

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 20, 1980

Dear Senator Tsongas:

The President has asked me to report to you on a development of great importance. Today, Greece returned to NATO as a full participant in its military structure. This has been one of the highest priorities of the Carter Administration. Greece and its allies have been working toward this end for more than three years. Reintegration is a vital step in restoring the vitality and cohesion of the southern flank of the Alliance which is of special significance in view of the crises in South West Asia.

This important step also signals an improvement in the relationship between two of the most valuable members of the Alliance -- Greece and Turkey. They worked together with NATO military officials in a long and arduous process to develop the technical arrangements that have made this achievement possible. It is our hope that this step will help bring about an atmosphere conducive to the resolution of other issues in the region, particularly the continued tragic division of Cyprus.

The Atlantic Alliance will be strengthened significantly by today's action. Greece will again participate in all of the defense activities of NATO and this in turn enhances Turkey's role in NATO by improving communications and planning throughout the southern flank.

Reintegration should pave the way for an early negotiation of a new defense agreement between Greece and the United States. This has been pending for some time and we look forward to reaffirming the presence of our very important facilities there. This agreement would also give new impetus to the full and warm cooperation which has always characterized the relationship between our two nations.

The United States worked unceasingly behind the scenes with all of the interested parties to help promote this action. The President is delighted to welcome Greece back as a fully participating member of the Alliance. We know that the strength and cohesiveness of the entire Western world have been improved by this act of statesmanship on the part of Greece.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Moore".

Frank Moore
Assistant to the President
for Congressional Liaison

The Honorable Paul E. Tsongas
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510