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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Sociological - Religious conference, biographic

HOW PUBLISHED Pamphlet

WHERE PUBLISHED Tirana

DATE PUBLISHED 1952

LANGUAGE French

REPORT []
CD NO. []

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. 7 Aug 1953

NO. OF PAGES 4

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Le Clerge des Differentes Religions d'Albanie en Lutte Pour la Paix.

PEACE CONFERENCE OF ALBANIAN CLERGY

Summary: Le Clerge des Differentes Religions d'Albanie en Lutte Pour la Paix (The Clergy of the Various Religions in Albania Join the Struggle for Peace) is a pamphlet printed in French in Tirana. It contains an introduction describing the Albanian National Religious Conference and its purpose, 28 speeches by members of the conference, four broadcasts by heads of religious communities in Albania, and an appeal to members of all faiths in Albania. It also gives the texts of messages sent by the conference to Enver Hoxha and to the World Council for Peace at Paris. Following are the highlights of the conference.]

The National Religious Conference of the various faiths in Albania was held in Tirana on 8 and 9 July 1952. More than 200 Moslem, Orthodox, Catholic, and Bektashi ecclesiastical delegates and guests were present.

The conference was a manifestation of the desire of the Albanian clergy to work for a just and lasting world peace and for friendship between Albania and the other People's Democracies under the aegis of the USSR and Stalin.

This viewpoint was clearly expressed in the opening address by Hafiz Musa Haxhi Ali, head of the Moslem community, speaking for the religious communities of Albania, as well as in subsequent speeches and in the appeal, approved by the conference, and addressed to all the clergy and faithful of all creeds in Albania.

The conference also sent telegrams of good wishes and loyalty to Enver Hoxha, the World Council of Peace, and to the USSR.

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The Albanian clergy, inspired by humanitarian and patriotic ideals, expressed its indignation against the bloodthirsty Anglo-American imperialists and their henchmen, who threaten the Albanian people and wish to precipitate the world into the misery and horrors of a third world war.

The speakers condemned the barbarous acts committed by the Americans against the innocent Korean people, and demanded that immediate measures be taken to prohibit the inhuman methods of mass extermination used by these monsters in Korea, to prevent violations of international law and to halt the war preparations which the imperialists are making.

Many speakers also denounced the traitorous activities of such prelates as the Pope and Patriarch Athenagoras, who have become tools of imperialism and obstacles to world peace. The conference wholeheartedly approved the appeal of the great Russian Church to the clergy and believers of all faiths in the world to join in the struggle for peace.

The conference analyzed the international and Albanian situation. It evaluated the forces working for peace, emphasizing the aid the USSR has given, and is still giving, to this cause.

The conference expressed its eagerness to contribute to a union of all creeds as well as of the whole Albanian nation, which, under the guidance of the Albanian Workers Party, headed by Enver Hoxha, is striving to defend peace and build the bases of socialism.

Speakers at the conference were as follows:

His Eminence Hafiz Musa Haxhi Ali, head of the Albanian Moslem community, who gave the opening speech. Besides following the tenor of the ideas in the above introduction, he claimed that the Americans had conducted bacteriological experiments on prisoners of war on Kojë Island.

Mark Ndoja, author, who spoke in the name of the Albanian Committee for the Defense of Peace. Ndoja named the following ecclesiastics as betrayers of the people: the Pope, Fr Anton Arapi, Don L. Santoja, B. Shapati, Sali Myrtia, Visarion Xhuvani, Pandeleimon Kotoko, Dervish Rexhepi, and Br: 'li Tomori. Ecclesiastics whom he called patriots included: Don Pjeter nudi, Papa Kristo Negovani, Hoxhe Tasini, Dom Ndre Mjeda, Baba Faja Martaneshi, and Baba Fejzo Dervishi.

Gëqo Peristeri, chairman of the Committee on Ecclesiastical Affairs, Presidium of the Council of Ministers.

His Eminence Paisi Vodica, Primate of the Autocephalic Orthodox Church of Albania.

Monsignor Bernardin Shllaku, Primate of the Catholic Church of Albania.

His Holiness Ahmet M. Dede, head of the Albanian Bektashi community and World Primate. He claimed that Duclos was arrested in France by order of the Americans and on the basis of false documents.

Monsignor Sulejman Myrto, chief mufti of Tirana Rreth. He claimed that Rexhet Shapati and Sali Myrtia were tools of the occupying forces [not identified].

Archimandrite Dhimitri Kokoneshi, Vicar-General of the Bishopric of Korçe. He said that Americans experimented on war prisoners on Kojë Island with poison gas, plague, cholera, and other germs, and that Americans were

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the most cruel enemies of Albania, organizing frontier incidents and espionage with the aid of Yugoslavia, Greece, Italy, and Albanian war criminals.

Reverend David Pici, Head of the Albanian Franciscans.

Venerable Ilias Prishta, Deputy of the People's Assembly.

Reverend Rrok Vataj, Cure of Lesh.

Archimandrite Sofron Borova, delegate from Korce. He accused Bishop Pandeileimon Kotoko of working for the annexation of Korce and Gjinokaster by Greece.

Monsignor Ferik Ajazi, Mufti of Durres.

Don Mark Dushi, Dean and Cure of Tirans.

Archdeacon Aristotele Strato, Vicar-General of the Bishopric of Gjinokaster.

Venerable Qazimi, Elbasan Rreth.

Monsignor Pjeter Dema, Bishop of Durres Diocese.

Monsignor Ali Shehu, vice-mufti of Kukës.

Reverend Fr Polizo, Vicar of Fier Bishopric. He said that General Ridgway was called "General Plague" by the people.

Don Ndoc Saatcia, Capitulary Vicar of Lesh Diocese. He accused Americans of using poison gas and bacteriological warfare, torturing prisoners, and being inhumane to children and innocent people.

Monsignor Sali Ferhati, vice-mufti of Lushnje.

Monsignor Spiro Veli, Vicar-General of Berat Bishopric.

Venerable Ibrahim, Gjinokaster Rreth.

Reverend Pal Gjini, Curate of Durres.

Monsignor Hafiz Musa Staf-Hasani, vice-mufti of Burrel Rreth.

Dom Ndre Kroqi, Assistant Curate of Shkoder.

Monsignor Rrapo Rustemi, mufti of Berat.

His Eminence Hafiz Musa Hoxhi Ali, head of the Albanian Moslem community. He gave the closing speech and prayer for the success of the decisions of the conference and its work for the holy cause of peace.

Appeals, Broadcasts, Telegrams

An appeal was addressed to Moslem and Christian ecclesiastics and faithful for intensified participation in the struggle for the defense of peace.

A broadcast was made by His Eminence Paisi Vodica, Primate of the Autocephalic Orthodox Church of Albania, to the Orthodox clergy and faithful, appealing for peace and condemning American massacres in Korea and Anglo-American imperialism.

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A broadcast by Monsignor Bernardin Shllaku, Primate of the Catholic Church of Albania, to the Catholic clergy and faithful praised Hoxha and Stalin and appealed for peace.

A broadcast by His Eminence Hafiz Musa Haxhi Ali, head of the Albanian Moslem community, to the Moslem clergy and faithful condemned American massacres and bacteriological warfare and appealed for the defense of peace.

A broadcast by His Holiness Ahmet Muhtar Dede, head of the Bektashi community and World Primate, to the Bektashi clergy and faithful appealed for the defense of peace.

A telegram was sent to Enver Hoxha expressing condemnation of the Korean war and devotion to Hoxha.

A telegram was sent to the World Council of Peace, Paris, protesting against the Korean war and against weapons of extermination and destruction, and expressing admiration for the council's mission and hopes for success.

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