

EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
STATE CAPITOL  
COLUMBIA

February 28, 1950

Governor J. Strom Thurmond said today he had signed and forwarded to President Truman a protest and request for further action against the detention of approximately 28,000 Greek children in countries dominated by Communists.

The protest was signed at the request of the Reverend Nicholas G. Paleologos, pastor of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Columbia, and Mr. Pete Papajohn, President of the Board of Directors of the Hellenic Community of Columbia.

A copy of the document sent by the Governor to the President is as follows:

The Honorable Harry S. Truman  
President of the U. S. A.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, many thousands of Greek children who have been forcibly abducted from their homes in Greece, are presently being detained in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Roumania, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany. The two unanimous resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly one on November 27, 1948 and the other on November 17, 1949, which requested the prompt repatriation of these children have proved of no avail because of the lack of cooperation by the aforementioned Governments.

It is necessary to put an end to this abominable crime against humanity. It is necessary to maintain law and order and to uphold the international authority of the United Nations' resolutions. It is upon these resolutions that the policies of all peace-loving nations, such as the United States are based. As an American citizen, I strongly protest the flagrant disregard of the United Nations' resolutions which the above named governments have shown by continuing the forcible detention of the Greek children. This is tantamount to the horrible crime of genocide.

Original document  
J. Strom Thurmond  
Governor

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I urge you, Mr. President, to call upon the United Nations Secretary General, the International Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies to continue and increase their noble efforts towards implementation of the United Nations' resolutions pertaining to the return of the Greek children. I urge you to call upon the Honorable Members of the United States Congress and to direct the members of your State Department to support both morally and politically the United Nations' resolutions and to have their enforcement in mind when dealing with the aforementioned governments.

Respectfully yours,

*J. Strom Thurmond*  
J. Strom Thurmond, Governor