

Rome 9.9.1949

REVEREND EXCELLENCY

As an Albanian Catholic, also speaking on behalf of other Catholics who honor me with their confidences, I believe it is my duty to bring up to date Your Excellency on certain affairs which have transpired in Rome regarding the Albanian situation in the last few weeks.

You are certainly aware of a draft for a Committee for a Free Albania, of which the international news has extensively spoken and speaks still. As far as insistent solicitations from British officers that in Rome have been working to put together a few Albanian émigrés to begin from here a round of propaganda for Europe and North America, I found it unacceptable to give my consensus, in spite of finding useful, as a principle, the creation of a central body created from a coalition of Albanian anti-communist political groups in exile. The reasons of my refusal, if I may permit myself, are listed below:

1. With arbitrary procedure whoever took the initiative of establishing the Committee and whoever was behind this initiative, omitted to consult the heads of all the known political groups and the representatives of each group.
2. My son was invited to participate as an individual and not as a delegate of the political group to which he and I belong.
3. Inviting me to belong to the Committee, they did not want to inform me what their plan of action was and the projects for the future of Albania, which left me suspicious, as well as their choice of members of said Committee leaves one to suppose a certain influence of Tito which could be extremely dangerous to my country especially to the Catholic Albanian community.
4. The exclusion of the moderate group and the moderate feelings of the groups who were invited to participate.

From people who ultimately penetrated in country and escaped through Greece, we learned that Tito's agents are working diligently to overturn with one swift move, from the inside, the cominformist government of Enver Hoxha. Always the Yugoslavs with 430km of border which surrounds for two-thirds the Albanian territory, have had particular possibilities to influence our affairs, when nothing counterbalanced their political ambitions. Today Tito can take advantage of the deep misery which, sneaking its way even in the depths of the government, renders Enver Hoxha's position uncertain and staggering, which the Russians don't appear to want to aid decisively.

I have often wished to have a conversation with Your Excellency but have not requested it because I did not want to inconvenience you and also for other reasons inherent to my actual condition as an émigré, but today the Albanian problem has become very acute in the eyes of Western powers and of the public opinion. I ask to please grant me the honor of a conversation. We Albanian Catholics have great faith in the support which, in the most difficult times, the Holy See can give us and in the advice and precious suggestions of Your Excellency.

Perhaps Your Excellency will find some time to give a last look to the report that I have summarized and which summarizes the essential points of my son's interview with the two British officers.

Awaiting to receive a favorable response, I wish Your Excellency to receive my sincerest devotion.

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