

# ALBANIAN

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THE SPEECH OF ALBANIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER, REIS MALILE,  
AT THE MEETING OF BALKAN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BELGRADE  
25 February 1988

Distinguished colleagues.

Allow me to express my pleasure at having come together in this meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the Balkan states here in Belgrade in order to exchange views about the possibilities and ways to help create a climate of confidence and understanding and about the development of bilateral and multilateral relations in the region.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Dizdarević for the efforts he has made to prepare this meeting, and to express my sincere thanks to the Yugoslav hosts who have created such favourable conditions for the conduct of its work.

The Albanian government has supported and will support every constructive step that would contribute to the improvement of the situation in the Balkans and serve the cause of peace, stability and security in this region and beyond. It proceeds from the viewpoint that, regardless of the many existing difficulties which we all know, the possibilities to move in this direction are not few, provided there is good will and the determination to find solutions.

As regards Albania, this good will will not be lacking, just as there will be no lack of sincere efforts to collaborate with the other states for the achievement of this objective. Under the present conditions in the Balkans what is needed, in our opinion, is in the first place the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust. For this purpose we must see things realistically and work patiently. Nobody would be satisfied merely by recording a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Balkans. Its value will be measured by its results, by the contribution it



makes in opening up the road to the cultivation of friendship and the expansion of fruitful bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Developments in the Balkans cannot be isolated from those in Europe and the world. We live today in a turbulent world of complex -- and, in many cases, tense -- situations. A number of countries and regions are the object of aggression and interference by the two superpowers. As a result, there exist many hotbeds of tension and conflict which pose direct threats to peace and international security.

There has been much talk recently about the value of the agreement concluded between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe. The Albanian government has, from the outset, expressed itself against the deployment of these weapons, and it has been and is for their removal. Yet it must be admitted that the agreement between the two superpowers, even after its implementation, would represent the reduction of the huge arsenal of nuclear weapons possessed by the United States and Europe only by a symbolic fraction. It would have real value only if it were to be followed by other important and effective steps towards disarmament. Hence, it is clear that there is no room for euphoria.

There has been and still is frequent talk about the denuclearization of the Balkans. It cannot be denied that the idea is rational and coincides with the interests of security in the Balkans and, more widely, in Europe. This consideration must be emphasized all the more since it is known that these weapons are foreign and the countries in which they are deployed have virtually no -- or at most partial -- control over them.

Removal of foreign nuclear weapons from the

Balkans would constitute a step of many-sided importance. First of all, it would not only strengthen the sovereignty of the countries in which they are deployed and reduce the political and military complications which they bring, but would also improve the general climate in the Balkans, strengthen mutual confidence and dispose of a problem which poses a serious threat and gives rise to tension and friction.

Proceeding from these considerations, Albania fully understands the justified demands expressed in the countries of the Peninsula for the removal of foreign nuclear weapons from the Balkans, and supports the efforts to this end. In this regard, our solidarity is complete.

Some reservation we have expressed and which we still express is not connected with the final objective of this campaign, but with the ways and means proposed for its achievement. In the first place, we are convinced that these measures do not eliminate nuclear threat and blackmail if they remain circumscribed within a regional framework. Nuclear weapons in the Balkans are only one link in the chain the superpowers have put around our Peninsula. The other links are the foreign military bases and the foreign troops stationed here, and the military treaties themselves. All these links must be severed.

On the other hand, foreign nuclear weapons have been deployed in the Balkans on the basis of bilateral agreements. The other states are not involved in this question: no approval or commitment of any kind whatever has been sought from them. Hence, their removal must be carried out in an individual and sovereign manner by the country in which these nuclear weapons are deployed, just as the pledge must be taken by each country in a sovereign manner not to accept foreign nuclear weapons and not to enter the nuclear



armaments race.

As far as the PSR of Albania is concerned, not only has it no nuclear weapons on its territory, but it is bound by its Constitution to prohibit in any form the stationing of foreign weapons, military bases or troops on Albanian territory.

Our opinion about the existing military pacts -- NATO and the Warsaw Pact, headed respectively by the United States and the Soviet Union -- is well known. We believe that they constitute the main factor in the confrontation which exists in Europe and the world and which is fraught with extremely grave consequences for mankind. It is the political and military strategy of blocs which has led to the division of Europe and which is reflected also in our region. Hence, we have always upheld the view that the dissolution of these pacts would create the indispensable conditions for the achievement of the confidence which is now lacking among European countries and for genuine international security.

Albania is for the independent development and stability of each Balkan country. We are aware that the destabilization of any of our countries is to the detriment of all of us and of peace and security in general. In all its actions Albania has given proof that it stands for the permanent existence in the Balkans of an atmosphere conducive to the strengthening of sincere friendship and cooperation, the consolidation of the freedom and independence of its peoples, peace and common security.

The Albanian government has declared publicly -- and I am authorized to emphasize it again at this meeting -- that no harm will come to its neighbours from Albania, that the Albanian people will allow no one to violate the freedom, independence or sovereignty

of the neighbouring states from its territory. We think that all the peoples of the Balkans and beyond would welcome it if the Balkan states, whether they are members of any military bloc or not, would engage themselves to respect the freedom, independence and sovereignty of each Balkan country and not to allow a third state to bring harm to a neighbouring country from their territories.

Esteemed colleagues.

Development of relations with neighbouring countries constitutes one of the priorities of the foreign policy of the PSR of Albania. We have been and continue to be for the rigorous application in these relations of the established norms of respect for independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, and cooperation on the basis of mutual interest and benefit.

Complete independence and sovereignty lie at the foundation of the policy of our state. We respect others, and we want them to respect our rights as a nation and state. Not only do we not hesitate to cooperate with others but, on the contrary, we consider such cooperation to be a factor which contributes to our own internal development also. However, this cooperation must be on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, and not encroach upon the sovereignty of any country and its social system.

In our view, the fact that our countries have different political and social systems should not become an obstacle to the development of state relations, because the social order is the internal affair of each country and people. We have come together at this meeting recognizing and respecting this reality. In this sense, it is up to all of us to



contribute to the positive development of relations. The present and future interests of our peoples require that relations among the Balkan states should not change according to changing political situations, but be founded on a stable basis.

Norms and principles regulating relations among sovereign states are not lacking. They include the Charter of the United Nations, of which all the Balkan countries are members. The important thing is that these norms and principles be put into practice. If good will and sincere desire for cooperation exist, ways and means will be found to avoid difficulties and tensions.

When we stress the necessity of bilateral relations, by no means do we minimize the value and benefit of multilateral cooperation. These complement each other. Reality, however, proves the importance of bilateral relations which constitute, in fact, the basis of the development of multilateral cooperation.

One of the problems that has made and continues to make it difficult for the Balkan countries to establish open, sincere and truly friendly relations is that of the minorities.

It is no exaggeration to say that the stand towards national minorities has always been a determining factor in neighbourly relations, because this question is very acute and complex and because its treatment calls not only for patience and aplomb, but also for tolerance and political wisdom on the part of everybody.

The past has been bitter, with the accumulation of various layers of emotions, quarrels and conflicts. The present, too, is heavily charged with harmful prejudices and illusions fostered by this past. In many



cases history is still regarded not as a source from which lessons should be drawn, so as to correct erroneous stands, but as grounds to justify them.

We think that the time has come for the stand towards national minorities in our countries to be inspired by a constructive approach which corresponds to the concrete historical reality, by a spirit of doing away with practices which have proven to be unproductive. The common aim must be that the minorities should be transformed from the factor of division, tension and differences, as they have been in the past, into a factor of cohesion and stability within each country and a bridge for relations of cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Our time is not one of colonization, of the oppression of minorities, of the suppression of their rights which are recognized by international law and by the Charter of the United Nations. We live at a time when national economies are being increasingly inter-related, when different cultures are being mutually enriched at a rapid rate, when the demand for the equality of nations, for fraternity among peoples, for peace and general security, is not only a hope, but a force which impels development forward. Under these conditions, national narrowmindedness becomes not only anachronistic, but also harmful.

Certainly, the stand towards minorities and their treatment is an internal question of each country, a field within its sovereignty. The PSR of Albania has never put forward the view that the issue of minorities should be solved by changing borders or by interfering in one another's internal affairs. But we think that this does not rule out the legitimate interest of neighbours in their minorities, especially when this interest is based on the sincere desire to contribute to the strengthening of good neighbourliness and

friendship among peoples, to the general security of the Balkans.

Economic cooperation among Balkan peoples is in their common interest. And apart from the economic aspect, it has also a political and social aspect.

Having been neighbours for centuries, among the peoples of the Balkans traditional economic links, which have served as complementary and compensatory factors of mutual development, have been created. Unfortunately, because of historical developments in this century in the Peninsula, because of various alliances entered into, because of external interference and pressure, these links have been severely impaired.

While other European regions rebuilt and extended relations of cooperation between their countries, the Balkans moved in the opposite direction. Certainly economic integration of the Balkans would be very difficult, the more so since we find here both the socialist economic system and the capitalist economic system, since some Balkan countries belong to COMECON, others to the EEC.

However, even in this situation, with every state maintaining its own direction of development of the national economy, efforts can be made to find ways -- which we think can be found -- to re-establish the traditional links of economic exchange, especially in trade, transport, communications, water resources, etc.

Some obstacles ought to be removed, such as customs tariffs, export and import licences for certain goods, etc. Ways and means must be found to expand, for example, small-scale trade across the borders. This would not only be of economic interest, but would also serve humanitarian aims and the strengthening of



friendship among peoples in general.

In the above-mentioned fields we are ready to examine any constructive proposal in earnest and with good will and, through joint efforts, with each country adhering to its principles, to find ways leading to the expansion of economico-commercial exchanges among the Balkan countries.

The problems arising from the economic development of our region make cooperation in the fields of road, rail and sea transport not merely desirable, but indispensable. Likewise, in such a region as the Balkans, in which rivers flow through one another's territories, in which the waters of lakes extend into different states, the common benefit of their rational exploitation is evident.

It is our conviction that exchanges in the field of culture represent an effective means of achieving better understanding, rapprochement and friendship among the Balkan peoples. Apart from the extension and increase of bilateral exchanges, we are in favour of encouraging Balkan cultural and sports activities, with the participation of all the states of the region without exception. Balkan cooperation can also be extended in the technical and scientific fields, in which possibilities are particularly great.

Problems of medicine and public health on a regional scale are one of the concrete fields in which cooperation would be very useful. Possibilities exist for the exchange of frequent information to prevent the outbreak of epidemic and contagious diseases, especially in border areas. The same can be said of cooperation in the field of agriculture.

Some initial steps have been taken towards cooperation in the field of ecology, but coping with

the problems of environmental protection, which are become daily more severe, calls for joint efforts, increased exchange of information, know-how and experience in different ways and forms.

The fields in which cooperation is possible are numerous. However, as we stressed at the beginning, the creation of an atmosphere conducive to its realization is of special significance. There is no doubt that meetings such as the one we are holding today are helpful in this direction. There may also be suggestions for other meetings. However, we think that such meetings, especially if there are many of them, may create the impression that everything has been settled.

But taking no steps at all in this direction is equally inadvisable. Hence, we think that for the time being it would be more realistic and more useful to revive the 'Committees of Balkan Understanding', in which parliamentarians, writers, journalists, etc., may be included as representatives of broad public opinion.

At bilateral and all-Balkan meetings these committees could thrash out opinions about problems of the Balkans and relations between its countries in various fields. We believe that the activity of these committees could be very useful to the governments of the Balkan countries.

We present these views with the sincere desire to serve the fundamental aspirations of our peoples, who want to live in friendship and to march along the road of freedom, independence and progress. They deserve this, and their governments should spare no effort to achieve this lofty goal.

Thank you for your attention.

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The grave of Enver Hoxha  
in the Martyrs' Cemetery, Tirana.



"Always faithful to the road of Enver"  
-- poster in Saranda.

## IDENTITY

A poem by Moikom Zeqo

It was not my mother alone who gave birth to me:  
 I came into the world unlike other children:  
 at the first moment of life  
 I came out  
 from the womb of everything -- of earth,  
 of air, of sea and laurel leaves,  
 of the universe and of a grain of sand --  
 all the elements are in my being.

Galaxies of stars are in the pupils of my eyes.  
 The immortality of man has triumphed for ever  
 over the enigma of death. Thousands of hands,  
 of human hearts,  
 have revealed to me  
 the great and simple secret  
 of the creation of man,  
 the infinite dimensions I have acquired  
 among those I love  
 and who love me.

It was not my mother alone who gave birth to me  
 -- three thousand years before  
 an Illyrian woman sang my lullaby;  
 Teuta\* herself once kissed my brow,  
 my cradle was an age-old carved lahutë\*.

Thousands of times I have been massacred --  
 killed in my cot, burnt in the fire;  
 thousands of twins have brought me back to life.  
 Shote\* and Azem\* lost their only son,  
 I tell you that this child is I.  
 I am the child of Rozafa\* and Argjiro\*,  
 and every child born since  
 will have on the lips of the centuries Albanian words.



There is nothing mythical about me:  
 Albanian history and the epic songs,  
 the landscape of love, the revolution,  
 the girl that I shall love, poetry, my father  
 -- all these chose my mother.

She brought me into the world in her name  
 and in the name of everyone.

\*Teuta: an Illyrian queen of the 3rd century B.C.

\*lahutë: an Albanian string folk instrument,

\*Shote and Azem: Shote Galica (1895-1927) and her  
 husband Azem Galica (1889-1924) were leaders of  
 the armed struggle in Kosova in 1912-24, twenty-  
 two of whose family were murdered by the Serbs.

\*Rozafa: according to legend, a woman entombed in the  
 foundations of the fortress of Shkodra.

\*Argjiro: according to legend, a princess who gave her  
 name to the city of Gjirokastra.



## AN UNEXPECTED MEETING

A short story by Ludmilla Pajo

The journey seemed interminable. I was on my way to Shkodra by train. Sometimes I looked out of the window or dozed over a novel I had open before me on the plastic strip which served as a table between the seats.

At Lezha almost everyone in my carriage got off. I sat looking out of the window, watching the people hurrying away through the cold January night, when someone sat down opposite me. I did not look round, but I felt the newcomer begin to rub his hands together.

"He must be frozen", I said to myself.

Outside a strong wind had begun to blow, carrying away the empty biscuit wrappings that careless people had dropped on the platform. The whistle blew, and the train lurched forward.

I turned from the window and my gaze fell on the newcomer sitting opposite me. For a moment we stared at each other. I blinked, as though unable to believe my eyes, and felt myself choking with embarrassment. We were so close together, like years ago. But now we were no longer young.

"How are you, Ana", I heard his almost forgotten voice after so many years.

One meets many people in life. Some you like, some you do not. But true love leaves its mark on your whole life. And my mind went back to those years . . .

We lived in different towns, but circumstances allowed us to meet frequently. He had graduated from



university several years before me. He had once said to me: "If only we had known each other as students; everything would have been different then!"

"Why would it have been different?" I asked, smiling. But he did not explain what he meant.

When he came over from Fier, where he worked as an engineer, he used to wait for me outside my office. The moment I saw him from the window, I would rush down the stairs and call out to him from the doorway. And he would turn his head and smile, his blue eyes shining like mirrors.

"Have you been waiting long?"

"No".

"I'm so glad you came".

"Where shall we go?", he would ask, looking into my eyes.

"Wherever you like. . . But wait a moment while I phone my mother".

"What will you say to her?"

"That I'm with you. . . I told her that I've met a young man who . . ." I stopped and felt myself blushing.

"And what did she say?"

"She asked about your family".

"Did you tell her that my father was an honoured worker who was burnt to death in the oilfields?"

"No, really? I didn't know".

He sighed, but said no more.

"That means you are the son of a hero".

"And what are the sons of heroes like?"

"Like you! Kind and good-looking".

We both laughed . . . .

A week later I went to Fier to see him. On the way I thought about how I would get to the building site to find him. The train had just left Lushnja when someone reached out from behind me and covered my eyes. "Who is it?", I asked, startled, struggling to pull the hands away. It was he.

"You!", I gasped, overjoyed; "where have you sprung from?"

"From the centre of the earth", he joked.

"Tell me the truth. Where did you get on the train?"

"I knocked off work early to come and meet you, and hitched a ride to Lushnja . . ."

In Fier the time passed very happily. Then we went to Seman. In wintertime the beach is deserted, but that day it seemed very beautiful to me. The sun was shining and we walked along the water's edge. We walked a long way, leaving the empty beach huts far behind us. We sat down on a wooden crate left on the beach, and watched the heavy grey waves rolling sullenly towards us.



"Like a ram with curly horns when someone teases it", I said, without taking my eyes from the sea.

"Why didn't you tell me you were a poet?"

"Everyone in love is a poet", I told him; "aren't you a poet too?"

"Of course", he said. "Truly, Ana, since I met you I have read more poetry than all the rest of my life".

"I have always read poetry".

"That means you have always been in love", he said, frowning.

"Of course", I replied; "you live only when you love".

"What are you saying?"

"I'm telling you the truth".

"Are you?", he said. And he got up without another word and began to walk back towards the town . . .

We had arranged that he would come to my town in two weeks' time, on my birthday. And although he was very quiet for the rest of the day he gave no indication of any change of plan.

A fortnight later I went to the station to meet him. The first train came and went, then the second and a third. But he did not come.

When I returned home for the third time, my mother asked: "Do you know him well, darling?"

"No", I replied, lowering my eyes.

He did not come the next day, or the next week, and I heard nothing from him. I tried to call him on the phone, but a man's gruff voice said he was not at the building site. I began to worry. Was he ill? I decided to go to Fier.

The road to the building site seemed endless. Yet when we had walked it together, it had seemed quite short.

I was still some distance away when I saw old Naum, the watchman. I went to his hut. He seemed embarrassed at seeing me.

"Well, lass, and how are you", he said.

"Fine".

"Job going well?"

"Fine".

The old man took up a pair of tongs, opened the door of the stove and put in another piece of wood. Why, I thought, did he not hurry off to call Agim, as he had always done.

Finally, he said uneasily: "I suppose you're looking for that young fellow. He's not here any more".

"Why? What's wrong with him?", I asked anxiously.

"Oh, he's not ill. He just walked off the job a few weeks ago. I asked him where he was going, but he wouldn't say. He just left. You're the first to ask for him".

As I walked slowly back to the station, I thought:



Why has he disappeared like this? Why is he hiding himself? I could think of no reason.

Later I learned that he had visited some of my friends and asked about my past. I tried to be philosophical about it. Good riddance, I said to myself; a man without friends, secretive and petty-minded, is not for me.

Some months later, as I was leaving work and hurrying home, he stepped out from behind a tree.

"Where did you spring from?", I asked coldly.

"From the centre of . . .", he tried to joke as in the past but, seeing my coolness, checked himself.

"Why are you here?", I asked.

"To see you".

"It's too late", I replied calmly and started to walk on.

"Aha, I had some important things to clear up".

"And did you clear them up?", I asked.

"Yes", he said; "I've made up my mind".

"And so have I", I said calmly. He seemed like a stranger, and I looked at him almost with disgust. "I suppose your investigations have revealed that I once loved another boy".

"It doesn't matter. I only know . . ."

I interrupted him: "Next time I suggest you don't take so long over your inquiries". And I walked quickly

away. I had never seen him since . . . . .

"Are you going to Shkodra?", he asked shyly.

I nodded. The monotonous clickety-clack of the wheels was the only sound to be heard. In the darkness outside an occasional light flashed by.

"Are you married?", he inquired.

"Yes, I am", I replied, picturing an imaginary husband in my mind.

"I never married", he said.

"Still making inquiries?", I could not help saying.

"There's no need to be sarcastic".

I laughed. The train was slowing down. The lights of the city began to appear. I stood up at once and, as the train came to a halt, picked up my bag and wished him a curt "Goodbye!".

"Couldn't I see you again?", he asked, gazing at me with his deep blue eyes.

"No", I said coldly.

And I opened the carriage door and joined the crowd on the platform.

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## AN IMPRESSION OF ALBANIAN FOOTBALL IN EUROPE

by William Jamieson

The crop of impressive results by Albanian clubs in European competitions in recent years has aroused considerable interest amongst serious followers of European football.

The gallant showing of Flamurtari against mighty Barcelona and their defeat of Partizan Belgrade has fuelled speculation that Albanian teams may be on the verge of breaking through as serious contenders in the manner of clubs from small nations in the past.

It should not be forgotten that until comparatively recently Dutch, Romanian and Swedish clubs -- presently amongst the most respected in Europe -- were dismissed as also-rans.

With the aforementioned in mind, my good friend Bill Rusk and I set off for Rovaniemi -- the capital of Lapland -- to witness the European Cup-winners Cup tie between Vllaznia of Shkodra and local side ROPS.

Rovaniemi is a small modern city situated in the north-east of Finland less than ten kilometres from the Arctic Circle. It has been almost completely rebuilt since 1945, when the retreating Nazi German army left only three buildings intact.

Our journey by air, sea and rail from London was broken by visits to Stockholm and Helsinki before arriving at Rovaniemi on 3 November last.

We were fortunate enough to encounter the team coach Astrit Hafizi and other members of the Vllaznia party while visiting the Arctic Circle Centre on the afternoon before the game.

The Vllaznia players were encouraged by our support before taking to the extremely hard playing field. The match was attended by a record crowd of 7,000. In contrast to many present-day European matches, the atmosphere was very friendly -- a large number of the supporters being school children who had been given the day off lessons. As darkness falls early during the Arctic winter, the match kicked off at 12.30 p.m.

A hard but fair contest ensued, with both sides having chances to win the tie. However, it was the Finnish team that finally broke the deadlock with a well-taken second-half goal that assured their passage to the next round of the competition.

At the after-match press conference Graham Williams, the Welsh-born ROPS coach, commented on the high standard of Albanian football, but remarked that the progress of Albanian clubs in international competitions might be hindered if the standard of their equipment is not improved.

We were delighted to meet the Vllaznia players and exchange football badges on the club coach. The team were out of the competition but had performed well.

We shall have to wait until next season to find out if further progress has been made.



Fier



## ALBANIAN SOCIETY MEETINGS

On 9 January 1988 Ron Gregory, Secretary of the South Wales Branch, spoke to the Cymry Photographic Club in Bridgend on his visit to Albania and on measures taken in Albania for the protection of the environment and cultural monuments.

On 17 January 1988 the London & South-East England Branch Society presented in London a concert of Albanian music by Paula Bednarczyk, Enzo Pullovizi and Dave Smith. The concert was followed by a talk on Albanian literature by Bill Bland, illustrated with readings by Philip Madoc and Theresa Streatfeild.

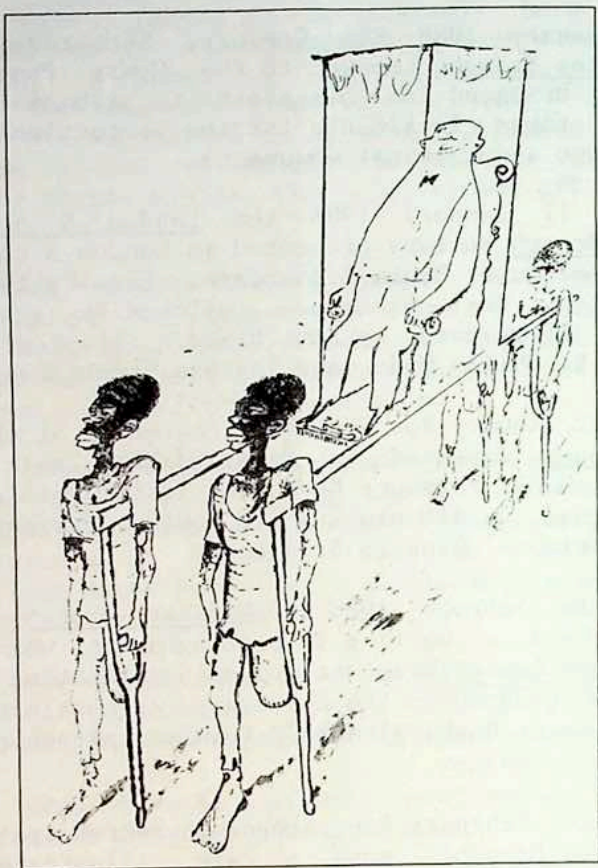
On 22 January Ron Gregory, Secretary of the South Wales Branch repeated in Bridgend his talk of 9 January. On 11 February he gave a lecture, illustrated with slides, on Albania and its social services to the Senior Citizens' Club in Bridgend.

On 14 February 1988 the Midlands Branch of the Society held a meeting in Birmingham at which John Puntis and Laurie Prescott spoke in refutation of the impression created in the British press that since the death of Enver Hoxha Albania's fundamental policies had undergone a change.

On 23 February Ron Gregory, Secretary of the South Wales Branch, gave a talk, illustrated with slides, on Albania and the movement for the emancipation of women there, to the Ladies' Pencoed Club in Bridgend.

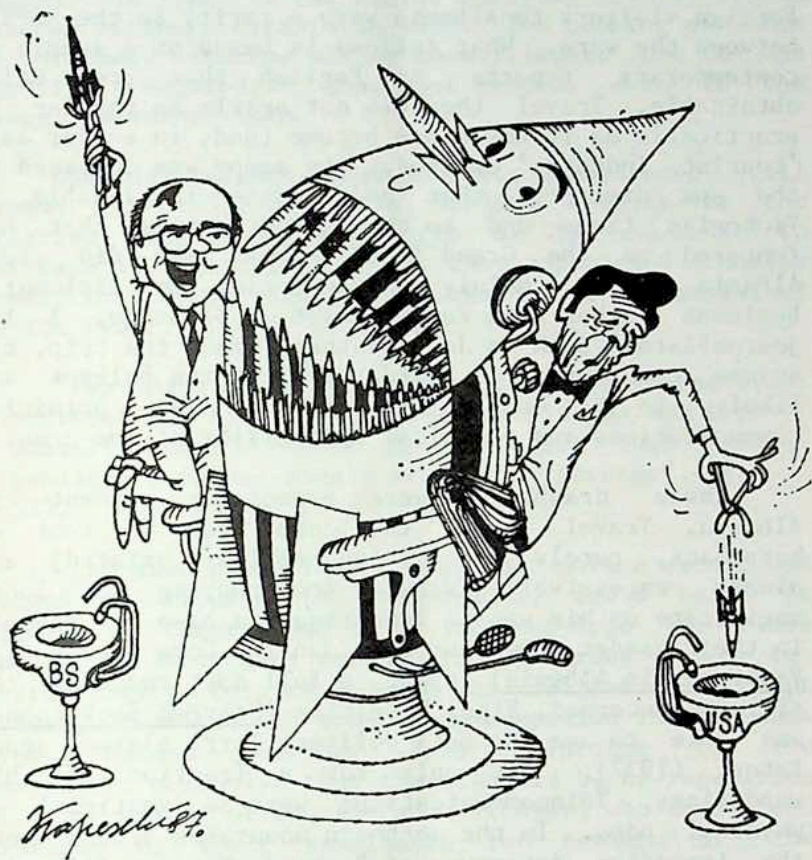
On 3 March the South Wales Branch held a meeting in Bridgend at which Ron Gregory gave a general talk on Albania, illustrated with slides.

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"Apartheid" -- Cartoon by Bardhyl Fico.





"Let's pull out 3% of his teeth"  
-- Cartoon by B. Kapexhiu.

## CONTEMPORARY REPORTS OF ALBANIA BETWEEN THE WARS

by John A. Sabine

Foreign visitors to Albania were a rarity in the period between the wars. What follows is based on a sample of contemporary reports in English that are still obtainable. Travel then was not nearly so popular or practicable as it has since become (and, in so far as a 'tourist industry' existed, its scope was confined to the spa districts that had become fashionable in Victorian times, and to the great cities that had featured on the Grand Tour). Those who did visit Albania did so mainly on commercial or diplomatic business rather than for interest or pleasure. A few journalists, such as John Gunther, made the trip, but anyone considering a holiday trip to the Balkans was likely to be easily dissuaded by the primitive communications and political instability of the area.

These drawbacks were especially evident in Albania. Travel beyond the coast was on foot or horseback, rarely by car (no railway existed) and always excessively slow. Accompanying a local magistrate on his way to investigate a case of assault in the Pogradec neighbourhood, Jan and Cora Gordon (Two Vagabonds in Albania) spent a full day reaching the village concerned. Nigel Heseltine (Scarred Background) was able to use the mail delivery lorry eleven years later (1937), but only for a fraction of his wanderings. Telecommunications were as vestigial as physical ones. In the northern mountains around Theth the impending departure of Bernard Newman (Albanian Backdoor) was telegraphed by men hailing one another from the hilltops.

It was, however, the lack of security that was most intimidating for the prospective visitor. In the hinterland the government's writ simply did not run. The Gordons express reservations about their account



since "serious political changes" were expected, but the project to disarm the Mirdita clans had not then been carried out. Paul Edmonds (To the Land of the Eagle) saw men in the fields carrying rifles as he entered northern Albania in 1928. The bearing of arms by ordinary citizens was by then illegal, but it was readily acknowledged that most people, even in the towns, possessed them.

Edmonds remarks that vendetta crimes were still common (p. 275), and the Gordons testify to the relative impotence of the forces of 'law and order' to maintain it. When, in Elbasan, they approached a Muslim house, its "great door fast locked", it was explained of its owner:

"Two years ago his brother killed a gendarme by accident and fled. So ever since this man has kept himself thus locked in for fear that the gendarme's father should wreak his revenge". (p. 53).

In the area round Theth, an armed police escort was judged insufficient for the Gordons, and a 'besa' (a pledge of safety) had to be obtained from the clans whose territory they were to travel through. Some ten years later, Bernard Newman was obliged to accept Private Sabri as his travelling companion in the same area. Newman ascribed this insistence to the government's resolve that there should be no repetition of the murder of two American students who had been mistaken by their assailants for members of the Albanian parliament.

"Politics are virulent in Albania",

remarks Newman and, indeed, violence was not confined to crime and vendetta. All the accounts refer to the frequency of insurrection in Albania at the time. The

Gordons are rather light-hearted about it:

"Two days after we left Korça, a revolution broke out there, for Korça is one of the centres of anti-Zogist, anti-Mohammedan feeling. The revolution lasted, I think, half-an-hour" (p. 103).

Heseltine adopts a more sombre note, however, since he mentions Efrem Toto's rebellion of 1937, indicating that Albanian society remained liable to civil strife until the eve of the Second World War, and because he notes the savagery and ruthlessness with which the Malësorë's (highlanders') revolt of 1928 was put down; the clansmen's homes were burned down and their families starved into submission.

More than a little of this political instability was due to the machinations of foreign powers. Among the few fellow-Englishmen the Gordons encountered was a representative of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. Edmonds notes that Italy, Britain and the USA were all competing for oil concessions, and that Anglo-Persian Oil had secured concessions as a reward for helping Zog in the successful coup he mounted (initially from Yugoslavia) in 1924. In the estimate of the Gordons, Shen Naum (St. Naum, a monastery and its lands at the southern tip of Lake Ohër) was ceded to the Yugoslavs for the same reason. However, all the reports reserve their strongest condemnation for the Italians.

Carl Sulzberger (A Long Row of Candles), who spent a considerable part of 1938 in Albania for the Hearst newspaper chain, relates how he made frequent air trips in Albania in the Italian Consul's plane. The main purpose of these trips was to reconnoitre landing strips for the later Italian invasion. Another American correspondent, John Gunther, writes:

"Italy has poured millions of lire into



Albania". (Inside Europe, p. 392).

Gunther believed that by playing Italy and Yugoslavia against each other, Zog sought to ensure the one thing that mattered to him, his independence. There are several suggestions in the travellers' accounts that Zogu operated a foreign policy rather similar to that later adopted by Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. The gendarmerie was run by British officers, commanded by Major-General Sir Jocelyn Percy, there were vocational schools administered by the Americans and the French, and the sketchy air service (mentioned by Edmonds) that connected Shkodra, Tirana, Vlora and Korça was operated by the Aero-Lloyd Co. and financed by the German government. This foreign policy was ultimately unsuccessful because, apart from Italy, the putative sponsors were not sufficiently interested. At several points Newman states that the Italians would be discarded if other states would invest in Albania and he expresses regret at Britain's lack of concern:

"I believe England could have had these privileges, had she been sufficiently interested. Zog's admiration for England is wide and outspoken". (p. 238)

Zog himself did better out of his diplomatic chicanery than his country. Gunther reckoned that the King's Civil List amounted to 2.63% of the total revenue of his country,

" . . . but this is only part of the King's gross income, because revenue from his investments abroad is considerable. His capital is roughly 20,000,000 gold francs., Most of it is on deposit in banks in France and Switzerland". (p. 392)

The Yugoslav Ambassador, Rudoje Jankovic, showed Sulzberger receipts for bribes paid to Zog by the

Yugoslav government:

"The pig! We receive nothing in return. And he takes money from the Italians, the British and the Greeks. What can you do with a man like that who calls himself a king?" (p. 53)

Gunther's verdict was:

"The cardinal fact of the Albanian situation is this: Zog started out as Yugoslavia's man and then sold out to Mussolini". (p. 392)

There were plenty of divisions within Albanian society for the self-seeking countries outside to exploit. All the accounts emphasise the division between the GEGS and the Tosks, remarking on it as not one simply of dialect and culture, but also of social structure, the former being depicted as a mountain-based people, clan-based and pastoral, the latter as a depressed peasantry, often Orthodox in religion, centred in the plains and ruled over by rapacious Muslim landowners.

Modernity was a further corrupting element (at least in the visitors' estimation), since it took the form of a large number of returned émigré Albanians from the United States. The Gordons found Permet

" . . . full of ex-emigrants or would-be emigrants dressed in worn American clothes. They sat about in cafés from morning till night, talking red politics (all the south was, of course, a hot-bed of anti-Zogist conspiracies". (p. 109)

Edmonds points out:

"In the past the States have supported a



floating population of 40,000 Albanians to whom their own country offered no prospect of remunerative employment; today most of these men are at home with nothing to do". (p. 182)

The situation remained the same in the thirties, and Heseltine and Newman remark on the potential for civil strife that this disaffected, unemployed but relatively sophisticated element in the population represented.

The major spur to the discontent and self-deprecation of these ex-émigrés was, of course, the lack of development of their homeland. Investment was exceedingly patchy and dependent on the whims of outside interests. It brought little in the way of improvement or expansion in employment. The Gordons describe Albania as a

" . . . half Oriental, half Western community trying to make a state of itself".

Throughout the period there was no uniform system of currency in use. The visitors paid for services they received with mixtures of gold and paper notes, and Italian, French and Yugoslav coins. Only in 1925 was a bank established, and this was effectively a branch of the Italian Ministry of Finance. Edmonds tells of a narrow-gauge railway in the vicinity of Shkodra that was not maintained and clearly unused. All the writers remark on the depressed state of agriculture in a region where climate and topography ought to be conducive to flourishing crops. Although Newman and Heseltine are basically sympathetic to Zog, the picture they provide of his domestic régime is scarcely more attractive than that proffered by the Gordons:

"A military tyranny may now and then be a necessary thing, but to be a citizen under such a government must be an unenviable experience". (p.

194)

As in present-day African military dictatorships, the lack of development was such that Government was the first and last source of profitable employment, and official posts were items of barter rather than a public service. Edmonds remarks of the Hotel Internationale (the principal hotel in Tirana) that it was a centre of gossip and intrigue, frequented by deputies, and the Gordons corroborate this point (p. 12).

As a consequence, the public service was staffed by many quite unfitted for it. The public library in Tirana during the Gordons' time was run by an illiterate. An army officer they met had earlier been a doorman of the Parliament building. To an extent greater than that of early Victorian England, the public service was a system of relief for the supporters of the régime. Heseltine, an admirer of Zog, relates that the Mati (Zog's own clan):

" . . . have many special privileges. They can carry as many guns, revolvers and cartridge belts about their person as they like. About five hundred of them draw 'pensions' from the Government for performing the purely decorative function of sitting in or outside their houses, wearing arms. They do no work at all in the fields and, in addition to these, many families have sons who are earning money in the King's bodyguard at Tirana, so they do not work either".

By contrast, educated Albanians, who had often travelled abroad, were left unemployed because they were deemed politically unreliable. Some did have posts in provincial centres as teachers or magistrates, their salaries often in arrears because tax-gathering, even as late as Newman's visit, was often farmed out to



private individuals, who were paid for their services a percentage of the revenue they gathered, but who only collected taxes at harvest time.

The arbitrariness of the régime was, no doubt, partly attributable to the simple difficulty of the administrative task it set itself, and its cruelties and injustice were sometimes softened by inefficiency. But cruelties there certainly were. The Gordons were told:

"The authorities have a way of rooting for truth alternative to the gendarme with a big stick. They shave a small patch on the witness's scalp, on this bald patch they place three or four lice covered by a wine glass". (p. 103)

(The author was guided round Albania in 1966 by a man who had been tortured by Zog's police in precisely this way).

The injustices of the régime added to the bitterness of the grinding poverty that was the lot of most Albanians. Heseltine remarks:

"If they were slaves for four hundred years to Turkey, they are now in as abject an economic slavery". (p. 154)

Edmonds remarks that the extensive malaria, against which there was no public health programme, was a factor in the low productivity of the farmlands bordering the coast. The Gordons observed a particular craft in the northern woodlands -- the carving of tree segments for use as cartwheels:

"The total earnings after some three days' work for the men and three days' work for the women amounts to less than five shillings". (p. 240)

They calculated that there was one shopkeeper for every eighty inhabitants of Elbasan, a fair indication of the extent of underemployment and lack of opportunity for productive labour. Sulzberger relates that the pupils of the American agricultural school at Kavaja were so undernourished when they returned from vacation that they were given a pre-school rest of several days.

In 1938, Sulzberger reported the wedding of King Zog and Queen Geraldine, and some months later he attended a New Year Ball (the last royal ball held before the Italian invasion of Good Friday 1939). It is a hilarious account, Sulzberger clearly revelling in the Ruritanian aspects of dog-eared ceremonial, the ball itself being held in an enclosed tennis-court heated by a line of pot-bellied stoves. All the guests were given a lottery-ticket, which Sulzberger exchanged for a bundle of clothes. As he left, he noted:

"People were still eating: champagne, foie gras, salads, ice-cream, devoured beneath chandeliers of glittering lighted candles -- and all in a famished land". (p. 58)

Travellers to Albania were treated as guests and provided with hospitality, even by the poorest Albanians, and with a generosity greater than even their long tradition in this regard required. Nonetheless, the impoverished circumstances of most Albanians can be easily deduced from the travellers' accounts of the meals they ate. Maize bread, soured ewes' milk and soft cheese formed the main courses of many. Fruit, gathered in the vicinity, such as raspberries, mulberries and wild plums, provided the desserts. For drink, there was a fiery raki and, occasionally, Turkish coffee. Yet despite this:

"In no place, not even in the poorest houses, had we heard sight or sound of womenfolk",



say the Gordons. (p. 53) The subservience of women in the Albanian society of the time is noted by all the visitors. Edmonds was surprised on one occasion to see men working in the fields in the North, since normally all such work there was done by women. When visiting a house in Elbasan, Newman was required to wait outside in the courtyard whilst the women of the household veiled themselves and retired from the stranger's presence.

Heseltine met several friends of the feminist Nexhmije Zaimi (author of Daughter of the Eagle) who, by 1937, had been obliged to carry on her battle for women from the United States. Another woman who features in several accounts, most notably Newman's, is Margaret Hasluck, an Englishwoman who lived at Elbasan and was a protégée of Edith Durham. Both the Gordons and Edmonds were given accommodation by an English colonel in Tirana -- almost certainly Colonel Stirling, who had earlier been with T. E. Lawrence during the Arab revolt and was then political adviser to King Zog. Edmonds met, and was entertained by, Lef Nosi, whose nephew Fred was later to help the English explorer Harold Tilman when he was in Albania as a member of the British Military Mission to the partisans. Lef Nosi himself became one of the regents in the puppet government set up by the Germans in 1943. Another Bey and wartime collaborator mentioned is Islam Këlcyra, who claimed descent from Ali Pasha and at whose country house the Gordons spent some days. Several of the writers (including Sulzberger and Gunther) relate with awe the story of Cena Kryeziu, Zog's brother-in-law who, they allege, hired an assassin to shoot Zog whilst he was presiding in the Chamber of Deputies. Cena's sons were associated during the Second World War with Julian Amery (who later became MP for Brighton).

In conclusion, it is worth noting the predictions which inter-war travellers made about Albania. Edmonds suggests:

"It seems likely that Albania will miss the blessings -- or escape the degradation (whichever way you prefer to put it) -- of industrialism, and remain an agricultural nation". (p. 182)

Newman predicted a rather different future:

"If Zog can maintain ten years of peace, then Albania will almost rival Switzerland as the playground of Europe". (p. 284)

However, Newman also writes:

"Internally, Albania's future is bright. She has a virile, intelligent people; with education and leadership they are capable of anything".

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#### Sources

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- 'Albanian Backdoor', Bernard Newman; London, Herbert Jenkins; 1938.
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## THE VIEWS OF 19th CENTURY BRITISH TRAVELLERS

## ON THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

by Shpëtim Mema

At the beginning of the 19th century, the growth of interest in Albania and the Albanians on the part of British political circles and British public opinion led to visits to our country by a considerable number of poets, artists, military men, economists, missionaries and scientists from Britain. Many of these recorded in their works their impressions of Albania - among them the great romantic poet Byron, who set down his impressions in the second canto of his famous poem "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage".

A survey of the works of British travellers of the first half of the 19th century shows that the Albanian language aroused in them a special interest. There were a number of reasons for this. Firstly, there were those who considered the study of the languages of the countries they visited as one of the primary objectives of travel. According to Colonel Leake, for example, language constituted

" . . . the only key to the attainment of accurate intelligence in foreign countries". (1)

Secondly, as Leake explains, the Albanian language

" . . . had received an additional claim to notice from the changes which had brought the country where it is spoken into contact with our own enemies". (2)

that is, with France. It was for this reason that the British government had given special instructions to Leake to concern himself with the study of the Albanian

language. (3) This interest in the Albanian language on the part of the British government persisted throughout the century. Through the intermediary of the Bible Society of London, the government organised the translation and dissemination of religious works, such as the New Testament, (4) with the aim of increasing its cultural, ideological, political and economic influence over the Albanian territories (5). Finally - and this is the principal reason - the Albanian language itself as a separate language in the Indo-European family of languages had become the object of special and growing interest. Leake affirms that the Albanian language

" . . . must be considered curious, however, as holding a distinct character in the midst of languages by which it is surrounded, being in all probability the ancient Illyric, with some alterations of the same kind as Latin and Greek have undergone". (5)

By its character, the Albanian language awakened the interest not only of the linguist and the historian, but also of the simple traveller. Among the travellers of the first half of the 19th century must be mentioned - in order of their visits - William Martin Leake, John Cam Hobhouse, Sir Henry Holland, George Gordon Byron, Thomas Smart Hughes, Captain Edmund Spencer and Sir George Ferguson Bowen.

The most important work of a British traveller dealing with the Albanian language is undoubtedly William Leake's "Researches on Greece". But the same author deals also with the Albanian language in another of his works, "Travels in Northern Greece".

"Researches in Greece" is a linguistic work which includes studies of Greek and Albanian, and also touches upon Vlach and Bulgarian, languages with which



the author was less familiar. The section devoted to Albanian is contained in the second chapter, which bears the title "Of the Albanian language". (7) Having discussed the history and geography of Albania and made some remarks on the Albanian language and the Latin alphabet employed for it, Leake publishes a grammar of the Albanian language, a Greek-English-Albanian dictionary, and adds a fourth language - English - to Daniel's dictionary in four languages. (8) He informs us that the original was published in Voskopoja in the middle of the 18th century.

The grammar, which the author calls a *précis*, does not merely cover the morphology of Albanian, but deals also with the noun, the adjective, the pronoun, and the verb, and carries some brief remarks on invariable words. This grammar is based on the southern dialect, the only one which Leake knew. This dialect contains some characteristics of the speech of Vithkuq, Përmet and Gjirokastra, but alongside the Tosk forms one finds also Geg forms. (9)

The Greek-English-Albanian dictionary contains more than 2,100 words. Leake informs us that he has heard of the dictionary of Frang Bardhi and the catechism of Pjetër Bogdani, but his work would have been impossible without the assistance of someone for whom Albanian was his mother-tongue and who had a profound knowledge of linguistics. What Konstandin Xhehani of Voskopoja did for Thunmann in the 1770s, and what Konstandin Kristoforidhi did for Hahn in the middle of the 19th century, Evstrat Vithkuqari did for Leake at the beginning of the 19th century. Leake says of his grammar:

"The greater part of the information upon which the following remarks are founded was derived from Evstratio of Viskuqi who . . . had been for many years school-master at Moskhopoli (Voskopoja -

SM). Besides being well acquainted with Hellenic and Romaic and speaking and writing fluently in both, he possessed that more accurate knowledge of his native Albanian dialect which was to be expected in a person so qualified". (10)

And he says of his dictionary:

"The whole was corrected and enriched by my Albanian Didaskalos, Eustratius (i.e. Evatrat - SM) (11)

Indeed, the aid rendered by Evstrat Vithkuqari was so substantial that several scientists regard Leake's Albanian grammar as the work rather of the teacher from Voskopoja than of Leake. (12)

1. W.M.Leake: "Researches in Greece"; London; 1814; p. i.
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6. W. M. Leake: op. cit.; p. iii.
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9. J. Kastrati: "Të dhëna të reja dhe shënime plotësuese për disa gramatika të gjuhës shqipe", in: "Buletin Shkencor", No. 1, 1974; p. 7.
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11. Ibid.; p. 290.
12. J. Kastrati: op. cit.; p. 66.

(to be continued)



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The Conference of Peza; harmonization of interests in the socialist economy; self-reliance; the hydro-electric power industry; maritime exclusion zones; higher education, militant art; international debts.

CONFERENCE ON ALBANIA

A two-day conference on Albania from ancient times to the present-day will be held at Arden House, University of Warwick, on Friday-Saturday, 22-23 April 1988. Seven specialist speakers will cover the various periods of Albanian history. Applications to Dr. T. J. Winnifrith, Room H105, Arts Building, University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL. Conference fee £7.50, including tea and coffee, or £50 including accommodation and meals.

COLLOQUIUM ON BALKAN RESISTANCE

This unusual colloquium, covering the war-time resistance mainly in Albania and Greece, will be held in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Birmingham on Saturday, 30 April, 1988 from 10.30 a.m., to 6.30 p.m. Bill Bland, Secretary of the Albanian Society, will speak on 'The Albanian Experience'. The course fee is £8 (£4 for students, £2 for students of Birmingham University). Applications to Prof. A. A. M. Bryer, Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT.



Partizani football team.



## ALBANIAN NEWS

(September-December 1987)

POLITICSSeptember:

A scientific conference on the Conference of Peza (September 1942) was held in the House of Culture of the Myslim Peza Cooperative Farm (12th).

October:

A scientific conference on "Enver Hoxha on the Party School" was organized by the V. I. Lenin Higher Party School in Tirana (13th).

A plenum of the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union convened in Tirana (14th).

The 9th Congress of the Labour Youth Union held its proceedings (22nd-24th).

November:

Meetings were held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution (6th.).

Activities were organized throughout the country to commemorate the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour (8th.), the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of independence (28th), and the 43rd anniversary of the liberation of Albania (29th).

December:

A plenum of the General Council of the Women's Union convened in Kruja (18th).

The 2nd session of the 11th legislature of the People's Assembly convened in Tirana (28-29th).

President Ramiz Alia, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour, addressed a New Year message to the Albanian people (31st).

DIPLOMACYSeptember:

Diplomatic relations were established with Canada.

The Finnish Ambassador, Osmo Kock, presented his credentials to President Ramiz Alia.

The Ambassador to Japan, Justin Papajorgji, presented his credentials to Prince Akihito.

October:

Diplomatic relations were established with the Federal Republic of Germany and Uruguay.

The Mongolian Ambassador, Mangalyn Dash, presented his credentials to President Ramiz Alia.

Dashnor Dervishi presented his credentials as Ambassador to Panama to President del Valle, and as Ambassador to Ecuador to President Leon Febres Cordero.

November:

The Ambassador to Burma, Justin Papajorgji, presented his credentials to President U San Yu,

December:

The Ambassador to Libya, Dhimitër Stamo, presented his credentials to the Secretary of the People's Committee, Tadalla Azuz Talhi.

FOREIGN VISITORS

Among foreign visitors and delegations to Albania during the period under review were:

September:

The President of the National Food Institute of Mexico, Jose Enrico Gama.

Finnish MP Jorn Donner.

Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

October:

A delegation of Greek Radio/Television.

A delegation of the Vietnamese News Agency.

Fred Klittgard, Chairman of the War Veterans of Copenhagen.

Otmar Bein, Secretary of the International Forest



Organization.

Gunar Svenson, Swedish Secretary of State for Culture.

A delegation of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A delegation of the Pan-Greek Fighters' Union of the National Resistance.

A Greek cultural delegation.

The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dietrich Genscher.

Greek MP Mihalis Vathis.

Austrian composer Karl Haydmayer.

November:

The Finnish folklore group 'Kulkuriprojat'.

Franz Joseph Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria.

A Greek government delegation led by Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

December:

A Romanian government delegation led by Minister of Foreign Trade Ilie Vaduva.

A Yugoslav government trade delegation led by Federal Secretary of Foreign Trade Nenad Krekić,

Turkish pianist Banu Sozuar.

A Vietnamese government delegation led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

FOREIGN VISITS

Among Albanians and Albanian delegations going abroad during the period under review were:

September

A delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Greece.

Albanian archaeologists to the 9th World Congress of Archaeology in Mainz.

A delegation of the Science and Technique Committee to Turkey,

A delegation of the League of Writers and Artists, led by its President Dritëro Agolli, to Algeria.

A government delegation, led by Foreign Minister Reis Malile, to the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

#### October:

Albanian scholars to the International Colloquium on Universities in Athens.

A delegation of the Trade Unions of Albania to Western Sahara.

The Director of the Institute of Studies of International Relations, Sofokli Lazri, to Stockholm.

A government trade delegation, led by Minister of Foreign Trade Shame Korbeci, to Bulgaria.

A delegation of the Democratic Front to Tanzania.

A group of artistes from the Tirana Variety Theatre to Greece.

#### November:

A delegation of the Trade Unions of Albania to Syria.

A government delegation, led by the Minister of the Food Industry Jovan Bardhi, to the 24th session of the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

A delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by Deputy Minister Sokrat Plaka, to Turkey.

A delegation of the Trade Unions of Albania, led by its Secretary Vjollca Kallajxhi, to Nigeria.

A delegation of the Labour Youth Union, led by its Secretary Luan Bregasi, to Vietnam.

#### December:

A government delegation, led by Minister of the Public Service Xhemal Tafaj, to Egypt.

A delegation of the League of Writers and Artists to Greece.

A delegation of the Party of Labour, led by Marash Hajati, to the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of



Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

### FOREIGN TRADE

#### September:

Trade protocols for 1988 were signed with Czechoslovakia and France.

#### October:

Trade protocols for 1988 were signed with Bulgaria, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary and Poland.

The programme for cultural exchanges for 1987-89 was signed with Greece.

#### November:

A trade protocol for 1988 was signed with the German Democratic Republic.

An agreement on economic and scientific cooperation was signed with Greece, and a banking agreement between the Albanian State Bank and the Bank of Greece.

#### December:

Trade protocols for 1988 were signed with Romania and Yugoslavia.

During the period under review, Albania was represented at the International Trade Fairs in Hanover, Salonika and Zagreb, and at the International Book Fairs in Frankfurt and Guadalajara (Mexico).

### TRANSPORT

#### October

The first stage (Milot-Rrëshen) of the Milot-Klos railway was inaugurated (18th).

### CULTURE

#### October:

An agreement on cooperation was signed between

Albanian Radio/Television and Greek Radio/Television.  
An exhibition of Albanian cartoons was opened in Koblenz.

November:

An agreement on cultural exchanges for 1988-89 was signed with Syria.

Among new books published during the period under review were:

E. Hoxha: "Works", vol. 56 (Nov. 1975-March 1976).

E. Hoxha: "Works", vol. 57 (April-May 1976).

E. Hoxha: "Selected Letters", vol. 3 (April 1946-Jan. 1985).

D. Agolli: "A Life in Literature".

E. Çabej: "In the World of the Italian Arbëresh".

F. Nano: "Soviet Social-imperialism in the World Capitalist Economy".

- "Materialist Philosophers of Antiquity".

- "The Ties of the CPA with the Masses of the People".

- "German and Austrian Poetry".

SCIENCE

September:

An agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was signed with Greece.

November:

The first meeting of the Permanent Coordinating Committee on Lessening Seismic Dangers was held in Tirana, with the participation of foreign delegations.

SPORT

October:

The 17th Balkan Weightlifting Championship took place in the Partizani Sports Palace in Tirana.

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NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

The North-East England Branch of the Albanian Society  
will hold a meeting on Saturday, 23 April at 3 p.m.  
in the Tyne Room, Tyneside Cinema, Pilgrim Street.

DAVID KEATING  
(Joint Secretary, N. E. England Branch)

will speak on

CONTEMPORARY ALBANIA

---



A still from the feature film 'Apasionata'.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The London and South-East England Branch of the Society  
will hold a meeting in London on Saturday, 8 October at  
5 p.m.

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LONDON

The London and South-East England Branch  
of THE ALBANIAN SOCIETY

will hold a meeting on Saturday, 11 June at 5 p.m.

in TOLMERS SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
Hampstead Road, London NW1

(Underground stations: Euston Sq. or Warren St.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Colour video: ENERGY

\* \* \* \* \*

DAVID KEATING  
(Joint Secretary, N. E. England Branch,  
and a practising solicitor)

will speak on

THE LEGAL SYSTEM IN ALBANIA

\* \* \* \* \*

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