

DESPATCH

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, OTTAWA, CANADA.

FROM: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, ATHENS, GREECE

Security:.....

No: 426.....

Date: November 21, 1958.

Enclosures: 1.....

Air or Surface Mail: Air.....

Post File No:.....

Reference: Our telegram No. 70 of Nov. 5/58 and
our letter 395 of Oct. 31st.

Subject: Alleged statement on Macedonia by
the Canadian Minister of Labour

Ottawa File No.	
9606-40	
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JG

Mr Dobell

References

*Copies
(with encl.)*

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Distribution to Posts

I was asked by Mr. Matsas, Director of the First Political Division in the Foreign Ministry to discuss this matter, which I did when I called at the Foreign Ministry on November 14th.

2. Mr. Matsas stated that the Greek Government was very disturbed over the remarks credited to the Minister of Labour, which, if true, were not only harmful only harmful to the NATO alliance but were playing into the hands of the Communists and their propaganda machines. I expressed my regrets to Mr. Matsas, told him we did not have, nor were we likely to obtain the full text of the speech, indicated that Mr. Starr had probably referred to the liberation of Bulgarian Macedonia from the Communist yoke, and finally said that in any case it would most certainly not be the considered policy of the Canadian Government to support any move leading to the dismemberment of any part of Greek territory. At my request, I asked Mr. Matsas to prepare a short statement which he did in the form of the attached Aide Memoire which reached me yesterday.

3. Since we last wrote the only reference to this highly embarrassing question has been the enclosed editorial but journalists continue to maintain their interest by asking us for copies of the complete text, to which I reply that we have not got one as we understand Mr. Starr spoke extemporaneously. I feel that interest in the matter is on the wane but should it flare up again I think it would be advisable for us to have available for publication a statement somewhat along the following lines:

"An unfortunate interpretation was recently put by the Greek Press upon certain remarks by the Canadian Minister of Labour, Mr. Starr. It is no part of Canadian policy, nor was it Mr. Starr's intention, to advocate the detachment of any portion of the territory under Greek sovereignty. In his references to Macedonia, Mr. Starr had in mind the absence of personal, and political freedom among those peoples in the area under the domination of the Soviet Union."

4. We would appreciate your comments by cable and also an alternative text would be useful if the above does not meet with your approval.

G. D'Arcy Maguire
Ambassador

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