

COPY OF LETTER FROM MR. HASAN DOSTI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FREE ALBANIA, TO MR. JOHN FOSTER DULLES, SECRETARY OF STATE

August 21, 1953

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On the eve of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the National Committee for Free Albania, which took place on August 26, 1949, we present our compliments to your Excellency and take this occasion to repeat our grateful thanks for the many occasions in the course of our brief history when the government and people of the United States have shown by word and deed their support of the ideals of freedom and justice, which are the objectives for which we work. In the four years of its existence the National Committee for a Free Albania has devoted its energies to keeping alive the spirit of opposition among the people of Albania and rallying Albanians abroad in support of this purpose. We feel that on this fourth anniversary we can say that by our efforts and with the help of our American and British friends we have made significant progress toward our goals.

Today, as a result of Communist misrepresentations and lies, a new problem confronts our committee in its efforts to keep alive the spirit of resistance among our brothers in Albania. In its propaganda, the Communist regime has attempted to convince the Albanian people that its neighbors on the Balkan Peninsula and, indeed, the United States and the United Kingdom have agreed to a partition of Albania between the neighboring states. To us living in the free world, such a claim is obviously false, but the Albanian public, victimized by incessant propaganda and unable to learn the truth except with great difficulty, has no reliable means of exposing this lie.

We have, therefore, been gratified by the statements recently made by Albania's neighbors making public their views on this question, statements which we have the means to publicize inside Albania itself. We have particular reference to the recent communique of the Balkan Pact powers in which the governments of Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey stated, "the independence of Albania would constitute an element of importance to the peace and stability of the Balkans;" the announcement of May 8, 1953 by a spokesman of the Italian Foreign Office that "Italy's viewpoint on Albania is well known: liberty, independence and territorial integrity"; and statements by prominent Yugoslav officials such as the announcements by prominent Yugoslav officials such as the announcement on May 21, 1953 by Dr. Mosa Pijade that "a guarantee of Albania's territorial integrity and sovereignty... would fit in with our basic principle: the Balkans for the people of the Balkans."

We take this occasion to express the hope that the United States, to which so many suffering people look for material and moral support in the common struggle against Communist oppression, will find it consistent with its aims to associate itself with the other countries who have given the lie to Communist falsehoods concerning the partition of Albania.

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