influence of your high office and interest with the Greek authorities in Washington and in Athens and ask them that this shipment of relief supplies be released.

With many thanks and a sincere hope that I will hear from you soon.

I remain,

Respectfully,

Dr. Nicholas Cheremis
Co-Chairman

WO/sh
cc: Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
Dear Friends,

67 Bales of used clothing

We got your letter of March 19 with a copy of the Bill of Lading which concerns the shipping of the above packages. These packages reached Piraeus with the SS "Explorer" on April 9, 1947. We paid to the American Export Line 427,000 drachmas for transportation and other expenses. But in order for us to get this into our hands, many credentials are necessary.

For instance there are needed:

1. A Certificate from the American authorities that this clothing has been sterilized.
2. A Health Certificate
3. Certificate concerning the duty status of the clothing (for instance, how many woolen jackets, how many cotton, how many children's clothing, how many shoes, how many dresses, etc.) Therefore, you must insure sending of these documents as soon as possible by airmail. At the same time, you must send us a letter which expressly certifies that this clothing is a gift from you, designated for distribution to the needy families of Greece.

From here we will occupy ourselves with:

1. The getting of a decision from the Ministry of National Economy and the Bank of Greece for permission to bring in this clothing without many of these certificates, and with permission to bring them in duty free.

This permission - to bring them in duty free - is our greatest difficulty especially because of the persecution which our organization is undergoing. If we do not insure this, then we have to pay about 150,000,000 drachmas in duties. We do not know if you will be able to do anything from there concerning this question.

In the meantime, because of the custom houses where the clothing remains, there is a daily storage charge. We will try to move them somewhere where it will be cheaper.

We thought that perhaps within these large packages there are smaller individual packages for families based on the catalogue which we sent you some time ago which would make things somewhat easier for us. However, they did not permit us to open even one package to see what was inside. For this reason, we ask you to write us concerning this. In passing, we make known to you that this problem will take many months and the expenses for the clothing, even if we were able to bring them in without duty, will be great.

For these reasons, we consider it a better solution if you will send individual packages through Greek War Relief to the addresses which we have given you because they can be distributed without certificates.

We are expecting from you airmail as soon as possible certificates and information, if you have not taken action for the duty free importation of this clothing.

With friendly greetings for the central executive committee.

A. Loulis, President
F. Simos, Gen'l Secretary