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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE
MEDITERRANEAN REGION

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 19 January 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 the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, on 15 January 1990, at the meeting with the working people of the "Enver Hoxha" Automobile and Tractor Combine in Tirana (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of my letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region" and "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States".

(Signed) Fashkim PITARKA
Permanent Representative of
the People's Socialist Republic of Albania
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Excerpts from the speech delivered on 15 January 1990 by
the First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania and
President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of
Albania

We base the all-sided progress of our country on the hitherto
achievements, on the advantages of our social order

On 15 January 1990, Comrade 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 of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, attended a meeting of the workers of "Enver Hoxha" Automobile and Tractor Combine in Tirana.

The workers who took the floor at this meeting voiced their readiness to multiply forces in order to realize the tasks of production and resolutely condemned the campaign of slander against Albania launched recently by the mass media of some countries.

Comrade Ramiz Alia, too, took the floor at this meeting. After pointing to the fact that we have all possibilities to fulfil and overfulfil the targets of this year, to commission new productive capacities, to expand consumption, to strengthen the financial régime and the foreign currency balance sheet and to increase the effectiveness of production, he said further on:

Our Albania marches forward determined on the socialist road. Fundamental is that it is a free and independent country, a country with a sound internal situation, where the people are masters of their destinies. They envy us for these victories. Whereas, we will safeguard and heighten them with each passing day.

The comrades who took the floor expressed their legitimate indignation towards the campaign of slander and fabrications that has been launched against our country lately. I, too, want to speak about this question. Recently, in continuation of the events that occurred in the countries of the East, the fantasy regarding Albania has been diversified.

Such a fantasy is reflected in some organs of the Western press and Radio-TV, the Yugoslav Radio-TV in particular, which is also their initiator and standard-bearer. Such ill-intended campaigns make no great impression on us Albanians. For 45 years we have been attacked, insulted, criticized and pressed to deviate from the road of the revolution, freedom, independence, socialism. But these campaigns have always failed with shame. Our Albania, for which whole generations of patriots have fought and laid down their lives, has always withstood as an impregnable fortress. And we will withstand forever. Let the enemies of Albania bark as much as they can, our caravan will always march forward.

The source of the vile denigrating and provocative campaign is, as always, Belgrade. We are not at all surprised at that, because the Yugoslav policy has always been anti-Albanian. Yugoslavia has never been willing to reconcile itself

with the existence of the Albanian State and the independence of its people. Its stand towards Albania has ever since been expansionistic and hegemonistic.

But, this time, besides this, the Yugoslavs have been urged also by motives of their internal situation. It is clear enough that by attacking Albania they seek to divert the attention of international public opinion from the crises and conflicts that actually have overrun their country. In particular, they want to cover up the shame they are sunk with in Kosova, just like they want to camouflage the schemes and plots the big Serbs hatch up against the peoples and nations of Yugoslavia.

You have heard the news broadcasted during recent days. I want to acquaint you with information broadcasted yesterday by the Yugoslav "Tanjug" agency, which crowns all the fabrications:

"The state of emergency is imposed in Albania. Albania is swept over by unrest. In Shkodra, the people have taken to the streets. Demonstrations have also been staged in other cities. A large number of people are killed by security agents and other forces of the régime. Four students were hanged accused as enemies of communism."

With such filthy things does the Yugoslav news agency feed world public opinion.

We say to the Yugoslavs that state of emergency, demonstrations, unrest and killings are found nowhere in Albania, but they are to be found in Yugoslavia, where Kosova is converted into a real concentration camp, where violence and arbitrariness are playing havoc, where people are dismissed from work, tortured, imprisoned and killed for the sole reason of being Albanians.

We do not believe that the peoples of Yugoslavia, who have fought just as our people have against fascism for freedom and democracy, approve the slanders of Tanjug and of the Serbian newspapers of Belgrade. They, just as we, cannot but be for good-neighbourliness and friendly relations between the two countries, for co-operation and peace.

The new anti-Albanian campaign of Belgrade has aroused a great indignation among our masses of the people, throughout the country. The people cannot but be indignant at these brutal interferences into our home affairs, which aim at overthrowing the people's power in Albania and at negating its independence. They cannot but be indignant when the Yugoslav propaganda tries to find out and incite anti-national elements in order to exploit them for its own purposes. Doesn't radio Titograd reveal Belgrade's aim when two days ago it broadcasted the call: "Slobodan, Slobodan, go and liberate the Shkodra people!"? But the hot heads of the Serbian chauvinism forget the old folk saying of the mother Shkodra: "Tarabosh is not moved by the wind." Neither Tarabosh, nor Tomorr, Korab or Gramoz. They and anyone else must not forget one thing: When it comes to Albania, when national freedom and independence is at stake, everyone who calls himself Albanian, at any time and wherever he is, is on his feet, ready to make any sacrifice, to lay down even his own life for the homeland. Therefore, gentlemen, give up your attempts to add fuel to the fire, or else you yourselves will burn in it.

The Albanian people have bothered no one, neither have they allowed themselves to kneel before anyone. Our people have chosen their own way of development and only they and no one else know and decide on what should be done and what steps should be taken, what changes are demanded by time and the process of socialist development and how they should be done.

The Albanian people are masters in Albania; they and only they are sovereign of their destinies.

We are sure time will show that the anti-Albanian campaign, which the Athens' Bishops and some Western journalistic circles are engaged in, will end like a soap-bubble, because it is based completely on lies and falsity.

Our people, the workers and peasants, the youngsters and intellectuals, women and veterans, will tighten their ranks more closely in steel-like unity round the party. From this campaign they see clearly the low political morale of the Belgrade press and Radio-TV, the bishops of Athens and those in the West, who echo these fairy tales. Our working people may draw lessons on how fraudulent and hypocritical are those who know to say nice words on democracy and freedom of speech, on equality and justice, whereas they shamelessly make the white black and praise as freedom the slavery they offer us.

The party has continuously said, Comrades, that we should be vigilant, that campaigns of slander and pressures of any kind will be launched against us time and again. Therefore, let us turn the indignation the entire people are rightfully filled with, into an incentive to work harder, because the stronger the economy, the more guaranteed the independence and the homeland, to steel our unity so that no split can be found in the Albanian castle, to keep the powder dry so that we are not caught unawares.

Once again, I express my satisfaction for this warm meeting with you. On behalf of the Party Central Committee I would like to wish the militant collective of the "Enver Hoxha" Automobile and Tractor Combine, like all the working class of our beloved capital, successes at work and continuous victories.
