Cabinet Memorandum by E. Bevin, Foreign Secretary, on British policy towards Greece, dated 11 August 1945

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CABINET

GREECE

I must now ask the Cabinet to arrive at a conclusion regarding Greek policy and, after carefully studying the matter, I recommend as follows:

(i) We should press for the elections and plebiscite to be held in Greece as soon as possible. If it can be arranged, the elections should precede the plebiscite, but this is a matter on which the Greeks themselves must take the initiative and responsibility.

(ii) The Voulgaris Government[[1]](#footnote-1) should be maintained in power until the elections. All reasonable steps should, however, be taken to meet justifiable criticism by the Left Wing Parties and to ensure that law and order are maintained on an impartial basis.

(iii) To steady the position in Greece and to assist us in working out a satisfactory Greek policy, the Regent should be invited to visit this country to confer with His Majesty’s Government.

(iv) If Russia continues to press on with her propaganda regarding the position of Greece, it will be necessary to make plain to the USSR our position.

(v) We should do our utmost to secure the full support of the Dominions for our whole Greek policy. We should also lose no opportunity of associating the United States Government in all the steps we take.

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(iv) The most overpowering reason of all is that we must maintain our position in Greece as part of our Middle East policy, and unless it is asserted and settled it may have a bad effect on the whole of our Middle East position.

[TNA, CAB/129/1]

Keywords: Greece

1. The Greek government headed by Admiral Petros Voulgaris between 9 April 1945, and 17 October 1945. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)