

MEETING OF THE POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FORMED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE WARSAW TREATY  
Prague, January 1956

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STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
Comrade MEHMET SHEHU  
27 January 1956

On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, our delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the convocation of the current meeting of the Political Consultative Committee formed in accordance with the Warsaw Treaty. Undoubtedly, exchanging opinions on the international situation in general, as well as reviewing general issues and joint efforts resulting from the Warsaw Treaty, in particular, contribute to the achievement of further successes for our joint policy. This policy aims to protect and consolidate peace and security in Europe and the whole world and to defend the interests of socialism.

The period following the signing of the Warsaw Treaty has been characterized by numerous important initiatives from the Soviet Union, along with active efforts by other peace-loving countries to preserve and consolidate peace and friendship between peoples and to prevent a new war.

The consistent, peaceful Leninist policy of the Soviet Union has been playing a decisive role in the development of international events and in the preservation and consolidation of peace in Europe and the entire world. It evokes admiration and enjoys the enthusiastic support of all nations.

The recently-published draft directives from the XX Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union on the Sixth Five-Year Plan for the USSR's National Economic Development are a matter of historic and international significance. The directives demonstrate the peaceful goals of the Soviet Union to the entire world. The new five-year plans for the economic development of the people's democracies are an embodiment of the peaceful policy of our countries.

The acceptance of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and Albania into the United Nations at the initiative of the Soviet Union has generally reinforced the international standing of our camp and especially the international standing of the aforementioned countries. However, it must be said that until the People's Republic of China becomes part of the United Nations, the universality of the United Nations remains incomplete.

The people and government of Albania voice their sincere support for the peaceful policy of a number of countries in Asia, the Near East and the Middle East – primarily, India, Burma, Egypt,

and Afghanistan – and their contribution to peace-building and friendly cooperation among countries. The Bandung Conference bore testimony to the livelihood and strong determination of the nations of Asia and Africa to take control of their own lives, to be free and sovereign, and to play an active part in the development of international events. The conference demonstrated that the time when the destiny of these nations was determined by imperialists and colonizers is gone for once and for all.

Recent events have demonstrated in practice that the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems is quite feasible, and it represents the only way of ensuring peace and international cooperation.

The Soviet Union and other peaceful countries are making significant efforts to save mankind from a new world war and to preserve peace in the entire world. There is no doubt that the Big Four Summit Conference in Geneva was a significant step in this direction. However, despite substantial changes in the world, the American government and other Western circles are consistently implementing their aggressive policies. They continue the arms race and have intensified production of atomic and hydrogen bombs, have proceeded with the formation of aggressive military blocs, and have attempted to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries – especially the affairs of our peoples' democracies – because our social order does not agree with them, because they are against the freedom and independence of our nations. The Western governments, led by the American government, are speeding up the remilitarization of West Germany, which, at the moment, is a member of the aggressive North Atlantic bloc and the Western European Union. The New Baghdad Pact and other activities, military budgets, the recent incendiary statements of a number of American leaders, and efforts aimed at the creation of new military bases against the Soviet Union and the people's democracies demonstrate that the threat of a new war has not dissipated. Thus, the need emerges not to lessen, but to strengthen the vigilance of our peoples and to always keep our defensive power in a state of readiness.

Support for the idea of creating a system of collective security in Europe is currently widespread. It enjoys significant support even outside Europe's borders because the preservation of peace in Europe means the preservation of peace in the entire world. The resolution of the German question – the creation of a unified, peaceful and democratic Germany – is primarily the responsibility of the German people. Our government will always support the steadfast efforts of the German Democratic Republic aimed at reunifying Germany on a democratic basis and consolidating peace in Europe.

The Albanian people have welcomed the creation of the National People's Army in the German Democratic Republic, which will not only ensure the peace and sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic, but will also become an important factor for peace and security in Europe.

The Warsaw Treaty has given new power and opportunities to the People's Republic of Albania in its struggle for socialism. The People's Republic of Albania is profoundly interested in preserving peace, in a further lessening of international tension, and in strengthening international

cooperation. Our Government has made efforts to contribute to this by supporting any initiative that aims to consolidate peace. It makes every effort to expand and strengthen its international relations, to reduce its armed forces, etc.

I consider it appropriate to mention that, thanks to the efforts and good will of both parties, relations between the People's Republic of Albania and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have moved along a path that leads to normalization. Undoubtedly, the development of friendly relations between the People's Republic of Albania and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia serves the interests of our peoples, as well as the overall peace and security of the Balkan Peninsula and of Europe. One can say that our relations with neighboring Italy are developing favorably. The new international situation, characterized by détente, has created the necessary conditions for a normalization of relations between the People's Republic of Albania and Greece. This is in the common interests of both the Albanian and Greek peoples. Our Government has taken multiple steps in this regard and will do everything that can be done in this regard in the hope that the Greek government will also adopt a more realistic approach to this issue. We assume that the artificial obstacles created along this path for certain purposes alien to our peoples, by circles that wish neither Greece nor Albania anything good, must cease to exist.

We have adopted a path of developing friendly relations between the Albanian people and the peoples of Egypt, Syria, Sudan, and other nations in the East that have won their national independence.

*[Translation by Julia La Villa Nossova]*