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if we lose our honor."

4. The love for liberty is expressed with the same intensity as in the Thraco-Illyric times. The Balkan people are generally temperamental and have a deep-seated love for freedom.
5. The sense of heroism is instilled in every citizen from his earliest days of youth.

Ch. 4 - Some disputed problems

For hundreds of years the great Western powers intervened in the various Balkan disputes, thus contributing even more to the already existing rifts. Today, the Balkans face the following problems:

1. The Macedonian problem, with its Bulgarian, Rumanian Greek, and Serbian minorities.
2. The problem of Epirus, where a large Albanian population lives.
3. The Serbian-Rumanian dispute over their respective minorities in Banat and Timor.
4. The Bulgarian-Rumanian problem over minorities in the Danube region.
5. The Greco-Rumanian problem over the Macedonian-Rumanians living in the Pindus Mountains.

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Recent Soviet domination did away with all such problems. Considering it a natural right of all minority groups to be taught in their respective mother tongues, USSR inserted such provisions in the constitutions of every satellite country. In effect, however, all these rights are annulled by the abolishment of other more basic human rights. The use of the mother tongue is permitted only so long as it can be the medium for the diffusion of communistic ideas.

1. The Macedonian Problem. Because of its location, *Macedonia* ~~this province~~ is the nucleus of the entire Balkan peninsula. It contains a mixture of nationalities, religions, and races, as cannot be found anywhere else in Europe. The political division of Macedonia, following the Treaty of Bucharest in 1913, resulted not only in political disturbances but also in economic ones as well. Thus the once flourishing cities of Salonika<sup>Ko</sup> and Monastir<sup>is</sup> suffered extreme economic reverses following the loss of their hinterland. Numerous attempts were made to solve this entire problem, <sup>one</sup> solution stressed the necessity of <sup>making</sup> coinciding the frontiers of the Balkan states <sup>correspond to</sup> with the limits of the nationalities, another solution proposed that the minority group of every country should be accorded self-government. The possible autonomy of Macedonia was discussed at various times, but no satisfactory results were obtained.

~~SECRET~~

- 5 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

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During the second world war, some concrete steps were taken. On July 12, 1942 there was signed at Petris a pact for the "Union of Soviet Republics," which: 1/ united all the communist parties of Greece, Macedonia and Serbia. 2/ retained the leadership of the parties on a national basis. 3/ assured the unity of these nations. 4/ granted Bulgaria a territorial opening to the Black sea. 5/ granted autonomy to Constantinople and the Dardanelles.

### 2. The Balkan Federation

The idea of a Balkan Federation was seriously considered by writers, statesmen and politicians from the beginning of the 19th century. The advantages of such a union are mainly the elimination of tariff barriers and the free exchange of products. The two obstacles barring the attainment of such a "federation" are, mainly, the difference in population density per square acre, in the various nations, and the numerous tongues and dialects spoken and tenaciously adhered to in the Balkan peninsula.

### 3. The Union of Europe.

Along with the Iberian Peninsula, Italy, Scandinavia, and the other European regional units, the Balkan peninsula could form an important part of a large Federation of Europe. However, the prime requisite for the accomplishment of such

~~SECRET~~

- 6 -

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a union is a better racial and ideological intermixture between the people of the European continent.

Ch. V. - Summary of Basic Ideas.

1. No practical solution to the Balkan question can be found as long as there exists the tension caused by different ideologies.

2. The only solution is to develop a new political ideology, which will overcome all existing controversies.

3. The essential prerequisite is the abandonment of excessive nationalistic feelings.

4. All Balkan people are a composite of numerous ethnic races, dating back to Grecian times.

5. The Balkan people will never attain a political equilibrium until they also attain true autonomy.

6. The Balkan spirit is characterized by a love for liberty, supremacy of moral values, strong family ties, and unusual militaristic and heroic feelings.

7. The political unification of the Balkan peninsula is an actual necessity, brought about by the technical and economic evolutions of the past decades.

~~SECRET~~

- 7 -

~~RESTRICTED~~

~~SECRET~~

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8. The exchange of population groups, returning each to his own country, constitutes a step toward unification.

9. The Macedonian dispute must be treated in a special manner, because of the following problems: the threat to Greek national security and the high aspirations of the Albanian, Macedonian, Rumanian, and Hellenic minorities.

10. The most probable solution is the creation of the Balkan Federation, based on the freedoms guaranteed by the Atlantic Charter.

11. The most opportune time for the creation of such a Federation is the present time. Soviet occupation aroused the fighting spirit of all Balkan citizens.

12. The Balkan Federation may become one of the most compact units of the "Union of Europe," because of its geographic location and ethnic background

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The closing remarks are words of counsel and inspiration addressed to the people of Balkan origin.

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