

Albania in the Focus of World Press in Years 1970-1973 Main Directions on Assessment and Diplomatic Relations

M.Sc. Ilir Sallata

"Bajram Curri" School, Durres, Albania
 Email: il_ir@hotmail.com

Mirela Lazimi

"Naim Frasheri" School, Durres, Albania
 Email: mirelalazimi@live.com

Abstract: Albania's communist system coincides with the years 1944-1990. Albanian Communist Party victory of 1944 until the year 1948 was oriented entirely toward Yugoslavia. It got away from the chauvinist policies of its malicious, closely related to the Soviet Union. To keep the "pure Marxist-Leninist line," PPSH broke with the Soviet Union in November 1961. The need for economic assistance and support in the field of foreign policy, the official Tirana looked forward China. The last one was considered as the main ally of our country, who supported the line of Marxism-Leninism. Although still early, a new wind of change was observed in the Albanian-Chinese friendship. In early 1973 there is a deepening of the differences between the two allies. Relations with the Soviet Union continue to be tense and are slightly tempered by the socialist camp countries, friendly relations are Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary despite some ideological differences. We noticed the Balkan, a spirit of cooperation aiming easier and better neighborhood with Yugoslavia and Greece. In this period, the communist government of West rejects demands for openness and collaboration by standing firm in her line. Albania is not stopped short of linking diplomatic relations with several countries, mainly second-hand in the international arena.

Keywords: Albania's communist system, totalitarian order Marxist-Leninist lines, socialist camp countries

Introduction

Albania's communist system coincides with the years 1944-1990. For half a century Albania lived under a totalitarian order one of the wildest in Europe. This system left an indelible mark in the nation, which will trace the history echoes. Although a member of the socialist camp, Albania had many special features that are worth to be studied.

Albanian Communist Party victory of 1944, until the year 1948 was oriented entirely toward Yugoslavia. It got away from the chauvinist policies of its malicious, in order to get close with the Soviet Union. To keep the line pure between Marxist-Leninists, Albanian Labor Party condemned Khrushchevite, and broke with the Soviet Union in November 1961.

The need for economic assistance and support in the field of foreign policy, made Tirana to look toward China. However, even with this third partner ideological clashes, as previously, led to the destruction of the Albanian-Chinese relations in July 1978. By this time, Albania went into complete self-isolation. While the top leadership of the state party boasted that Albania was building socialism with its own fully forces. The early '70s were years that are compounded by euphoric revolutionary ideas and initiatives. In every area of life prevailed the word "revolutionary". Economy, culture, politics and ideology states that take a "new impetus to free them." Albania allegedly excelled as a significant source of revolutionary movement. Chinese Cultural Revolution had its influence in Albania, leaving trace on people tradition elements. It hit intelligence, intensified militarization in the field of education and culture, strengthened war demonstrations against foreign influences, and their liberal attitudes. Pace of development of productive forces began to decline. Perspectives after the first cracks in the ideological plan with China, was in the way of shading away. Political, economic, military and cultural relations between the two countries began to narrow.

1. Albanian-Chinese Friendship. How does its future look like?

The year 1970 found Albania in close ties with the People's Republic of China. This relationship was considered as the main ally of our country, who supported the line of Marxism-Leninism. Although still early, a new wind of change was observed in the Albanian-Chinese friendship.

In 1971, President of the United States, Richard Nixon visits China. This was not a little to the Albanian leadership. On

August 6, 1971, the Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party, sent a letter to the Central Committee of China Communist Party which stated that Albania was against this political turning that China was taking, that was in contrary to socialism. (*History of Albania*)

American Journal The Christian Science Monitor (*March 5th 1972*), published an article entitled "Albania and China differ little step of walking together." According to this article Albania, by implication, has criticized China-US communiqué issued at the end of Nixon's visit to Beijing. The Chinese government shows interest to the European Common Market, which according to Tirana is a "complicated knot of contradictions between the imperialists". Lack of respect, the China Communist Party has shown in not sending a delegation to its VI Congress of the Albanian Labor Party.

"Ping-Pong political - paper quotes Hungarian Magyar Hirlap (*May 7th 1972*)- contributed to weakening the Bangladesh-China friendship" and continues: "While the Albanian leadership considers the USA as an enemy of freedom of the peoples, Tirana could not pass so easily, since its ideological ally, China already thinks in another way".

In early 1973 there is a deepening of the differences between the two allies.

Newspaper Sydentshe Caitung (*December 1972*), publishes the article "Relations between Beijing and Tirana, are at a turning point". According to the daily problem of divergence is the question of who is more dangerous, the USA or the Soviet Union? Tirana qualifies as important fight on both these fronts, while the fighting overshadowed Beijing USA identified as the most dangerous Soviet Union. These divergences were officially confirmed in early November 1973, the Albanian Defense Minister, Bekir Balluku, at a reception in Beijing, Chinese views rejected as unacceptable for socialist Albania. Although relations with China continued, for several years, they were not on the "pure love", because of ideological differences.

2. Relations with the Soviet Union and the socialist camp

With the dissolution of the relationship with the Soviet Union, by the Albanian side have not stopped attacks on charges of "Soviet social-imperialism". Structures are reported and the Warsaw Pact's of Council of Mutual Economic Assistance. According Tirana "revisionism of the Soviet Union wants to keep under wardship necessarily socialist camp" - underscores the agency Tanjug (*May 29th 1970*). However in the early '70s there was a decrease in hostile tonalities. On the occasion of the Albanian Liberation newspaper Izvestia (*November 27th 1970*), wrote an article somewhat sympathetic greeting, for Tirana. It says that it is necessary to improve the relations between the two countries, and that with good will from both sides, the situation can return to normal. According to American newspaper Times (*February 1971*), the Soviet Union's policy toward Albania, as a result of his interests. Soviet Union sees Albania as a bridge with China, as if he wanted Moscow, Tirana could act as a mediator. However, from the Albanian side, there is a euphoric reaction. Albanian Labor Party has not responded to verbal gesture to moderate Soviet Union, but has remained faithful to her previous residence. Ongoing Yugoslav press, Hungarian and Italian, have published articles which focused attention on the restoration of Albanian-Soviet relations.

But the situation with other countries the socialist camp, is somewhat different. Relations are friendly with Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, and despite some differences ideological, circulates a calm wind.

3. Towards a better neighborhood

Polish newspaper Zallniezh Walnashci (*August 31st 1970*), in an article entitled "Bangladesh, yesterday and today" the author Elizabeth Zhamarovska, noting that there are countries in the Balkans with different economic systems, social policy, states that enter into blocks opposing military interests, which imply permanent state of tension cause. On June 1970, the Organization of the United Nations, the Romanian Socialist Republic, urged the Governments concerned, to transform the region into a region of Balkans peace and coexistence as normal without nuclear weapons. It is a fact that there were some improvements. But will people forget the Balkans as "powder keg"?

"Yugoslavia plans to resume diplomatic relations with Albania in a near future, ending the Cold War in miniature that was developed for 22 years between these two states" - writes

American newspapers Chicago Daily News (*May 5th 1970*). The same newspaper says that Belgrade's policy towards Tirana is an ongoing change. Intended approach between the two neighboring states, and the first step for this is thought to be placing the Yugoslav Embassy in Albania. In this case "is a positive response from the Government of Tirana" - confirms the Austrian newspaper Die Presse (*June 4th 1970*).

Enver Hoxha offered Belgrade good neighborly relations and assistance in case of any aggression by the Soviets. Despite major ideological differences, Yugoslavia-Albania relations, beginning with the trade and then the other areas will be satisfactory. (*Die Presse, June 4th 1970*)

On February 1971 between Albania and Yugoslavia restored diplomatic relations at embassy level. (*Newspaper Borba, Feb 2nd 1971*)

This fact had important diplomatic large echo in the world press. Many newspapers like *Le Monde* in France, *Magyar Hirlap* of Hungary, *Il Popolo* of Italy, *The Times of America*, give news of exchange of embassies between Albania and Yugoslavia.

And go toward improving relations with Greece. On May 1971, came to settle diplomatic relations between Greece and Albania.

As writes *Le Monde* (*May 8th 1971*), both these countries have the opposite regimes, but both very tough. And, despite substantial changes in the ideological, social organization, political and economic tension long after, these two countries reached the normalization condition. Now will open an online economic and cultural cooperation between them.

Immediately signed the agreement, under which Albania will import goods value 800 thousand dollars, will export goods 700 thousand dollar value. (*Il Tempo, May 7th 1971*)

This fact is reflected in many papers of different orientations. It is a merit of the Albanian diplomacy in these two countries historically hostile to achieve lower cooled and have a sort of Balkan equilibrium.

4. Request for opening of the West! Being Ignored by the Albanian Government

In the early '70s, the Albanian diplomacy, noticed a light breeze. According to the newspaper *New York Times*, with all these changes, Albania continues to remain faithful to its policy of isolation. The borders remain closed to all but a few foreign visitors who followed close from over their residence. Albania also takes no part in the normal diplomatic or political activities in Europe. Following this newspaper says that the influence of Chinese policy in Albanian opinion should not be underestimated.

UK seeks the establishment of diplomatic relations with Albania and the latter is moving towards establishing diplomatic relations with it, says London-based newspaper *Financial Times* (*October 5th 1972*). The article stops and the tragedy of the Corfu Channel incident, in October 1946, where the officers were killed 46 British sailors and injured 22 others. The following adds that these two countries have had diplomatic relations, but there is an attempt by London to change. Obviously stalemate must be resolved before the problem Corfu Channel incident.

As known, Albania has concentrated attacks on two fronts: against the USA and the Soviet Union. However the USA does not hesitate in its request for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Albania.

According to Austrian newspaper *Vart* (*November 4th 1972*), shows that the capital of Austria, was held ambassadorial-level talks between Albania and America, to improve relations with the goal that later established diplomatic relations. "An important role in the normalization of relations used during mediation will play Greece or Italy" - adds to the Greek newspaper *Eleftheros Cosmos* (*October 25th 1972*). This fact finds a great reflection in the Greek press.

From the USA every move has been positive. According to the newspaper, *Arkansas Gazette* (*October 23rd 1972*), America is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Albania, China sateliten only in Europe. But before the Tirana government should give some indications of interest.

But is there any kind of enthusiasm from the Albanian leadership?

As it sees such an approach?

Newspaper *Post of New York* (*April 4th 1973*), in the article "Albania's bid ignores USA" says that there is no supply response to USA to resume diplomatic relations. There seems no softening in Albania's anti-American propaganda poignant.

But many newspapers write with surprise and regret the lack of response by the government, against the policy of rapprochement towards the USA is showing it.

Another failed attempt is the desire of the Federal Republic of Germany for good economic and diplomatic cooperation. Visit of MP (member of parliament) Federal Republic of Germany Fon Taden in Albania was reflected in the Yugoslav press, French, Polish and Hungarian.

Weekly magazine *Nin, Belgrade* (*August 27th 1972*) visit of Fon Taden in Albania considers as a good desire to stabilize the RFGJ diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries.

But this desire faded as a result of non-response to cooperation by the Government of Tirana.

In conclusion, it seems clear that Albania stubbornly refused to establish diplomatic relations and open the doors to the West. She emphatically insisted on the protection of its ideology and the Marxist-Leninist principle of building socialism with its own forces. If it had benefited from this "extension of the hand from the west" events probably would

have taken a different direction and Albania would have really made strides forward in the path of European development.

5. Countries with which Albania made diplomatic relations

Differences between Albania and some other countries are essential. However at times ignored the ideological aspects of Tirana and the government stopped short of linking no diplomatic relations with several countries, mainly second-hand in the international arena. Based on the data that provide Tanjug News Agency, Ansa, and Af Press (*Summary of news*) at the date of scripts, a table is summarized as follows:

States that establish relations diplomatic ties with Albania	Date of placing these relations
Switzerland	July 20th 1970
Kingdom of Belgium	November 1970
Iran	May 24th 1971
Kingdom of Norway	May 29th 1971
Republic of Chile	September 11 1971
Kingdom of Nepal	May 23rd 1972
Equatorial Guinea	December 1st 1972
Costa Rica	February 20 th 1973
Malta	March 5th 1973
Senegal	April 26th 1973
Federal Republic of Nigeria	May 22nd 1973
Federal Republic of Cameroon	July 17th 1973
Republic of Argentina	October 5th 1973
Tunisia	October 8th 1973

References

- History of Albania, Academy of Sciences, volume IV, Tirana 1983, pg.431.
 The Christian Science Monitor Newspaper, Washington, May 1972, "Albania and China differ little step of walking together" Paul Wahl
 Newspaper SYDENTSHE CAITUNG, Vienna, December 1972, "Relations between Peking and Tirana, are at a turning point"
 Newspaper BORBA, Belgrade, Feb 2nd 1971, "Yugoslavia and Albania share ambassador"
 Newspaper TIMES, New York, February 6th 1971, "Soviet make it visually to Albania"
 POST newspaper, New York, April 4th 1973, "Albania ignores the U.S offer"
 CHICAGO DAILY NEWS Newspaper, Chicago, May 5th 1970, "Approaching Yugoslavia with Albania"
 Newspaper MAGYAR HIRLAP, Butapest, May 7th 1972, "Problems of Kino-Albanian relations"
 Newspaper LE MONDE, Paris, May 8th 1971, "Normalization between Tirana and Athens"
 PRESS AGER Agency, June 1st 1970
 The newspaper DIE PRESSE, Vienna, June 4th 1970, "Belgrade praises Tirana"
 The magazine NIN, No-1120, Belgrade, August 27th 1972
 Newspaper ZALLNIEZH WALNASHCI, Warsaw, September 15th 1970
 Newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES, London, October 5th 1972, "Towards establishing diplomatic relations between Albania and Britain"
 Michael Simmons
 ARKANSAS NEWSPAPER, Arkansas City, October 23rd 1972, "On the Albanian-US relations"
 Newspaper ELEFTHEROS COSMOS, Athens, October 25th 1972
 VART newspaper, Vienna, November 4th 1972
 POLITIC Newspaper, Belgrade, November 18th 1972, "Bid to Tirana from Moscow"
 TANJUG news agency, November 27th 1970