

SECURITY  
COUNCILCONSEIL  
DE SECURITES/250  
14 January 1947  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH**RETURN TO  
MR. FEIFFER  
ROOM DD-93**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT  
CONCERNING INCIDENTS IN THE CORFU CHANNEL

Four communications concerning incidents in the Corfu Channel have been received by the Secretary-General from the Albanian Government dated 30 October, 12, 13, and 27 November 1946. The communication dated 30 October was circulated to members of the General Assembly on 1 November and the communication dated 12 November was also distributed as document A/186. The communications dated 13 and 27 November were brought to the attention of the Department of Security Council Affairs. Since an incident in the Corfu Channel has been brought to the attention of the Security Council by the United Kingdom Government, (document S/247) the texts of these communications from the Albanian Government are reproduced for the information of the Council.

I. TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED 30 OCTOBER 1946

I have the honour to submit to you, and through you to the  
General Assembly of the United Nations the following:

At 1:00 p.m., 22 October 1946 four British warships armed with guns and machine guns and carrying soldiers entered our territorial waters around Saranda Kakomes and Borsh without the authorization of the Government of Albania. One of these ships bore the number R62, followed by a second one bearing the number NR41, entered Saranda bay inside our waters coming to within one kilometre and a half of the harbour, while the two other ships cruised in our territorial waters opposite Kakomes and Borshi. north of the harbour of Saranda. A patrol boat of our coastal Navy sailed toward the sa warships in order to inquire into the motive of such a violation of our territorial waters and to bring the necessary help since smoke and flames could be seen escaping from one of the ships. The crew of the British warships did not condescend to give an explanation to our sailors about the flagrant violation of the integrity of our country. At 12:30 a.m. of the next day the four British warships sailed back into Corfu harbour. We have the honour to point out the fact that within a short period of time provocative incursions of this kind from British warships have occurred twice into our territorial waters and that each time the creation of incidents was attempted and our integrity violated. Moreover, after what happened on 22 October 1946, on the morning of 23 October three-engine British planes, one of which was number PK4, flew without the authorization of the Government of Albania, and with intent to intimidate and provoke over the district between the Muzina pass and the village of Radat. On the same day over Saranda Harbour two other British planes flew on three occasions, very low. On behalf of the people of Albania and their Government we strongly protest

/to your

to your and the General Assembly of the United Nations against such provocative incursions carried out repeatedly against a people which has fought and sacrificed itself in the common cause of the Allies and has devoted all its efforts to the reconstruction of its devastated country, to the strengthening of true democracy and to the safeguarding of peace in the world. Apart from the injustice recurrently inflicted upon our people in respect of its rights of the international plane, rights acquired at the cost of so much blood - the creation of incidents such as those above-mentioned is attempted with the object of hampering the advance of our country along the road of progress it has marked out for itself. Moreover we note that incidents like those at Saranda which have the obvious purpose of violating the integrity of our country contribute in nowise to the establishment of friendly relations between peaceful and progressive nations, but on the contrary are detrimental to the peace and friendship which must exist and grow in strength day by day between the nations for the good of progressive humanity.

Albania is a small peaceful nation which made great efforts during the fight against Fascism and thus proved how dear it held liberty, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It fought with utmost heroism to gain them and will keep them forever, not allowing them to be encroached upon. The people of Albania who have fought with the greatest self-sacrifice for those sacred objectives - which it is the constant endeavour of the United Nations to safeguard and consolidate - have the greatest confidence in this high Organization and therefore request its intervention in order to put a stop to such provocations against our country.

Such provocations are detrimental to the close and sincere friendship, which must exist between peaceful nations, and hinder the establishment of a strong and enduring peace to which the people of Albania will never

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fail to make their contribution.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the expression of my highest regards.

The President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs of  
the People's Republic of Albania. General-Colonel: Enver Hoxha.

II. TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1946

Sir,

On 10 November 1946, through the intermediary of its Embassy in Belgrade, the British Government notified our Government that it has decided to sweep the Corfu Channel on 12 November in accordance with the decision taken by the Central Committee for Mine Clearance.

By a note dated 31 October we informed the British Government that the Government of our Republic had no objection to the sweeping of any waters outside Albanian territorial waters but that any penetration by foreign ships into our territorial waters without the permission of our Government would be regarded as an unfriendly act and would constitute a violation of Albanian sovereignty.

The intention of the above-mentioned note of the British Government is to confront Albania with an accomplished fact, and on that account we register a vigorous protest to the United Nations against this unilateral act. Furthermore we have no knowledge of the Central Committee for Mine Clearance which has (usurped) all rights and has not troubled to consult the Albanian Government before undertaking mine clearance in the Channel where Albania possesses undeniable rights. Only a commission appointed by the United Nations, and of which Albania would be a member, is entitled to decide what are the non-territorial waters in the Corfu Channel.

Secondly, we register a vigorous protest with the United Nations at the insistent demand by the American Mission to Albania to bring two war ships into the Port of Durazzo to take off its Mission which wishes to leave Albania. We have authorized the American Mission to bring one passenger and cargo ship into our port and, should it also

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desire it, have given permission for one or two aircraft to be brought to the Airport of Tirana to transport the Mission staff.

I beg to remain, etc.

(Signed) Colonel-General Enver Hoxha  
President of the Council of  
Ministers of the People's  
Republic of Albania

III. TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1946.

With reference to our telegram of protest dated 11 November 1946 we have the honour to communicate to you the following:

Since the morning of 12 November a large number of warships flying the English flag have been sailing all over the waters off the southern Albanian shore between Butrinto and Carab Ouroun. All the British vessels in battle formation navigated in our territorial and extra-territorial waters in token of intimidation and provocation.

To-day, 13 November 1946, at 10:00 a.m. and throughout the whole day, a large number of British warships and mine-sweepers varying in number from hour to hour between 11 and 23 entered our territorial waters at Santiquaranta at 500-1000-1500 metres from the port on the pretext of clearing mines. British warships frequently fired machine gun bursts into the air and into the water with a view to creating incidents.

In the name of the peace-loving and democratic Albanian people, in the name of this small nation which on 7 April 1939 saw Mussolini's warships descend upon the port of Durazzo, in the name of this small people which fought for years with unequalled valor against Fascism at the side of the great Allies and which left 40,000 men killed and wounded on the battlefields, I bring this brutal and unilateral act of the British Government to the attention of the United Nations. The Albanian people considers this act as a violation of its most sacred sovereign rights for which the Albanian people is at all times ready to shed its blood.

I further request the United Nations to judge this act of the British Government's and to give orders for the immediate withdrawal

/of the British

of the British warships and mine-sweepers from our ports and territorial waters in the interests of the maintenance of peace, for the achievement of which the Albanian people exerted itself to the full.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Colonel General Enver Hoxha

President of the Council of Ministers  
of the Albanian People's Republic



IV. TELEGRAM FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED  
27 NOVEMBER 1946

With reference to my notes of protest dated 11 and 12 November 1946  
I have the honour to bring to your notice and through you to the  
Assembly of the United Nations the following circumstances:

The British Government's note to my Government dated  
10 November on the question of the clearance of Albanian  
territorial and extra-territorial waters in the Corfu channel  
said, "British ships will be carrying out a sweep of the straits  
on 12 November. Such sweeping will be in accordance with the  
unanimous recommendation of the Central Mine Clearance Board of  
1 November which decided that the straits should be swept again".  
Not only was this a unilateral act on the part of the British  
Government calculated to trample on Albanian sovereignty and to  
provoke and intimidate, but the British Government's note even  
contains a false statement. On 14 November the Central Mine  
Clearance Board of London held a meeting and issued a statement  
signed by the British Captain Nichols, Head of the Central Mine  
Clearance Board, which said: In connection with the statements  
appearing in the press a few days ago on the sweeping operations  
carried out by British ships in Albanian territorial waters to  
the north of Corfu, the Central Mine Clearance Board states  
that this clearance was not carried out on its order and has  
not its consent.

I would ask Your Excellency to add this fact to our complaint and  
protest, and to draw the attention of the Assembly of the United Nations  
to this false and wrongful action on the part of the British Government.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Colonel General Enver Hoxha

President of the Council of Ministers

of the Albanian People's Republic