

**REQUEST TO THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PARIS, CONCERNING
ALBANIA'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
DISCUSSION OF THE PEACE TREATY
WITH ITALY**

April 27, 1946

**TO THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS¹ OF GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, AND FRANCE**

Paris

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania has the honour to submit the following for the kind consideration of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, the United States of America, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, and France:

On the occasion of the gathering in Paris of the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the principal allied powers to discuss various questions connected with the Peace Treaty with Italy, the Government of the Peo-

¹This refers to the Paris Peace Conference held from July 29 to October 15, 1946, to consider the draft peace treaties with the European allies of Hitlerite Germany during the Second World War: Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Hungary, and Finland.

ple's Republic of Albania, interpreting the deep feelings of the Albanian people, draws the kind attention of the Conference to Albania's right to be invited to set forth its views in the discussion of the Peace Treaty with Italy.

Albania is an interested party in this discussion, because it has suffered a great deal from the aggression of fascist Italy.

As is known, on 7 April, 1939, fascist Italy, using large armed forces, attacked and occupied Albania.

The Albanian people resisted the occupation and shed their blood at the ports and on the roads through which the fascist troops entered.

The occupation of Albania by Italy was the result of an armed aggression, based on nothing but its brutal military power, and lasted till the unconditional capitulation of fascist Italy.

The Albanian resistance against the occupier began right from the day of the aggression, on 7 April, 1939, and continued and developed in all forms. The great demonstrations of the masses of the people in 1940 and 1941, against the occupiers were drowned in blood. Six thousand and five hundred anti-fascist Albanians were thrown into jails or concentration camps by the Italians; thousands of others were massacred in cold blood in the towns and villages of Albania, for their anti-fascist activities.

As early as 1939, there were 3,000 anti-fascist Albanians in the mountains, from where they attacked the Italian fascists. They were the nucleus of the partisan units, which later on would cover themselves with glory in the war against the Italian fascists, and then against the German nazis who replaced them.

The war carried on by the Albanian people against both occupiers, side by side with the great allies, forced

the Italians and the Germans to maintain a considerable number of their best divisions in Albania on a permanent basis. By 1942, certain zones of Albania had been liberated by the partisans, and in 1943, on the eve of the capitulation of Italy, more than half of Albania was liberated.

Amidst the war and the most painful sufferings, the Albanian people created their National Liberation Army, the partisan army organized into brigades, divisions, and army corps which by the end of the war was 70,000 strong. It fought bravely against both enemies and, after the liberation of Albania, pursued the Hitlerites beyond our borders into Yugoslavia.

In this way the Albanian people showed that the allied cause was also theirs. With the blood they shed and the sacrifices they made in the same war and against the same enemy, the Albanian people courageously ranked themselves on the side of the great allies and declared their unshakable loyalty to the allied cause.

For the common victory they made the maximum contribution: more than 50,000 dead and wounded, 35% of the towns and villages of Albania razed to the ground, communications destroyed, the national economy ruined by the fascist occupier — all these bear witness to the extent of the war the Albanian people waged against fascism.

This was how the Albanian people won their freedom and independence, created their National Liberation Army and, through this same war, established a democratic regime.

Through such sacrifices in human lives and such huge material damage in the common war, Albania earned the right to present its demands against Italy and Germany.

Therefore, in submitting this legitimate request, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the Government of the People's Republic of Albania

has the firm conviction that this conference², concerned with the observance of the rights and interests of the small states, will have the goodness to consider this request with all the necessary attention, and to give it a favourable hearing, allowing the Albanian people to raise their voice on this occasion.

Prime Minister and Minister
of Foreign Affairs
Colonel-General
Enver Hoxha

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² Due to the hostile stand maintained by the USA and Great Britain towards Albania, the PRA was not invited as a participant in the conference, just as it was not invited to the conference for war reparations from Germany.