

S.80-29



The Secretary of State for External Affairs

Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures

Canada

Ottawa, K1A 0G2

March 25, 1980

Dear Dr. Pedersen:

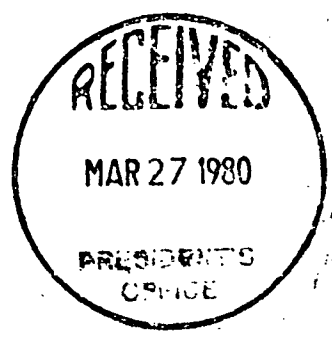
I refer to your letter of February 18 to my predecessor, Miss MacDonald, concerning charges brought by the Greek authorities against Dr. A. Kazepides. I can assure you that the concern manifested by you and the Senate of Simon Fraser University for a fellow educator and his freedom of expression are readily understandable to me.

While I am not certain that it would be proper for the Canadian government to intervene officially in this matter, I have nevertheless, given instructions that the Canadian interest in the charges laid against Dr. Kazepides, and the concerns expressed in your letter, should be brought to the attention of the Greek authorities. Accordingly, the Canadian Embassy in Greece has indicated Canadian interest in the case to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador has brought the grave concerns expressed by yourself and by the Senate of Simon Fraser University to the attention of the Greek authorities at a high level.

Yours sincerely,

Mark MacGuigan

Dr. K. George Pedersen, President  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
V5A 1S6



*cc Kazepides v.  
D. Roberts*

581.1/732

RECEIVED

EMBASSY OF GREECE

MAR 24 1980

RECEIVED

MAIL DESK

TO SENATE

OTTAWA, March 7, 1980.

FOR INFORMATION

Mr. George Pedersen,  
President,  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY,  
BURNABY, British Columbia.  
V5A 1S6

Mr. President,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 18th, by which you were kind enough to inform me of the motion of your Senate about the charges brought against Professor Kazepides in Greece.

In reply, I would like to inform you of the following.

I am fully appreciative for the concern which your Senate voiced on the case. It is good to hear such voices whenever there is even the shadow of a suspicion that somewhere in the world persons are treated unfairly.

May I point out that in the case of Professor Kazepides, the motion which was unanimously adopted by your Senate is based on incorrect assumptions which, I am sure, you accepted in perfect good faith. These assumptions do not reflect the facts. It is not the Greek Government which levelled the charges. They were the result of a move by a district attorney and only the court can rule on them. Surely the district attorneys, in any country of the world, have the power to bring charges and in no country can the executive intervene particularly once the charges have been filed. Only a court can decide on the merits or demerits of such legal action.

The Greek Government, that is the executive, cannot take any action through advice, suggestions or otherwise to the judiciary. This would be a case of the executive's interference in the judiciary and the law does not allow for the withdrawal of an indictment, after it took place.



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Mr. George Pedersen,  
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY,  
BURNABY, British Columbia.

OTTAWA, March 7, 1980.

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Professor Kazepides is free to defend his case in the court. If he deems it proper, he even can go as far as challenging the constitutionality of those laws under which he is being brought to trial.

In view of the foregoing, i.e. the inadmissibility for any democratic government in the world to interfere with the judiciary, you will agree, I hope, that there is nothing that the executive can do except to assure you that in Greece, everyone's democratic rights are scrupulously respected as our judiciary is independent and our courts have a long tradition of high standards and fairness.

Please be assured, Mr. President, of my high esteem.

Yours sincerely,



D. C. Velissaropoulos,  
Ambassador of Greece.

cc Jim  
Dr. Kazepides  
H. Coors  
L. Young  
D. Roberts