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THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, 3 November 1946

Sir,

On behalf of the Government of the Albanian People's Republic, I have the honour to ask you to inform the General Assembly of the United Nations of the following:

At a time when the General Assembly of the United Nations is meeting for the second time to continue its work for the consolidation of peace and collective security, Albania has not yet been invited to sit as a Member of that Organization. She is still denied a place which she justly deserves, having earned it at the price of great sacrifices bravely borne for the victory of the common cause.

Her past history, her effective and resolute participation in the last war at the side of the Allies, as well as her work of peaceful reconstruction and her present democratic regime, all go to show that Albania should have been one of the first Members of the United Nations Organization. A small country of 1,200,000 inhabitants with a territory of 28,000 square kilometres, Albania has always been known for her love of independence and her wars of national liberation. She has always hated aggression and has tried to maintain relations of cordial friendship with her neighbours and with all other countries. Since her constitution as an independent State in 1913, she has strictly fulfilled her international obligations.

To continue to refuse Albania admission to the United Nations is deliberately to forget that Albania was the first victim of armed aggression

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by Fascist Italy in Europe on Good Friday 7 April 1939; it is to forget the determined armed resistance of the Albanian people against aggression, a resistance which earned deep sympathy from all the democratic nations that love liberty. The Albanian people carried on stubborn and unequal struggle for six years against the numerous, powerfully equipped and barbarous armies of Mussolini and Hitler, which successively occupied their country. The Albanian Army of National Liberation, an army of partisans created and enlarged during the war against the invaders and Quislings, was still holding down in Albania, at the time of the Allied landings in France, nearly 100,000 enemy soldiers of whom more than half met their death in this country. She thus gave substantial and important assistance to the Allied armies fighting on other fronts. She freed the whole national territory by force of arms, and two divisions of Albanian partisans then continued the fight against the Germans in Yugoslavia until the total defeat of Hitler's Germany. Its military exploits earned for our army the well-merited praises of the foremost Allied politicians and soldiers from 1942 until the end of the war.

The losses and sacrifices endured by the Albanian people in its war against the Fascist and Nazi aggressors place Albania - relatively speaking - amongst the countries which have suffered most severely in this war:

28,800 dead, 10,000 deported and political prisoners, 35,000 men sent to forced labour, 850 towns and villages or 35 per cent of the total, burned or razed to the ground; communications disrupted, the whole economy looted and devastated. It was through total sacrifice for the triumph of the principles of the war against Fascism that Albania joined the Allies. Few countries have had the painful privilege of paying such a heavy tribute to victory as Albania. Nobody dares to deny these facts.

Since the liberation of our country, the Albanian people and their Government have been working ceaselessly for the reconstruction of their sorely tried land; in Albania burned houses and destroyed communications are being rebuilt; more hospitals and schools are being constructed; arable

land is being irrigated and new roads are being made to improve the living conditions of the population. The Albanian people are participating fully in the peaceful work of reconstruction, and wish to live and work in peace and to have good relations with all other democratic and peaceful countries.

The Provisional Democratic Government of Albania which emerged from the War of National Liberation and was recognized by the great Allied Powers in November 1945, held general elections for a Constituent Assembly on 2 December 1946. The elections were free, secret, direct and universal. The resulting Constituent Assembly proclaimed Albania as a People's Republic and drew up a Constitution that is one of the most democratic in existence.

Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations says:

"Membership of the United Nations is open to all other peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able and willing to carry out these obligations".

Albania is undoubtedly a peaceful country and one of those most interested in the maintenance of a secure peace. The Albanian Government, in its request for admission to the United Nations dated 25 January 1946, declared that Albania was ready to assume the obligations deriving from the Charter of the United Nations. All the facts show that modern Albania is capable of carrying out these obligations.

In fact, the Albanian people, by the blood it has shed and the infinite sacrifices it has made for the common victory, has contributed in the most direct and concrete manner to the very foundation of the United Nations, and it is firmly convinced that it should have had a place at the San Francisco Conference; for Albania did not oppose Fascism by a simple and formal declaration of war, but was the first country in Europe to fight Fascism. The Albanian people desire to contribute, and feel capable of contributing, to the maintenance and consolidation of a peace for the advent of which it has sacrificed the best of its sons. The injustice so far done to this Allied

people is contrary to the principles for which the Allied countries have endured such great sacrifices, and it is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations itself.

The Government of the Albanian People's Republic, and the people of Albania as a whole, are confident that the United Nations will rectify this injustice to Albania as fairly and as quickly as possible.

The Delegate for the Government  
of the Albanian People's Republic.

(signed) HYSANI KAPO

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