THE SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

His Excellency Kyriakos Mitsotakis Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic of Greece Athens

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The signing of the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement ("MDCA") is a turning point in an enhanced security partnership between Greece and the United States. Apart from being fellow members of NATO, our two countries are forging a much closer strategic relationship through the MDCA. As President Trump said when he was with you, our relationship is "extraordinary."

Your recent visit to the United States was a clear reaffirmation of the close ties and cooperation between our two countries. It also reaffirmed the emergence of Greece – after almost a decade of crisis – as a success story of economic recovery, and in the process demonstrated remarkable social cohesion and strong democratic institutions. Throughout this painful process, the United States has supported Greece, and we will keep doing so. We consider Athens a key ally, and a crucial player in the Eastern Mediterranean as well as the Balkans. The United States will remain committed to supporting Greece's prosperity, security, and democracy. I spoke to this clearly when you and I were together with Greeks from across America, stating "we will keep supporting you as a leader in Europe. We will keep supporting your prosperity, your security, and your democracy. The future will only grow brighter for our countries and our relationship together."

The United States is following closely developments in the region and stands firm in its belief that those with interests in the Eastern Mediterranean should seek solutions through peaceful means, consistent with Article 33 of the United Nations Charter, and refrain from any action or declaration that could be provocative. We do not need an escalation of tensions in the region, but rather candid dialogue that leads to outcomes that respect international law.

Thank you for your friendship as we continue to build on the already successful partnership between our two countries.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pompeo