

August 26, 1953

Dear Mr. Jostii:

I thank you for your letter of August 25, 1953, written on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the National Committee for a Free Albania.

The suffering of the Albanian people under the cruel oppression of Soviet tyranny has awakened the sympathy of free men everywhere. Isolated as they are and unable to speak for themselves, the people of Albania desperately need the support and assistance of those of their compatriots who are now outside Albania and free to speak in behalf of their people. As the National Committee for a Free Albania has recognized, Albanians in the free world, through unity of purpose and effort, can perform an invaluable service in supporting the morale of their countrymen and in keeping alive their faith in ultimate independence.

To the United States, which has traditionally supported the right of all oppressed peoples to freedom and liberty, the tragic plight of the Albanian people is a matter of deep concern. This Government shall continue its efforts to support the Albanian people in their endeavors for the establishment of a free and representative government.

The United States recognizes that the problem of future relationships between a free and independent Albania and its neighbors is a matter primarily for bilateral discussion and solution. Under these circumstances recent declarations by Albania's neighbors of their peaceful purpose toward Albania and their intent to support the right of the Albanian people to freedom and independence are particularly welcome. These declarations constitute significant refutation of Communist charges that Albania's neighbors are intent upon partition of Albania.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the National Committee for a Free Albania on the work which it has done, in the four years of its existence, toward developing a rallying point for all Albanians in their struggle for the freedom and independence of their country.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)
John Foster Dulles

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