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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND
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POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES INVOLVING
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
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Agenda items 6 and 7
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 9 July 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Albania
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you excerpts from the speech delivered by Ramiz Alia, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, on 6 July 1990, at the eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 12, 99 and 103 of the preliminary list and of the second regular session of 1990 of the Economic and Social Council, under its agenda items 6 and 7, and brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights.

(Signed) Bashkim PITARKA
Permanent Representative of the PSR
of Albania to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Excerpts from the speech delivered by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and President of the People's Assembly on 6 July 1990 at the eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party

The progress of the country and the guarantee of the people's freedom call at present for all to be vigilant and on the alert. We should follow the situation we are in and especially the actual politics certain forces are following towards Albania.

Just as we note with pleasure that international public opinion in general has evaluated the latest measures we have adopted for the further democratization of the country and sees with confidence that under its specific circumstances Albania will march ahead in this direction, we note also that there are forces who want to hinder this development of ours and change its direction: they want to lead it into an abyss without prospects.

The worst is that now these forces have met with some supporters, conscientious or not, inside the country, something expressed in the latest events in front of the foreign embassies in Tirana.

We issued a law granting passports to all nationals who demand such a thing. It is a completely democratic measure hailed by our entire people. But it so happened that, without reading the law to the full, some individuals immediately began to enter foreign embassies by force. It is natural to ask: Why such a rush to the foreign embassies when the doors to go abroad are open to anyone who wants to go?

It is clear that they seek to sow disbelief concerning the law itself and the measures adopted and those to be taken on the road of democratization that the Party has chosen and is resolute to pursue to the end.

Certainly the people who seek asylum in embassies are not patriots, nor honest citizens of this country: nothing can justify their act. We may be poor, undoubtedly have difficulties and shortages, but foreigners have never solved our troubles, the Albanians' trouble. Only we, the Albanian people, and no one else can and must build our country and make it progress.

But it is openly seen that here it is not a question of these disoriented persons, but one of those who lurk behind them. At home and abroad, the aims and actions of these destructive, anti-democratic and anti-Albanian forces go too far. They aim at creating a spirit of non-confidence in the measures we have adopted and will adopt concerning the democratization of the country's life, to create artificial political tension, aiming, if possible, to lead even to a confrontation between the State power and the masses. The Party, every Communist, every patriot, every citizen of our country must realize this, these aims of our enemies. Hence,

they must realize that here it is not a question of passports, a mistake, shortages or criticism, but these acts aim at depriving the people of State power and the country of its freedom and independence. No one should forget this. Here there is no room for indifference, nor for generosity or an underestimation of the situation.

As I said above, the democratization of the country's life is taking place in certain directions, in that of the economy, State power, culture, leading cadres and the Party's policy itself.

It is completely logical and correct that we have given priority to the implementation of measures in the economic sphere, which will not only lead to its growth and development, but will also exert a direct influence on the democratization of the entire life of the country.

However, these measures will be implemented gradually and will enter into force by the beginning of next year. In the economic sphere, the decision we shall adopt tomorrow regarding the organization and the improvement of services and handicrafts will bring about a genuine revolution in this field.

Work is now in progress on drafting a law on elections to the People's Assembly. This law will aim at democratizing the fundamental institution of the people's State power. One can only guess what a great influence this action will exert on political and social relations.

During the first half of next year we shall convene the Party congress, which not only will draw up a balance-sheet of previous measures, but it will also define the directions for the further democratization of the country's life, as well as measures for their implementation.

As you see, special care has been taken so that all the changes of the necessary corrections can be made in full harmony, not to create a vacuum in either field, so as to carry out the changes in a normal way, without haste or improvisation, by preventing disproportions and counterbalances.

In starting with the economy as a priority field, which will serve as a basis for all the other changes, we started from our reality. But at the same time we have also taken into consideration some bitter experience in other countries, which began work from the tail and not from the head.

There exists a balance among all the directions and actions, a balance that has to be preserved, otherwise we would fall into dangerous spontaneity and irreparable anarchy. Besides, such changes are not made in a day, nor are they made in haste, without considering them well, without co-ordinating them well, without starting and analysing the objective conditions, without soliciting the opinion of the people, without preparing the technical aspects of the application, of the new measures, and so on.

Those who want the opposite, posing as both super-democrats and super-radicals, do not want democracy, but its hindrance and destruction, do not desire the country to progress, but its destruction.

The Albanian people are characterized by wisdom, the realistic assessment of circumstances and not by anarchic haste. They have never fallen and will never fall into the trap of provocations, nor will they fall into the anti-democratic traps hatched against them. The more so, when destructive acts like those of 2 July in Tirana, have a pronounced anti-national goal, where the hand and instigation from abroad are evident.

It is known that Albania's stability, its harmonious development and its further democratization are a major aid and support for the Albanians of Kosova, especially at present when they are fighting with legendary bravery to win autonomy and the national rights due to them.

It appears that there are forces that pose as democratic, humanist and so on, but in fact they are reactionary and obscurantist, and do not want to see the Albanians united as they have always been, but divided and hostile one to another. But Albanians, as in the key moments of their history, will know how to cope both with foreign enemies and domestic traitors. Their ideals of freedom, independence, sovereignty and justice, of national and individual dignity cannot be shattered by any pressure or by any force.

Nevertheless, we should not underestimate any hostile act, wherever it comes from. Everybody should accomplish his duty. The Party organs, the mass organizations, patriots and social activists should make clear the policy of the Party and our State, the families should educate their children as genuine patriots of the homeland, with the sentiments of an honest citizen and the organs of power should defend legislation and implement the law.

All those who are for the progress of the country and the freedom of the people should stand up and be on the alert. The unity of the people here is created in the course of many national and social struggles. Now we should maintain this unity, combating all those who want to divert us from our path, all those who wish to question not only our previous political and social victories, but also our future as a people and a nation.

Finally, in conclusion, I want to say that I wish to underscore most forcefully that in the process of the democratization of the life of the country we have neither imported others' ideas nor had them imposed by anybody. We ourselves have begun the process, proceeding from the circumstances and needs of our socialist society, from the stage of its growth and development.

It is natural that we are entering a new class struggle with internal and external reactionary forces that want to hinder and undermine this development. We should therefore not be taken aback, nor should we be disturbed by what flag they will raise and what slogans they will launch to combat us. Likewise, we should not be surprised at the resurgence of vagabonds or demagogues, servile types and café speculators, who have not failed and will not fail to spring up like mushrooms after rain. Political demagoguery, ideological instrumentalism and the manipulation of public opinion represent today the preferred means of struggle against socialist ideals, against the democracy of the masses and real patriotism.

But whatever the pressures exerted on us, we will stand resolutely on our principled positions, maintaining cool-headedness and wisdom, and particularly maintaining clarity and perspective. The path of changes we have set out on is irreversible, but what is of fundamental importance today is the fact that the masses should be led by the Party, because it is precisely the Party that launched out down that path. No one, no force at home, no interference from abroad can achieve genuine democracy, human rights, progress and defence of our country's freedom and independence, except for the Party and except for our people united round it.
