

HEADQUARTERS
2677TH REGIMENT OSS (PROV)
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

GBA-170

DEC 18 1944

RESTRICTED

9 December 1944

X MARZ-25406

TO: Mr. Lester C. Houck
Chief of Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

FROM: T.S. Ryan
Reports Officer
ENVER HOKHA

SUBJECT: Forwarding of Document

1. The enclosed document is a report on the statement of Enver Hoxha to the Albanian people on the occasion of the second meeting of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council held in Berat on 28 November 1944. The content of this statement had been broadcast and was published in other political reviews in this theater. For this reason no report was made here, but it may be of interest for CTD files in Washington.

2. We are forwarding it to you for your disposition.

T.S. Ryan
Reports Officer

AS	✓
NS	
IN	
PS	
EX	
DEC INFO	
FI	

WAS
WASA REC - INT-28
GBA-170
RESTRICTED
by 138

CS COPY

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

XAR2-2546

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

RESTRICTED

COUNTRY Albania
SUBJECT Statement of Enver Hoxha to Albanian People

ORIGINAL REPORT ID.
DATE OF REPORT 3 December 1944
EVALUATION Documentary

SOURCE Limb through Galba
SUB SOURCE

CONFIRMATION }
SUPPLEMENT }
CORRECTION }

DATE OF INFORMATION As stated
PLACE OF ORIGIN Albania

NUMBER OF PAGES
ATTACHMENTS
THEATRE Med "B"

THEATRE DISTRIBUTION table with 15 empty rows

- 1. The following is a translation from the Albanian-language news-paper, Bashkimi (Unity), organ of the General Council of the National Liberation Front, special number dated November, 1944.
- 2. Bari Note:- As an attempt to interpret the policies and govern-mental structure to the people of Albania, this statement is of considerable importance. The further fact that it is a statement by the head of the Provisional Government, Enver Hoxha, gives it additional significance.

Decisions Of 2nd Meeting of Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council (Held in Berat)

With the development of recent events and as a result of our bloody and dominating war against the German occupier and his servants, new factors were introduced which changed the national situation of our country.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 2.

Our unrelenting and unyielding war resulted in the rise of the entire country to arms, enlargement and strengthening of our Army, expansion of the liberated territory and the rise and reenforcement of the democratic authority of the National Liberation Councils.

To arrive at such results, much blood had to be shed, many sacrifices had to be sustained as well as sufferings, and from all of the people were demanded great endurance and self-denial.

As any beginning, ours too was hard because our war against our enemies was not equal. We started this war in difficult moments, when the Fascist beast was riding from victory to victory with torch a-flame. We started with a people who, in spite of a deep hatred for the invader, were still not in a position to understand the tactics of the enemy and of the 5th column. These people lacked sufficient political conception which would have helped them to see clearly the issues in the very beginning and the bitter consequences that the Fascist regime would bring.

The idea and conviction that one small people could not succeed in a large undertaking and that salvation should be left to the hands of fate—this was in many Albanian hearts. The people thought that the fate of Albania would be decided by foreigners, by those who were the victors, whether they were Germans or the opponents of the Germans.

Disbelief in the inexhaustible forces of the masses of the people, disbelief in the coming victory of the Allies caused the people to be impressed by the propaganda of enemy and traitors of the country who were nourishing such an opinion on a large scale.

On the other hand, the traitor politicians with their old intrigues and dealings hoped that their hated, false political game would still be

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 3/

successful. They thought and were convinced that they would direct the people toward their aims — aims which were just as retarding as those of the Fascists. They thought that their policy of "Turkish design," consisting of having an alliance with all those possessing brute force to be used against the people, would succeed this time, too. They imagined that they could soon easily change their shirts. They lived in the old world...in the Fascist world.

For these politicians, the people were but a herd of cattle to lead at will and to oppress and keep in darkness by the yoke they imposed. They thought that with hunger and torture imposed on the people by the oppressing regimes there would be no chance for the people to play the important role in the great tragedy which is taking place.

Because of the existing moral and military conditions of our people, it was necessary and imperative that we create the essential regulations for victory. We had to revive the confidence in the vast masses of the people that we were in a position to speak our word in spite of our smallness; that we were not alone in this great war, but that we had strong Allies who were resolved to the end to eradicate Fascism; that our brave people must realize and take lessons from their past, as well as that of other peoples — presented freedom is not a freedom. Freedom earned by blood would secure for them and their country full independence.

To fulfill these aims, we had to educate our people politically. We had to do the work immediately which the former regime had blocked, with the result of the grave desperation which took place on April 7 1939 as well as the inability to fight Fascism with arms in the first days.

Our liberation war brought the people out on top. And here — only here — stands the reason for our victory. Our people ~~proved~~ ^{stood} in this sacred

RESTRICTED

4/

war that they were not in a moral and material decadence as the traitors hoped, but that they were a people with progressive spirit, possessing a marvelous vitality in which the idea of liberation and progress was sweet.

Our people's war marched forward in important strides which surprised the world. During the most difficult moments of the liberation fighters of other oppressed peoples, the heroism of our people served as a pattern and a symbol for the fighters of these sister countries.

Our war marched forward because our movement was a movement of the masses. It had a popular character and it meant the liberation of our Fatherland and the establishment of the people's rule.

This is why the vast masses of villagers, workers and intellectuals found in this movement the expression of their desires and aspirations which had been stifled by the former regimes and by the Fascist occupier. And these fighting masses, whose struggle and war made them conscientious, united as one body for one purpose. Every period of our war was written in blood. Every stone laid by the military and political authority was sprinkled with blood, and this new authority which is arising in our country has strong foundations. It is protected by the breasts of the people; therefore, it is immortal and impregnable.

The democratic authority of the National Liberation Councils, which day by day is taking more concrete form, is the consecration of these efforts and of the popular character of this war. The councils were born of war and became the instruments of war. Side by side with the Army, these councils were ~~at~~ the most important factors in the development of this war.

RESTRICTED

5/
RESTRICTED

These councils were not in the least on the old design of elders and mayors of past regimes, appointed by the prefects and sub-prefects; in other words, they were not tools of those who were ruling over the people. They were elements made up from the representatives of the people, elected by the people to protect the people's interests.

Unquestionably, in the beginning and for some time, while the biggest part of our ^(our) freed zones was still in agony from the hell of the occupier, the role of these councils was limited to the aiding of the war, the supplying of the Army, and to the protection of the fighters. But, with the liberation of the zones and following the development of the war and the expansion and strengthening of the Army, the councils began to realize their main role, beside the duty they had then and still have to assist the war first. They started to take into their hands the direction of authority.

The big Convention of Permet reenforced and designed a better functioning of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Councils of Albania, as well as that of the National Liberation Councils.

The Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council was empowered with legislative and executive duties; and the National Liberation Councils of villages, sub-prefectures and prefectures were made the instruments of the new rule. This was the first phase of making concrete the democratic authority of the Councils, a sequence of the war of the people and a result of the Conferences of Peza and Labinct. In this phase of the new war, the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council of Albania appointed the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Committee as its main executive organ. Following this phase, new wide horizons and new perspectives came along for our movement.

The movement took on added impetus. It expanded and strengthened,

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 6/

The enthusiasm of the people was increased. They saw their struggle crowned with success. They saw that the old authority, which was not theirs but an oppressive one which had sapped their blood, was buried forever.

The hopes of the people went up. Confidence that they held the reins of their own fate grew and they were sure that the course they had taken in this direction was daily being perfected.

With the liberation of the biggest part of Albania and the enlargement of the Army, with the annihilation of all mercenary bands serving the enemy, and with the strengthening of the authority of the councils, the change of the Anti-Fascist Committee into a democratic government was essential. This important decision was taken at the second meeting of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council meeting held in the free city of Berat.

Besides giving Albania its first democratic government, this second meeting gave our country the fundamental laws of the organization of authority, as well as the declaration of the rights of the citizen.

Three decisions of capital importance were readed, which are a great step toward the democratization of our country and which give our country wide perspectives of development and work toward reconstruction and progress.

The democratic government of Albania, a product of the National Liberation War, will perform speedily and successfully its principal duty — ending the war. It will be the inspirer and organizer of the reconstruction, the development and the economical perfection of the country and her organization for the protection of the people's sanitation, as well as for the raising of the cultural level of the country.

The democratic government of Albania, which is the expression of the will of our people and which represents the whole **RESTRICTED** people, will per-

RESTRICTED 6/

The enthusiasm of the people was increased. They saw their struggle crowned with success. They saw that the old authority, which was not theirs but an oppressive one which had sapped their blood, was buried forever.

The hopes of the people went up. Confidence that they held the reins of their own fate grew and they were sure that the course they had taken in this direction was daily being perfected.

With the liberation of the biggest part of Albania and the enlargement of the Army, with the annihilation of all mercenary bands serving the enemy, and with the strengthening of the authority of the councils, the change of the Anti-Fascist Committee into a democratic government was essential. This important decision was taken at the second meeting of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council meeting held in the free city of Berat.

Besides giving Albania its first democratic government, this second meeting gave our country the fundamental laws of the organization of authority, as well as the declaration of the rights of the citizen.

Three decisions of capital importance were reached, which are a great step toward the democratization of our country and which give our country wide perspectives of development and work toward reconstruction and progress.

The democratic government of Albania, a product of the National Liberation War, will perform speedily and successfully its principal duty — ending the war. It will be the inspirer and organizer of the reconstruction, the development and the economical perfection of the country and her organization for the protection of the people's sanitation, as well as for the raising of the cultural level of the country.

The democratic government of Albania, which is the expression of the will of our people and which represents the whole **RESTRICTED**, will per-

RESTRICTED

7/

sistently and by right seek her recognition by our Great Allies and the other anti-Fascist and friendly nations as the only government representing this people, who did not yield to the Fascist and Nazi enemies, but fought with rare heroism alongside all the United Nations of the anti-Fascist world bloc.

The democratic government of Albania has facing it a difficult undertaking, for our country is burned down and desolate, and the work required to rebuild it is immense and must be unceasing. It will be assisted body and soul by the entire authority which is in the hands of the people.

In this lies sure success for the future, because government, authority and people are one and united alike in peace, alike in war.

The new democratic rule is completely the opposite of the former rules. Here the people are in power and in reality the people are the sovereign of their fate. By the councils, which are instruments of the authority, the people will administer and regulate themselves. The new democratic regime knocked down the old totalitarian and Fascist regimes. It ends the ways of work and thought of the past. It renounces once and for all the demagogy and the lies by which the people of the past had ruled and governed.

In the new authority the whole people participate and have the right to control the men they have elected to authority, to criticize and remove them in case they do not work, or work against the benefit of the people. The new rule will fight and eliminate forever favoritism. It will eliminate the devious methods which have always permitted the filling-up of the ranks of the administration and authority with parasites and crooks.

The people have seen and shall see day by day more clearly that their most trusted and most honorable men must be placed in authority. The one and only worry must be to improve the condition of the people and bring about a better life for them.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

8/

With the new authority, the excessive bureaucracy of the past regimes, which was strangling the people, is ended. Under this authority, even the most obscure village will be administered by men who come from its ranks.

The prefectures and sub-prefectures, which served the former regimes to enrich the satraps and feed the parasites and various favorites, have been transformed into centers of economic, political and administrative importance in the new authority.

In the councils of these centers there will be no more persons who are unknown and ~~are~~ alien, men who do not know the condition of the place or the locality. Persons will be sent there by all the prefectures and this will be a sound entity, able to protect any interest, whether it is the smallest interest of the most remote village, ~~which is the smallest~~

In this new authority, everybody will work and will contribute for the interest of everyone and for the collective interest, both these in the harmony of the full right; each respecting the rights of the society over him and the society likewise respecting the rights of each individual. In such a democratic authority, whoever wants to live happy, free, and with human dignity must work unsparingly and with the greatest justice.

The declaration of the Anti-Fascist National Council of Albania on the rights of the citizen, a great monument for the history of our people, defines in clear and solemn manner the rights of everyone in the new democratic society. Never in our country was such a declaration made, and never would it have been more appropriate and more enforceable than today, when we are erecting a state that is truly democratic.

In our new regime, private property is guaranteed and this is a strong blow against the traitors who left no gossips and lies unsaid, in order to

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

9/

divide the people in the National Liberation war.

The declaration of the Council guarantees the freedom of speech and thought, the freedom of assembly, and the freedom of religion. The former regimentation had shackled the mouth of the people with a strong muzzle and whoever dared to raise his voice to criticize or speak against injustice had this muzzle turned into a rope around his neck for him.

In contrast to the shady methods of the former regimes, the present democratic regime allows all to speak or to criticize freely because only thus will we be able to go forward.

From criticizing and self-criticism, from discussions and sound advice will come efficient work. Everyone will find comfort in the ranks of our people and rubbish and microbes will be cleared away.

The declaration of the Council gives equal rights to women with freedom to participate in the political and social life of the country. This right granted to women is a legitimate one earned by them with blood. The former regimes had oppressed the women, had made her the slave of the man and the old prejudices, and had not given her any possibility of development and education. Such an unfortunate situation for the Albanian women means that one-half of our population in Albania, which would have been a main factor for progress, had to be awakened..

Our national Liberation war placed the woman on the first plan. She woke up, shook off the rubbish of ages, broke off the chains that were shackling her, and joined this war unqualifiedly, in order to come to the light, to make the merited decision for contributing to the Fatherland and to the people her valuable aid and her life.

The Anti-Fascist Albanian Woman in this democratic authority, with her

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 10/

inexhaustible forces and her high ideals, will be one of the powerful stalwarts of the new Albania. In the declaration of the Anti-Fascist Council, it is stressed that the popular democratic authority by law guarantees to all the workers of city and village a life appropriate to the modern conception of social justice and human dignity.

The former despotic and Fascist regimes, established especially to oppress workers, had tortured and murdered this most responsible and serving part of the people, contributing with sweat and blood. The Albanian workers of cities and villages have suffered for centuries under the heavy enslavement and the economic and spiritual misfortune. Their sweat and blood have always served to feed the executioners who, with their cliques and their corrupted police organs, sought to put the workers on the level of animals. Every right had been taken away from the workers. Hunger and death were knocking at their door every day.

The Albanian workers of cities and villages who were first to join in this liberation war and who unsparingly shed their blood will again and always be the first to rebuild new Albania, where they shall hold their place and their rights won by blood. They will know better to unite and organize around the new democratic authority and will use all their forces to make that authority impregnable.

Among others, the declaration of the Anti-Fascist Council states: to protect the democratic authority, all those who are dealing in Fascist or pro-Fascist activities will be persecuted and any organization attempting such activity will be stopped.

This important point must be always borne in mind by the Albanian people and they should furiously attack all those attempting to repeat the

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED 11/

the terrible butchering by which millions of men were sacrificed.

We should not forget the struggles and the sufferings. We should not let victory get the best of us, but we should more than ever unite around the democratic government to gather all the people in the only organization of the National Liberation Front. And with clear and just principles that the authority grants us, confident and disciplined, we shall march forward in every field of activity, smash all resistance which might face us, crush all enemies who will dare to impede us in our aims, and reconstruct a new and progressive Albania.

By strengthening their heroic Army, by defending and consolidating their democratic authority, the Albanian people will realize all their dreams and all their economic, social and cultural aspirations.

—Enver Hoxha.

RESTRICTED

GEN JUL 98

□

7