

TOP SECRET

June 17, 1949

Dear Pilgrim:

I am pleased to enclose for your records (1) a signed memorandum of conversation which took place in Alexandria, Egypt on May 5, 1949, (2) a signed statement setting forth the points to be included in a declaration to be publicized soon after the announcement of the formation of a United Front, and (3) a signed supplementary statement. Please note that in the introduction to the last statement names are mentioned which you may wish to eliminate.

My comments upon these statements have previously reached you by telegram.

Sincerely yours,

*Cicero*

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3 attachments

Albanians abroad.

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WITH KING ZOG I ON MAY 5 1949.

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A meeting was held with King Zog I at Alexandria Egypt on May the 5th 1949. It was explained that the United States would look with favor upon the formation of a united front of all anti Communist Albanians abroad. It was pointed out that refugees from certain other Soviet-dominated countries, such as Bulgaria and Hungary, had achieved a degree of unity that enabled their leaders to be accorded the moral right to be considered the spokesmen for their peoples. It is hoped that the Albanians abroad would be similarly successful.

King Zog was informed, that Midhat Frasherri had declared that he favored the formation of such a united front and would work actively towards this end. The hope was expressed, that Zog I would adopt a similar attitude. It was pointed out that King Zog could greatly assist in this work by endorsing the proposed front and by encouraging his followers to participate. Furthermore, it was felt that King Zog could make a most significant contribution to the unity of Albanians abroad by issuing a public declaration stating that he welcomed a united front under the chairmanship of Frasherri, that the question of the future regime of Albania would be left in abeyance pending a free plebiscite by the Albanian people, and in the meantime the royal prerogatives should be considered suspended.

King Zog was informed of the American opinion that Midhat Frasherri should be the leader of the united front and that his group should form the nucleus of the movement. It was the hope of the United States Government that King Zog would wholeheartedly support this proposal the sole object of which is the establishment of a united front by Albanians abroad.

King Zog expressed himself as strongly in favor of the formation of a united Front of all anti-communists Albanian exiles. He agreed that the question of the future regime should be left to the free choice of the Albanian people. King Zog accepted that Frasherri should be the

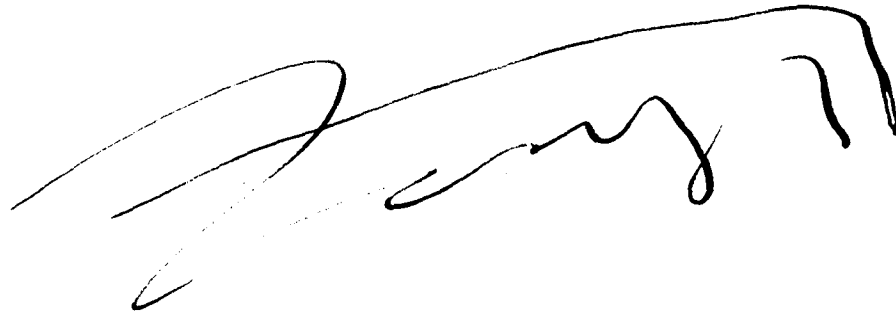
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leader of the united front and stated ~~that~~ he would support the movement. He felt that Frasheri should secure as associated a person of the legitimist party as well as a person of merit from the Independent party, so that the comitee should have 2 moslems, one orthodox and one Roman catholic. King Zog stated that he could not declare his royal prerogatives in suspense as this would be unwise as well as disloyal to his pledge to the Albanian people. Such action, he said would jeopardize the continued recognition of Albanian anti Communist / royalist/ diplomatic missions in Egypt, Turkey and elsewhere. More fundametally, he felt that such action would be equivalent to laying aside the duty which the Albanian National Assembly had placed upon him before <sup>the italian faciste occupati</sup> his-flight. He stated that the Assembly had upon that occasion charged him to represent the nation abroad until its liberation. He recommends for the sake of the movement that Frasheri should visit Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Italy, Greece and wherever there were significant groups of Albanian exiles, talk to them, secure from them written declarations of support, and thus become recognised as the leader of the united front. King Zog volunteered to help in the foregoing and to make a public declaration along the desired lines when it was considered useful.

King Zog expressed himself strongly on the importance that Midhat Frasheri should come to Egypt and receive from His lieps the assurance of His help.

the 14th June 1949

confidential



ZOG I ROI DES ALBANAIS

COPY 1 OF 1 COPIES  
Attachment A  
#30944

Le 14 Juin 1949.

J'accueille avec une grande satisfaction la formation de " United Front Albanais, comme le moyen d'aboutir à l'unité parmi les Albanais se trouvant à l'Étranger, et aussi pour apporter un réconfort moral aux Albanais se trouvant dans leur pays, qui est maintenant sans la domination d'un gouvernement communiste d'obédience étrangère.

Je donnerai avec toutes mes forces, mon appui à l'Unité Front Albanais et à son comité. Je pousserai tous les Albanais afin qu'ils donnent leur adhésion à ce mouvement, dont le but est le recouvrement de l'indépendance Albanaise dans toute son intégrité.

J'ai déclaré publiquement en 1940, 1946, et successivement à plusieurs reprises, que le futur régime de l'Albanie sera laissé entièrement au gré du peuple Albanais, le quel le cas échéant pourra faire connaître ses aspirations au moyen d'un libre plébiscite après la libération du pays.

Je considère cette méthode comme étant entièrement compatible aux principes démocratiques.

Je déclare n'exercer aucune de mes prérogatives royales à l'encontre de "United Front Albanais" à l'encontre de ses activités ou de son comité présidé par Midhat Frsheri, sous condition toutefois, qu'elles n'aillent pas à l'encontre des aspirations de la Nation Albanaise et qu'elles aient pour but le recouvrement de l'indépendance albanaise et l'intégrité de son territoire.

Cette présente déclaration en ce qui concerne les lignes générales sera publiée le jour où les différents partis mentionnés dans notre premier entretien auront procédé à la composition du comité de l'"United Front Albanais".



ZOG I ROI DES ALBANAIS

COPY 1 OF 1 COPIES  
Attachment 2  
# 30996

A la suite du procès verbal relatant l'entretien que j'ai eu avec Monsieur Berry en présence de Monsieur Miner le 5 Mai 1949, et après la déclaration que j'ai signée le 14 Juin 1949, je tiens à y adjoindre un additif faisant partie intégrante de ma déclaration et qui peut se résumer en trois points. :

1/ Etant donné que je représente la légitimité et la légalité je serai désireux que toutes les questions revêtant un intérêt primordial soient portées à ma connaissance aux fins de consultation par le comité directeur de le " United Front Albanais " en pleine collaboration, et si cela s'avère nécessaire par l'entremise des autorités américaines compétentes.

2/ Conformément aux principes de légitimité et de légalité sus mentionnés et étant investi constitutionnellement, je chargerai un gouvernement à tendance totalement neutre, durant la période transitoire qui suivra la libération de l'Albanie, d'organiser les opérations préliminaires qu'exigera le plebiscite, et si cela est utile sous le contrôle interallié.

3/ J, ai sanctionné le choix de Midhat Frasheri en tant que <sup>n</sup> President de Comité directeur de " United Front Albanais " en raison de l'entière confiance que j'ai en son patriotisme, mais au cas où Midhat Frasheri démissionnerait ou pour toute autre raison imprévisible je devrais être consulté sur le choix de son éventuel remplaçant et également sur la formation du comité directeur si celle ci venait à être modifiée.

COPY 1 OF 1 COPY  
Attachment 3  
# 30996

Ces trois points précisent et conditionnent ma déclaration , laquelle ne devra être publiée qu,après la réalisation de l'accord des différents partis nationaux albanais.

ALEXANDRIE , le 15 Juin 1949

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, connected strokes. The signature is positioned to the right of the date.