

Enver Hoxha, Two Friendly Peoples:

Excerpts from the Political Diary and other documents Albanian-Greek Relations 1941 — 1984

Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin Institute (Toronto, 1985)

WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE GREEK PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

OCTOBER 3, 1947

At a big rally which was held in the city of Gjirokastra, Comrade Enver Hoxha, who was on a working visit to some districts of Central and Southern Albania, delivered a speech in which he also dwelt on problems of the international situation, and in this context, touched briefly on some political developments in the neighbouring countries. About the situation in Greece he said:

When our people are rebuilding their country which was devastated during the war, when our country is working with all its might to strengthen the people's democracy and advance

on its peaceful and progressive course, Greek monarcho-fascism is employing a thousand and one of the basest methods to inflict harm on our people. You know what a terrible tragedy is occurring in Greece. The unfortunate but heroic Greek people are fighting against monarcho-fascists and the foreign intervention. The progressive and democratic world is profoundly indignant when it sees the great tragedy of that people who deserve to live free and sovereign, but who, unfortunately, are being mercilessly oppressed and killed by collaborators of Italo-German fascism who are now under the direct orders of Anglo-American reaction. Our people, like all the other peoples of the world, sympathize with the heroic struggle of the Greek people who fought bravely against the Italian and German occupiers and are now fighting heroically to liberate themselves from the new occupiers and the bloodthirsty monarcho-fascist quislings. Anyone who considers himself a democrat could not but sympathize with the efforts of the Greek people for freedom and democracy. However, the struggle of the Greek people is an internal struggle that they and they alone must deal with, and it does not behove our people and our government to meddle in any way in the internal problems of others. The Albanian people and government have never meddled and never will meddle in the internal affairs of Greece, because they are the problems of the Greek people themselves and they must solve their problems in the way they

themselves desire. This has been, is, and will be our stand. I repeat this, because you know what a campaign of slanders and lies has been launched against our country by the Greek monarcho-fascists and their American and British protectors. They make the accusation that our country is allegedly interfering in the problems of Greece, that we are assisting the struggle of the democrats, and that allegedly we are supplying them with arms and ammunition, and hence, from this they want to draw the conclusion that the struggle of the Greek people is being incited and maintained by foreigners. The Greek people are being tortured, killed and burnt out by fascist bandits, and they have taken up arms to save their lives and the lives of their children, to save their homeland. The Americans, the British and those who do their dirty work call this foreign intervention. This, you might say, is trying to cover the sun with a sieve. No, our people do not have a finger in the war of the Greek people, but when the Americans, British and monarcho-fascists make these accusations and slanders, their aim is to cover up the true nature of the war of the Greek people, to cover up the origin of this war, to cover up the terror of Greek monarcho-fascism, to cover up the tragic game they are engaged in, or I might say, their open savage intervention. It is as tragic as it is ridiculous for America to accuse our small, peace-loving people of being the cause of the war which is being waged in Greece and supplying arms and am-

munition for this war. No one can swallow this, the Americans can convince only themselves. The hostile attitude of the American and British governments towards our country and people is known by the whole Albanian people and all peoples of the world. Against a small people, who have fought with heroism against occupiers, who have set up one of the most democratic regimes and who are engaged with all their might in constructive and peaceful work, American and British reaction is employing a thousand and one anti-democratic methods, using the threats, blackmail and slanders which are known to all of you and which are used, as has been proven, in order to damage our country and our people's democracy. You have heard everything that the filthy agents of the Anglo-Americans admitted at their trial in Tirana, you have heard how members of the Anglo-American missions together with the traitors of the Albanian people plotted to overthrow the people's power in Albania, how they organized acts of sabotage and assassinations. Those individuals and those governments who have the shamelessness to concoct baseless slanders against our small people are involved up to their elbows in interference in our internal affairs. However, they got nowhere. All their criminal activities were discovered in time and their agents will receive the punishment they deserve. The statements of the Department of State and the Foreign Office denying the interference of their men in the internal af-

fairs of a sovereign state are in vain. The facts and arguments are much too solid to crumble in the face of such statements. The officials of the American Department of State describe the saboteurs, the assassins, the bandits and the spies who were tried in Tirana, who wanted to give to the Greece of Tsaldaris the cities of Gjirokastër and Korçë which are cradles of the patriotism of our country, as democrats and liberals. Imagine what the American Department of State conceives as democracy. No, in our country where the people have shed so much blood and there is a genuine democracy, we call Shefqet Beja(1) and company fascist bandits and condemn them without mercy, whether or not the officials of the American Department of State like it. But the thing is that it is not to the liking of the American Department of State that the people are in power, governing themselves, making their own laws and building their lives as they desire. That Department which is vainly accusing others of interference in other peoples' business, is not only interfering itself, but is striving with every means to crush other peoples under the iron heel. That is the alleged democracy of the Department of State, with its Truman Doctrine and Marshal Plan. What is occur-

1 Ex-deputy who placed himself in the service of American and British imperialists to overthrow the people's power by means of force. He was tried by the people's court for treason to the Homeland and received the sentence he deserved.

ring in Greece is the doing of American and British reaction and the monarcho-fascists alone and of nobody else. Monarcho-fascist Greece has not only been transformed into a base of American reaction, but it has also become a threat to peace in the Balkans and the world.

For years on end the Greek monarcho-fascists have been pursuing against our country a campaign of provocations and insults, a campaign of territorial pretensions, a war of nerves outdoing those of the German nazis. Almost every day the monarcho-fascists of Athens and their gangs commit provocations on our borders, shoot at our guards and kill our peaceful peasants working in the fields. All these things come within the general plan hatched up by American and British reaction to support their thesis which has long been bankrupt. The monarcho-fascists have given refuge to a number of Albanian fascist bandits and organize them in small groups to attack our guards, to create incidents on the borders, and to infiltrate into our country to carry out assassinations and sabotage. But our borders are inviolable, protected by the sons of our heroic people, who fought the Germans and Italians for years on end and defeated them and are not afraid of the dogs of Zervas or Tsaldaris.

Let the monarcho-fascists do what they like across the border, but they know very well what awaits them on this side of the border. However, in case they do not know, we tell them now: in

defence of our Homeland, our borders and our rights we are fearless and we do not bat an eye. You are well aware of the lunatic claims of the Greek fascists to the so-called Vorio Epirus, that is, to Gjirokastra and Korça, indeed even to Elbasan right up to the Shkumbin River. This is their same old story, this is the old refrain of the «megali idhea» of Venizelos(2) and the gangs of Zographos.(3) We have no time to deal at length with these matters, but the Albanian people tell the Greek monarcho-fascists bluntly: Korça and Gjirokastra are our territories and ours alone. We advise those who want to lay hands on them not to play with fire.

The Greek monarcho-fascists are concocting the basest slanders that the Albanians allegedly kill, torture and burn out the small Greek minority that lives in our region of Gjirokastra. There could be no greater lie. But the Greek monarcho-fascists measure things by their own yardstick and think that we act as they acted with the Albanians in Çamëria, whom they killed, burned out and finally robbed and expelled. No, you know better than anyone how we live with the fraternal Greek minority in our country. We have the Greek minority in Albania as our brothers. The members of the minority are linked with the Albanian people like flesh to bone. The brave sons of the peasants of the minority fought

2 Eleftherios Venizelos, reactionary Greek politician.

3 An enemy of the Albanian national movement, he fought for the annexation of Southern Albania by Greece.

shoulder to shoulder with the Albanian people, fought for the freedom of Albania, for genuine democracy, and at the same time, like the whole Albanian people, fought to liberate themselves from bondage to the aghas and beys of Libohova and Gjirokastra. The Albanian people sing to the bravery of Lefter Talo, Thanas Ziko and other martyrs from the minority, just as they sing songs to Asim Zeneli or Qemal Stafa. Generation after generation the Albanian people will not separate the sons of the minority who fell in the war from their own sons. The Greek minority fought together with the Albanian people, together with the Albanian people they triumphed, and are enjoying and living the new life together with the fraternal Albanian people. The peasants of the minority received the land from the Land Reform, and this has now become theirs forever. They have the aid of the people's state, which is their state, and which does not make the slightest distinction between them and the rest of the Albanian population. The Greek minority has all rights, has its own schools and its own newspaper in the Greek language. Our brothers and sisters of the Greek minority know and enjoy all these rights. They understand how ludicrous and base are the slanders of the fascists of Athens. The Greek minority in Albania, which is living in peace and enjoying life, sees what is going on in Greece and where the monarcho-fascists of Athens are leading the heroic Greek people. And the hearts of the brothers and sis-

ters of the Greek minority in Albania have been saddened by the great misfortunes which are occurring to their brothers in Greece. This is true of them, just as it is of us. However, the Greek minority, linked forever with the Albanian people, should be proud of the heroic Greek people, who are invincible and who are fighting bravely against the occupiers and the fascist gangs of Tsaldaris for the freedom of Greece and for genuine democracy.