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and State Dept." - Skidmore News, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., December
7, 1944.

Agnes Smedley Leads 300 In Letter of Protest to President and State Dept.

On Tuesday night the Recreation Center was the scene of a spontaneous expression of campus indignation against the imperialistic policy of the British government toward the Greek people. After listening to John W. Vandercook's review of the critical situation, which was repeated and elaborated on from his previous night's broadcast for the particular benefit of the Sunday Night Discussion Group at the request of Miss Agnes Smedley, over three hundred students and faculty members of Skidmore College and citizens of Saratoga Springs took positive action in the formation of the following protest which was sent to President Roosevelt, the State Department, Senators Mead and Wagner, *The New York Times*, *The New York Tribune*, *P. M.*, *The Saratogian*, and colleges throughout the country:

Skidmore News,
Skidmore College,
Saratoga Springs, N. Y.
December 5, 1944.

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

We, three hundred American citizens, gathered today in Saratoga Springs, hereby take action on behalf of the Greek people and in opposition to the expressed policy of the State Department toward Greece.

First, we protest the cold-blooded massacre of Greek patriots of the Resistance Forces in the streets of Athens this past Sunday. These forces of the National Liberation Front have fought for four long and bloody years against the Nazis, and it was they who cleared most of Greece from the Nazis before the British landing. By our inaction toward this massacre, we sanction the deed and render ourselves a partner in this infamous affair.

We protest the action of the British who are patrolling the streets of Athens with tanks, and who have brazenly ordered Greek citizens to leave their own city. We learn from reports of American correspondents on the spot that American flags formed the background to this massacre. The Greek people, fighting for the freedom and independence of their country from foreign control, have now appealed to America.

It is hardly necessary for us to inform you, Mr. President, that we Americans were born in revolution, and our policy of supporting or tolerating in any respect British action in Greece, is a violation of the basic principles upon which our nation was founded. The eyes of all freedom-seeking countries are upon us Americans today, and we here believe that "non-intervention is isolationism." We refuse to allow fear of antagonizing our British ally to interfere with our basic principles of humanity and justice.

We Americans wish to support the 90 percent of the Greek people who have fought and suffered for the freedom of their country for so long. The British government, however, is supporting a 10 percent group of Greek collaborationists and a government of agents whom it appointed outside Greece and brought back to be in power over the Greek people. The British Government and its Generals and troops in Greece speak for themselves, but not for all the allies. Certainly they do not speak for the American people, and we believe they do not speak for the British people either. Neither we Americans nor the British people are interested in preserving British vested interest or the British appointed agents—crudely called the Greek Government—who protect these interests.

By keeping silent about Greece, we eloquently approve British policy against the expressed will and desire of the Greek people.

Furthermore, we do not believe it right for the Government of one nation—in this instance, the British — to choose and put in power the Government of another—in this instance, the Greeks.

We learn that our Government has cut off relief supplies to the Greek people, and we interpret this as a deliberate act to support British troops and their Greek Fascist supporters, and to crush the people's liberation movement by starvation. We wish to inform

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300 Sign Protest

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you categorically that we Americans have paid for those relief supplies, and we now demand that they be delivered to the people of Greece. Our State Department is quoted as declaring that it will not intervene in the internal affairs of other people, but by withholding relief supplies we are actively intervening and, furthermore, on the wrong side. On the other hand, British transports can easily bring in food and other supplies for their own troops and for the Greek Fascist troops and the upper classes who are now supporting them and who formerly collaborated with the Nazis. This declaration is the first public statement of the newly re-organized State Department. It bodes ill for our future and we reject this policy wholeheartedly. We demand that the State Department follow the will of the American people.

We wish to inform you further that we Americans do not intend to be caught sleeping at the switch of history a second time. We intend to follow every action of our Government's domestic and foreign policy, and to express our will to our elected representatives. In this instance, we demand support for the people of Greece who have appealed to our country for understanding and support against Greek and British reaction.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed with over 300 names)