

2167. *Ambassade P. de Grèce*

August 4, 1943.

Sir,

I should be very grateful if you would give your kind consideration to the following matter which I will request you to be so good as to bring to the notice of His Britannic Majesty's Government.

The Royal Hellenic Government deeply appreciate the assurances which have been given to them concerning the full restoration of the independence and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Greece. They are furthermore deeply convinced that after the victory of the United Nations due regard will be paid to the just territorial claims of Greece, which have in general terms been brought to the knowledge of the British Government and have been given favourable consideration by them.

In view of the present developments in the Mediterranean, my Government feel obliged to present their just claims against the Kingdom of Italy.

These are two-fold and concern, as His Britannic Majesty's Government are already aware, the Islands of the Aegean and Northern Epirus.

In the opinion of the Royal Hellenic Government every trace of Italian rule should be entirely and finally eliminated from the Eastern Mediterranean and from the Western Coast of the Balkan Peninsula - including all the islands, and particularly Sasseno - which ethnically belongs exclusively to Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia, while Italian rule should be

The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

restricted to the purely Italian ethnic area west of the Adriatic. It should be noted that the island of Sasseno, which is ethnically Greek, was part of the Kingdom of Greece until 1913 when it was ceded to Albania at the request of the Great Powers under certain specified conditions which nevertheless have not been fulfilled.

The necessary conditions for the establishment of a truly lasting peace in this part of Europe can only materialise if Italy is not permitted to retain under her control even the smallest part of territory in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean as this would eventually be used by her only as a basis for further expansion.

The Royal Yugoslav Government are in full agreement with the Royal Hellenic Government's opinion that Italy must be made to withdraw entirely from the Balkans.

Furthermore the Royal Hellenic Government consider that it is of the highest importance for the Armistice which will be imposed on Italy to contain a clause providing for the immediate evacuation by all Italian Military and Civil Authorities of all territories claimed by Greece and that these should without delay be handed over to Greeks, or in their absence, provisionally to Allied Authorities working in conjunction with Greek Authorities.

The Italian attitude towards the Greek population both before and during the present war provides no guarantee for the maintenance of order or for the just treatment of the Greek population.

Finally, it is my Government's desire that, so soon as an Armistice Commission has been set up, as a result of Italy's forthcoming capitulation, Greece should be represented thereon.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient Servant,