

THE CONTRIBUTION OF U.S. A IN THE INDEPENDENCE, EDUCATION AND DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ALBANIAN STATE

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Abstract

At the beginning of the 20th Century, President Wilson was the first world leader who proclaimed his solidarity with the small nations, not to embrace the social-Darwinism as a doctrine, and vowed to have one “voice” for Albania at the Peace Conference that was held at Paris in 1919. Since then, the U.S.A. expanded its support to Albania in the field education and culture, starting with the women institute “Qiriazi” and continuing until nowadays. The ties between the two countries continued to strengthen even after WWI, when Ahmet Zogu managed to sign the **agreement** of “Most Favorite Nation” with the U.S.A. During WWII and in the end, U.S. and U.K. gave their humanitarian aid. During the Cold War, even though Albania followed a self-isolation policy, the compass of the Albanians continued always to point towards the American democratic values.

After the fall of communism, when Albania was in the newly born fragile democracy, the Bush and Clinton administrations placed the first bricks for a healthy and consolidated pluralist system and open-market. The economic and diplomatic ties between Albania and U.S.A. were consolidated through the ramification of several agreements which paved the way towards various investments. The support of U.S., can be categorized in three baskets: support towards critical reforms that will ease the process of integration towards the EU; support to make Albania a strong NATO ally and regional partner; and to promote democracy and free-market reforms. In this insecure globalized world, the eternal Albanian-American friendship will remain a diamond of peace and stability as a model for the world.

Keywords: *sustainable peace, religious and ethnic coexistence, integration, democratic stability*

1. Pro-Americanism, Column of Pride, Identity and Albanian Image in the World

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Albanian renaissance had done its best and had arrived at a greatly revival to separate the identity of Albanians, from religious identity and from Greek and Slavic identity, which was propagated by certain Greek and Slavic cliques aiming the acquisition of Albanian lands.

Renaissance managed to unify Albanian people through the remarkable figure of Skanderbeg, a figure accepted in four Albanian vilayets, and even from arbereshs in Italy. The figure of Skanderbeg was accepted by all Albanians as a national symbol from all religious beliefs, Muslims, Catholics and Orthodox.

Under the inspiration of Skanderbeg wars, Albanians won their independence from the Ottomans 28, on November 28, 1912.

1.1 The US contribution to the London Conference and the Paris Peace Conference

At the notorious London Conference for Albanians where the Balkan countries' boundaries were changed, European countries such as Germany, Italy, France and even England, were all pro-Greek.

Meanwhile, Russia with its recognized pan-Slavism was understandably pro-Slavic. The only support for the Albanians came just as an individual support, some recognition that the powerful businessman Charles Crane was among several British parliamentarians. Charles Crane was the main sponsor of the American President Woodrow Wilson, who came to power in 1912. Crane was quite familiar with Albania through English humanitarian Edit Durham and through Albanian patriots Kristo and Sevasti Dako. Sevasti Dako had studied at a US school in Istanbul, whose owner and President was Lord Charles Crane himself, and Dakos met him when he came for a visit to Albania in 1911.

Meanwhile, in addition to this support by British parliamentarians who were Charles Crane's friends, the Albanians had the support of Austria, too, but it had little influence on this conference because it wasn't a major world power. Major world powers at this time were England, France, Germany and Russia.

But the Austrians sought earnestly the creation of an Albanian state as a counterweight to Serbian expansionist goals. At this time Austria and Serbia were quite hostile to each other. Serbia with the great help from Russia was as real danger to Austria, not only for Albanians.

Thus, at the insistence of Austria and Charles Crane's friends, European countries agreed to allow the creation of an Albanian state, but at the same time, many Albanian territories of four Albanian vilayets were given to its neighbors, Greeks and Slavs.

The result would have been even worse and only in the last moment of intervention were saved some Albanian lands from annexation by neighbors. For example, Korça remained inside Albania and it was only the result of the insistence of Charles Crane and Edit Durham at the conference, through their friends. Greece and Slavs took about half of the territory of four Albanian vilayets, which they didn't own and didn't claim at the time when they gained independence from the Ottomans.

As it is known, the World War I began in 1914, a year after the London Conference, and the excuse was an incident between Serbia and Austria. At the time when the war broke out, America from the beginning decided not to be involved.

Meanwhile, even in 1915, a secret treaty was signed in London. Among other things, this treaty also decided to further partition of Albania, which was expected to happen after the war.

America entered the war only in 1917.

When the 'Great War' ended, America was between four great powers that participated in the Peace Treaty in Paris.

The situation was critical for Albania. All European powers had agreed to further partition of Albania and considered it a job done.

The partition of Albania would be a disaster. Greece will take the so-called 'Vorio-Epirus. Serbia will take the north all the way down to Durrës. Italy demanded Valona and central provinces.

All accredited delegates who had come from Albania were bought with gold by Europeans. Only an accredited Albanian candidate, who had come from America, the only woman candidate at the Peace Conference, Parashqevi Qiriazi the sister of Sevasti Dako, the president of the Albanian Party in America was not bought. Of course, since she was alone, Parashqevi couldn't do much for the protection of Albania by herself, but nevertheless she had some merits. She managed to reveal that the situation was critical and that the Albanian candidates were bought and she immediately responded by announcing her sister, the President of the Albanian Party in America, Sevasti Dako. Sevasti Dako and her husband Kristo Dako immediately informed their friend Charles Crane. As the President of the Albanian Party in America, Sevasti had earlier written to President Wilson to save Albania. Here's what she had written in her letters.

The first letter

"We request from you Mr. President Wilson and the representatives of the Great Powers to restore the sovereign independence of Albania and restore the national unity on ethnographic basis, including within its borders the province of Kosovo and Chameria, which was separated unjustly from Albania at the London Conference in 1913. We strongly protest against granting of the territories of our country to any Balcan state. We respectfully request to be appointed an international commission to assess and compensate for damages caused to Albania during the Balkan and World War".

The second letter written on January 18, 1919

"We strongly protest against the unjust claims of the Greek government, which, based on wrong assumptions, requires under the name of so-called 'Northern Epirus' to include southern Albania within Greek territory. At the same time, we ask in the name of the sacred principles of nationality to restore the independence and integrity of Albania, including within its borders Chameria and Kosovo, because these provinces were separated unjustly at the London Conference".

The Third letter

"On behalf of eighty thousand Albanians living in free and freedom-loving country of America, on behalf of a nation that has no freedom of expression, we come to you as a great leader in the world that supports the great and holy principles, to stop the intervention of the Italian Government in Albania. We ask you to lay a just foundation for our much-suffering nation, in order to enjoy in this new world era, full independence, without any protectorate, and within real ethnographic and natural borders".

Because of these letters and the personal intervention of Charles Crane, the President Wilson did something that none of the Europeans could not have imagined. He decided to protect

Albania, although all of Europe had decided to tear it apart, in order to satisfy the interests of neighboring countries. President Wilson did this at a time when America wasn't a world superpower, because at that time the most powerful were England and France. President Wilson defended Albania until the end and it was not further disintegrated. And so Albanians became pro-American in their identity.

And President Wilson became the main symbol of the Albanian pro-American identity.

This symbol is very important. He represents the close friendship between Albanian people and America. He is the main driving factor of Albanian pro-Americanism. The action of President Wilson allowed the Albanians to look at America as a symbol of freedom and justice and as a friend of Albania. If earlier they would have had any doubt, what President Wilson did, changed the outlook of Albanians. So, Albanians were completely pro-American.

Albanians had always looked at foreigners with the shadow of doubt, and they were right. In the end, they found a powerful foreign ally, who was ready to defend their rights and freedom.

President Wilson defended Albania at the time when in Europe ruled the philosophy of social Darwinism, the destructive philosophy according to which small and weak states should be wiped out from big and powerful states. But if it was to be allowed such a thing, the fragile states would disappear one after the other, and the war would never stop. There would always be strong and a weak states. States would disappear one by one. At such a time, President Wilson took the stand to protect Albania. He uttered the following words:

"I am against this obsolete attitude, where countries seek war trophy. Small countries are not like a cheese to be cut in slices for political gain, against the wish and the will of the people of these countries. I believe in a world, where small countries live alongside big countries. I do not believe in social Darwinism. We must create a world in which all countries, small or big, survive and live in peace as good neighbors".

So, in the early twentieth century, the US President Wilson proclaimed the principle of protection of small people and solidarity with these people to take them out from century-long apathy. His noble goal towards universal peace and universal right of self-determination of small nations made him protect the Albanian nation at the Peace Conference in 1919. Wilson said in America that I'll one "voice" at the Peace Conference and I'll use it to the best of Albania. By protecting the national freedoms of the Balkan people at this Conference, Wilson would say for Albania: "The US government is so much against any decision that could harm the Albanians and satisfy the Yugoslavs as it would oppose every attempt to damage the Yugoslavs, in favor of Italy".

1.2 Historical Overview of US Contribution to Albanian Education

Besides this assistive historical significance for the fate of Albania, America has made a valuable contribution to Albania by assisting the education and culture from the beginning of Albanian Renaissance.

In October 1891, Sevasti and Gjerasim Qiriazi who were specialized in American schools opened the first school for girls in Korça, where taught songs, poems, and some memory games were where some of these games were played on stage.

In February 1919, in Albania arrived the first unit of the American Red Cross (ARC), and the Missionary and captain was Caris Telford Erikson. Erikson came to Albania in 1908-13 for the first time as a missionary and played an important role in the public life in Albania. He was an honorary representative at the Paris Peace Conference.

He was the first person that threw the idea of establishing a large university for the Balkans in America. The university will have all the necessary departments for the education of the Balkan youth. This essentially utopian plan, considering the political conditions in the Balkans, later became reality, in a much simpler form, through education activities of Americans in Albania. By in the end of 1920, ARC in Albania organized three schools in Tirana, Elbasan and Shkodra.

In 1921 the ARCYO (American Red Cross Youth Organization) was engaged in the elementary school and high technical school in Tirana. The idea belongs to John I. Scala member of ARCYO, but J. E. Crowley, the director of ARCYO selected the students. From 62 students, 11 were from Shkodra, 6 from Korca, 3 from Elbasan, 10 from Durres, 4 from Berat, 8 from Valona, 9 from Kosovo, 11 from Gjirokastra, officially 43 Muslims, 13 Orthodox, 6 Catholics. The Technical School was opened on 20. 07.1921. The first teacher and a director was C. A. Holinshed, then J. Majeure, an American engineer. Albanian teacher was Hysen Hivziu, engineer Li Cungu, who had finished his studies at the Robert College in Istanbul. Students were living in the dormitory and expenses were bore by ARCYO, and later, after 1923 helped the Albanian government. During the years 1925-1926 about 150 students continued their studies in this school. In early 1924 it was proposed to establish an Albanian-American college for agriculture, according to the scientific methods of the time. The main branches would be economy and industry. It would have two buildings, one for girls and one for boys. After many discussions in 1924, in Kavaj was founded the American agricultural school, a girls school was opened a year later and it was in Kavaja too, by the request of President Ahmet Zogu.

At this time, the success of the technical school run by Harry Folsey was at its heights. A success to be marked was the construction of US Embassy building in Tirana, whose works were run by the students of this school. In 1928, in Tirana's Technical School 95 students enrolled, 5 of which came from Kosovo, 2 came from Greece and 2 from the US. The number of students this year reached 264. The teaching staff consisted of 19 members, 14 of which were Albanians, 2 Americans, 1 German and 2 Czechs. The girls' school in Korça was run by the Kennedy missionary couple. From the technical School in Tirana, during its 12 years of work, 176 students graduated, where 18 from them were from Kosovo, 22 from Shkodra, 17 from Tirana, 17 from Valona, 14 from Berat, 34 from Gjirokastra, 11 from Durres and 5 from Dibra. Their teachers were officers, civil servants, local officials, agronomists, mechanics and other professions. In the early twentieth century, Albanian immigrants in the US began to act as pioneers of Albanian cultural renaissance: Petro Nini Luarasi a teacher, as well as the intellectuals like Sotir Peçi, Fan Noli, Faik Konitsa or Kristo Dako. In 1906, Sotir Peçi published the first newspaper in Albanian language titled "Kombi" where their intellectual contribution gave Eftim Naçi, Vani Karameto, Vani Vangjeli. On 15.02.1909 was published the newspaper titled "Dielli" by the organization called "Besa-Besë" in Boston, led by Fan Noli, who lived in New York since 1906.

For intellectual and patriotic activity at this time was distinguished the Pan-Albanian Federation "Vatra" with its General Secretary Faik Konitsa. In 12 years in America were published 14 daily, weekly and monthly newspapers, among which the most important was "Dielli". From 1880 to 1908 in the world were published 31 titles of Albanian newspapers, of which 3 were published in Belgium, 7 in Bulgaria, 4 in Romania, 7 in Italy, 4 in England and 1 in Austria, Yugoslavia, Greece and America.

America contributed and helped Albanian education, culture and also the Balkans in general, mainly in several schools: Qiriazi Girls Institute in Tirana, the Technical School in Tirana, the Albanian-American Agricultural and Household School in Kavajë. In Macedonia, there were some many schools and among them the most popular in Bitola, while in Samakovo in 1861 was founded an American institute. The ARC activity, particularly ARCYO through the Technical School in Tirana, whose oversight was nominally until 1933, should be mentioned for the work of its operating units.

The impact of this school, teaching methods and the results achieved are part of its activities, American religious and educational institutions in the Balkans, which were represented by the Robert College in Istanbul. This educational institution was important for the Balkans at that time. Even during these transition years, America has helped in training and professionalization of Albanian intellectuals and young people.

Even President Nixon had contributed to the achievement of Kosovo autonomy, the Constitution of 1974 and the establishment of the University of Prishtina.

1.3 Historical focus of American-Albanian bilateral relations

The political barometer assesses the Albanians of Albania as one of the most pro-American countries of the globe. The first Albanian that stepped on American soil was back 1876. Followed by an Albanian priest in 1877, Prend Doçi in 1877. The early-twentieth century made the Albanians to look at the United States as the land of freedom, progress and hope. It is a 137-years history of relationship, while Albanians "discovered" America late. But after 1900 a "stream" of Albanians headed to the New World.

There are three emigration stages to America: by the end of the XIX century up to 1920 by restoring the Albanian independent state. The next stage is between two world wars and the last stage is the new democratic era after the fall of communism. It is a documented fact that in 1910 in America were born 2,312 children whose mothers spoke Albanian.

Two colossuses of Albanianism, Fan Noli and Faik Konitsa became spiritual communication bridges to further approximation of the Albanian and American nation.

It can be said that pre-diplomatic relations had begun in 1914, with the Ambassador George Fred Williams. When the Albanian State was established by Prince Wied, in Albania there was no American diplomatic representation, because the US was less engaged in European affairs. In 1914, the US government asked the US plenipotentiary minister in Greece, accredited also for Montenegro, Mr. Williams, to make a trip to Albania, to get acquainted with the situation in the country. This was the way the US and major countries used when they prepared for diplomatic

relations with a newly formed state. Ambassador Williams had also received his assignment from his government to be temporary official American representative at the International Control Commission (ICC) for Albania, based in Durres. The participation of Ambassador Williams in ICC for Albania was actually the first US participation in the concert off European powers.

Although the Ambassador Williams resigned from diplomacy, he continued to work in favor of Albania. On the January 1, 1919, the organization "Vatra" whose members Noli and Konitsa were, organized a big rally of Albanians of America in Boston, to protest against plans for the division of Albania at the Peace Conference which will be held after WWI and in this case, against plans of separation of the Southern Albania. The main speaker at this meeting was Ambassador Williams, Fan Noli, Faik Konitsa, Koste Çekrezi and others.

Diplomatic relations between Albania and the United States were established on July 28, 1922, when the Albanian state had just reaffirmed the independence. The decision for establishing diplomatic relations with the United States has come naturally after the veto put by President Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference, restored Albania's independence.

President Wilson's descendant, Warren Harding, appointed ambassador of the United States in Tirana Ulysses Grant Smith, who began the diplomatic mission on December 4, 1922.

Americans headed by Wilson were the sun for new nations with his platform with 14 items in Versailles. In 1919, at the Peace Conference, the Americans denounced the project for separating the Albanian territories and deletion of a sovereign country from the map. Anti-Albanianism inspired by European Franco-Russian chancelleries and their satellites, i.e. our neighbors, failed before Wilsonism. The first Americans that had come to Europe during and after World War I, had entered Albania with medical aid, education, and technical missions. The first car with an

American flag is documented in Drashovicë and Kotë in Valona, in the War of 1920 (June 4 - September 3, 1920). After this year (1920) is an intense American activity, mainly in economic and educational field, in some American schools opened in the 20s and the 30s. Until 1939, Albania was a favorite nation of the United States. Dozens of US diplomats arrived in Albania, businessmen, school founders, expedition scientists, underground explorers, representatives of the American Red Cross etc.

In 1939, Albania had lost its independence after the conquest by Italy and Zogu's departure from the country. The US Ambassador in Tirana in 1939, Hugh Grant, offered refuge to Zogu and his family, but it was rejected by Zogu. The embassy was officially closed on September 16, 1939 and Grant left the country on September 27, 1939. Albanian-American relations ended due to the occupation of Albania by Italy (1939-1943) and later by Germany (1943-1944) during the War II. The Allies in 1942 recognized Albanians' struggle against fascism. Ally missions, like American, English and Russian reached Albania as part of the world anti-fascist coalition. These missions supported the Albanians fighters as they could. English had the more missions and contributed the most in Albania. Whereas from the American side, it was Thomas Stefan, an Albanian-American representing the US allies in WWII.

An US military plane crashed into the Sheper mountains in Zagoria during WWII. They fell in the name of a great cause. Albanian state authorities should fully reveal this event. Albanians and Americans were on the joint battlefield. The issue of US fallen people remained unsolved due to the breaking of diplomatic relations in 1946.

1.4 Relations with America and the agreements signed during Ahmet Zogu's time

Close relations between Albania and the United States are not only a reality of post '90s. In 1922, the government of King Zogu signed with US government representatives an agreement on the status of the Most Favored Nation.

The merit of Ahmet Zogu for establishing diplomatic and trade relations with US is extraordinary and an undeniable.

President Ahmet Zogu's egoistic ambitions at the beginnings of his power (who was later proclaimed King Zog) in establishing the diplomatic and trade relations with the United States was closely linked with the real needs of Albania.

Ahmet Zogu is not seen as a good leader during the communist regime, but many unbiased authors have clearly said that all leaders in such circumstances would have been the same, if not worse. And there is no doubt that when Enver Hoxha came to power was hundred times worse.

The signing of agreements and treaties between the two countries began with the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries in 1922. The majority of agreements signed until 1939 are still in power. From these agreements is interesting the establishment of the status of the Most Favored Nation in 1922. Before the official recognition between two countries, the US commissioner Maxwell Blake exchanged letters with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Xhafer Ypi, to ensure the status of the most favored nation bilaterally between Albania and the United States. This agreement was signed in Tirana in July 1922 and entered into force on July 28, 1922. While, for the Albanian government, this agreement entered into force on 28 December 1925, after voting in the Albanian Parliament and signing by President Ahmet Zogu in December of the same year. Following, many agreements were signed such as the "Agreement on exchange of notes for the removal for ordinary visa fees" (June 1, 1926); the "Monetary agreement" (July 1, 1933); Arbitration Treaty (February, 12 1929); or Naturalization Treaty, which was signed in Tirana on April 5, 1932, entered into force on July 22, 1935; and the Treaty of Extradition (November 14, 1935).

Today, there are about 24 effective treaties and agreements between Albania and the US in various fields.

2. The breakdown of relations between Albania and the US by the dictatorial regime of Enver Hoxha

The breakdown of relations between Albania and the US was made deliberately by dictator Enver Hoxha, although the Anglo-Americans had closely collaborates with him during the ANLW and he had received a lot of assistance from them (meanwhile Enver Hoxha was planning to establish relation with the Yugoslavs and the Soviets and to be guided by them).

World War II was a global war between 1939 and 1945, involving most of the nations of the world, including all major powers of the world at that time, who formed two opposing military groups: the Allies and the Central Axis. Albania was part of the Allies, i.e. with USA, Soviet Union, Britain, China, etc.

After the war, the communist dictator Enver Hoxha opposed King Zog for his connections with US and UK: 'The self-proclaimed King of Albanians, Ahmet Zogu, who came to power with the help of the imperialists, like with many other countries, even with the United Kingdom and the United States, played the 'open door' politics and made treaties and agreements with them He recognized their status of the "most favored nation" which greatly facilitates the inflow of the capital into Albania.

Dictator Enver Hoxha also criticized Zog that he opened the doors to the missionaries, like Kennedy, philanthropists and educators (teachers) as Ericson and Harry Fulc, the Principal of Technical School in Tirana.

During ANLW, Anglo-Americans sent senior military personnel to help the Albanian liberation war. Enver Hoxha mentions Bill Maclean, General Davis, Major and Lieutenant Colonel Palmer in his book, people who sent aid, weapons and ammunition by warplanes flying in an extremely dangerous situation and pilots who risked their lives for Albania. Anglo-Americans also controlled Albanian sea. Once he won the war, Enver Hoxha proved to be ungrateful lout to the US and Britain that helped the Albanian nation. The communist leader established relations with the Soviet Union that had not given any assistance, as he admits this lack of assistance himself, excusing the Soviet Union that was geographically far, (while America and England were farther but still helped).

When an international organization, UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) tried to bring personnel and aid after the war, Enver Hoxha refused them.

Breaking of relations was entirely Enver Hoxha's blame, not the Americans blame.

2.1 Albania-US agreements after World War II

After World War II, the recognition of Albania by the United States was conditioned by the recognition of agreements signed with the Albanian government prior 1939. Meeting of this condition was not achieved and diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania were broken. They were restored only in 1991.

However, after the expulsion of the German and Italian occupation troops, the United States signed an agreement with the Albanian military troops, promising remedies to relieve the after war situation, through military troops. Humanitarian Aid Agreement was signed in Tirana on April 11, 1945. Under the agreement, the US and British government offered assistance to Albania through the military organization called "Military Liaison" - ML (Albania), composed of American and British officers, and British vehicles. As part of the agreement, the humanitarian aid will be disbursed by ML (Albania) until UNRRA could conduct independent assistance operations.

2.2 Restoration of diplomatic relations between Albania and the US after the 1990s

Americans become Albanians' strategic partners again after the fall of the communist dictatorship.

In 1991, the Albanian government sought closer relations with the West, in order to improve economic conditions and introduce the democratic reforms. Diplomatic relations between the United States and Albania were eventually restored by the democratic government of Sali Berisha. Christopher Hill and the Albanian-American Civic League of the former Congressman of Albanian origin, Joseph DioGuardi played a key role in re-establishing these relations. This re-establishment of diplomatic relations occurred on March 15, 1991. William Ryerson was the first American ambassador after the restoration of these relations. Three months after the reopening of the embassy on June 21, 1991 the US Secretary James Baker will visit Tirana, where he was hosted magnificently and has remained in the memory of both nations.

Greater support for the Albanian nation's military has given Bill Clinton for the final liberation of Kosovo during the 78-day airstrikes in March-June 1999.

Albanian-American relations will reach another peak with the historical visit of President George W. Bush on June 10, 2007, the first visit of an US president in Albania, and the reception by the citizens of Fushë-Krujë has remained in the memory of many Albanians. (The images of people in Fushë-Krujë striving to embrace President Bush, who faced with the enthusiasm of citizens, broke safety rules and protocols, was the breaking news in American and world media). Relations with Americans are relations with an Albanian national dimension in the world. The aid in the democratization of our country and also the solving of the Kosovo issue are mostly accredited to American policy and of course diplomatic relations with Albania. USA has been a very strong partner for Albania in her path towards democracy, capitalization of economy, and new westernizes opportunities. Albania and the United States had signed and ratified a number of agreements, by promoting defense and military relations, the Adriatic Charter in Euro-Atlantic integration etc. The United States supports Albania's goal to join the European Union, as it supported Albania's membership in NATO in Bucharest (4 April 2008) and in Cologne-Strasbourg (3 April 2009).

The Former Prime Minister Berisha said that the Albanian NATO membership is "the most solemn, most historical and the most important act of all national history after the Declaration of Independence" and at that time he expressed gratitude on behalf of the Albanian people: I would to express today an extraordinary appreciation to the government of the United States and President George W. Bush. This great Albanian nation's friend, in June 2007 in Tirana, brought the great historical message from the great American nation; the Independence of Kosovo and Albania in NATO. The government of the United States and their president, stood fully up to the final completion of these two projects, which Albanians are not only to be free, but once and forever they guarantee their freedom.

Albania has contributed to regional and global security. Albania has supported US policy to expand the number of countries that recognized Kosovo. In the framework of the Adriatic Charter, Albania has been an example for new NATO aspirants. It has offered military troops headed by US during operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and has supported US efforts against terrorism.

After the fall of the communist regime, the official Tirana is visited by almost all US Secretaries of State, except Warren Christopher, like as Madeleine Albright, Colin Powell, Hillary Clinton.

Conclusions

Today in this globalization era, the excellent US-Albania relations are evaluated as peace pillar in the Balkans and the world and in order to be a model for the future, these suggestions should be taken into consideration:

1. The capacity of regional crisis response: Several years ago, Albania made efforts to build the capacity of crisis response between the Adriatic places. This initiative should be revived in partnership with the US, European Union, NATO or with all the three together.
2. Adriatic would be safer if it would benefit from the combined multinational capacities of search and rescue, for response to environmental risks and law enforcement.
3. The energy security must meet the protection and democracy, as key bilateral US-Albanian relations. These key objectives should include the promotion of investments in Albania and ensure that Albania's security interests to be justified with the development of energy infrastructure in the Balkans.
4. A completed Europe, top priority of US-Albanian relations, is a Europe that is truly integrated and with no dividing lines because in this way it will be a more stable, safer Europe and more patroness to work with the United States to respond to the global challenges of the XXI century.
5. Today, has come the time the same as during the ANLW, to establish a Strategic Services Office, an intelligence network in Albania as the center for the Balkans.
6. The incumbent US President Barack Obama felt wonderfully happy in the most important and most sacred ceremony of all Albanians, who said: "I'm proud for Albania and Croatia ...". This encouraging tradition must be preserved.
7. In the modern world of today's diplomacy Albanian nation should emergently and firmly occupy the optimal position in the international environment, to change constantly in the line of European integration and globalization and help the decision-making inside and outside our country. New strategic meaning of the country, geopolitics, traditional geo-economy should vary according to the new level of thinking by respecting the best part of its assets. Local media should create a new image for Albania and our nation, to the European neighbors' attention and to the globalizing world. These images invent scenarios, implement a new well-articulated technique to connect the country regionally and globally.

In the world map of memories our nation must take place in an emotional identities influential global audience, unique for coexistence and religious and ethnic harmony.

8. After the establishment of independence of Kosovo, media need to clarify public opinion that trans-boundary natural relations with Albania are source of stability, freedom, peace and integration. Pan-Albanian regional integration should be a guarantee to stability and development and not as a potential danger to others. Position and attitude towards undetermined political statuses in the Balkans remains one of the obligations and priorities of the media and Albanian diplomacy and international diplomacy.
9. Multiethnic and democratic Macedonia keeping its territorial integrity and rejecting any idea of changing the internal or external borders by force, artificial ethnic division serves as an option and outlook for the future of the Albanian media. The international community is united and committed for a durable active, hopeful policy, without propagandistic tricks or rhetoric, but to be real interest for peace. Dialogue must intensify the political engagement of media.
10. We have to fight against prejudices Larry Wolf mentions in his excellent book titled "Inventing Eastern Europe"—the prejudice attributable to Voltaire and Diderot, still present at a large scale among the majority of silent Western-Europe as we are stagnant people who live in misery and poverty, troubled by old hatreds and unable to run a prosperous democracy, a market economy, regular and a vibrant culture.
11. In the US concept the Balkans is the "incomplete Europe". Let's make every effort to make Europe complete, together with Albania, together with the Balkans as an integral part of the EU.

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