

RAMIZ ALIA

President of the People's
Socialist Republic of Albania

*speaking to the Albanian people during the past several weeks, has
stated the following:*

A new campaign of slanders and fabrications has been launched against our country lately, a campaign which has found coverage in some of the Western press, radio and TV.

The aim of this campaign is to overthrow the People's Power in Albania and to destroy its independence.

This is a continuation of the events that have occurred in Eastern Europe in recent months.

The main source of the slanders and attacks against Albania is as usual Belgrade. Not surprising. Yugoslav policy has always been anti-Albanian, a policy based on expansionism and control.

Recently the Yugoslav News Agency "Tanjug" sent out dispatches world-wide reporting demonstrations in the streets of Shkodra and other cities. They reported that a state of emergency has been declared in Albania, that security police attacked the people and killed many, that four students were hanged in the public square, etc. etc.

The Yugoslav Agency shamelessly feeds such filthy fabrications to world public opinion. We Albanians say to the Yugoslavs that a state of emergency, demonstrations, unrest, and killings do not exist in our country. But they are to be found right now in Yugoslavia, where KOSOVA has been converted into a real CONCENTRATION CAMP.

There, in KOSOVA, violence and lawlessness are playing havoc — there people are fired from their jobs, thrown in jail, tortured, and killed for the sole reason of being Albanians.

The Yugoslavs are spreading these slanderous fairy-tales about turmoil in Albania in an attempt to cover up the deep political, economic and social crisis which is tearing their country apart. By raising a mirage of "trouble" in Albania, they hope to divert the attention of the world from the plight of the Albanians in KOSOVA.

The Albanian people have never bothered anyone. Neither have they ever allowed anyone else to dictate to them. Our people have chosen their own way of development and preservation of their national identity, and no one else can decide what should be done, what changes are required by time, what process to follow for the socialist development of the country.

The social order we have built recognizes no exploration of man by man. In our country there are no rich people to live at the expense of the workers and peasants. Just as there are no poor people to live on the charity of the others. Everyone lives by his own labour.

When national identity, freedom and independence are at stake, everyone who calls himself Albanian, wherever he is, will stand up ready to make any sacrifice and even to lay down his life for the homeland.

The people of Albania are masters of their own destiny, determined to march forward on the socialist road, to preserve their freedom and independence.

For 45 years Albanians have been attacked, insulted, criticized and pressured to abandon the road of our revolution, freedom, independence, and social justice. We have always withstood these attacks, and our people will continue to do so.

Let the enemies of Albania bark as much as they can — the Albanian caravan will always continue to march forward.

The anti-Albanian campaign which is being blown up by reactionary forces and some Western journalistic circles will end like a soap bubble, because it is based on lies and falsehoods.

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THE ALBANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY (and) AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ALBANIA

P.O. Box 912, New York, N.Y. 10008

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