

ANNEX No. 1
TO THE REPORT ON KOSOVA
PRESENTED BY THE "UNION OF THE KOSSOVAR" COMMITTEE
TO THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE
FEDERAL UNION OF EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES
HELD AT COLMAR, FRANCE, on MAY 15-18, 1969

THE CAUSES OF THE ALBANIAN DEMONSTRATIONS

November 27, 1968 in Kosmet

December 22-23 at Tetovo (Macedonia)

The apparent cause is the fact that the Serbians and the Montenegrins prevented the Albanians from flying their national flag although the Federal Government had granted the authorization in October, 1968, through the Regional Chamber.

But the underlying cause is the fact that the Albanian population of Yugoslavia is relegated into a category of "secondary" citizens, as well as the fact that the Federal Government has refused to grant the Albanians the right to have their own republic within the Yugoslav Federation. This right had been recognised them by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia before the Second World War and during the War of Liberation, but has been denied them by all the Yugoslav Constitutions after the Liberation.

The demonstrators protested against the new statute conceded by the Federal Government which still leaves the Albanian territories divided between Montenegro, Macedonia and the autonomous region of Kosmet, part of the Republic of Serbia.

The hurrahs for the Head of the Government of Albania, Enver Hoxha, have been shouted by the agents provocateurs in the service of the Yugoslav Secret Police.

The Albanians of Yugoslavia do not want to be under the Tirana dictator, who during the war of Liberation helped, of his own free will, the Yugoslav communist Party to occupy and keep the Albanian regions in the Yugoslav Federation.

SECONDARY CAUSES OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS

(Extracts from the Paper RILINDJA, published in Kosmet)

December 7, 1968

The Belgrade papers, BORBA, 24-30 October and POLITIKA, have distorted the truth by writing tendentious articles regarding the situation in Kosmet.

December 14, 1968

The Serbian and Montenegrin chauvinists invent false news behind the scenes by saying, for example, that the life of the Serbians and the Montenegrins is in danger in Kosmet.

December 26, 1968

In the region of PUDEJEVO, out of 78 villages only 7 have electric light.

February 2, 1969

The rare magazines published in Albanian are very much delayed. For example, the principal review "JETA E RE" of June-July, 1968 appeared only in January 1969!

In order to have the publications better under control the authorities have entrusted each publication to one or, the most, two persons. For the school year 1967-1968 the admissions to the Faculty of Philosophy of Prishtina have been :

657 Albanians and 799 Serbians and Montenegrins.

Unemployment: in Kosmet there are 25,000 unemployed according to official registrations.

Illiteracy: There are 106,000 illiterates under the age of 35.

February 7, 1969

Every year the number of the illiterates increases by 500.

February 9, 1969

For the new town of Ulpiane there is only one bakery for 10,000 inhabitants. Consequently people have to queue for long hours in order to be able to get bread.

February 10, 1969

The railroad has existed for 92 years. It has been left to its fate : no serious repairs have been undertaken and the trains work with delay.

Lack of physicians:

There are 400 physicians in Kosmet for a population which is officially estimated to be of 1,200,000 inhabitants. A doctor in Kosmet has 6 times more work to do than his colleague in Slovenia. The number of the doctors does not increase in more than 20 a year. At present there is a lack of 500 doctors.

The population of Kosmet is 80% rural. The villages have no physicians.

The admission policy of the Universities is very bad. The Albanian students have great difficulty to be registered. The Albanian students have to pass an examination in the Serbo-Croat language which they hardly know and consequently they are at a great disadvantage in comparison with their Slav colleagues. Last year only one single Albanian student was admitted to the Faculty of Medicine.

To be noted that the foreign students who study in Yugoslavia have the right to take their entrance examinations in their own language.

March 4, 1969

At the Faculty of Economics and Law only one text-book is in Albanian: that of Sociology.

From the paper "The Comunist" of December, 1968:

"Up to last year the KOSMET was isolated from the rest of the country. Only last year was there constructed a road which connected it with the other countries of Yugoslavia. "

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After 25 years of a socialist regime the Yugoslav authorities have never conceded to the Albanians the same rights as the other peoples of Yugoslavia.

Having had enough of empty promises the Albanians tried to express their discontent by means of the demonstrations.

The Yugoslav statesmen have never been short of declarations in favour of the rights of the Albanians, but all these promises have remained a dead letter. Recently, Mr. Marko Niketitch, president of the League of the Yugoslav Communists, declared at the

meeting of the Central Committee of the Party:

"There will never be a progressist and socialist Yugoslavia, neither will there be a progressist and socialist democratic Republic of Serbia as long as there are no democratic relations and total equality for all in KOSMET".

From the above declaration it follows that the Albanians are not considered even as second-class citizens, but simply as a people subject to the convenience and discretion of the Serbians and the Montenegrins who are newcomers to KOSMET. This is corroborated by the following that Mr. Niketitch said on the same occasion:

"The Serbian and Montenegrin chauvinists dream of some sort of an inherited right to have a privileged position in the State. According to that mentality the State belongs to them and not they to the State".

THE UNION OF THE KOSSOVARS

Note : On the demonstrations please read:

THE TIMES of December 18, 1968

THE HERALD TRIBUNE of December 11, 1968

LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE of January 1969