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INCLOSURE NO. 1

TARANTO, ST. ANDREW'S CAMP "A"
27 December 1944

FROM: Colonel Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS
Former Military Commandant of the city of Patras, Greece, and
Commandant of the Security Battalions in Patras.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters in Italy.

WHEREAS,

After being informed by the commandant of St. Andrew's P.O.W. camp, that he was obliged to treat us prisoners of war, according to instructions he had received from Caserta, we have the honor to inform you of the following, intending to restore truth and right:

1. Before the month of September 1943, I was in contact with Col STEVENS, Commander of the Allied Military Commission in Peloponnesus.
2. On 27-28 September 1943, after a long discussion at a meeting with Maj "ANTHONY", of the Allied Commission, it was decided that:
 - a. Clear political reasons prevented the re-arming and re-equipping of nationalist organization (from British planes) after they had been disarmed by the ELAS.
 - b. The only possible assistance with arms and munitions would go to the nationalist units of Maj Christos KARACHALIOS, who 40 days later was killed by ELAS guerillas.
3. The Allied Military Commission of Peloponnesus (MACP) permitted us, and gave us the necessary money, to buy arms and munitions to equip nationalist units.
4. As we could not find and purchase arms, and the Italian troops in Greece, knowing the disastrous intentions of the EAM, ELAS and KKE organizations surrendered almost to a man with their armor to the ELAS guerillas, the Greek prime minister, John RALLIS, was forced to ask for arms from the Germans to equip the nationalist units and in this way combat the savage danger of the communists.
5. It is absolutely known that the first ELAS partisans had been equipped by the British to fight the Germans, but the ELAS, instead, aimed at the establishment of a dictatorship regime of the proletariat, and instead of fighting against the Germans, Italians and Bulgarians, they began a ruthless and destructive campaign against the unfortunate and innocent Greek peoples, who were helpless and suffering the cruel tyranny of three enemy armies of occupation.

Thus (a) The ELAS collaborated completely with the Bulgarian communist party and they (ELAS) promised to Bulgaria Greek Thrace and Macedonia as far south as Mt. Olympus.

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(b) With the Italian armistice of September 1943, ELIAS accepted into their ranks many thousands of armed Italian officers and men who continued in their work as murderers of the Greek people.

(c) In many Greek villages they reached an agreement with the Germans whereas they would mutually cooperate in not attacking one another, and in that way proceeded with complete liberty and confidence to inflict more damage on the disarmed Greek peoples.

The EAM, ELIAS, KKE partisans began a campaign to assassinate and liquidate the heroes of the 1940-1941 Italo-Greek war, gallant officers and soldiers, who wrote those golden pages of Greek history on the Albanian front, because they opposed the communistic aims of the EAM-ELIAS-KKE.

After the month of September 1943, the EAM-ELIAS partisans increased the number of assassinations of the families of nationalists and families of officers who had escaped to Cairo or to Italy to continue the fight against the Axis.

Thus we were caught between the Italo-Germans-Bulgarians, who were shooting, killing and destroying and the EAM-ELIAS gangsters, who have been crueler and more terrible concerning their various methods and crimes in spreading destruction on their own peoples.

With the above situation, we decided to accept the arms given by the RALLIS government, and organized the Security Battalions, with intention and decision to combat the communist danger, and in this way, rescue our country, which was being threatened with destruction.

"Who Can Possibly Accuse Us?"

"Who Had Formed the Security Battalions?"

All the guerilla fighters of the nationalist organizations, THEODOROPoulos - VRETAKOS - KOKONIS - KARACHALIOS - PAPAGIANIS - KAPETSONIS - DROSOPoulos and many others; these are some of the leaders' names! And generally speaking all nationalist Greeks, whose families had been butchered, whose homes were looted and destroyed by the EAM, ELIAS partisans.

"What Have the Security Battalions Done?"

"How Did They Act?"

The Security Battalions formed to fight only against the communist danger of the EAM, ELIAS, KKE organizations, defended and preserved free many cities and saved their populations. Thus the British forces were able to land on free Greek soil and avoid greater bloodshed.

"Who Can Deny the Following?"

The Allied Military Commission of Peloponesus was thrice saved by me, when it was warned in time to escape capture by the Germans; once in

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February 1944 in the village of DEMESTICHA, and in April 1944 in MECHLAIKA, and later on in the same month at CHANI (Agent ARCYROPOULOS from DIRRIS, ELIAS).

Major "ANTHONY" of the MACP had been captured and badly treated by ELAS forces, but was saved by the Nationalist Captain Fotios PAHIS, serving in the Security Battalion of Patras and now a prisoner at this camp.

Movement of members and agents of the MACP was facilitated and aided by the Security Battalions when they were endangered by EAM agents, and all orders, requests and plans were followed and executed by us.

We were in constant liaison with the MACP.

Before my undertaking as military commandant of the city of Patras, and commandant of the Security Battalions of Patras, I asked and received the wholehearted approval of the MACP. I accepted on this basis. A Greek lieutenant by the name of FLOUDAS and working under the alias of "PERICLES" carried to us the orders of the MACP until the very end. These were faithfully and unquestionably executed by us.

If it were not for the Security Battalions of PATRAS and TRIPOLIS, the agents of the MACP could never have accomplished their missions, nor would most of them be alive today.

The Security Battalions, in general, accomplished:

1. They saved, as long as it was humanly possible, large areas of Greece from destruction by the EAM-ELAS-KKE. Patras, Tripolis, Argos, Corinth, Nauplion, Kalamas, Meligala, Kyparissia, Pyrgos, Analios, Agrinion, Messolonghi, Naupalitos and many other cities were kept free and in Greek hands, and not in the hands of Bulgarians as the ELAS did.
2. They, at various times, helped the MACP and facilitated the Allies to accomplish their secret missions. In this service, many officers and men of the Security Battalions have paid with their blood and their lives.

The Germans executed the following men belonging to the Patras Security Battalions, because of collaboration with the British:

1. BABOUKIS, Themis - Colonel of Royal Greek Navy
2. EUSTATHIOU, George - Lieutenant
3. CHRISTODOULOU, John - Lieutenant
4. FLOUDAS, Taxis - Lieutenant
5. KOUDIS, Panos - Sgt Major
6. PHILOS, Constantine - Sgt

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The following officers were in prison and were awaiting execution when the hasty German withdrawal from Greece saved them from this fate.

1. KENTROS, Angelos - Lt Colonel
2. PLOUMIS, Demetrios - Lt Colonel
3. ANAGNOSTAKIS, - Major

3. When the Germans began to withdraw from Greece, the Patras and Tripolis Security Battalions placed themselves at the disposal of the PAPANDREOU government and the MACP, whose commanding officer was Colonel STEVENS. All these proceedings were published in the daily newspapers of Patras while the city was still occupied by German troops.

Since early September 1944 we declared orally and in writing that we were placing ourselves at the disposal of, and that we were offering to fight in cooperation with, the invading British forces against the Germans. We informed Lt Col JELICOE of our intentions with a written report. Capt Gray (alias "HERCULES") whom Lt Col PALANTAS and myself conferred with on 1 October 1944, can confirm this.

With all this, Lt Col JELICOE, Commander of the advance British landing forces, gave us an order (a copy of which is attached to this report), which we thoroughly obeyed without any hesitation. That is to say that:

Although the city of Patras, when we received JELICOE'S order was still under German occupation, and we were in constant danger from the Germans had they understood our intentions to escape, we achieved a noiseless withdrawal from the German pocket so that 1,560 officers and soldiers escaped and joined the English forces, where we gave up our arms according to the order.

We are, therefore, according to the general decision of the Greek Government-in-Exile and the Allied Headquarters in the Middle East, here in camp under the immediate protection of the British forces.

We didn't fail, even while disarmed and in a camp awaiting shipment, to warn orally and in writing of the determined impending attack by the EAM, ELAS and KKE against the British liberating forces.

At this moment, the civil war continues in Greece, and British and Greek blood is being spilled to crush the rebels and to establish a state of law and order.

We have been patient. We are not protesting. In this way we are offering a great service to our Country and to the Allied Cause. But now, when the self-named liberators, the EAM-ELAS partisans have turned their guns on the legal Greek Government and the British forces, the real liberators of our country, how can it be possible for us to remain in this camp, and worst of all, be considered as prisoners of war.

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We have every right to request and to pray that justice be done. That is all we request.

If there are any political reasons which prevent, at the present time, our return to Greece, armed to defend our country's liberty, right and reality force us to say that we cannot remain here in camp as prisoners, but to be placed in a Greek training unit and be trained until the moment when it shall be possible to return to our Country to regain our legal position.

In ending, I request that you seek the truth from the officers of the MACP, namely; Col STEVENS, Major "ANTHONY", Captain "GRAY", Lt "PERICLES", Lt PAPTAEODOROU and Lt Col JELICOE. From them you can also be given the real story of our organization.

After all this, we hope, and we are persuaded that divine and human justice will prevail, because this concerns our country's as well as Allied interests.

I attach on my report a Greek newspaper clipping with a quotation from Mr. Winston Churchill's speech about the Security Battalions' role.

If the solution of our affair is beyond your power to act, please submit my report to Mr. Winston Churchill, His Majesty's Prime Minister of the British Empire.

Signed: N. KOURKOULAKOS
Colonel

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