



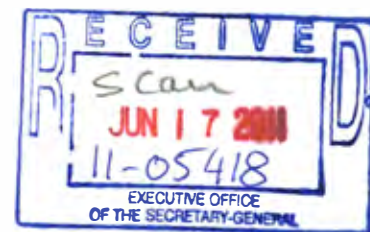
PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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CENTRAL



Ref.: 1685

ACTION
COPY

Mr. Pascoe (for)
VN
NH
UNESCO/L.O.

New York, June 16, 2011

Excellency,

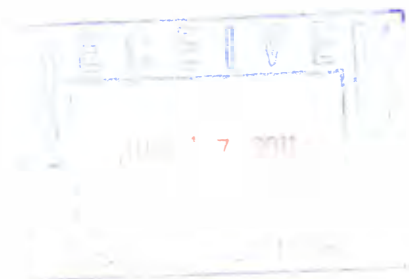
Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honor to bring to your attention the issue of a statue of Alexander the Great being erected at the central square in Skopje by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Despite the fact that Greece has repeatedly brought this matter to the attention of the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by publicly protesting against this unlawful conduct of misuse of historical symbols, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not taken any corrective action to that effect. To the contrary, proceeding with this initiative constitutes a blatant violation of the spirit and the letter of the Interim Accord as provided for in its Article 7, paragraph 3, which sets out specific legal obligations on both parties for the protection of the historical and cultural symbols of each country.

It is important to note that such an appropriation of one of the most important historical figures of the ancient Hellenic civilization demonstrates also a dismissive behavior against the International Court of Justice by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, at a time when the Court is engaged in legal proceedings at the initiative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which claims that Greece has violated Article 11 of the Interim Accord. Instead of refraining from unlawful and unfriendly conduct against the Hellenic Republic, at this time, the Government of FYROM chose instead to engage, once again, in activities which preempt the final findings of the Court, aggravate bilateral relations with the Hellenic Republic, undermine the UN-led negotiations on the name issue and violate the principle of good neighborly relations, the respect of which is a basic precondition for becoming a member of the Euro-Atlantic family.

./.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York



EXR117/001

In addition to the above, please find attached herewith an aide-memoire regarding the issue, as well as a list of provocative actions pertaining to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's policy of antiquization.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final upward stroke.

Anastassis Mitsialis
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosed: 2 pages

AIDE-MEMOIRE

-The erection of an equestrian statue of Alexander the Great in the center of Skopje pertains to the antiquization policy employed by PM Gruevski in an effort to usurp Greek history, cultivate nationalism and consolidate his own position within the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

-Prime Minister Gruevski spends vast sums of money for the erection of monuments while neglecting to deal with the real problems which FYROM faces and avoiding to pay attention to the priorities its inter-ethnic society has set.

-It goes without saying that such a policy which deteriorates bilateral relations, undermines the UN-led negotiations for the name issue and violates the principle of good neighborly relations will have unavoidable repercussions for FYROM's Euro-Atlantic perspective.

-It further belies recent assurances by FYROM officials including Prime Minister Gruevski, to EU and US representatives that they are genuinely interested in finding a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue, as well as President Ivanov's statement about showing a "constructive spirit".

-Both the EU and NATO have made it clear that maintaining good neighbourly relations, including a negotiated and mutually accepted solution to the name issue under the auspices of the UN, is essential to any further progress of the country towards the Euro-Atlantic Institutions.

-Skopje's counter-constructive stance renders itself untrustworthy to carry out obligations deriving from **international** agreements, as well as from membership to international organizations.

-Regrettably, domestic calculations seem to prevail over inter-ethnic stability, good neighbourly relations and the Euro-Atlantic perspective of the country.

List of FYROM's provocative actions pertaining to its antiquization policy

- The erection of a giant equestrian statue of Alexander the Great which is expected to be assembled on site within the next ten days (it will cost approximately 9,4 million euros).
- The depiction of prominent Greek historical figures and symbols of Ancient Macedonia, such as the Vergina Sun, in a series of relief representations, as part of the "Skopje 2014" plan (2010).
- Naming after "Alexander the Great" the part of the Pan-European Corridor X which runs through the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (December 2008)
- Renaming of a sport complex in the Gazibaba municipality into "Alexander the Great"
- The Mayor of Bilota (Monastiri), announced his decision to build a statue of Philip II at the main square of the city, noting that this decision serves as a tribute to the "history of the country" (October 2007)
- The renaming of Skopje's International Airport after "Alexander the Great" (January 2007)
- Statues of Kings of Ancient Macedonia have been erected in several cities, such as Prilep and Stip.