

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The Park Sheraton Hotel
202 Fifty Sixth Street West
New York 19, N. Y.

July 9, 1953
Sarajevo, Yugoslavia

Dear Johnny:

The day after we got into Greece, Tuesday the 30th, we started bright and early with Miss Alison Frantz of our archaeological group who are digging up the old market place in Athens. She spent the morning with us going over the Acropolis and telling us all the history. It was fascinating but the light was so strong the ruins did not have as much charm as I had hoped for.

Later we went and looked at the excavations at the market place and at the little temple there which we have restored and which is nearly perfect. We lunched at the house near the excavations and the group asked us to come to tea the next day. They said they would help us plan a motor trip which would enable us to see as much as we could of Greece.

In the afternoon I saw your Mr. Botsis and he was very nice and begged me to dine with him and meet the other industrial gentleman who may be interested in your enterprises. I told him I would if I could but that I was not at all sure it could be arranged. I had to wire him after we left Athens that I would not be back until the morning of my departure, so dinner was impossible.

I also saw the lady who is in charge of bringing over children for operation in the US and then a stay in a rest home in Westchester County. Frankie is a sponsor of this organization. As I did not want to see any organizations, I saw the lady herself and told her when I saw the report written by the medical mission, I would write a column on it.

At six o'clock we went again to the Acropolis. The sunset was beautiful and the light made a most enormous difference in the color of the stone and we enjoyed every minute of it.

Then we drove out to a restaurant right near the water and had a nice dinner in the cool air, in fact we nearly blew away.

Incidentally, in the afternoon I drove out to see a rather nice old church with well preserved frescos before seeing Mr. Botsis.

The next morning we spent at the museum and it is wonderful to see the originals of things you have seen in photos and of which you have seen copies all your life. Then, of course, there are some new things they have found recently which are quite beautiful.

Yellow Springs
Ohio

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I drove out by myself to lunch with the King and Queen. I wished they had asked David because I hated going alone but there were only a few members of their family there and both the King and Queen were charming. They are coming to the US in October and I shall have to try to do something for them.

Could you write to Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, and to Antioch College which is, I think, in Ohio, but Edith can look it up, and ask for as much information as they can give me to be sent to Her Majesty the Queen of Greece. Ask them to please send a line with the information, saying I asked to have it sent as she is interested in the way both colleges manage to let their young people earn their way through. Also ask them to please let me know when this has gone as I want to write the Queen and tell her it is on its way.

Could Edith also get for me from the Henry Street Settlement as much material as possible. Find out if they can send me some information which I can send to the Queen on the Alfred E. Smith houses, particularly in relation to any social services provided in the units. These can be held for me and I will send them with a note when I get back.

In the afternoon we did a little more sightseeing and then dined with our ambassador who is shortly leaving. The dinner was outside in the garden and very delightful, with a lot of Greek people whom I was glad to see.

Thursday morning we left early on a motor trip, going first to Delphi. As I wrote Haven, I thought the most striking thing which brought out the antiquity of the area was seeing the children of the village playing football high up the hill in the old stadium where twenty-five hundred years before Christ the Delphic games were held.

In the afternoon we strolled through the village street watching the people and speaking polite and unintelligible words to passers by. I like the Greek people in the little mountain villages. They are poor but they give no sign or impression that life is squalid. Life is hard on their arid hills, eaten bare by herds of goats but they are still a valiant people. They need a great many things and at present they are just living in the glories of the past.

We spent one night in Patras after some very tough mountain driving. Then we spent a night in a little hotel which used to be a prison, called Bourdgi. That afternoon we had seen a good part of our excavations in Corinth.

The next day we went to Epidaurus where there is a marvelously preserved theatre. Then we went on to Tiryn and back to Corinth. Here we spent the night with Professor and Mrs. Dinsmoor in our archaeological excavation house.

Am. Stor. Home
located in
S. W. H. House
N.Y.

Mr. Weaver
WO 2 - 3410
CR 7 - 3636

Mr. [unclear]

Miss Hall - Kelly
Helen OR 4 1100

do Mr. Philip Condit
South Stratford
Vermont

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Monday morning we started early for Athens and I had time to get my hair washed because it was filled with dust. Immediately afterwards I had a press conference and after a bite of lunch we made the 1:30 plane for Belgrade.

We reached Belgrade at 4:30 and had dinner that night with the Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Wallner. We were met at the plane by most of my Yugoslav UN friends as well as the Embassy people.

On Tuesday we lunched with the Dedijers and talked with one of the under secretaries of state in charge of economic development until 4 p.m. Then I went to the Embassy, shook hands with the staff, and we were briefed by the people who have been in Yugoslavia for sometime. Afterwards the New York Times man took us out to his house where his wife gave us some delicious tea. Two other men were present, one from the Christian Science Monitor and the other, I think, from Associated Press. They gave us a pretty good idea of their observation since they have been here.

In the evening we dined with Mr. Kardelj the Vice President, met a lot of Yugoslav people, and then went briefly to a reception given by the president of the Serbian Republic in honor of their day of liberation.

Wednesday I went out in the early morning, eight a.m. in fact, to meet with the members of the cooperative wine growers association, about two hours drive out of town. I was told all about the cooperative which is the oldest one in Yugoslavia. We sat around a table and tasted their wine and ate hard boiled eggs and two kinds of goat's cheese and newly baked bread and they fired questions at me. The first question was on Senator McCarthy. He has certainly made an impression. The question was phrased like this: "What about Senator McCarthy? Are the American people losing their freedom?" I asked some questions, too, to check on some things the ministers had been telling me and then I was invited to go into one of their houses. Altogether I found it a most interesting morning.

At 1:30 I was back at Avala hill on which is a monument to the unknown soldier and a very pleasant hotel. Here Mr. Vilfan, after showing us the monument, gave us all a very nice luncheon.

On the way home I went for a brief time to the museum. Then from five to six o'clock I met with the heads of women's organizations and from 6:30 to 7:30 with the UN Association

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members and some of the academy of arts and science people. I spoke briefly and that night Mr. Guremevic invited us to dine with his family, which was very pleasant.

Yesterday morning we left at 8:30 by plane for Sarajevo where we are now. We lunched with the vice president of the people's committee, who is a very intelligent man. I am gradually learning how they run the government of this Yugoslav area.

After lunch we took a little drive and saw the native costumes in the museum and the museum in honor of the man who killed Archduke Ferdinand - very gruesome.

We dined with the Mayor at a little resort place.

Yugoslavia is an interesting place with experiments galore ahead. Everyone agrees that great changes have taken place in the last year but that does not mean they are not Communists. They are and what is more they are proud of being Communists - but not Soviet Communists.

My love to you.

Devotedly,

Justine