

press review

ONLY THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD AGAINST THE AGGRESSIVE POWERS AND IN DEFENCE OF TRUE PEACE CAN SAVE MANKIND FROM IMPERIALIST WARS

The newspaper «Zëri i popullit» and «Bashkimi» of June 12 made known that recently the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR of Albania, Adil Çarçani, received a letter from the Prime Minister of Greece, Andreas Papandreu, in which the holding of a meeting between the representatives of the Balkan countries to examine the question of the creation of an atomic free zone in the Balkans is proposed. The newspapers published also the reply of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR of Albania, Adil Çarçani, and the letter of the Prime Minister of Greece, Andreas Papandreu.

The letter of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR of Albania said among other things:

«It is a known fact now that in our Peninsula exist a number of factors which seriously endanger the security of all its countries and greatly hamper the realization of the aspirations of the Balkan peoples to live in peace and friendship among themselves. These dangers and obstacles come about, in the first place, as a result of the international engagements of some Balkan states. Of six countries of our Peninsula, two are members of NATO, two are members of the Warsaw Treaty, the People's Social-

ist Republic of Albania does not participate in any political-military block, while the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia has linked itself with both superpowers.

«Our opinion, Mr. Prime Minister, is that peace in the Balkans cannot be assured by ignoring or overlooking this reality. A summit or any other level meeting of the Balkan countries at present would be only illusory and any decision it took would be only declarative. Therefore, our government cannot take part in a meeting to examine the proposal for the creation of a zone free of atomic weapons.

«In the present state of international relations of the Balkan countries, the creation of a zone free of atomic weapons in this area would have no practical effect either for the security of the Balkan countries or for world security.

«Supposed that the Balkan countries would agree on the creation of a zone free of atomic weapons in their Peninsula, would anybody ask them as long as the atomic weapons are in the possession of the main aggressive imperialist and social-imperialist powers which have worked out their plans to further their expansionist and hegemonist aims?

«Only the struggle of the

peoples of the world against the aggressive powers and their predatory policy and in defence of true peace,» Comrade Adil Çarçani points out «can save mankind from imperialist wars. This has long been our opinion and stand, and life has proved it true.

«If the question of the creation of a zone free of atomic weapons in the Balkans arises,» the letter continues, «then it must be considered who is in possession of atomic weapons and who is not. The People's Socialist Republic of Albania does not dispose of such weapons, because it does not take part either in NATO or in the Warsaw Treaty. It has not entered the armaments race even for conventional weapons, as others do. According to its declared stand, Yugoslavia must not have atomic weapons, either, whereas Greece, Turkey, Rumania and Bulgaria must be in possession of these weapons in their quality as members of these military treaties.

«Hence, before talking about the creation of a zone free of atomic weapons in the Balkans, the states of our Peninsula must be placed in equal conditions, that is, must not be connected to either military bloc.

«Besides, I want to emphasize, Mr. Prime Minister,»

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Comrade Adil Çarçani writes in his letter, «that at a time when there is talk about averting the threat of war and the turning of the Balkans into a zone free of atomic weapons, the so-called 'Law on the state of war with Albania', a law totally unfounded and absurd which the simplest logic rejects and the Greek people themselves condemn, is kept in force for more than 40 years now in Greece. The Greek people do well know that the Albanian people have never fought against the Greek people. Failure to abrogate such an utterly illegitimate act, a unique case in the relations between states, hampers the creation of equal conditions and the proper atmosphere, about which Mr. Prime Minister, you express your justified concern in your letter. There cannot be general security in the Balkans without the security of each of its countries.

«We are of the opinion that,»
the Chairman of the Coun-

cil of Ministers of the PSR of Albania goes on, «for the creation of the premises necessary for the convening of Balkan meetings and conferences, concrete steps must, first, be taken for the departure of foreign troops from the Balkan countries, the dismantlement of foreign military bases, the denunciation of political-military treaties — NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, discontinuing the granting of facilities for the supply and repair of the ships of the navies of the superpowers and opposing with determination the superpowers' policy of interference in the internal affairs of any Balkan country and their machinations to introduce the spirit of confrontation into this zone. At the same time each country must make efforts and take constructive steps for the normal development of collaboration amongst Balkan countries on the basis of the policy of good neighbourliness and the principles regulating

relations among sovereign states.

«The People's Socialist Republic of Albania rigorously implements these principles in its policy. It has publicly proclaimed that it does not accept to participate in any aggressive political-military bloc or pact, has expressed itself against the armaments race, nuclear armament and the atomic umbrella of the superpowers. It prohibits by a provision of its Constitution the granting of military bases to foreign powers and has solemnly declared that it will never allow any evil to come to the neighbouring peoples or their freedom to be threatened from Albanian territory. The Albanian people and their government are for the complete banning of the production of atomic weapons and the destruction of all existing stockpiles of them. We are for the defence against atomic weapons not only of the Balkans, but of all Europe and the whole mankind.»