

Washington, 8, D. C.,
March 3rd, 1947.

No. 1340

Sir:

I have the honor, on instructions of my Government, to convey the following urgent message to His Excellency the President of the United States and to Your Excellency:

"Owing to the systematic devastation of Greece, the decimation and debilitation of her people and the destruction of her economy through four invasions and protracted enemy occupation, as well as through disturbances in the wake of war, and despite the valuable assistance rendered by our Allies during and after the war for which the Greek people feel profoundly grateful, further and immediate assistance has unfortunately become vital. It is impossible to exaggerate the magnitude of the difficulties that beset those survivors in Greece who are devoting themselves to the restoration of their country. Such means of survival as remained to the Greek people after the enemy withdrew have now been exhausted so that today Greece is without funds to finance the import even of those consumption goods that are essential for bare subsistence. In such circumstances the Greek people cannot make progress in attacking the problems of reconstruction, though substantial reconstruction must be begun if the situation in Greece is not to continue to be critical.

"The Greek Government and people are therefore compelled to appeal to the Government of the United States and through it to the American people for financial, economic and expert assistance. For Greece to survive she

His Excellency George C. Marshall,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

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must have:

"1. The financial and other assistance which will enable her immediately to resume purchases of the food, clothing, fuel, seeds and the like that are indispensable for the subsistence of her people and that are obtainable only from abroad.

"2. The financial and other assistance necessary to enable the civil and military establishments of the Government to obtain from abroad the means of restoring in the country the tranquillity and feeling of security indispensable to the achievement of economic and political recovery.

"3. Aid in obtaining the financial and other assistance that will enable Greece and Greek people to create the means for self-support in the future. This involves problems which unhappily cannot be solved unless we surmount the crisis immediately confronting us.

"4. The aid of experienced American administrative, economic and technical personnel to assure the utilization in an effective and up-to-date manner of the financial and other assistance given to Greece, to help to restore a healthy condition in the domestic economy and public administration and to train the young people of Greece to assume their responsibilities in a reconstructed economy.

"The need is great. The determination of the Greek people to do all in their power to restore Greece as a self-supporting, self-respecting democracy is also great; but the destruction in Greece has been so complete as to rob the Greek people of the power to meet the situation by themselves. It is because of these circumstances that they turn to America for aid.

"It is the profound hope of the Greek Government that the Government of the United States will find a way to render to Greece without delay the assistance for which it now appeals.

"signed: D MAXIMOS, Prime Minister, C. TSALDARIS, Deputy
Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs."

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consider-
ation.

PAUL ECONOMOU-GOURAS