

C234955

MR. SOFIANOPOULOS: Mr. Chairman, Fellow Delegates: The Greek Delegation desire in the first instance to place on record their sense of deep sorrow at the tragic loss of President Roosevelt, the great man whose constant efforts were directed toward fulfillment of the ideal of general security. Assuredly, his absence is for us all a most grievous blow.

We were privileged to listen at the opening session to the encouraging words of President Truman as he assured the Conference of his support, and to receive a no less heartening assurance from Mr. Stettinius.

It was with satisfaction that the Greek Government took cognizance of the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, as completed at Yalta.

They welcomed with deep gratification the gesture of the sponsoring powers in convoking a conference of the United Nations in this city, and they accepted the invitation to the Conference in a spirit of confidence and of high hope.

No one, I venture to think, will be surprised at their readiness to participate in these deliberations and to contribute their every thought to the creation of a better world order, in which aggression, and the ways leading to aggression, shall be given no encouragement and shall have no possibility of success.

The attitude of the Greek Government is not due solely to the unprecedented trials--moral and physical--endured by the Greek people during the long dark years of enemy occupation; nor again is it dictated solely by the strong impulse which an age-long tradition, originating in the amphictyonic councils of classical Greece, has implanted in the consciousness of the Greek people.

There is a more immediate and less emotional motive: the unequivocal devotion of the Greek Government and Greek people to the ideal of international collaboration and their belief in the possibility and the necessity of creating a genuine international community governed by a set of rules of international conduct.

That we do not intend merely to pay lip-service to this ideal is amply proved by Greece's long record of faithful observance of, and respect for, the criteria of contemporary international law. We venture indeed to assert that during the past quarter of a century Greece more than any other