

MacVeagh, Lincoln
1947-51

Bx. ~~██████~~
L. Mackay



Athens

October 8th

1917

Dear Eleanor:-

Since my wife died
I have been back and forth
across the Atlantic and have
had too little time to write
as I would wish to the
kind friends who have expressed
their sympathy. I expect to
fly back again to Washington
immediately, and perhaps I shall

Have the opportunity of calling
on you sometime and thanking
you personally for your telegram
and the note which followed it,
and which I found here awaiting
me the other day. But in any
case I want to say now how
much I appreciate your having
thought of me in the midst of
all your cares.

always affectionately yours

Wm. Woodruff

Wm. Frankli J. Russell -

Mac Veagh

former

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Athens, Greece,
January 16, 1947.

Dear Eleanor:

Your note of November 7, 1946, did not reach me until December 27. I quite understand and sympathize with your predicament. Nearly everyone I know in America has at one time or another sent me appeals from similar sources. As soon as I got your letter I immediately asked the Consul General, who supervises all consular matters, to look into the status of the two brothers, Mihalakis and Vessia Harissis, and I now have his report. As is usually the case, it appears that there is quite a file on these boys from which it is evident that despite what you were told, they have been fully informed regarding their status and what they must do to enter the United States legally.

To begin with, they applied at the American Consulate at Patras, as long ago as October 16, 1945, to be registered as American citizens, and the Department ruled that they would become American citizens only upon taking up permanent residence in the United States, which meant that they would have to come in as immigrants under the Greek quota. As long as they remained minors, their father who was an American citizen, could, if living, petition the Department of Justice for non-quota status for them, but as both parents are dead they are entitled only to non-preference quota status, and unfortunately there are already several thousand prior registrants in this category under an annual quota for

/Greek

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,

Apartment 15-A,

29 Washington Square, West,

New York City II, N.Y.

Greek born applicants of only 307, all of which has for more than two years been entirely exhausted by first and second preference applicants. When informed how long it would probably be before their turns would be reached on the waiting list, they declined to register and said that they would make their permanent home in Greece, giving up the idea of going to the United States.

If they informed their brother in the United States, as he told you, that no one at the Embassy would tell them what could be done to get them over to the United States, they probably meant within the law and in the immediate future. Actually, they have been fully informed how to proceed through legal channels, disappointing though this information must have been. That their case is not unique makes it all the more distressing to us, who find our natural sympathies continually at variance with our duties in applying laws which are doubtless salutary in general but which often require that deferring of hope which renders the heart sick.

Peggy joins me in sending you our very best wishes for the New Year.

Affectionately,

Lucretia MacNeagh

MacVeagh

1945

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RETURN TO MRS. ROOSEVELT

(THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN)

Dear Ms. Roosevelt,

I am being married this
afternoon, to Lieutenant Samuel
Thomas of the Naval Reserve.
Since it's only been decided
since Wednesday, and a lady

and Mother aren't here, we're
making it very quiet and
informal. It's really an
important item in anybody's
life but ours, but I did
want to let you know.

Very sincerely yours,

Peggy MacLaughlin