

National G.I.
FOR SERVICE
MAY 1946 - 1948

ack letter.
I am in no position to
send any more. I
will give you some letters
if you wish.

National Herald

THE NATIONAL HERALD

THE NATIONAL HERALD, DAILY
THE NATIONAL HERALD, SUNDAY

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September 27, 1946

I am in no position to meet with you unless you wish I had my own telephone

TELEPHONE
WATKINS 4200
4201
4202
CABLE ADDRESS
"NATL HRLD"

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It was very nice to see you again the other day. As you have probably noticed in the meantime, the news coming from Greece has confirmed the report I gave you on the situation there and the belief I expressed that to support Fascism as an alternative to Communism, is to ruin not only that unfortunate country which sacrificed everything for freedom and Democracy, but also, the good name of the United States.

I can assure you that we are losing friends everywhere by our present attitude toward the Greek people. I still believe that the only alternative to Communism is Democracy. This is also the only solution to the Greek problem today, and the only philosophy worth supporting.

As I mentioned the other day, I believe you are the only person today who could successfully lead a movement in this country for the establishment of Democracy in Greece. Much as I appreciate your kind offer to arrange for a meeting with the President and Mr. Byrnes, I still feel that without your presence, such a meeting would not bring the desired results.

Knowing how busy you are, I would not venture to bother you if I did not believe that this is a problem which involves much more than Greece. That small country is a great symbol and what is happening there today has a far greater importance because of the ideals Greece has always represented and defended.

Our indifference to events in Spain in the years before the war cost us dearly. Is not this experience enough to worry us now that Russia and England are fighting in a similar way over Greece?

I would like to take this opportunity to enclose a copy of the National Herald in which I reprinted the letter sent to me in October of 1944 by our great President and a translation of the editorial which accompanied it.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York City, New York

Basil J. Vlavianos
Basil J. Vlavianos

Translation of an Editorial published in the
National Herald on September 12, 1946.

"MENE, THECEL, PHARES"

The largest American aircraft carrier bearing the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is visiting Greece. On this occasion, the National Herald is reprinting a letter sent to us by the President at the time of Greece's liberation from the Germans.

This letter is the last message Franklin Delano Roosevelt sent to Greeks throughout the world before his death, and constitutes, in a way, his political testament for Greece. Written by the man who, in our time, embodied so fully the American spirit, it conveys not only the feelings of the great President, but of the American people as well - their feelings for Greece which "gave birth to Democracy" and for her people "who have fought so valiantly for democratic ideals.

* * *

The wishes of Franklin Roosevelt are clearly revealed in this precious document. Despite the consideration he had to give to England, he did not hesitate to openly declare that the Greek people should be left free to choose their own form of government. Furthermore, by the purposeful repetition of the word democracy, he left no doubt as to what, in his opinion, was the fitting government for Greece.

Unfortunately, this wish of President Roosevelt's has not been fulfilled. British policy has had its own way. It preferred to continue its efforts to divide

the Greek people rather than permit a free and honest plebiscite. It preferred to provoke the civil war of December, 1944, and by a long series of frauds and manuevers, to bring Greece to submission to the British interests.

* * *

Thus, Greece was pushed into the present sad situation. Instead of being left to act as a bridge to unite the East and West, to serve as a conciliator and moderator, it has been turned into a battlefield for a ruthless and immoral struggle for power - a slave of one side and portrayed as an open enemy by the other. Betrayed by its friends, lashed by their former allies, Greece continues to spend the blood of her sons in a civil conflict incited and fed so heartlessly by foreign interests. This, however, could have easily been stopped if the United States had denounced these practices.

Unfortunately for Greece, for America, and for mankind, Franklin Delano Roosevelt is no longer with us. If he were living today, things would have been far different. He had already expressed his opposition to the excesses. He certainly would have gone further and would have tried to protect the Greek people; fulfill the promises he had made to them, and justify their expectations.

But no matter how deeply we feel his absence today, his spirit is still in the American people.

Whoever chose the American carrier bearing the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as an assistant for the execution of despicable plans, made a great mistake. The initials of that great champion of Democracy displayed over the skies of Athens cannot bring luck to the tyrants of the Greek people. Those initials are to them what the cross and incense were to the devil. They are the "mene thecel phares" to Fascism. They are the great promise to those who sacrificed their all for Democracy that the spirit of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the spirit of America, is still vigilant.