

DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 10501

By JA NARA Date 8/17

RG

Entry

84

Athens Embassy

2649 A 1945

File

Classes

711.9 - 800

Box

77

Info

KLR
WWD

Dept. of State

November 19, 8 am

Non-Conf. Brn

Cirr. Chan. File

November 20, 1945

Coordinating Committee of ACC Germany has decided that following message be sent to Governments of United Nations concerned with restitution from Germany.

"At its meeting on November sixth, 1945, the Coordinating Committee on behalf of the ACC for Germany decided that the governments of those United Nations concerned with the restitution of looted property should submit lists of such property to the Zone Commander in the zones where such property is believed to be located. Accordingly, the government of Greece is hereby invited to submit such lists to the appropriate zone Commanders. These lists should be submitted for attention and should be transmitted to each Commander through his government. These lists should contain detailed information, for example, serial numbers and specifications or other identification marks where appropriate, of the property which was looted and which, according to the submitting governments, is now located in particular zone."

As indicated in previous circular telegram this government invites submission of lists of looted property believed to be in the American Zone of Germany or Austria. However, text of Coordinating Committee message may be brought to the attention of govt to which you are accredited with statement that govt concerned may wish to include in list submitted in response to this govt's invitation of (garble) such additional information (garble) listed property as suggested in the above text.

Channel for transmission of lists to ... should continue to be ...

Repeated to Be:

ph

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Authority EO 10501	
By JA	NARA Date 8/17

RG 84
 Entry Athens Embassy
 26/9 A 1945
 File Classes 711.9 - 800
 Box 77

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs and has the honor to transmit the following decision of the Coordinating Committee of the Allied Control Council for Germany with regard to looted property:

"At its meeting on November 6, 1945, the Coordinating Committee on behalf of the Allied Control Council for Germany decided that the governments of those United Nations concerned with the restitution of looted property should submit lists of such property to the Zone Commander in the zones where such property is believed to be located. Accordingly, the government of Greece is hereby invited to submit such lists to the appropriate Zone Commanders. These lists should be submitted for attention and should be transmitted to each Commander through his government. These lists should contain detailed information, for example, serial numbers and specifications or other identification marks where appropriate, of the property which was looted and which, according to the submitting government, is now located in a particular zone."

In its notes of October 25 and November 5, 1945, this Embassy invited the Greek Government to submit lists of property believed to be in the American zone of Germany or Austria. The Greek Government may wish to include in these lists such additional information regarding looted property as suggested above. The channel for transmission of lists to Zone Commanders will continue to be as stated in the Embassy's notes under reference.

Athens, November 29, 1945

The Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

A t h e n s
File No. 711.9

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TO BE COPIED

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Authority E0 10501 347
By JA NARA Date 8/17

RG 84
542 Entry 2649 A 1945
File Classes 711.9-800
Box 77

CORRESPONDENCE

AMERICAN
EMBASSY
ATHENS, GREECE

1945

CLASSES

711.9-800



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Authority EO 10501
By JA NARA Date 8/17

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File Classes 2649 A 1945
Box 77
711.9-800

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: Berlin

DATE: Dec. 20, 4 pm

CODE: Restricted

NO:

Dec. 24, 1945

RECEIVED:

Jd

~~KLR~~

Further to my 1078 of Nov. 23.

Restitution Missions from France and Belgium have now arrived at OWI (US Zone) and are actively engaged in identification and removal of looted materials. More than 100 fine blooded race horses have been returned to France from Bavaria and some special machinery needed for processing rubber products has been returned to Belgium. 2,000 tons of various industrial and raw materials have been shipped from Bremen to the Netherlands and approximately 10,000 tons have been located and are awaiting transportation from that port.

Invitations to send Missions have been issued to Poland, Norway and Luxembourg since my previous telegram. The head of the Czech restitution mission is now enroute from Prague to Frankfurt.

The procedures and general arrangements appear to be functioning smoothly and the missions which have arrived have expressed their satisfaction as regards assistance which they are given. It is to be expected however that the transportation of materials will become increasingly difficult throughout the winter months, especially as regards Czech and Polish properties. Shortages of rolling stock and coal will make rail transport difficult except for the most urgently needed materials. Difficulties are already being encountered because of winter weather. Visits of mission to identify and take charge of properties are hampered by snow on roads and premises on which property is located, especially

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U.S. GOVERNMENT
PROPERTY

plants which are not in operation and which contain looted machines and equipment. With reference to my 1079 of Nov. 23, no replies have been received from our mission located at Paris, Luxembourg and Athens nor have I received any lists of property for the three countries to which these missions are accredited. (Lists have been received as indicated in my 1078) Copenhagen and Moscow reported on 26 Nov. that no lists of property had been submitted. Lists have been received from Brussels, Prague, Belgrade and Oslo. The Dept should note that once the restitution missions arrive at Frankfurt, subsequent lists are being submitted through these missions directly from the Govts concerned. Unless the [Depts]—Dept (?) [] considers it desirable, I do not plan to make any representations as regards this procedure inasmuch as the handling of claims is facilitated thereby. With reference to Luxembourg and France, no additional inquiries regarding lists are being made. As regards Greece, however, our 1079 has been repeated via the Dept in addition to regular servicing direct—(msg. undecipherable from this point to end —76 groups).

MURPHY

H.W.
* SVC sent

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Authority E.O.10501
By 15 NAPA Date 3/11/01

RG

84

Entry Athens Embassy

File 850-851

Box 12

*Action**J. L. B.
R. P.
(WW)*

mw

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM Dept of State

DATE March 5, 9 pm

CODE

Secret

RECEIVED March 7, 1946

TO Circular *Set File*

MOST IMMEDIATE

DUMMY

Suggestions regarding Safe Haven note to Spanish (Re
 Deptcirclets of Feb. 13 and 22). (Sent for info to London,
 Paris, Lisbon and Berlin and to other missions for action).

BYRNES

347545

DECLASSIFIED

E.O.10501

Authority E.O.10501
By 1B NAPA Date 3/11/01

RG

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Entry Athen EmbassyFile CONF FILEFile 850-851Box 12THE DRAFT RECEIVED

FROM: Dept. of State

DATE: March 5, 1946 9 pm

NO: Circular

CODE: Secret

RECEIVED: March 7, 1946

P A R A P H R A S EMOST IMMEDIATE

(Sent for info to London, Lisbon, Paris and US POLAD Berlin for Murphy, Kramer, and Clay, and to other missions for action).

1. Re SATEHAVEN note to Spanish, changes suggested in Madrid's 348, February 21 (repeated to Lisbon as 22, to London as 108, and to Paris as 104) are approved.

2. Re Paris telegram no. 840, February 21, to Department (repeated to London as 135, to Madrid as 42, and to Lisbon as 11), Madrid will note French suggestion that original note as amended (Department's 9901, November 9, to London, repeated to Madrid as 1845, to Lisbon as 1768, and to Paris as 5257) be presented to Spain as in the case of Portugal, which was approved in Department's telegram no. 168 to Lisbon, February 15 (repeated to Paris as 763, to Madrid as 236, and to London as 1577). If Allied missions, Madrid, wish to present original note with change in last paragraph of Department's 9901 to London as suggested in Department's 168, February 15, to Lisbon (repeated to Madrid as 236), the Department has no objection but suggests that note referred to in paragraph one above may be sufficient, including the addition drafted by the French.

3. It is requested that Embassy Madrid make available to local missions of countries which participated in the Paris Reparations Conference the contents of the final note, requesting their support after presentation of the note (see list of such countries included in Department's 75, January 19 to Madrid, sent to London as 591). American Missions in the aforementioned countries should be notified by Madrid by cable immediately upon presentation of note and copies thereof should be forwarded as promptly as possible to such missions.

4. Upon receipt of advice from Madrid that note has been presented, the missions to which this telegram is sent are instructed to follow procedure suggested in the Department's circular telegrams of February 13 and 22, 1946, re the presentation of similar notes to the governments of Sweden, Portugal, and Switzerland.

jmd

BYRNES

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Authority E.O.10501

By 1B NARA Date 3/11/00

RG

84

Entry Athens Embassy

COAF FILE

File 850-851

Box 12



AMERICAN EMBASSY

The American Embassy at Lisbon presents its compliments to the American Embassy at Athens and has the honor, in accordance with Department's circular telegram of February 22nd 1946, to enclose a copy of its SAFESHAVEN vesting decree Note, No. 612, dated February 23, with the enclosure, namely the Allied Control Council vesting decree law No. 5, dated October 30, 1945.

A copy of the attached enclosure is being made available to the Greek Legation at Lisbon along with an appropriate comment to the effect that the Greek Mission here may expect to receive instructions from Athens regarding the submission of a supporting note.

Enclosure:

Copy of Lisbon Embassy's SAFESHAVEN vesting decree Note No. 612, dated February 23, and ACC vesting decree, dated October 30, 1945.

Lisbon, March 7, 1946.

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E.O.10501

Authority _____
By 15 NAPA Date 3/11/46

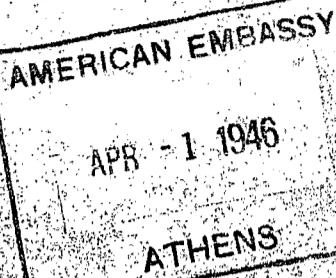
RG

Entry 84
Athens EmbassyFile COAF FILE
850-851

Box 12

COPY

No. 612



Lisbon, February 23, 1946

Excellency:

I have the honor, under instructions from my Government, to make the following communication to Your Excellency.

On October 30, the Allied Control Council, representing the four governments exercising supreme authority in Germany, adopted a law establishing a German External Property Commission and vesting in this Commission all rights, titles, and interests in or with respect to any property outside Germany owned by German nationals within Germany or by certain German citizens or legal entities outside of Germany.

A copy of this law is enclosed as an annex to this Note.

The attention of the Portuguese Government is invited to the introductory clause of this law in which the Council's determination is stated, namely, "to assume control of all German assets abroad and to divest the said assets of their German ownership with the intention thereby of promoting international peace and collective security by the elimination of the German war potential." My Government wishes me further to make clear its purpose in supporting the program to be administered by the German External Property Commission and explain that the object is to devote the resources obtained by this law to the relief, reparation and rehabilitation of countries devastated or depleted by German aggression. Restoration of the damage done in these countries will largely depend on the rapidity with which they obtain the means of importing goods despite their present unfavorable foreign exchange position. Thus, realization for reparations account of the value of German external assets will largely tend to promote restoration of trade with Portugal and thereby Portugal's participation in European reconstruction. My Government assumes, therefore, that the Portuguese Government will give full effect to this law and cooperate in its implementation.

My Government is not unmindful of the fact that the control and powers of disposal which will be exercised by the German External Property Commission raise economic questions of great importance to the Portuguese Government. It is therefore most anxious to work out in consultation with the Portuguese Government arrangements which, while consistent with the objectives of the vesting law, will avoid economic dislocations and provide a harmonious solution to this problem.

For these reasons my Government suggests that a meeting be held between representatives of the Allied Governments and representatives of the Portuguese Government, with the object of reaching agreement on the manner in which German property in Portugal can be best administered, liquidated or otherwise disposed of, and that this meeting be held in Washington, D.C. It is suggested that this meeting be held in the near future concerning which you will be advised further. The agenda of this meeting would comprise agreement on the disposal of these assets in such a way as to protect Portuguese interests, as well as those of the United Nations; questions regarding currency or foreign exchange arising out of use for reparations and rehabilitation of the funds so realized. It is also expected that an understanding can be reached on the domestic decrees and orders necessary to achieve our objectives, on the establishment of

His Excellency

Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Lisbon.

administrative 347548

DECLASSIFIED
Authority E.O.1050
By 15 NARA Date 3/11/01

RG 84
Entry ATHENS EMBASSY
File COAF FIP
Box 12

-2-

administrative machinery for full intergovernmental cooperation, and on other related questions which the Portuguese Government wishes to propose for discussion. My Government greatly hopes that the Portuguese Government will be able to accept this invitation and will signify its acceptance at a very early date.

I understand that the British Ambassador and French Minister are addressing to Your Excellency a communication in similar terms.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

Enclosure:

Copy of Allied Control Council Vesting Decree Law No. 5,
dated October 30, 1945.

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DECLASSIFIED

E.O.10501

Category SECRET
By 15 NAPA Date 8/11/60

RG

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Entry ATHENS EMBASSYFile COAF FILEFile 850-851Box 12ALLIED CONTROL COUNCILVesting and Marshalling of German External Property.

WHEREAS, the Control Council is determined to assume control of all German assets abroad and to divest the said assets of their German ownership with the intention thereby of promoting international peace and collective security by the elimination of German war potentials.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Control Council in accordance with the decisions of the Potsdam Conference and the political and economic principles by which it is necessary to be guided in dealing with this problem enacts as follows:

ARTICLE I.

A German External Property Commission, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission" composed of representatives of the four occupying powers in Germany is hereby constituted for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this law. The Commission is constituted as an intergovernmental agency of the Control Council vested with all the necessary powers and authority.

ARTICLE II.

All rights, titles and interests in respect of any property outside Germany which is owned or controlled by any person of German nationality inside Germany are hereby vested in the Commission.

ARTICLE III.

All rights, titles and interests in respect of any property outside Germany which is owned or controlled by any person of German nationality outside of Germany or by any branch of any business or corporation or other legal entity organized under the laws of Germany or having its principal place of business in Germany are hereby vested in the Commission. For the purpose of this article the term "any person of German nationality outside Germany" shall apply only to a person who has enjoyed full rights of German citizenship under Reich law at any time since 1 September 1939 and who has at any time since 1 September 1939 been within any territory then under the control of the Reich Government, but shall not apply to any citizen of any country annexed or claimed to have been annexed by Germany since 31 December 1937.

ARTICLE IV.

The Commission has power by unanimous agreement from time to time to add to the categories of persons to be affected by Articles II and III of this law unless such addition is vetoed by the Control Council within 30 days of agreement by the Commission.

ARTICLE V.

The question of whether or not any compensation shall be paid to any person whose right, title or interest in any property has been vested in accordance with this law will be decided at such time and in such manner as the Control Council may in the future determine.

ARTICLE VI.

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Authority 15 NAPA Date 3/11/61

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Entry Athens EmbassyCOAF FILEFile 850-851Box 12ARTICLE VI.

The right, title and interest to all property title to which has been vested in the Commission under this law or the proceeds of such property shall be held by the Commission and disposed of pursuant to such further directives as the Control Council may issue from time to time.

ARTICLE VII.

In addition to the general powers contained in Article I of this law, the Commission shall be vested with the following specific powers which it may exercise directly or through any agency which it deems appropriate:

- (a) to do all acts which it deems necessary or appropriate to obtain possession or control over all property, the right, title or interest in which is vested in the Commission under this law;
- (b) to operate, control and otherwise exercise complete domination over all such property including where this is essential to the preservation of the value represented by the property, the sale, liquidation or other disposal thereof subject to the provisions of Article VI;
- (c) to require the keeping of full records and to seize or require the production of any books of account, records, contracts, letters, papers relating to any property affected by this law and to compel the attendance of witnesses and to require the furnishing of full information regarding such property;
- (d) to require information, evidence and records with regard to any property outside Germany in whole or in part of all persons covered by Articles II and III hereof.

ARTICLE VIII.

The work within any zone of occupation of marshalling and recording the evidence with respect to Germany's external assets shall be the responsibility of the Commander-in-Chief for that zone. The Commission may request zone Commanders to conduct certain investigations either alone or in conjunction with investigations being conducted in other zones, and further may itself conduct joint investigations in cases where the evidence is contained in more than one zone, subject to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief in any zone in which such joint investigation is being conducted.

ARTICLE IX.

Articles II and III of this law shall not apply to assets subject to the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom, British Dominions, India, colonies and possessions, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States, France, and any other United Nations determined by the Control Council.

ARTICLE X.

For the purpose of this law,

- (a) the term "person" shall include any natural person or collective person or any juridical person or entity under public or private law having legal capacity to acquire, use, control or dispose of property or interests therein, and any government including all political subdivisions,

public

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Authority E.O.10501
By 15 NARA Date 3/11/04

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Entry Athens Embassy
File 850-851
Box 12

ARTICLE X. (continued)

public corporations, agencies and any instrumentalities thereof. Any juridical person or entity which is organized under the laws of or has its principal place of business in Germany shall be deemed to be a person of German nationality within the meaning of Article II hereof.

- (b) the term "property" shall include all movable and immovable property and all rights and interests in or claims to such property whether matured or not, including all property, rights, interest or claims transferred to or held by third parties as nominees or trustees and all property rights, interests or claims transferred by way of gift or otherwise or for consideration, express or implied, but not including the rights or interests of third parties to a bona fide sale for full consideration, and shall include but shall not be limited to buildings and lands, goods, wares, and merchandise, chattels, coin, bullion, currency, deposits, accounts or debts, shares, claims, bills of lading, warehouse receipts, all kinds of financial instruments, whether expressed in Reichsmarks or in any foreign currency, evidences of indebtedness or ownership of property, contracts, judgments, rights in or with respect to patents, copyrights, trademarks, etc., and in general property of any nature whatsoever.

ARTICLE XI.

It shall be an offense,

- (a) for any person whose property is affected by this law to do or to attempt to do any act or make any omission in derogation of the title or interest of the Commission under Articles II and III, or
- (b) to assist or conspire with any other person to do or to attempt to do any such act or make such omissions as are specified in this Article.

ARTICLE XII.

Any person violating any provision of this law shall be liable to criminal prosecution.

ARTICLE XIII.

All provisions of laws or decrees or parts thereof which are contradictory to any one of the provisions of this law or of any law or decree issued under the provisions of this law are hereby declared null and void.

Done at Berlin thirtieth October 1945.

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Authority NND 775031
By WDP NARA Date 8/10/00

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Entry Athens Embassy
CONF-FILES

File 1946; 850-85152

Box 12

Copy to: Assist. Commercial Attaché, American Embassy,
 Commercial Counsellor, French Embassy, and
 Chancery - file 26 -

BRITISH EMBASSY,
 Athens.No. 46.
 (C.S. 224/4/46.)

20th February, 1946.

NOTE VERBALE

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments
 to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and
 with reference to their Note Verbale No. 28 of the 5th

February, 1946, have the honour to inform the Royal
 Hellenic Government of an agreement between the British,
 American and French Governments regarding proposals to
 be put to neutral Governments for the control of export
 of works of art. Their proposals, which aim at the
 prevention of the disposal through neutral channels of
 works of art looted by the Germans from invaded Allied
 countries, are as follows:-

- "(a) Neutral Governments to be asked by the three Governments to prohibit the export of all works of art, books, artistic or historical archives, and other artistic or historical property.
- (b) Export licences to be granted by neutral Governments at their own discretion when the declared value of the export is not more than £500.
- (c) In cases where the declared value of the export is more than £500 but less than £5,000 and where the neutral Governments have any reason to suspect that the export may be loot, the application for an export licence to be referred to the British, U.S., and French Missions in the capital concerned, and not to be granted without their concurrence.
- (d) In all cases where the declared value of the export is more than £5,000 the application for an export licence to be referred to the British, U.S., and French Missions in the capital concerned, and not to be granted without their concurrence.

(e) The ...

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(e) The three Missions to send to their respective Governments particulars of all cases (including photographs of pictures) referred to them by neutral Governments and these particulars to be submitted to the appropriate authorities in each of the three countries. It will of course be open to these authorities to consult with each other or with similar authorities in other liberated countries."

These proposals addressed to neutral Governments are being conveyed, for their information, to all Allied Governments concerned, and the latter are being requested to furnish lists of all works of historical or artistic interest removed from their countries by the Germans.

His Majesty's Embassy, therefore, invite the Royal Hellenic Government to furnish a list of looted objects of this nature which have not yet been recovered.

His Majesty's Embassy avail themselves of this opportunity to renew to the Royal Hellenic Ministry for

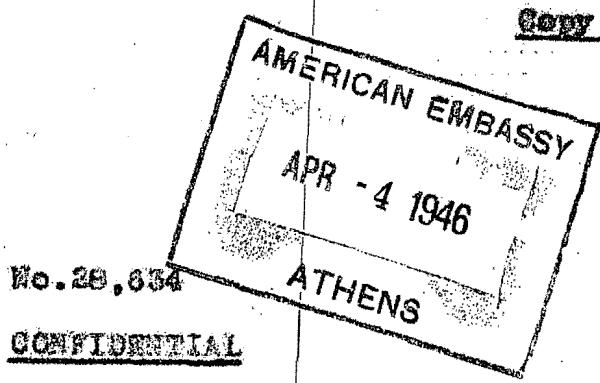
Foreign Affairs the assurance of their highest consideration.

Very truly yours,
Sir Edward G. Pritchard
Minister of State
for Foreign Affairs

The Royal Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
ATHENS.

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Authority NND 775031
By WDP NARA Date 8/10/00RG 84
Entry Athens Embassy
File 1946; 850-8515e
Box 12CopyAmerican Embassy,
AthensX S
T J
W W

LONDON, England.

March 4, 1946.

D-File

Economic Warfare (Safehaven) Series No.375

Subject: Restoration of looted Art.

For Department and Treasury

The Honorable,
The Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

I have the honor to refer to the Department's airmail No. 141 of January 16 (copied to Paris), which proposed that the governments of the liberated countries in Europe might be requested to furnish the governments of the neutrals, France, the United Kingdom and the United States with lists of objects missing after restitution had been accomplished from Germany and Austria, and that these lists might then be used as bases for approaches to the neutral governments to solicit their cooperation in the restoration of objects identified as loot.

As indicated in the Embassy's telegram No. 2591 of March 4 (repeated as No. 28 to Ankara, No. 169 to Paris, No. 70 to Rome, No. 75 to Bern, No. 58 to Stockholm), the Department's proposal was received with thorough satisfaction by the British authorities concerned, and the British Missions in Europe are being instructed accordingly. Pursuant, therefore, to the Department's telegrams No. 45 of January 9 to Stockholm (repeated as No. 268 to London and No. 135 to Paris) and No. 67 of January 22 to Ankara (repeated as No. 721 to London), which directed this Embassy to send instructions to the American Missions in the London Coordinating Area, copies of the present despatch are being sent to them (as indicated below) and will constitute their instructions (except in the cases of the Missions to the governments of the European neutrals, Turkey and Eire, for whom this despatch is for information only); It is believed that the following background information may prove helpful to the Missions in approaching the governments to which they are accredited.

According to a letter of instructions dated February 3, 1945, (the text of which was sent to the Department in the Embassy's airmail No. 107 of February 2, 1945), the British Missions in Lisbon, Madrid and Stockholm were advised of the British government's desire to "tighten up" the control of the export of works of art from Europe to the Western Hemisphere. The British Missions in Lisbon, Madrid and Stockholm were therefore instructed to observe the following

procedure/

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By WDP NARA Date 8/10/00RG 84
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procedure, which was described as having been in "spasmadic" operation since October 1941:

"We suggest that three photographs of each picture should be made, one for us, one for your U.S. colleague so that they can forward it to Washington if and when they receive instructions, and one for you to retain for case of reference. You should make it clear that a statement should accompany each photograph containing the name of the artist, a full description or title of the painting with the date of its production, the name of the owner, the date of his acquisition and, if acquisition took place on or after 3rd September, 1939, the precise method of acquisition and the name and address of the previous owner. The Consular Officers should, as we have said, follow this procedure in all cases where they are not perfectly satisfied from personal knowledge that the paintings etc. can neither be loot nor enemy tainted, and no Certificate of Origin should be issued, unless they are so satisfied, without our specific approval."

In its telegram No.3722 of May 12 to London, the Department advised that reliance should be placed on the above-described British system of control pending decision on its proposal for a total prohibition of all imports and exports to, from and within the Continent, including Turkey.

[The Department's circular instruction of November 1, 1945, instructed American diplomatic and consular officers with regard to the desired method of reporting on looted art, and enclosed a report by the Foreign Economic Administration (FEA report ES-1 NWV.), on "Looted Art in Occupied Territories, Neutral Countries and Latin America."]

Partly in order to avoid the necessity for elaborate administrative machinery, the Department was inclined to favor total prohibition until such time as effective restitution measures could be established.

The proposals to control exports then became the subject of a draft agreement (Department's telegram No.4490 of June 5, 1945, on restitution to be submitted to the European Advisory Committee, but discussion of restitution in the European Advisory Committee was subsequently suspended (Embassy's telegram No.8470 of August 21, 1945). The Embassy resumed discussion of the problem with the Economic Warfare Department of the Foreign Office ("NEWFO") and a plan was drawn up to invite the European neutrals and Turkey to establish controls over exports of works of art (Embassy's telegram No.9692 of September 19 to the Department, repeated as No.904 to Paris). The draft text of this plan may be read in the Department's circular airgram of October 29. Final British and French agreement to the Department's detailed suggestions (Department's telegram No.9203 of October 17 to London, repeated No.4622 to Paris) was reported in the Embassy's airgram No.1347 of December 18, which was copied to most of the Missions in the London Coordinating Area, and on December 18, the British Missions were instructed to approach the neutral governments in conjunction with their American and French colleagues.

The/

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Authority NND 775031
By WDP NARA Date 8/10/00RG S4
Entry Athens Embassy
File 1946:850-85152

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The neutral governments were never approached, however, as the Department decided that it must withdraw from the plan in view of changing circumstances (Department's telegram No. 45 of January 9 to Stockholm, repeated as No. 268 to London and No. 135 to Paris; Department's telegram No. 67 of January 22 to Ankara, repeated as No. 721 to London; Department's telegram No. 412 of February 26 to Rome, repeated as No. 1881 to London; Department's telegram No. 239 of January 25 to Bern, repeated as No. 846 to London). As indicated in the Department's telegram No. 141 of January 18 (repeated to Paris), the Department was reluctantly forced to withdraw from the plan in view of the following factors:

"the termination of the Roberts Commission as of June 1, 1946; probability that the McMillan Committee will follow suit; the administrative magnitude of the program which the Department and the Missions in the neutral countries are not now in a position to carry; the likelihood that the projected licensing system would be required to operate beyond the life of the present U.S.-U.S. blockade controls; and finally, the almost certain neutral disinclination to lend full co-operation."

The Department then offered the substitute proposal set forth in the first paragraph of this despatch.

It is accordingly suggested that the American Missions in Europe (excepting the Missions to the neutral governments, Turkey and Eire), in conjunction with their British and French colleagues, invite the governments to which they are accredited to furnish the governments of the neutrals, France, the U.K. and the U.S. with lists of objects missing after the program of restitution from Germany and Austria has been accomplished. In this connection, attention is called to the Department's suggestion (Department's telegram No. 9265 of October 17 to London, repeated No. 4829 to Paris) that the invitation should be extended inter alia to the governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Austria and Italy.

Respectfully yours,
For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Avery P. Peterson
First Secretary of Embassy

(Original and hectograph to Department)

G. Griffiths/WD

Distribution by Embassy, London

- 1 copy to American Embassies at Ankara, Athens, Belgrade, Brussels, The Hague, Lisbon, Madrid, Moscow, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rome, Warsaw.
- 1 copy to American Legations at Bern, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Stockholm, Tangier.
- 1 copy to American Representatives at Budapest, Bucharest, Sofia, Tirana.
- 1 copy to USCOLAP, Vienna, and DHAC, USPOLAP, Berlin.
- 3 copies to Economic Warfare Department, Foreign Office, London.

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Authority E.O.10501

By 15 NAPA Date 3/11/46

RG

84

Entry Athens Embassy

COAF FILE

File 850-851

Box 12

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: Secstate

DATE: May 21, 1946 12 am

CODE: Confidential

NO.: 636

RECEIVED: May 22, 1946

P A R A P H R A S E

(For Leonard from Treasury).

(Sent for action: The Hague for Feig as 307, Brussels for Marks as 532, Copenhagen for Feig as 351, Luxembourg for Marks as 29, and Paris for Leonard as 2441. Repeated for information: USPOLAD Berlin as 1158, Warsaw as 449, Athens as 636, AUSPOLAD Vienna as 500, Helsinki as 87, Oslo as 256, Belgrade as 315, Praha as 526, and Rome as 1117.)

This government has been informed by the governments of Norway and the Netherlands that during the enemy occupation a substantial amount of securities were looted in their countries, and the assistance of this government has been requested in this matter. Also considerable looting of securities may have occurred in other occupied countries, we have been informed.

The U.S. Treasury adopted controls desired to prevent the United States from being a market for the disposal of looted securities even before our entry into war. In order to detect looted securities, however, these controls required screening of a great many innocent transactions. All securities imported must be screened under General Ruling 5, for example, although it has been proved that loot has not been involved in the great majority of such imports. Controls must be revamped by the Treasury in the near future so that securities of U.S. issuers and dollar securities of non-U.S. issuers which are known to have been looted will receive sole attention.

The promulgation of a list of such looted securities is consequently being tentatively considered by the Treasury, as well as the taking of such steps as may be practicable to prevent their realization. However, the Treasury would need specific information identifying such looted securities including issuer, issue, serial no. and name of registered holder, if any, before such measures could be instituted. Since it is assumed that the government of the country concerned will take measures to protect the rightful owner, securities which have been found within the country where the looting took place should not be included. The requisite information should be submitted through the governments of the countries concerned, and if at all possible, the Treasury would appreciate receiving the full list not later than August 1, 1946. Therefore, measures for the collection of such information should be instituted immediately by those governments which desire to participate in the program.

The foregoing information should be immediately conveyed to the appropriate governmental authorities. It will be appreciated if views

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Authority E.O.10501

By 15 NAPA Date 8/11/61

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Entry Athens Embassy

CONF FILE

File 850-851

Box 12

- 2 -

of these governmental authorities concerning proposed program and their desire to participate therein are obtained and transmitted as soon as possible, in view of the importance with which this problem is regarded in the United States and the desire of this government to be of as much assistance as possible.

Because of previous discussions of this subject, this matter is being handled with the Netherlands' representative here; however, the Treasury would welcome a report from Feig. In regard to this matter, the Treasury is also communicating directly with the Washington representatives of Poland, Greece, Norway, Yugoslavia, Finland, and Czechoslovakia.

The general problem of locating looted securities and the development of a program for their restitution is being raised with ACC by the State Department (for your information). In the near future the Missions will be advised of details.

BYRNES

jmd

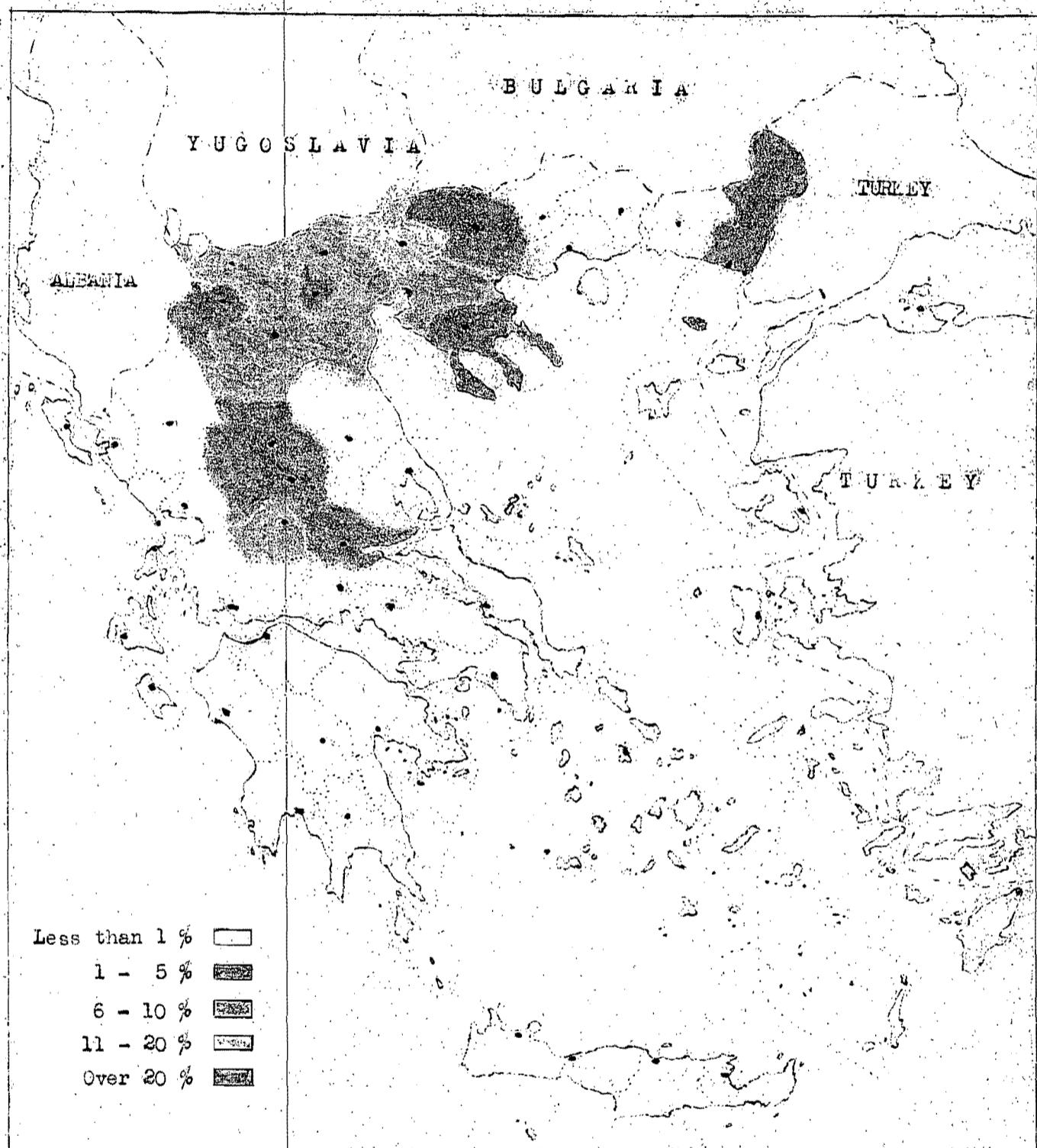
347559

DECLASSIFIED
NND 775031
By NARA Date 8/17/02

RG 84
Entry Athens Embassy
File 851 Amac
Box 24

MAP 2

PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEE POPULATION TO TOTAL LOCAL POPULATION
AS OF JUNE 15, 1947



347560

DECLASSIFIED
NND 77503
By T. HARA Date 8/17/00

RG 84
Entry ATHENS EMBASSY
File 7/1/3-8/11/1
Box 15

CONFIDENTIAL

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy
Ankara, June 24, 1947

Mr. H. Lawrence Groves,
Counselor of Embassy for
Economic Affairs,
American Embassy,
Athens, Greece.

Dear Mr. Groves:

You may recall that I stopped in Athens early in May, in accordance with instructions from the Department, for conversations with the Embassy on the subject of liquidation and disposition of German assets in Greece. I did not have time to prepare a report for the Department of my conversations before leaving, and Mr. Witman suggested that I send it to him. Unfortunately, I became separated from my notes in my subsequent travels before coming to Ankara and thus the delay in sending the Embassy my report.

I am enclosing a brief statement of my discussions with the Embassy and of my conversation at the Ministry of Finance. Mr. Zalocosta accompanied me and has a memo of conversation in his files. I believe the Department would find the conversation of interest, but of course that is a matter which I leave entirely to your discretion. However, I have prepared the enclosed report in form suitable for an airgram, as of possible assistance to you in the event you decide that a report should be submitted. I would suggest that, if you send it to the Department, the report be repeated to London, Paris, Brussels for Dorr and USPOLAD, Berlin.

I am sending the report directly to you rather than to Mr. Witman, as he suggested, since I recall that he was expecting to return to the Department and may be gone by this time. However, in any event, I wish to send you my appreciation for making my visit to Athens both profitable and enjoyable. I hope I may have the pleasure of another meeting with you,

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

George N. Baker
George Baker

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DECLASSIFIED	84
Authority	Athens Embassy
NAD 775031	1947
By TJ	File 7/1, 3-8/1, 1
	Box 15

RG
Entry
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Box

AIRGRAM SENT

CONFIDENTIAL

Dispatched:
From: American Embassy
Athens, Greece
Date: July 3, 1947
Received:

Secretary of State
Washington

A-250, July 3, 1947

Pursuant to the Department's telegram No. 1929, May 2 to London, repeated to Paris as No. 1616 and to Athens as No. 577, George W. Baker arrived at Athens on May 12 for the purpose of reviewing with the Embassy the program for the discovery and liquidation of German external assets.

The Embassy has approached the Greek Government with regard to the program when so instructed by the Department. The last approach was made in conjunction with the presentation of the first partial tabulation of German assets in Greece, prepared by the Finance Division of OCMUS on the basis of RGAX forms. In presenting the tabulation to the Director of the Reparations Division in the Foreign Office, the Embassy pointed out that the final tabulation is nearing completion and that when it is finished, the investigative facilities of OCMUS will be greatly reduced. The Embassy suggested that the Greek Government might wish to review its program for the purpose of determining whether there are any pending cases which might be capable of proof on the basis of information obtained from Germany. The Director thereupon instructed the officer in the Ministry of Finance, responsible for investigation of reparation cases, to cooperate with the Embassy on the matter. In a later meeting, the officer of the Ministry stated that although he would find difficulty in fulfilling the instruction, due to lack of personnel and the unwillingness of Greeks to declare their assets and debts despite repeated orders from the government, he would start an investigation of the items in the tabulation and report his findings to the Embassy at frequent intervals. However, more than two months had expired since this conversation and he had not advised the Embassy of his findings, if any.

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By <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NARA Date 8/17/00	1947

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File 15
Box 15

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Athens, Greece
A-250, July 3, 1947.

On the basis of the foregoing report and other information indicating that the Greek Government was not energetically pursuing a program for the liquidation of German assets, the Embassy felt it might be useful for Mr. Baker to talk with the officials in the government concerned with the program. Accordingly, on May 14, Mr. Baker, in the company of an officer of the Embassy, called on the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Baker opened the conversation by referring to the Paris Reparation Agreement and the commitments made therein with regard to German assets in the signatory countries. He briefly reviewed the accords concluded or under negotiation with the neutral countries by the U.S., U.K., and France, pointing out that the three powers are thereby aiding the Greek Government in that the latter will receive substantial credits in the various neutral countries as part of its reparation receipts. He then explained that the Allies, at considerable cost in time and money, are seeking to uncover German assets throughout the world through investigations in Germany and that this project, too, will result in a direct benefit to the Greek government. In this connection, he referred to the previous conversations which the Embassy had with certain officials concerning the tabulation of German assets received from Germany.

The Minister replied that he was not familiar with the details of the program. He then called in the officer of the Ministry with whom the tabulation had been previously discussed by the Embassy. He also summoned to his office Mr. Zarifopoulos, a director in the Ministry who has been made chief of a new division to handle all questions concerning reparation and war damage. The Minister instructed Mr. Zarifopoulos to take all possible action to promote the Greek liquidation program and emphasized that it should receive immediate attention in order that Greece might profit from the investigative facilities now available in Germany.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Baker inquired whether the Greek Government has thus far actually liquidated any German assets. Mr. Zarifopoulos replied that no assets have yet been expropriated, but added that some German assets have been located and are under the control of the Greek Custodian of Enemy Property. In parting, the Minister said he would personally follow up on the questions discussed at the meeting and would report periodically to the Embassy the findings of his Ministry.

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GeoBaker/HLC/dvbCONFIDENTIAL

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Authority E.O.10501

By 15 NAPA Date 8/11/47

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Entry

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ATHENS EMBASSY
CODE FILE

File 851-876

Box 18

INDEXED

AIRGRAM SENT**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dispatched
 From: American Embassy
 Athens, Greece
 Date: August 20, 1947
 Received:

Secretary of State,
 Washington.

A-310, August 20, 1947.

Reference is made to the Department's airgram to Madrid No. 228 of June 22, 1947, copied to Athens and Sofia for comment particularly with reference to the possibility of relief under local laws, the validity of the claims, and the citizenship status of Sephardic Jews.

The Embassy has been informed by Director Anissas of the Administrative Division of the Greek Foreign Office that no laws or regulations have yet been formulated even for Greek subjects, to provide a method of establishing the validity of claims for damages and indignities suffered by them during the German-Italian occupation of Greece. No procedure has been established through which Sephardic Jews, even if recognized as Spanish citizens, could establish effectively claims for reparation through the Greek Government. Mr. Anissas stated that the Greek Foreign Office would in any case be disinclined to recognize the Spanish citizenship of any Sephardic Jew of long residence in Greece who is not a member of one of the one hundred and forty-five families listed in the Spanish-Greek Agreement of April 7, 1938, ratified in 1939. The Greek Foreign Office has no information with regard to the extent or validity of the particular claims totaling thirty-three million dollars and does not even know the names of the seventy-five individual residents of Greece said to be presenting these claims. If provided with information in detail as to the names of the people involved and the nature of their claims, Mr. Anissas said the Foreign Office might be in a position to make more helpful comments on the matter.

To assist the Department and the Embassy in Madrid in establishing the probable citizenship status of these claimants, copies of the aforementioned agreement consisting of an exchange of letters with a list of Sephardic Jews recognized as Spanish citizens by the Greek Government, are being transmitted by airmail despatch. Mr. Anissas, after discussion with his colleagues, emphasized that it will be most unlikely that additional Sephardic Jewish residents of Greece will be recognized at this time as Spanish citizens by the Greek Government.

Copy to American Embassy, Madrid.

MACVRAUGH

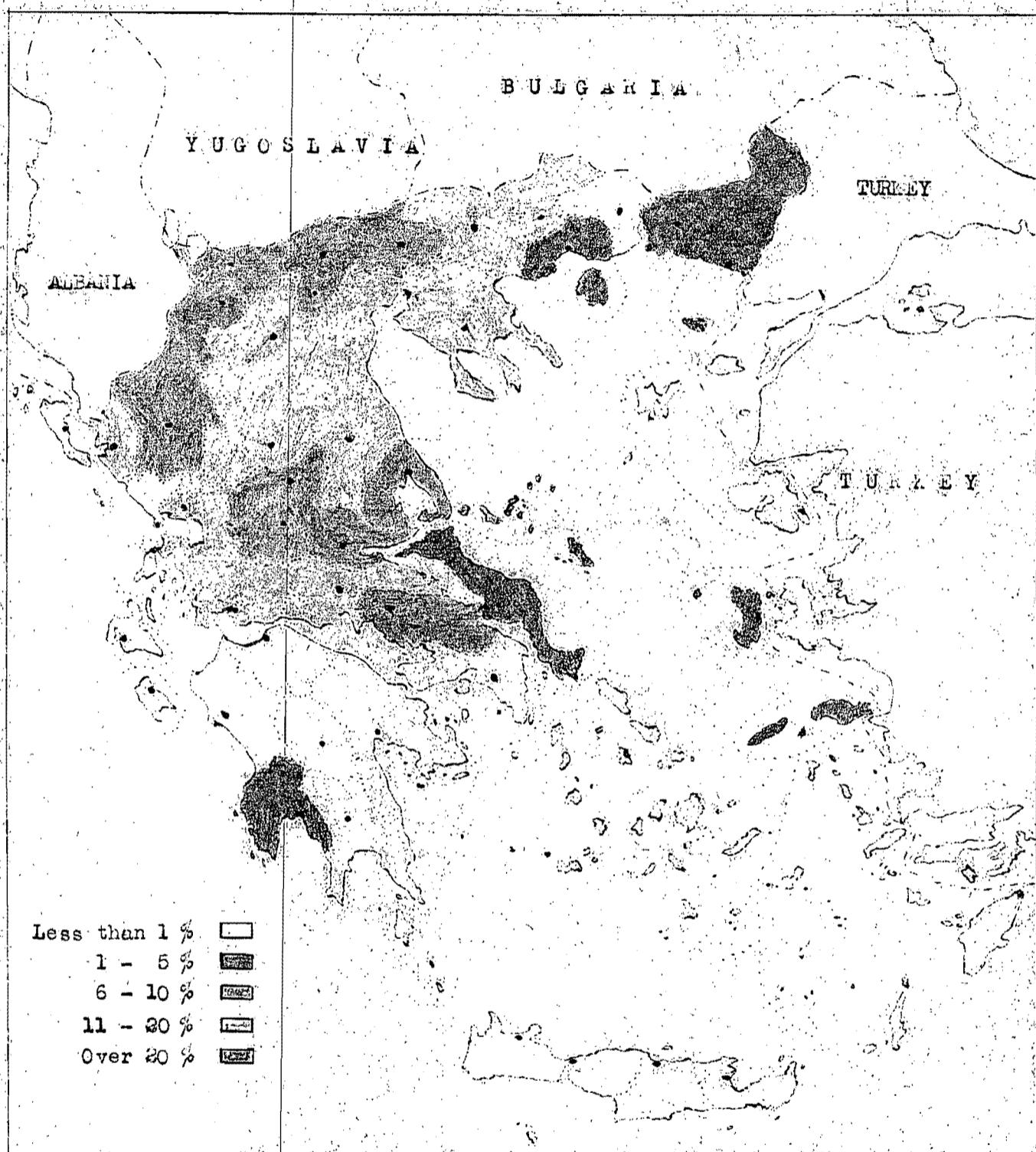
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File No. 851

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DECLASSIFIED
NND 77503
By NARA Date 8/17/02

RG 84
Entry ATHENS EMBASSY
File 851 Amos
Box 24

MAP 1
PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEE POPULATION TO TOTAL LOCAL POPULATION
AS OF MARCH 31, 1948



347565

DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 10501

By JA NARA Date 8/17

RG 84

Entry Athens Embassy
Open Rec'd 1946

File 702-711.5

Box 110

EMBASSY FILES

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: SECSTATE

DATE: 23 APRIL 1 PM 1948

MR : CIRCR

CODE: RESTRICTED

REC'D: 25 APRIL 930 AM

Assembly Inter-Allied Reparation Agency recently abandoned definitively any further consideration of merits of agreement on conflicting claims German enemy assets signed Dec 5 by US, Netherlands, and Canada, and Jan 5 by Belgium in comparison with Franco-Brit proposal (Depcirtel, Dec 18 1am). IARA delegates evidently motivated by view that question of which agreement or proposal to adopt was matter for individual country. Accordingly, time appears appropriate make further approach to urge all Governments desirability signing Dec 5 agreement. Missions to whom this Cirtel sent for action should therefore again request Government to which accredited consideration of agreement with view to signing.

For your info this tel being sent only to Governments which, on basis past responses, appear offer some possibility of favorable action. Because of recent exchanges of views not considered necessary approach Norway now.

Sent for action to Copenhagen, Athens, Canberra, New Delhi, Luxembourg, Wellington, and Pretoria. Sent for info to Brussels, for Dorr, and Oslo.

LOVETT

RESTRICTED

tam

typed 25 April 1230pm

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 10501

By JA NARA Date 8/17

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Entry

Athens Embassy
Gen Recs 1946

File

702-711.5

Box

110

Relived To Platon
5/20/48

MEMORANDUM

DW

The American Embassy, by its notes nos. 888 of December 22, 1947 and 904 of December 30, 1947 transmitted to the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs a copy of the "Agreement Relating to the Resolution of Conflicting Claims to German Enemy Assets" which was signed December 5, 1947 at Brussels by Canada, the Netherlands and the United States. The Embassy pointed out in its notes that whereas the agreement will become effective when adhered to by Inter-Allied Reparations Agency members collectively entitled to 35 percent of the shares of the assets in category A of German reparations under Article I-B of the Paris Agreement on Reparations of January 24, 1946, it will come into effect when the legislatures of Canada, The Netherlands and the United States have approved the Agreement since those three countries are collectively entitled to 35.4 percent. The Embassy, on the instructions of the Department of State, invited the Greek Government to adhere to the Agreement.

The Embassy has now been informed that the General Assembly Inter-Allied Reparations Agency recently abandoned any further consideration of the comparative merits of the agreement referred to and of the minority proposal put forward by the British, French and Yugoslav Governments, for the apparent purpose of leaving the question of which agreement or proposal to adopt up to the individual countries concerned. As the matter is of some urgency, the Embassy would appreciate being informed as to whether the Greek Government has reached a decision as to whether

or

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 10501
By JA NARA Date 8/17

RG

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Entry Athens Embassy

Gen Recs 1948

File 702-711.5

Box 110

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or not it desires to adhere to the agreement signed
on December 5, 1947 by the United States, The Netherlands
and Canada.

American Embassy, Athens, Greece,

May 20, 1948.

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