

appendix XV

Address of Mr. Hasan Dosti, President
of the
National Committee for a Free Albania
at the
Assembly of Captive European Nations
on
September 20, 1954

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Assembly of Captive European Nations: This new organism which is being created in the great metropolis of the homeland of George Washington, glowing hearth of civilization and democracy, is inaugurating its work today in this building named after a great philanthropist and illuminated by the rays of the lantern of the Statue of Liberty raised on the Pharos of the new world.

The Assembly of Captive European Nations is the work of national committees and councils representing the nine countries of Europe behind the Iron Curtain. Its program has been laid down. It consists of two essential points: the coordination of forces to pursue the struggle for the liberation of countries enslaved by Moscow and the creation of conditions necessary to the restoration of the independence of states and the reestablishment of liberal and democratic institutions.

We, the organized communities in exile and the various democratic elements of the Diaspora of nine subjugated nations, are aware of the responsibilities with which we are entrusted by history. We are bound by the links of a brotherhood of arms against the Communist regimes established by brutal force in nine European countries.

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We are certain, now, that the free countries, and particularly the Anglo-American world, after numerous experiences, have learned the meaning of Communism, the meaning of the Kremlin.

The Kremlin is not a fortress built in the central district of Moscow of the medieval epoch. It was after the telluric upheaval of 1917 that the Kremlin rose high as a mountain. It became the Olympia of mythology. On the peak of this new Olympia, a throne was erected upon which mortal gods succeed one another. But the throne itself remains unshaken. It is the throne in which a Red Zeus sits. In one hand he waves the gospel of a false dogma, in the other, a scepter of force aimed toward the overthrow of occidental civilization and the domination of the five continents.

But this shall never be! Because of its values, virtues and forces, western civilization is predestined to live perpetually.

It is known that Russia of the Czars had a plan to establish itself in the Mediterranean which is the basin in which western civilization with all its religious, moral, social and political values was born and developed. In order to carry out this program, for two centuries it declared eleven wars against the Ottomans who ruled over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, doorway to the Mediterranean. To more strongly secure its positions for the domination of the Mediterranean, Russia of the Romanoffs, in the 19th century, attempted on many occasions, employing pretexts of religious and racial orders, to exercise direct control in Rumania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. Practically speaking, it was the obliteration of the independence of these states.

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History was repeated in even more serious circumstances after 1917.

It is not a question of a trade and economic outlet in the Mediterranean for a Russia having a democratic regime. Such a problem would have found and may find a natural solution through peaceful means.

Russia of the Soviets has satanic plans. With an outlet to the Mediterranean it intends to create the necessary conditions to permit the intensification of its propaganda to place in the balance its entire political weight and finally to employ force of arms in order to master the Mediterranean. Its purpose...to bolshevize all the free countries of the three continents beaten by the waves of this Sea!

I speak in the name of a small nation, the unfortunate Albanian nation. A Communist regime has been established in Albania. This is not the time for a narration of the circumstances which have determined the installation of this regime. The Communist regime in Albania was established against the will of the people through the intervention of outside factors.

After 1948, Moscow took direct control of the Albanian state. It is not the Enver Hoxhas and Mehmet Shehus who rule. They are merely men of straw. It is agents sent from Moscow bearing varied titles, such as counselor, organizer, technician and others who govern Albania. The state mechanism is directed first of all by the mission of the military staff which is nothing more than a section of the general staff of the Red army.

Therefore, the entire world has good reason to believe that Soviet Russia, through the direct control it exercises over the Tirana

government, has virtually secured an outlet to the Mediterranean, which was the testament of Peter the Great and now is the nefarious plan of the Red Giant of Moscow.

Outwardly this may appear to be the truth but such is not the actual case. A distinction must be made between the government and the people. History teaches us that through force and certain contingencies, governments are set up against the will of peoples. This occurs frequently even in countries of greater experience. The people should not be held responsible for the acts of persons installed in power by force. Communism is a terrible force imposed upon others.

In the course of the centuries, Albania has retained its individuality. It has not permitted itself to be assimilated even during the periods of the dominations of Latin Rome and Byzantine Greece. It has resisted the invading waves of different races pouring in from the North and the East. Providence has willed that it have a function in the Balkans and in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Albania was destined to be the headbridge for western civilisation in Southeastern Europe.

The Albanian people, faithful to history and its mission, struggle against the forces of Moscow which are trying to establish themselves in the homeland of Scanderbeg so that they can use it as a base for expansion, in the future perhaps, of fields of war operations in the Balkans and in the Mediterranean.

The sacrifices of the Albanian people in this struggle are great, inestimable. Taking into consideration the sources of the country, they are out of proportion: tens of thousands of people imprisoned and in

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concentration camps; thousands executed in the prison courtyards and polygons.

In this struggle for the restoration of independence and as a contribution toward the victory of the cause of international democracy, Albania has also given six great martyrs, high prelates of the Catholic Church; two Archbishops, three Bishops and one Franciscan Provincial. One of these great martyrs was Monsignor Vincens Prenushi, Archbishop of Duress. He was also a national poet.

We feel obliged to inform the world that the Communist government of Albania, in its penal code, has condemned to death minors twelve years and older. This was put into practice in the Catholic seminary of Shkoder.

Despite these atrocious acts of the Communist government, the resistance of the Albanian people continues. The crags of the mountains of Albania, nesting place of eagles, remain the fortress of brave men struggling against the Communist regime.

The Albanian people have faith in the final victory of the cause of democracy.

With the help of God, they will achieve their objective.

