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IN THE FACE OF THE COLD WAR: UNKNOWN POLISH ALBANIAN RELATIONS 1949-1952 IN THE LIGHT OF POLISH DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS

Abstract: *The article analyzes the diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between Poland and Albania during the years 1949–1952 in the context of the Cold War and the integration of both states within the Eastern Bloc. Starting with the most significant diplomatic events, it discusses the nomination of Mihal Prifti as Albania's Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary to Poland, as well as the appointment of Bolesław Jeleń as the head of the Polish diplomatic mission in Tirana. The personnel of the Embassy of the People's Republic of Albania in Poland included Mihal Prifti, his wife, Llambi Dishnica, Drita Dishnica, and Abdyl Ulqinaku. On the Polish side, the staff consisted of Anna Wróblewska-Jacobson, Antoni Duchnowski, and Stefania Stępnjak. Bolesław Jeleń, head of the Polish diplomatic mission in Tirana, held meetings and talks with Enver Hoxha, Bedri Spahiu, Omer Nishani, Kahreman Ylli, Gogo Nushi, and Tuk Jakova, which are detailed in the article. These discussions focused on key political and economic issues and aimed to strengthen cooperation between Poland and Albania during the Cold War period.*

Key diplomatic discussions involving representatives from both countries were presented, including Llambi Dishnica, Nesti Nase, and Abdyl Ulqinaku from Albania, as well as Polish diplomats such as Wiesław Sobierajski, Dora Lassman, and Feliksa Koniecznyńska. A significant aspect of these discussions was the economic issues, including Albania's acquisition of German ships as war reparations, which aimed to facilitate trade cooperation. On this matter, the Albanian government proposed that Poland purchase ships and barges, emphasizing the need for a prompt response. Additionally, the cancellation of orders for Polish railway wagons, resulting from changes in Albania's economic

development plans, was discussed. Other topics included the planned visit of a trade delegation, delays related to the embassy building, difficulties in obtaining assistance from UNICEF, interest in historical documents in Polish libraries, the arrival of Albanian workers in Poland, internships for Albanian students, and technical cooperation in sectors such as mining, railways, and ports. Issues concerning the transportation of goods, the exchange of embassy buildings, challenges in securing specialists, and matters related to the remuneration of Albanian interns were also raised. The matter of an exit visa for Olga Tadicz, the wife of Albanian student Hamdi Kakuli, who wished to join her husband in Albania, was discussed as well. Other discussions addressed education-related topics, including scholarships for Albanian students in Poland and their vocational internships, as well as cooperation in health care, including the treatment of Albanian officers in Poland.

The article also places particular emphasis on the cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania from 1949 to 1952, which was a significant aspect of the diplomatic rapprochement between the two countries within the Eastern Bloc. This collaboration, despite organizational and logistical challenges, aimed to strengthen ideological ties between the socialist states and promote values associated with socialism and communist ideology. One of the key events in this sphere was the Albanian Polish Friendship Week, held in 1950. This event was organized as part of a broader propaganda strategy to strengthen the alliance between Poland and Albania through artistic and cultural exchange. The main elements of the event included art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, and other initiatives aimed at introducing Albanian audiences to Polish culture and art. The goal was not only to promote shared values but also to showcase the strength of contemporary socialist culture, which sought to create a positive image of both countries in the eyes of other Eastern Bloc states. While the Friendship Week achieved certain positive outcomes, such as increasing the Albanian public's interest in Polish art, numerous organizational difficulties were also highlighted.

Delays in preparations, difficulties in transporting materials, and limited infrastructural resources encountered by both sides meant that the implementation of the program did not always proceed according to the original plans. Alongside organizing cultural events, both parties sought to intensify cultural exchange at the institutional level. In 1950, a cultural cooperation agreement was signed, aiming to strengthen ties between the two nations through the exchange of literature, art, education, and the organization of joint artistic and scientific initiatives. This agreement served as a significant diplomatic tool that enabled Poles and Albanians to collaborate in the fields of art, education, and material culture. An example of its implementation was the organization of exhibitions in Poland showcasing Albanian art and photography, designed to promote Albanian national identity within the context of socialism. In the field of education, a key aspect of the cooperation was the exchange of scholarships and the organization of programs for Albanian students, who came to Poland to study

in various disciplines, from social sciences to engineering. Thus, cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania from 1949 to 1952 was not only a diplomatic process but also an ideological endeavor aimed at promoting socialist values and bringing the two countries closer within the Eastern Bloc. Despite numerous organizational and logistical challenges, it was a crucial element in strengthening interstate relations, with a noticeable impact on the further development of economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties in the following years.

An analysis of documents from 1950–1952 reveals a series of challenges related to the implementation of trade agreements concerning economic cooperation between Poland and Albania. Despite efforts on both sides, agreements from 1949–1950 faced numerous difficulties, such as delays in the delivery of goods, including bitumen, copper, and railway tracks. Due to changing economic conditions, Albania began considering securing loans from other socialist countries, such as Romania and Czechoslovakia, which offered higher financing amounts. Consequently, economic cooperation between Poland and Albania was hindered, and mutual agreements often required renegotiation, particularly regarding the delivery of goods and project financing. Despite these challenges, Poland and Albania sought to develop cooperation in various areas. Joint initiatives included the exchange of specialists, training Albanian workers and students in Poland, and modernization plans aimed at utilizing Polish expertise in post-war reconstruction efforts in Albania. At the same time, logistical challenges, differences in legal regulations, and changing political conditions were significant barriers to achieving full cooperation. From a broader political and ideological perspective, the diplomatic talks between Poland and Albania from 1949 to 1952 serve as an interesting example of the Eastern Bloc's efforts to strengthen cooperation among its member states to counter Western influences. Economic, cultural, and technical cooperation became not only diplomatic tools but also part of a modernization process aimed at building a unified socialist bloc.

Key words: Cold War, Poland, Albania, diplomacy, economy, culture.

U JEKU HLADNOG RATA: NEPOZNATI POLJSKO-ALBANSKI ODNOSI 1949–1952. U SVJETLU POLJSKIH DIPLOMATSKIH DOKUMENATA

Apstrakt: Ovaj članak analizira diplomatske, ekonomske i kulturne odnose između Poljske i Albanije tokom godina 1949–1952. u kontekstu Hladnog rata i integracije obje države unutar Istočnog bloka. Počevši od najvažnijih diplomatskih događaja, razmatra se imenovanje Mihala Priftija za izvanrednog opunomoćenog ambasadora Albanije u Poljskoj, kao i imenovanje Bolesława Jelenia za šefa poljske diplomatske misije u Tirani. Osoblje Ambasade Narodne Republike Albanije u Poljskoj činili su Mihal Prifti, njegova supruga, Llambi

Dishnica, Drita Dishnica i Abdyl Ulqinaku. Sa poljske strane, osoblje su činili Anna Wróblewska-Jacobson, Antoni Duchnowski i Stefania Stępnjak. Bolesław Jeleń, šef poljske diplomatske misije u Tirani, održavao je sastanke i razgovore s Enverom Hoxhom, Bedrijem Spahiujem, Omerom Nishanijem, Kahremanom Yllijem, Gogom Nushijem i Tukom Jakovom, koji su detaljno predstavljani u članku. Ti razgovori su se fokusirali na ključna politička i ekonomska pitanja s ciljem jačanja saradnje između Poljske i Albanije tokom perioda Hladnog rata.

Ključni diplomatski razgovori između predstavnika obje zemlje su predstavljani, uključujući Llambija Dishnicu, Nestija Nasea i Abdyla Ulqinakua s albanske strane, kao i poljske diplomate poput Wiesława Sobierajskog, Dore Lassman i Felikse Konieczynske. Značajan aspekt ovih razgovora bile su ekonomske teme, uključujući sticanje njemačkih brodova od strane Albanije kao ratne reparacije, što je imalo za cilj olakšanje trgovinske saradnje. Po tom pitanju, albanska vlada je predložila da Poljska kupi brodove i teglenice, naglašavajući potrebu za brzom reakcijom. Također je raspravljano o otkazivanju narudžbi za poljske željezničke vagone, što je bilo rezultat promjena u planovima ekonomskog razvoja Albanije. Ostale teme uključivale su planiranu posjetu trgovačke delegacije, kašnjenja vezana za zgradu ambasade, poteškoće u dobijanju pomoći od UNICEF-a, interesovanje za historijske dokumente u poljskim bibliotekama, dolazak albanskih radnika u Poljsku, stručne prakse za albanske studente i tehničku saradnju u sektorima poput rudarstva, željeznice i luka. Također su pokrenuta pitanja koja se odnose na transport robe, razmjenu zgrada ambasada, izazove u osiguravanju stručnjaka, kao i pitanja vezana za naknade albanskih pripravnika. Razmatrano je i izdavanje izlazne vize za Olgu Tadicz, suprugu albanskog studenta Hamdija Kakulija, koja je željela da mu se pridruži u Albaniji. Ostali razgovori bavili su se temama vezanim za obrazovanje, uključujući stipendije za albanske studente u Poljskoj i njihove stručne prakse, kao i saradnjom u oblasti zdravstva, uključujući liječenje albanskih oficira u Poljskoj.

Članak također stavlja poseban naglasak na kulturnu saradnju između Poljske i Albanije u periodu od 1949. do 1952. godine, koja je predstavljala značajan aspekt diplomatskog približavanja dviju zemalja unutar Istočnog bloka. Ova saradnja, uprkos organizacionim i logističkim izazovima, imala je za cilj jačanje ideoloških veza između socijalističkih država i promoviranje vrijednosti povezanih sa socijalizmom i komunističkom ideologijom. Jedan od ključnih događaja u ovoj oblasti bila je Sedmica albansko-poljskog prijateljstva, održana 1950. godine. Ovaj događaj je organizovan kao dio šire propagandne strategije s ciljem jačanja savezništva između Poljske i Albanije kroz umjetničku i kulturnu razmjenu. Glavni elementi događaja uključivali su izložbe umjetnosti, filmske projekcije, koncerte i druge inicijative usmjerene na upoznavanje albanske publike s poljskom kulturom i umjetnošću. Cilj nije bio samo promovisanje zajedničkih vrijednosti, već i predstavljanje snage savremene socijalističke kulture, koja je težila stvaranju pozitivne slike obje zemlje u očima ostalih država Istočnog bloka. Iako je Sedmica prijateljstva donijela određene

pozitivne rezultate, poput povećanog interesa albanske javnosti za poljsku umjetnost, ukazano je i na brojne organizacione poteškoće.

Kašnjenja u pripremama, poteškoće u transportu materijala i ograničeni infrastrukturni resursi s kojima su se suočavale obje strane doveli su do toga da realizacija programa nije uvijek tekla prema prvobitnim planovima. Pored organizovanja kulturnih događaja, obje strane su nastojale intenzivirati kulturnu razmjenu na institucionalnom nivou. Godine 1950. potpisan je sporazum o kulturnoj saradnji s ciljem jačanja veza između dvije nacije kroz razmjenu književnosti, umjetnosti, obrazovanja i organizaciju zajedničkih umjetničkih i naučnih inicijativa. Ovaj sporazum služio je kao značajan diplomatski alat koji je omogućio Poljacima i Albancima saradnju u oblastima umjetnosti, obrazovanja i materijalne kulture. Primjer njegove realizacije bila je organizacija izložbi u Poljskoj koje su prikazivale albansku umjetnost i fotografiju, sa ciljem promoviranja albanskog nacionalnog identiteta u kontekstu socijalizma. U oblasti obrazovanja, ključni aspekt saradnje bila je razmjena stipendija i organizacija programa za albanske studente, koji su dolazili u Poljsku da studiraju u različitim disciplinama, od društvenih nauka do inženjeringa. Tako je kulturna saradnja između Poljske i Albanije od 1949. do 1952. godine bila ne samo diplomatski proces, već i ideološki poduhvat s ciljem promoviranja socijalističkih vrijednosti i približavanja dviju zemalja unutar Istočnog bloka. Uprkos brojnim organizacionim i logističkim izazovima, bila je ključni element u jačanju međudržavnih odnosa, s vidljivim utjecajem na dalji razvoj ekonomskih, diplomatskih i kulturnih veza u narednim godinama.

Analiza dokumenata iz 1950–1952. godine otkriva niz izazova u vezi s implementacijom trgovinskih sporazuma koji se odnose na ekonomsku saradnju između Poljske i Albanije. Uprkos naporima obje strane, sporazumi iz 1949–1950. godine suočavali su se s brojnim poteškoćama, poput kašnjenja u isporuci robe, uključujući bitumen, bakar i željezničke pruge. Zbog promjenjivih ekonomskih uvjeta, Albanija je počela razmatrati osiguranje kredita od drugih socijalističkih zemalja, poput Rumunije i Čehoslovačke, koje su nudile veće iznose finansiranja. Posljedično, ekonomska saradnja između Poljske i Albanije bila je otežana, a međusobni sporazumi često su zahtijevali ponovnu pregovaranje, posebno u vezi s isporukom robe i finansiranjem projekata. Uprkos tim izazovima, Poljska i Albanija su nastojale razvijati saradnju u različitim oblastima. Zajedničke inicijative uključivale su razmjenu stručnjaka, obuku albanskih radnika i studenata u Poljskoj, te planove za modernizaciju s ciljem korištenja poljskog stručnog znanja u poslijeratnoj obnovi Albanije. Istovremeno, logistički izazovi, razlike u zakonskim regulativama i promjenjivi politički uvjeti bili su značajna prepreka za postizanje potpune saradnje. Sa šire političke i ideološke perspektive, diplomatski pregovori između Poljske i Albanije od 1949. do 1952. godine predstavljaju interesantan primjer napora Istočnog bloka da ojača saradnju među svojim članicama kako bi se suprotstavio zapadnim uticajima. Ekonomska, kulturna i tehnička saradnja

postala je ne samo diplomatski alat, već i dio procesa modernizacije s ciljem izgradnje ujedinjenog socijalističkog bloka.

Ključne riječi: *Hladni rat, Poljska, Albanija, diplomatija, ekonomija, kultura.*

Between Warsaw and Tirana: Establishing Diplomatic Relations and Challenges in the Years 1949-1952

On January 13, 1949, the Legation of People's Albania, acting on the authorization of its government, officially informed the Government of the Republic of Poland of the decision to strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries. As part of this initiative, Albania planned personnel changes within its diplomatic mission in Poland.¹

The Albanian government approached the Polish authorities with a request to approve the candidacy of Mr. Mihal Prifti for the position of Albania's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Poland. A detailed biography was attached to the official letter. Mihal Prifti, born in 1918 in Gjirokastrë, Albania, received his education in Athens and Rome. From a young age, he was involved in the Albanian liberation movement, and from 1943, he fought in partisan ranks. In 1945, he took on the role of Secretary-General in the Presidium of the Albanian Council of Ministers. Since April 1947, he had served as Albania's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Moscow.²

In connection with the above, the Albanian legation formally requested the Government of the Republic of Poland to approve the appointment of Mr. Prifti as Albania's diplomatic representative in Poland. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after thoroughly reviewing the request, decided to forward it to the Citizen President for his approval,³ without raising any objections to this

¹ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – Poseł Albanii w Moskwie Mihal Prifti proponowany równocześnie na Posła Albanii w Warszawie: Listy uwierzytelniające, korespondencja, notatki, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (AMSZ), Departament: Protokół Dyplomatyczny z lat 1945 – 1963, Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-16 W-3 T-50, Daty Skrajne: 1949 – 1951, Państwo: Albania – Ludowa Republika Albanii, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Europa Południowa, Europa Wschodnia, 1.

² *Ibidem*, 3-4.

³ *Ibidem*, 6; In the diplomatic context, when the People's Albanian Legation approached the Government of the Republic of Poland with a request to approve Mr. Mihal Prifti's nomination as Extraordinary Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary, it is customary for such nominations to be ultimately approved by the head of state, in this case, the President. The request to send the document to the Citizen President aimed at formally obtaining his approval for this nomination, which is a standard procedure in many countries. Approval by the President is important because it emphasizes the rank and significance of the nomination, as well as confirms that the diplomatic representative will act on behalf of the state at the highest level. This process is designed to ensure that all changes in the composition of diplomatic missions are properly coordinated and accepted by the highest authorities.

candidacy. The document was signed by the Secretary General of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Stefan Wierbłowski, underscoring the significance and official nature of this initiative.⁴ On February 3, 1949, following the instructions of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Stefan Wierbłowski was informed that there were no objections to the candidacy of Mr. Mihal Prifti, proposed for the position of Albania's Envoy to Warsaw. The document confirmed the positive stance of the Polish government toward this nomination, reflecting goodwill in the diplomatic relations between Poland and Albania. On February 12, 1949, in Tirana, the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Albania addressed President Bolesław Bierut with a request to approve the nomination of Mihal Prifti. The letter expressed a desire to maintain and strengthen the friendship between the two countries, reflecting an intention to develop bilateral cooperation. The letter also conveyed wishes for Poland's prosperity, indicating a willingness for mutual support.⁵

In response to the nomination, the Polish Minister accepted Mihal Prifti's letters of credence with satisfaction, emphasizing that Poland views the heroic struggles of the Albanian people during the war with great respect. He highlighted that cooperation between the two countries is based on shared aspirations for peace and prosperity. The document also expressed the intention to strengthen the friendship, which held particular significance in the context of post-war stabilization in Europe. During discussions, the importance of the friendship between the nations, reinforced by their shared struggle against foreign occupiers, was underscored. Attention was drawn to the gratitude of both nations toward the Soviet Union, which played a key role in their struggle for freedom and independence. Ultimately, the documents highlighted that both sides were ready for further cooperation, indicating the ambitions of both governments to strengthen international relations and their shared pursuit of development and peace in the region.⁶

Analyzing the appointment of Mihal Prifti as the Extraordinary Envoy to Poland reveals several key reasons and contexts that reflect the complex political situation in post-war Europe. Prifti was a figure with considerable experience, both in the struggle for independence and in government administration. His involvement in the Albanian resistance movement and the roles he held in government administration, such as Secretary General in the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of Albania and his work in Moscow, made him a suitable candidate to represent Albania in Poland. Both countries, situated within the sphere of influence of the USSR, sought to stabilize their diplomatic relations. However, these relations were rooted in the context of ideological dominance. Communism, as the system of governance in both states, introduced elements that restricted their autonomy and independence in decision-making. Despite

⁴ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – Posel Albanii w Moskwie Mihal Prifti..., op.cit, 6.

⁵ *Ibidem*, 7-8.

⁶ *Ibidem*, 9-12.

efforts to achieve stability, the cooperation was burdened with expectations from Moscow, which could lead to conflicts of interest in the future. Consequently, it is difficult to speak of full trust between Albania and Poland; their relations were a complex web of interactions where pragmatism often had to give way to ideological dictates.

In April 1949, Albanian envoy Mihal Prifti arrived in Warsaw from Moscow, accompanied by his wife and secretary. They were welcomed at the Warsaw airport by Llambi Dishnica, Secretary of the Albanian Legation, along with Angoni Murati, an official from the Albanian Ministry of Trade, as well as a group of Albanian students studying in Poland. Prifti was taken to the Bristol Hotel, where two rooms had been reserved for him. The following day, his visit to the Director of the Diplomatic Protocol was scheduled for 12:00. Prifti had previously been in Poland, participating in the Wrocław Congress and the Unification Congress. He had direct contacts with the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Polish diplomats. The Albanian Legation in Warsaw also included Llambi Dishnica, who had previously been chargé d'affaires in Bucharest and participated in the Albanian partisan movement during World War II. Additionally, the legation was supported by Angoni Murat, a commercial attaché from the Ministry of Trade in Tirana.⁷

During his stay in Warsaw, Prifti signaled difficulties related to finding a suitable premises for the legation and housing for its representatives. Temporary accommodation at the Polonia Hotel was only a temporary solution to this problem. The ideal solution for the Albanian diplomatic mission was to rent a space that would house both the legation's offices and the residence for the chargé d'affaires. During his stay, Prifti was also looking for a way to settle his dollar-based financial resources, expressing uncertainty about potential agreements between Poland and Albania regarding financial settlements. Until a response was received, he requested the possibility of obtaining credit for his expenses at the hotel. Prifti planned to present his letters of credence in the coming days, and his return to Moscow was scheduled for early May 1949.⁸

In August 1949, the Government of the Republic of Poland decided to appoint Bolesław Jeleń as the Legation Counselor in Tirana. This important event aimed to strengthen the friendly relations between Poland and Albania. As Charge d'Affaires, Jeleń was tasked with leading the Polish legation and representing the interests of the Republic of Poland in the Albanian capital.⁹ In

⁷ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi w Warszawie, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-17 T-148, Daty Skrajne: 1949-1958, Państwo: Albania, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Środkowa, 2-4.

⁸ *Ibidem*, 4-5.

⁹ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – Utworzenie Poselstwa Polski w Tiranie. Bolesław Jeleń, Chargé D'Affaires en pied, Listy wprowadzające, korespondencja, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (AMSZ), Departament: Protokół Dyplomatyczny z lat 1945 – 1963, Sygnatura

the context of post-war Europe, this nomination was significant not only diplomatically but also symbolically, demonstrating Poland's desire to build positive ties with other countries. The new challenges and opportunities for cooperation became crucial for the stabilization and development of international relations during this period. Jeleń's appointment also reflected the broader policy of the government, which sought to increase its presence in the region and strengthen Poland's position as an active participant in international affairs.

On August 31, 1949, Bolesław Jeleń, chargé d'affaires of the People's Republic of Poland in Tirana, sent a confidential report to Ambassador Stefan Wierbłowski, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, detailing the discussions held in Albania from August 11 to 29, 1949. The document contains a detailed account of the initial diplomatic contacts with representatives of the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.¹⁰

Jeleń reports that upon his arrival in Tirana, he was kindly welcomed by the head of protocol at the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Evangjeli. On August 13, he held a meeting with Manush Myfti, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was managing the ministry in place of Enver Hoxha, who simultaneously held the positions of Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. The conversation, which lasted 45 minutes, was conducted in French. During the meeting, Myfti expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of diplomatic relations between Poland and Albania, emphasizing that cooperation between socialist countries would contribute to strengthening the camp of democracy and peace. Jeleń shared these views, also expressing the sympathy of the Polish people towards Albania and recognition of its political and economic achievements. Myfti broadly outlined the internal situation in Albania, highlighting the assistance the country receives from the USSR and other socialist states. The conversation was friendly in nature, although the need to use an interpreter somewhat limited its fluency. In the end, Myfti assured that the ministry was making efforts for the Polish diplomatic mission to begin its operations as soon as possible, asking for understanding regarding the local difficulties.¹¹

In the report of the Polish representative's visit to the Albanian Prime Minister, Enver Hoxha, on August 17, several key elements can be seen that illustrate the relations between Poland and Albania at the time, as well as the political and economic situation in Albania. Hoxha expressed particular appreciation for the support Albania had received from Poland, emphasizing the importance of trade credits that helped stabilize the country's economy after the

Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-16 W-3 T-46, Daty Skrajne: 1949, Państwo: Albania – Ludowa Republika Albanii, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Europa Południowa, Europa Wschodnia, 1-3.

¹⁰ Notatki z rozmów polskich dyplomatów w Tiranie, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-17 T-147, Daty Skrajne: 1949-1960, Państwo: Albania, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Środkowa, 2.

¹¹ *Ibidem*, 3-4.

end of World War II. His remarks primarily focused on Albania's role in the bloc of socialist states and the alliance with the USSR, which Hoxha regarded as a crucial element for the survival and development of the Albanian state. During the conversation, Prime Minister Hoxha addressed the internal situation in Albania, highlighting the country's economic and social backwardness, as well as the challenges faced by the young working class. He also added that Albania constantly had to fend off provocations from Yugoslavia and Greece, particularly attacks by monarcho-fascist Greek forces on the country's borders. Hoxha emphasized the determination of the Albanian people in defending their sovereignty and the bonds of friendship with the USSR, which ensure stability in the region. The entire visit took place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and confirmed the close diplomatic relations between Albania and Poland.¹²

On August 20, Bolesław Jeleń met with Dr. Omer Nishani, Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, accompanied by Deputy Minister Vasil Nathanaili. The conversation was conducted in French, which Nishani spoke fluently. Nishani, described as an old Albanian democrat, had studied in several European countries and had been in political exile for over 20 years. During the meeting, he emphasized Albania's gratitude to the USSR.¹³

On August 22, 1949, an important meeting took place between Bolesław Jeleń and Bedri Spahiu, the Vice Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Albania, at the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Party. Spahiu, then 41 years old, was a key figure in Albania's new political order, holding several high-ranking positions, including Minister of Reconstruction and Prosecutor General. The conversation lasted approximately an hour and occurred in a cordial atmosphere, despite Albania's challenging circumstances at the time. Spahiu, proficient in French but struggling with Italian, addressed current political and economic issues during the discussion. It is worth noting that his position aligned closely with the political line represented by Enver Hoxha, suggesting strong ideological and organizational ties within the Communist Party. Spahiu addressed issues related to external threats, particularly in the context of British military landing attempts and Albania's increasing isolation due to Yugoslavia's aggressive policies. His assessment of the situation demonstrated determination to maintain party unity and stability in the face of challenges the country was facing. He mentioned technical support from the USSR and other People's Democracies, highlighting the international context of Albania's postwar politics.¹⁴

Analyzing this meeting, it becomes evident that it was crucial for understanding the internal dynamics of power in Albania and the challenges it faced in the immediate post-World War II period. The image of Albania as a country resisting imperialist influences while striving to maintain independence

¹² Notatki z rozmów polskich dyplomatów w Tiranie, op.cit, 5-6.

¹³ *Ibidem*, 6-7.

¹⁴ Notatki z rozmów polskich dyplomatów w Tiranie..., op.cit, 7-9.

becomes clearer, revealing how the political elites of the time sought to consolidate power in the face of external threats. Analyzing this situation provides deeper insight into how ideology influenced political decisions and the mechanisms employed to maintain power during times of crisis. This meeting also sheds light on the complexity of the relationship between political practice and ideological convictions during the Cold War era.

Kahreman Ylli, the Minister of Education, met with Bolesław Jeleń at the ministry headquarters, and the conversation was conducted in fluent French, which Ylli had mastered. The discussion revealed that he had spent time in France before the war, where he studied in Lyon, possibly indicating his involvement in the communist movement. Between 1946 and 1947, he served as Albania's envoy to Paris, which allowed him to establish connections with Minister Skrzyszewski and Ambassador Putrament.¹⁵ This meeting highlights the complexity of diplomatic relations and the influence of the historical context on cooperation between Poland and Albania during this period.

Gogo Nushi, the Minister of Industry, met with Bolesław Jeleń on August 26 at the Ministry of Industry headquarters. The conversation was conducted in French, without an interpreter. Nushi, approximately 36 years old, came from a working-class background. Since 1943, he had served as the Secretary of the District Committee in Tirana, and in 1949, he joined the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labour. Before the war, he worked in Villeurbanne, where he came into contact with the communist movement.¹⁶ During the discussions, the Albanian representatives expressed interest in Poland's achievements, but no specific proposals regarding future Polish-Albanian relations were presented.¹⁷

The document dated December 23, 1949, issued by the Legation of the People's Republic of Albania, contains significant information regarding the composition of the legation's staff and their roles in the context of Polish-Albanian diplomatic relations.

- Mihal Prifti – Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, played a key role in representing Albania in Poland. His duties included negotiations and maintaining relations with the Polish government. The documents noted his absence, which may indicate challenges related to diplomacy during that period.
- Mrs. Prifti, the wife of Mihal Prifti, was also mentioned; however, her absence may suggest that both had to contend with challenges related to their roles.
- Llambi Dishnica – Charge d'Affaires ad interim, temporarily in charge of the legation's affairs in the absence of the ambassador. His duties included managing daily diplomatic matters and maintaining contact

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, 9.

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, 10

¹⁷ Notatki z rozmów polskich dyplomatów w Tiranie..., op.cit, 10-11.

with the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dishnica played an important role in the context of the legation's activities, particularly in crisis situations.

- Drita Dishnica, the wife of Llambi Dishnica, may have played a supporting role in the legation's activities. In the diplomatic context, the wives of diplomats often participated in social life.¹⁸
- Abdyl Ulqinaku – Chancellor¹⁹, who served as the secretary at the legation. He was responsible for the administration and organization of the daily functioning of the diplomatic mission.

In the section regarding the Polish staff, the following were listed:

- Anna Wroblewska-Jacobson – typist and translator, responsible for documentation and translations, which were essential for effective communication with Polish institutions.
- Antoni Duchnowski – driver and bailiff, responsible for transportation and the daily logistical affairs of the legation. His role, although less visible, was crucial for ensuring operational efficiency.
- Stefania Stępnjak – the person responsible for cleaning, highlighting the need to ensure appropriate working conditions at the diplomatic mission.²⁰

This document, in addition to outlining the composition of the staff, illustrates the complexity of diplomatic relations in postwar Europe. The individuals listed had a significant impact on shaping Polish-Albanian relations, and their roles, both formal and informal, were crucial to the functioning of the legation. In a historical context, this staff listing provides valuable information about the organization and operations of legations during the difficult postwar period.²¹

Documents from the Polish Legation in Tirana from September and December 1949 highlight the complexity and difficulties associated with the functioning of the Polish diplomatic mission in Albania after the end of World War II. The correspondence from Chargé d'Affaires Bolesław Jeleń indicates significant delays regarding the legation's premises and communication problems

¹⁸ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – Poseł Albanii w Moskwie Mihal Prifti..., op.cit, 13-14.

¹⁹ The term *chancelier* (in Polish, *kanclerz* or *kancelarz*) in the diplomatic context refers to a person holding an administrative role in a diplomatic mission, such as an embassy or legation. In the Polish diplomatic system, the chancellor often performs a role similar to that of a secretary, with responsibilities including managing administration, organizing daily operations, and providing support to the head of the diplomatic mission. In short, *chancelier* can be considered a term that encompasses the functions of both a chancellor and a secretary in a diplomatic context, with an emphasis on the administrative aspects of the mission's activities. In diplomatic documents, it is often used interchangeably with *secretary* or *administrator*, depending on the specifics of the country and context.

²⁰ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – Poseł Albanii w Moskwie Mihal Prifti..., op.cit: p.14.

²¹ *Ibidem*, 14.

with Warsaw, which is particularly important in the context of the geopolitical tensions of the time. In the first document from September 29, 1949, Jeleń expresses frustration due to the lack of progress on the location of the mission. The promised deadlines for the mission's establishment were repeatedly postponed, which resulted in the legation staff being forced to live in a hotel, affecting their daily functioning and ability to carry out diplomatic tasks. It is worth noting that during this period, communication with Warsaw was crucial, and its absence posed a significant obstacle to the mission's operations. Jeleń, aware of the growing problems, decided to demand a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which reflects his determination to obtain concrete information and resolve the situation. His account reveals not only personal discouragement but also a broader political context in which Poland sought to strengthen its presence in Albania in the face of the changing international situation.²²

In the second document from December 3, 1949, Jeleń informs about the commencement of renovations on the building that was to house the legation. He highlights the urgency of establishing radio and cipher communication, which was crucial for the functioning of the mission during this period. He also mentions the legation's financial situation, which was largely resolved by opening an account at the Bank of Albania.²³

Both the first and second parts of the correspondence reveal the turbulence and challenges faced by Polish diplomats. The issues with financing the renovation of the legation's premises and the financial obligations incurred due to the building's rental illustrate the difficulties diplomatic missions encountered amid the political and economic instability of the region. In the analyzed documents, it is evident how local conditions influenced Polish foreign policy and how diplomats had to deal with daily challenges, often of an administrative and financial nature. This correspondence serves as a valuable source material, shedding light not only on the personal struggles of diplomats but also on the broader political contexts in which Polish missions operated in Albania.

On May 19, 1950, Bolesław Jeleń held a conversation with Tuk Jakova, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Ministry of Industry of Albania. During the conversation, Jakova requested the arrival of a group of officials to Poland, indicating a desire to strengthen international cooperation and develop contacts between Poland and Albania. Jakova explained how the Albanian government views its foreign connections, highlighting difficulties in maritime communication through Trieste. He emphasized that such a route could not be

²² Ułatwienia dotyczące budynku-siedziby placówki dyplomatycznej Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej w Tiranie, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-17 T-149, Daty Skrajne: 1949-1953, Państwo: Albania, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Środkowa, 1.

²³ *Ibidem*, 2.

considered due to concerns about American intervention. He mentioned an incident involving an Albanian sailor who sustained a minor injury on the way to Trieste. After being taken to the hospital, he was denied immediate assistance, and after returning the following day, he did not reappear. The Albanian government suspected that the sailor might have been abducted by the American police or at their behest. Jakova pointed out that maritime communication should be conducted through the Black Sea to avoid potential threats related to American presence in the region. In the context of the discussed situation, Jakova showed Jeleń the number of the newspaper *Zëri i Popullit*. Referring to the international situation, Jakova expressed the view that *we have healthy nerves and there is no chance that we will allow them to be disturbed*.²⁴ The analysis of this statement reveals the determination of the Albanian government in the face of international tensions and its efforts to defend the country's sovereignty. Jakov's words suggest the belief that Albania, despite the difficult geopolitical situation, is capable of maintaining internal stability. These events illustrate the complexity of Albanian-Polish relations and reflect the broader context of the Cold War, in which Albania sought to preserve its independence amid the growing dominance of Western powers.

The discussions held by Aleksander Skrzynia, the Polish chargé d'affaires in Albania from 1952 to 1954, with representatives of the Albanian government, such as Deputy Foreign Minister Mihal Prifti and Minister of Trade Wasil Kati, reveal the practical difficulties and expectations associated with developing cooperation within the Eastern Bloc. Deputy Minister Prifti emphasized the Albanian side's hopes for intensifying diplomatic relations and expressed the expectation that Poland would send a delegation to the Second Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour.²⁵ The desire for the presence of a Polish envoy in Albania underscores the Albanian diplomacy's drive to strengthen its international position and maintain prestige within the socialist bloc. The Albanians were clearly determined to achieve an appropriate level of representation in their relations with Poland that would reflect their importance. On the other hand, the conversation with Minister of Trade Wasil Kati reveals how economic challenges impacted bilateral relations. Albania was reliant on imports of raw materials and equipment from Poland, which was associated with significant logistical and administrative issues. Minister Kati expressed dissatisfaction with the delayed delivery of explosives, carbide, and compressors, which were crucial for the implementation of Albanian infrastructure projects, such as the construction of a hydroelectric power plant on the Mati River. He emphasized the need for a quicker response from the Polish government to avoid delaying construction and mining work in Albania. It is also worth noting that the dialogue addressed the form of communication and the level of diplomatic intervention. The Albanian side preferred that economic matters be discussed at

²⁴ Notatki z rozmów polskich dyplomatów w Tiranie..., op.cit, 13-14.

²⁵ *Ibidem*, 28.

the ambassadorial level rather than through a trade representative.²⁶ This suggests some tensions related to the effectiveness of this cooperation, which from a historian's perspective shows that Albania – largely dependent on the support of its allies – was trying to secure as broad an engagement from Poland as possible.

In conclusion, these documents portray Polish-Albanian relations as constructive yet full of challenges. The cooperation between Poland and Albania stemmed not only from ideological solidarity within the socialist bloc but also from the practical needs of both countries, with Albania requiring economic and technical support, while Poland viewed these relations as an opportunity to consolidate its influence in the region.

Poland and Albania's Post-War Cooperation: An Analysis of Selected Diplomatic Conversations from 1949-1952

Between 1949 and 1952, relations between Poland and Albania developed in the context of post-war challenges and economic changes. During diplomatic conversations, both sides took actions aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade, education, and culture, adapting to current needs and opportunities. The following analysis of selected meetings demonstrates how both countries navigated the new reality, striving to achieve common interests and build long-term relations.

On May 25, 1949, a conversation took place between Llambi Dishenica²⁷ a representative of Albania, and Wiesław Sobierajski,²⁸ representing Poland. The conversation focused on trade agreements and the issue of canceling orders for wagons. Dishenica informed that in January 1949, contracts were signed under the trade agreement regarding the supply of Polish wagons, which highlights activity in the trade sector. However, due to changes in Albania's economy, there arose a need to cancel orders for tanker wagons. This indicates a dynamic economic situation and the difficulties faced by Albania. The approval to cancel the orders for coal wagons and freight wagons may indicate the pragmatism of the Albanian side, which was forced to adjust its orders to the economic reality. Additionally, Dishenica informed about the rental of part of the premises for the embassy's

²⁶ *Ibidem*, 30.

²⁷ Llambi Dishenica was a member of the Albanian legation in Warsaw, formerly the First Secretary, and chargé d'affaires in Bucharest.

²⁸ After the war, Wiesław Sobierajski joined the service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Poland. He was a member of the Party Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1949. He was also a member of the Slavic Committee established in Poland in 1945. In 1947, he served as the head of the Southeast Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later, he was arrested and became a political prisoner from 1950 to 1955. From April 26, 1963, to February 13, 1968, he served as the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Poland in Romania.

office, which shows the development of the diplomatic mission and the desire to maintain effective communication.²⁹

On July 12, 1949, a conversation took place in which Dishnica and Sobierajski, representing Poland, participated. The topics of this conversation concerned several important issues related to the trade relations and economies of both countries. The first point of discussion was the issue of Albania's acquisition of German ships as part of war reparations. The Albanian government agreed to sell ships and barges (remorque) to Poland in foreign currency, suggesting that Albania was seeking ways to secure funds during the difficult post-war period. The request for a specific response from the Polish government emphasizes the urgency and significance of this matter for Albania. Additionally, Albania wanted to sell Poland another small ship, indicating further trade opportunities and a willingness to cooperate.³⁰

Another important point of the conversation was the request to cancel the contract regarding the orders for wagons. Changes in Albania's economy and the new development plan no longer anticipated the expansion of the railway system on the scale originally planned. The cancellation of the last order for tanker wagons may reflect the adjustment to the changing economic realities and challenges that Albania faced at the time. Finally, the conversation addressed the issue of the lack of accommodation for Josel Stura, which may indicate organizational problems within the Albanian embassy. Dishnica informs that the Hungarian envoy had already vacated his previous residence, suggesting that a rotation in the diplomatic staff was taking place.³¹

On August 6, 1949, another conversation took place, this time between Llambi Dishnica and Dora Lassman,³² also representing Poland. The main topics included the delivery of radio equipment and the issue of scholarships for Albanian students. The first point was the announcement of the delivery of a radio set, which may indicate the growing importance of communication in the diplomatic relations between Albania and Poland. Cooperation in the field of communication technology can be interpreted as an element of strengthening relations and seeking common interests. Another important point was the Ministry of Education's decision to increase the number of scholarships for Albanian students by an additional five places. Such decisions are crucial for the cultural and educational development of relations between countries. The increase in the number of scholarships may indicate Poland's willingness to support Albanian youth and build long-term relations. The final part of the

²⁹ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit, 8.

³⁰ *Ibidem*, 6

³¹ *Ibidem*, 6.

³² Dora Lassman was a counselor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of the Main Chancellery, as well as the head of the Danube Department in Department I, starting on February 1, 1949. Dziennik Urzędowy: Ministerstwa spraw zagranicznych, Warszawa 31 marca 1949 r, Nr. 2, 2.

conversation concerned the organization of a new headquarters for the Albanian mission in Warsaw, reflecting further development of the diplomatic infrastructure. The address of the building was discussed in detail, emphasizing the importance of the embassy's smooth operation for relations between the countries.³³

On April 26, 1950, a conversation took place between Dishnica and Dora Lassman. The topics of the conversation included an invitation to a ceremony and cultural matters related to the presentation of Albanian culture. Lassman informed about the invitation extended to a representative of the Steelworkers' Union to attend the ceremony, which shows a desire to engage in international events. Assigning this role to a union representative suggests that Poland was trying to build relations not only at the government level but also on a social one.³⁴ Additionally, in the context of the Albanians' request for permission to set up a display case, Lassman suggested that Albanian photographs could be featured in exhibitions dedicated to countries of people's democracy.³⁵ This shows Poland's openness to promoting Albanian culture, which could contribute to strengthening relations between the countries.

In conclusion, all the conversations illustrate the complexity and dynamics of the relations between Poland and Albania in 1949-1950, as well as demonstrate the pragmat.

Analyzing the conversations between Dishni, who represented the People's Republic of Albania, and Sobierajski, the representative of the Republic of Poland, in May and June 1950, one can observe that they were complex and covered many important political, cultural, and educational issues. These conversations required a detailed discussion of the context, facts, and personal aspects, which highlights the complexity of the relations between these two countries.

Here is a detailed analysis of each of the topics discussed:

1. Request for the provision of the statutes of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Poland

Dishnica, as a representative of the Albanian government, made a request for the statutes of the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Poland to be provided.³⁶ In the context of Albania, which in the 1950s was under the strong influence of a communist regime and pursued a policy of atheization, such information might have been essential for understanding how Poland, a country with strong Catholic traditions, managed church influences within a socialist system. Gathering

³³ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit, 7.

³⁴ *Ibidem*, 9.

³⁵ *Ibidem*, 9.

³⁶ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit, 10.

information on legal regulations concerning religious activities could have been useful for the Albanian government in formulating its policy toward religion.

2. *Scholarships for Albanian students*

Dishnica raised the issue of scholarship payments for Albanian students in Poland, pointing out that in the previous year (1949), scholarships were not yet handled by the Ministry of Education but by various institutions, which led to a lack of uniform practices in payments. The amount of the scholarship was 15,000 zł, and the Albanian government provided an additional 1,000 zł to the scholarship holders. The internships that students undertook during the summer holidays were paid and amounted to 9,000–10,000 zł per month.³⁷ The opportunity to undertake internships in Poland and access scholarships was an important element of educational cooperation between Albania and Poland, highlighting the significance of education in the professional development of young people from Albania.

3. *Invitation of a journalist to the Albanian Parliamentary elections*

Dishnica made a request for journalists to be invited to cover the Albanian Parliamentary elections, which took place on May 28, 1950. He noted that the government of the People's Republic of Albania wanted a journalist affiliated with the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) to be among those invited.³⁸ This indicates an attempt to strengthen relations between the two countries and the need to promote the image of Albania.

4. *Request for materials on the fight against illiteracy*

In the context of the fight against illiteracy, Dishnica requested materials that could serve as a model for the Albanian authorities.³⁹ Poland, which in the 1950s was conducting intensive efforts in this field, could have served as a model for Albania, whose government also wanted to reduce the illiteracy rate. Cooperation on this issue indicates a desire to exchange experiences and methods, which could have contributed to improving the educational situation in Albania.

5. *Intervention regarding summer internships for students*

Dishnica requested the intervention of the Ministry of Education so that four Albanian students from the Mining Academy in Kraków could undertake internships at the „*Nowy Orzeł Biały*“ metal mines, which were not included on the ministry's list.⁴⁰ This shows how important professional internships were for technical and vocational education in Albania. Approval for internships at Polish

³⁷ *Ibidem*, 10.

³⁸ *Ibidem*, 11.

³⁹ *Ibidem*, 11.

⁴⁰ *Ibidem*, 11.

mines could have contributed to improving the students' qualifications and their future career prospects.

6. *Health issues of sick officers and soldiers*

Dishnica also addressed issues related to accommodation and healthcare for 60 sick officers and soldiers, highlighting concern for the military personnel and the desire for their rehabilitation. He requested information on the locations where the sick would be placed and sought doctors' opinions on their health condition. The reported health issues, such as tuberculosis (20 sick), wounds (20 injured), and convalescence (20 convalescents), were an important topic, especially in the context of post-war difficulties in treatment and rehabilitation.⁴¹

7. *Film cooperation*

Dishnica addressed the issue of signing an agreement on film cooperation between Poland and Albania. He emphasized the need to establish the terms of the agreement, which could have been important for cultural exchange between the two countries.⁴² Film as a medium could have been used to promote socialist ideas and strengthen cultural ties.

8. *Trips of Albanian students to Albania*

Dishnica also addressed the issue of 46 Albanian students residing in Poland, 22 of whom were to travel to Albania. As a result, two key issues arose: summer scholarships for the remaining 24 students and matters related to their stay. Scholarships were determined based on practical needs and were to be paid for 10 months. Dishnica assured that efforts were being made to organize appropriate conditions for those who would not be participating in paid internships. However, issues related to visa and administrative regulations remained a significant challenge for the mobility of Albanian students.⁴³

The discussions between Dishnica and Sobierajski in May and June of 1950 reveal the complex relations between Poland and Albania during the Cold War. The topics raised by Dishnica, including education, the fight against illiteracy, health, and cultural cooperation, highlight the Albanian government's efforts to modernize and strengthen ties with Poland. Additionally, the political and social context of the 1950s emphasized the difficulties and challenges both countries faced, which influenced the further development of their international relations.

⁴¹ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit, 12.

⁴² *Ibidem*, 12.

⁴³ *Ibidem*, 12.

The conversation between Nesti Nase⁴⁴ and Feliksa Koniecznyńska⁴⁵ on December 27, 1950, reveals that a trade delegation with Deputy Prime Minister Spiro Koleka could arrive in Warsaw on December 29. Nase also discussed the issue of sending Polish specialists to Albania and the delay related to the building he intended to move into on January 1, 1951. Nesti Nase informed that Albania had been receiving aid from UNICEF until 1950, and the head of the delegation was the American Waling. Relations with Waling encountered difficulties, resulting in the suspension of aid. Nase pointed out the possibility of resuming support and that Albania was considering nominating a Pole, Szewlewski, as the new head of the delegation. However, UNICEF informed that Szewlewski was no longer available for cooperation. In light of this situation, Albania faces a difficult position, as neither Czechoslovakia nor the USSR currently have representatives in UNICEF, which may force the country to abandon further assistance. Nase is seeking an answer regarding Szewlewski's availability.⁴⁶

On March 22, 1951, Feliksa Koniecznyńska had a conversation with Abdyl Ulqinaku, the Albanian representative, who pointed out the Albanian side's interest in historical documents stored in Polish libraries and museums. Ulqinaku also inquired whether Poland had come across any traces of two Albanians who went missing during World War II in Germany, which suggests a desire to obtain information about those who died or went missing during the war. Additionally, Ulqinaku informed about the planned arrival of 47 Albanian workers to Poland for training, reflecting the growing cooperation between Poland and Albania in the areas of labor exchange and vocational training aimed at the reconstruction and modernization of both countries after the war.⁴⁷

In a conversation on March 30, 1951, Dora Lassman informed Nesti Nase that the Polish authorities had agreed to accept 47 Albanian trainees. Referring to the Albanian request for assistance in appointing a UNICEF delegate in Albania, she conveyed that the citizen Szawleski was not being considered. She also added that the issue of the Albanian legation building would be resolved.⁴⁸ In August 1951, an important conversation took place between Eufrozyna Paduchowa and Nesti Nase. Nase, addressing the issue of the technical cooperation protocol, expressed the need to expand cooperation not only to specialists from the mining sector but also to railways and ports. Paduchowa informed about the departure of engineer Lasok, the director of the Stalin Mine, and Nase added that at the beginning of the school year, another group of 12

⁴⁴ Nesti Nase (born April 14, 1922, in Korça, died February 11, 1995, in Tirana) was an Albanian diplomat and intelligence officer, serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1966 to 1982. From 1950 to 1952, he worked at the Albanian Embassy in Poland.

⁴⁵ Feliksa Koniecznyńska, junior clerk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was appointed a clerk on February 1, 1949.

⁴⁶ Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit., 23-24.

⁴⁷ *Ibidem*, 25-26.

⁴⁸ *Ibidem*, 29.

students from Albania would arrive in Poland. Nase also requested regulations regarding official passports and information about Polish regulations concerning prostitution. He also mentioned plans for Nani Salata, the Albanian trade attaché, to visit Poland.⁴⁹ On September 27, 1951, Nesti Nase informed Eufrozyna Paduchowa about the difficulties in trade exchange between Poland and Albania. Albania had ordered 60 wagons from Poland, worth 1 million rubles. However, due to a lack of transport capacity, it was decided to ship them on the Polish ship *Kościuszko* for a cost of 500,000 rubles. The next day, Nase received information from Metalexport that the transport cost had risen to 1.8 million rubles, and failure to accept this amount by September 29 would result in the cancellation of the transaction. Albania was unable to cover this sum, but MHZ claimed that the 1.8 million rubles had been stated from the beginning, with the 500,000 rubles intended as a deposit.⁵⁰ In a conversation on October 8, 1951, Stanisław Południak⁵¹ informed the Secretary of the Albanian Legation, Abdyl Ulqinaku, that the Albanian students Theodos Karlineri and Edibe Olvi, who were completing their summer internships in the 4th year of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Poznań, would not receive additional remuneration. This decision was justified by the fact that they were receiving a scholarship during the internship period.⁵²

Based on a conversation on April 26, 1952, between Romaniecki and Ulqinaku, an interesting situation regarding Hamdi Kakuli, an Albanian student, is revealed. Kakuli married Olga Tadicz, a Yugoslav citizen registered in Kraków at Raymonta Street, Academic House 17. Olga Tadicz studied in Kraków and, after the Cominform revolution in 1948, submitted a declaration of her intention to stay in Poland. After completing his studies, Hamdi Kakuli decided to return to Albania, while his wife, along with their one-year-old child, wished to join him. Ulqinaku pointed out that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MSZ) was considering the possibility of issuing an exit visa for Tadicz. An important aspect of this situation was also that the ship to Albania was set to depart in ten days, which presented the family with the urgent task of securing the necessary documents within a short timeframe. Additionally, two students were scheduled to travel on the same ship, and they offered to assist Tadicz with her journey and

⁴⁹ *Ibidem*, 36.

⁵⁰ *Ibidem*, 36-37.

⁵¹ Stanisław Południak started working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw on February 1, 1949, and by April of that year, he was sent to the Polish Military Mission (PMW) in Berlin. In August 1949, he was transferred to the Polish Consulate in Baden-Baden as a junior clerk, from where he returned to the PMW in Berlin in November 1950. From 1951, he worked in the Department IV of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 1954, he became the Second Secretary of the Military Mission in Berlin. In 1958, he was appointed head of the department. In October 1960, he was appointed head of the Central European Department. From August 1961 to June 1963, he served as the Consul General of the People's Republic of Poland in Brussels.

⁵² Notatki z rozmów prowadzonych przez polskich dyplomatów z dyplomatami albańskimi akredytowanymi..., op.cit, 40.

her child.⁵³ This situation not only illustrates the personal dilemmas of individuals in the context of migration but also reflects the complex political and social reality of that period. Migrations, regulated by the authorities of the time, were crucial to the relations between Poland and Albania, as well as to the functioning of the Albanian student community in Poland.

In a conversation on May 13, 1952, Ulqinaku discussed with Romaniecki the arrival of an Albanian artistic troupe in Poland from July 18 to August 2, as well as the invitation for Polish artists to visit Albania. He also addressed the issue of exchanging buildings, suggesting a swap for the vacant building at Al. Róż 3. Romaniecki promised to forward the request to the Ministry. Finally, they mentioned the upcoming congresses in Albania and the delay in the arrival of Ambassador Paapi to Poland due to his participation in the Congress of the Albanian Labour Party.⁵⁴

In a conversation on September 19, 1952, Ambassador Petro Papi addressed Minister Stanisław Skrzyszewski with several issues regarding Polish-Albanian cooperation. Papi first inquired about the response to the letter concerning the trade agreement for 1953-55. Skrzyszewski informed him that the letter was under consideration. Papi then raised the issue of sending specialists to Albania, pointing out that of the 30 specialists needed, Poland could provide only 18. The Minister promised to take action on this matter, despite staffing difficulties. Later in the conversation, Papi discussed the situation of Albanian interns in Poland, who were employed in various establishments, including the railway and the „Baildon” factory. He pointed out the differences in wages and work experience, asking for the issue of salaries to be resolved so that all interns would have the same status and pay. Skrzyszewski committed to intervening on this matter. Papi also raised the issue of the embassy building, proposing its exchange for a larger one due to the needs of the mission. Skrzyszewski highlighted the general housing difficulties in Warsaw and the lack of available buildings that met the embassy's requirements. He suggested that the easiest solution might be to build a new facility with the help of Polish authorities. In response to the urgency of the matter, Papi requested permission for an internal renovation of the current building, which was approved, provided a specific project was submitted. Finally, Papi asked for assistance in obtaining materials for windows, which was also to be considered.⁵⁵ The entire conversation reflects the complex relations between Poland and Albania and the challenges both countries faced in the post-war period.

Diplomatic conversations between Poland and Albania from 1949 to 1952 are historically significant as they reveal the dynamics of relations between two countries that, despite geographical and cultural differences, found common interests in the context of the Cold War. Analyzing these interactions, it is evident

⁵³ *Ibidem*, 42.

⁵⁴ *Ibidem*, 43.

⁵⁵ *Ibidem*, 44.

that Poland, as a country with a strong industrial and political background, played the role of a mentor to Albania, supporting its economic and political development. In turn, Albania, being one of the less developed countries in the Eastern Bloc, sought to strengthen its international position through alliances with more developed partners. This cooperation not only contributed to strengthening bilateral ties but also had an impact on the broader regional context, highlighting the strategy of communist countries in building unity against Western influences. Thus, these conversations are not only an example of diplomacy but also an illustration of the historical processes that shaped Europe in the 20th century.

Friendship Week: Between Ideology and Reality in Polish-Albanian Cultural Cooperation

The report of the Polish Embassy in Tirana, dated December 31, 1949, addresses the issue of cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania, emphasizing the need to revive cultural exchange. Although Albania already had active cooperation with countries of the people's democracies, including the USSR, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria, relations with Poland in this area remained less developed. The author of the report points to the possibility of organizing exchanges of artistic ensembles, including inviting an Albanian folk ensemble to Poland, which could attractively present Albanian culture.⁵⁶

The report from January 30, 1950, regarding cultural relations between Poland and Albania highlights the challenges of attempting to establish closer cultural cooperation in the post-war period. From a historical perspective, this document fits into the broader context of diplomatic relations among Eastern Bloc countries, where culture played a significant role in building ideological ties and strengthening alliances. Despite the failure of the initiative to bring the Albanian Army Choir to Poland due to delays, the report reflects the importance of mutual cultural activities in deepening interstate relations. The mentioned Mickiewicz commemorations and the participation of Kol Jakowy, a key figure in the Albanian cultural world, highlight the potential such events had for strengthening cultural ties. By expressing interest in Poland's cultural life, Jakowy became a symbol of Albania's willingness to cooperate in this area. The possibility of continuing and deepening these contacts was seen as crucial for developing a more systematic artistic exchange, which in turn was expected to contribute to mutual understanding and the promotion of socialist ideas.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (dalej: AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-18 T-158, Daty Skrajne: 1949-1951, Państwo: Albania, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Środkowa, 4.

⁵⁷ *Ibidem*, 15.

The Albanian-Polish Friendship Week in 1950 was one of many examples of the intensive cultural and political cooperation among Eastern Bloc countries, particularly as part of the broader strategy of building diplomatic and propaganda relations by the Soviet Union and its satellites. A key role in this event was played by cultural exchange, aimed at strengthening ties between Albania and Poland, solidifying the political alliance, and promoting shared ideological values.

One of the main highlights of the event was the screening of Polish films, such as *The „Last Stage”*, *„The Broad Road”*, and *„May 1st”*, with commentary provided in French.⁵⁸ These screenings aimed to showcase both the artistic and ideological achievements of the Polish People's Republic. The use of French, which at the time was the language of international cultural communication, facilitated the reception of the films by the Albanian audience, symbolizing openness to the international dimension of socialist propaganda.

The event organized on July 13 for representatives of the press, diplomacy, and the cultural world in the garden of the Albania-USSR Cultural Relations Society marked the beginning of a series of events.⁵⁹ Polish films, despite the lack of translation into Albanian, attracted numerous viewers in cinemas both in the capital and in the provinces..⁶⁰ It is worth noting that the selection of films such as *„The Last Stage”*, which depicted Nazi crimes, was deliberate and aimed to emphasize the martyrdom of the Polish nation as well as the triumph of socialist values in the struggle for liberation.

The Albanian-Polish Friendship Week began on July 21, 1950. During the event, Mihal Prifti, Albania's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a speech in which he emphasized the historical ties of the struggle for independence, Albanian-Polish friendship, and the crucial role of the Soviet Union in the liberation of both nations.⁶¹ The emphasis on the importance of the USSR was typical of propaganda during this period, and chanting the names of Stalin, Bierut, and Enver Hoxha was an expression of political loyalty to communist leaders. Anna Milska, speaking on behalf of the Polish delegation, expressed feelings of friendship and solidarity with the Albanian people, highlighting the shared path of both nations toward socialism.⁶² Such statements aimed to reinforce the idea of socialist unity and served as a propaganda tool emphasizing the close relations between Eastern Bloc countries. They were not only a diplomatic declaration but also an attempt to construct an image of mutual

⁵⁸ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 59.

⁵⁹ *Ibidem*, 59.

⁶⁰ *Ibidem*, 59.

⁶¹ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit: 59-60; Trybuna Ludu, Organ KC Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej, Warszawa – Środa, 26 lipca 1950 r. Nr. 203 (575) Rok III, 1; Trybuna Ludu, Organ KC Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej, Warszawa – Środa, 26 lipca 1950 roku, Nr. 202 (574) Rok III, 1.

⁶² Dziennik Zachodni, Katowice dnia 26 lipca 1950 roku, Nr.169 (1722) AB, 1.

support and shared aspirations, intended to consolidate the socialist alliance in the eyes of the public.

The analysis of the organization of the Albanian-Polish Friendship Week, however, reveals certain shortcomings. The decoration in Tirana was modest, and attempts to promote Polish achievements through photographic exhibitions did not meet expectations, which could have been due to insufficient time for preparation. During the Albanian-Polish Friendship Week, only two Polish flags were seen in Tirana, surrounding a portrait of President Bierut, placed on the city administration building.⁶³ On the other hand, the Albanian press and radio did a good job, regularly informing the public about the events and promoting a positive image of Poland.⁶⁴ During the Albanian-Polish Friendship Week, informational articles, analyses, and event reports were published. Many publications featured both articles by Albanian authors and reprints from Soviet press and „*Parallèle 50*”, covering Poland's economic, social, and cultural life.

The „*Friendship Week*,” organized in Albania with the participation of Polish representatives, presented an interesting contrast between planned and actual actions. From a historical perspective, this event highlights the specifics of cultural and political relations between Poland and Albania in the post-war period, as well as the role attributed to socialist propaganda and the promotion of mutual solidarity. Although Poland's involvement aimed to show solidarity and support the construction of a positive image among Albania's working class, the diverse results of these actions were influenced by both organizational issues and the attitudes of the participants.⁶⁵ The main activities during the Friendship Week included concerts, academies, meetings, and lectures, which were intended to introduce the Albanian community to the culture and achievements of the Polish People's Republic. Artistic groups performed not only in Tirana but also in smaller cities such as Durres, Korça, and Shkodra. An interesting case was the outdoor concert in Durres, which attracted as many as 8,000 listeners—unlike the events in the capital, which were limited to a 800-person theater audience. Local Committees showed more initiative and resourcefulness than the central organizers, which can be interpreted as a reflection of local aspirations and efforts to improve their own social organization.⁶⁶

Unfortunately, in the context of cooperation, logistical difficulties arose, such as the failure to deliver important promotional materials from Vienna and the cancellation of a football match involving the Polish team, which Albanians

⁶³ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 60.

⁶⁴ Trybuna Ludu, Organ KC Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej, Warszawa – Czwartek, 27 lipca 1950 r. Nr. 204 (576) Rok III, 1.

⁶⁵ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 61; The „*Friendship Week*,” organized in Albania, illustrates the difficulties and successes involved in attempts to build relations between socialist countries through culture and art. On the one hand, we see a lack of organization from the central committees in Tirana, while on the other, the grassroots, more creative actions of local committees demonstrated initiative and engagement.

⁶⁶ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 61.

were eagerly anticipating. The match, in addition to its sporting significance, could have had economic importance, as the Albanian authorities planned to allocate the proceeds to cover the costs of the entire Week.⁶⁷ The lack of full understanding of the Albanian side's expectations in this regard may have limited the ultimate impact of the event, which was intended to promote integration and strengthen friendship. The reception of Polish artists by Albanians was generally positive, but it is important to note the lack of uniformity in the attitudes of the artists themselves. Soloists such as Barbara Hesse-Bukowska,⁶⁸ Halina Słonicka, and Jerzy Adamczewski, on the one hand, delivered high-quality performances that were met with enthusiasm from the local audience. On the other hand, some of the artists displayed attitudes that were perceived by Albanians as reluctance or a lack of interest in Albanian culture and issues. The lack of openness to local realities and a different perspective on political matters highlights the difficulties faced by Polish representatives in adapting to the specific context of the People's Republic of Albania, where a full understanding and ideological engagement were expected.⁶⁹

On the other hand, the interactions of delegation members such as Anna Milska and Krzysztof Gruszczyński, who actively engaged in dialogue with Albanian partners and writers, were positively received. There are clear differences in the reception of individual attitudes, which had a significant impact on the further development of Polish-Albanian relations. Albanian society, which places great importance on loyalty and ideological commitment, expected delegates from socialist countries to be fully aware of the political realities and demonstrate the appropriate attitude. Ultimately, the events related to the „*Week of Friendship*“ concluded with the sending of a telegram to Prime Minister Enver Hoxha, expressing gratitude for the hospitality and recognition of Albania's achievements. This telegram, although symbolic, played an important role in shaping the image of Poland as a reliable partner in the socialist world and left a positive impression in Albanian political circles.⁷⁰

From a historian's perspective, the „*Week of Friendship*“ thus represents a microcosm of the relations between Poland and Albania at the time: on one hand, we see the official desire to strengthen ties through culture, while on the other, we witness the clash of organizational and mental differences.

⁶⁷ *Ibidem*, 61.

⁶⁸ *Ibidem*, 61-63; The cultural mission faced organizational difficulties, such as the lack of a suitable piano for Barbara Hesse-Bukowska's recital and temperatures reaching 50 degrees Celsius.

⁶⁹ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 62.

⁷⁰ *Ibidem*, 62-64.

Exchange as Key: Cultural Alliances between Poland and Albania

The document concerning cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania, dated to the Cold War period, is an important testament to the formalization of bilateral relations within the Eastern Bloc. It highlights the significance attributed to cultural cooperation as a tool for strengthening ties between socialist countries. According to the document, in December of the previous year, Albania ratified the cultural cooperation agreement, and Poland planned to complete its ratification in March. The exchange of ratification documents was to take place in Warsaw, reflecting a desire to quickly implement the agreement. Particular emphasis was placed on establishing the Polish-Albanian Joint Commission, which was tasked with overseeing the implementation of the agreement's provisions. The Press and Information Department, in forwarding the draft work plan to the relevant ministries, emphasized the need for consultations and gathering opinions, reflecting the bureaucratic structure of power within the Eastern Bloc.⁷¹

The conference planned for March 15 aimed to agree on a detailed plan, which was then to be submitted to the Albanian side for approval. The proposal to hold the first meeting of the Joint Commission in mid-April demonstrated the determination of both countries to intensify cultural cooperation, regarded as a tool for fostering mutual understanding and ideological unity.⁷²

In a historical context, documents of this kind illustrate how the authorities of the Eastern Bloc sought to develop cultural relations that were not only aimed at supporting ideological unity but also at minimizing internal tensions. Cultural cooperation was seen as a key element of diplomatic strategy, intended to strengthen alliances and deepen ties between socialist states.

Gustav Gottesman⁷³, as the Director of the Press and Information Department, was responsible for coordinating these activities, which may

⁷¹ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne plany współpracy kulturalnej, materiały do negocjacji, interwencje, uwagi do projektów planów, ocena ich realizacji, protokoły z posiedzeń Komisji Mieszanej, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (dalej: AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-19 T-167, Daty Skrajne: 1949-1951, Państwo: Albania, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Środkowa, 6.

⁷² *Ibidem*, 6.

⁷³ Gustaw Gottesman, born on September 15, 1918, in Lviv, symbolizes the complexity of the fate of Polish Jews in the 20th century. His biography illustrates the impact of World War II on individuals: the loss of his parents in the Holocaust, service in the Polish Armed Forces in the West, and subsequent work in the Polish government in London, including his role as secretary to Minister Ludwik Grosfeld at the Bretton Woods Conference (konferencja w Bretton Woods). After the war, he returned to Poland, where, between 1949 and 1951, he served as Director of the Press and Information Department (Departament Prasy i Informacji) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting his influence on the information policy of the new government. He joined the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR) but left it in 1968. As a journalist and editor of „Przegląd Kulturalny” and „Literatura”, Gottesman significantly influenced Polish culture. His work as a

indicate his role in promoting cultural and political relations between Poland and Albania.⁷⁴ His name, in the context of the document, represents an important element in analyzing the administration's influence on the development of international cooperation within the Eastern Bloc.

The Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Republic of Poland and the People's Republic of Albania was signed on December 2, 1950, in Tirana. It contains 11 articles regulating the principles of cultural cooperation between the two countries, aimed at strengthening bonds of friendship and promoting cultural exchange.⁷⁵

Among the signatories of the agreement were:

- Eugenia Krassowska⁷⁶, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Higher Education and Vocational Training, representing the Government of the Republic of Poland.⁷⁷
- Kahreman Ylli⁷⁸, Minister of Education, representing the Government of the People's Republic of Albania.

translator, particularly his adaptation of the libretto for „*Les Misérables*”, reflects his contribution to the development of theater in Poland. He passed away on October 5, 1998, in Warsaw.

⁷⁴ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 6.

⁷⁵ *Ibidem*, k. 7; Dziennik Zachodni, Czytelnik, Środa 6 grudnia 1950 r, Nr. 336 (2085) - Rok VI, 1.

⁷⁶ Eugenia Krassowska, educated in a teaching family, graduated from Stefan Batory University in Vilnius in 1935 and then worked as an assistant in the Department of Polish Literature History. During World War II, she was involved in secret teaching and worked as a teacher and journalist in Vilnius. After the war, she held key positions in the Polish education system, including as director of a high school in Białystok and supervisor of the Białystok School District. Since 1945, she actively participated in the activities of the Democratic Party, holding important positions in its board, including membership in the Central Committee. From 1946 to 1950, she was Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Education, and later in the Ministry of Higher Education from 1951 to 1965, contributing to academic development in Poland, including the establishment of the Medical Academy in Białystok. In later years, Krassowska served as the editor-in-chief of „*Tygodnik Demokratyczny*” and chairwoman of the Polish Committee for UNESCO. As a Member of Parliament, she participated in the work of the Sejm, including in the Education and Culture Committees. She passed away on September 15, 1986, in Warsaw, leaving a significant mark on Polish cultural and political life.

⁷⁷ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, k. 7; Życie Częstochowy, Czytelnik, Czwartek 7 grudnia 1950 roku, Nr. 337 (1238), 1.

⁷⁸ Kahreman Ylli (1917–1975) was an important figure in the political and educational life of communist Albania, and his actions remain a subject of controversy and reflection on the era. As a pedagogue and diplomat, he was actively involved in the communist partisan movement from the early 1940s, influencing the transformation of Albania's educational system. His role as Minister of Education (1948–1952) in Enver Hoxha's government and later as Rector of the University of Tirana (1961–1970) allowed him to participate in the ideological transformation of education, closely integrated with the interests of the communist party. From a historian's perspective, Ylli embodies the archetype of the communist elite: his influence extended across politics, education, and diplomacy. He was a member of the most important bodies, serving as a deputy and belonging to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, which indicates his position within the inner circle of Albania's power elite. His international diplomatic missions, including participation in the Paris

Articles of the agreement:

Article 1:

The parties commit to cooperation between institutions and scientific societies, cultural and educational organizations, as well as sports organizations. The cooperation will include mutual invitations of representatives of these institutions and the organization of professional internships and courses.

Article 2:

The parties agree:

a) To introduce lectures on the history, literature, geography, and economic sciences of the other party into the curricula.

b) To ensure researchers from both countries have the freedom to conduct scientific research and access archival and library materials.

c) To support mutual studies, grant scholarships, and organize teacher exchanges.

d) To promote the study of the Polish language in Albania and the Albanian language in Poland, as well as strive to include materials about the other party in textbooks.⁷⁹

Article 3:

Both parties agree to exchange literature and scientific publications in the form of translations from Polish to Albanian and from Albanian to Polish, as well as to exchange periodicals and other publications.

Article 4:

The parties will organize exhibitions of art, music, and film in both countries.

Article 5:

Both parties aim to establish cooperation between radio stations.

Article 6:

The parties will facilitate the work of journalists and correspondents in both countries.

Article 7:

To implement the provisions of the agreement, a Polish-Albanian Joint Commission will be established, consisting of two subcommittees: one in

Peace Conference and representing Albania in The Hague, highlight Albania's role as an active participant in the postwar international arena, seeking to legitimize and secure the interests of its government. However, from the perspective of research on the communist regime, Ylli becomes a symbol of controversy. Reports from the Institute for the Study of the Crimes and Consequences of Communism in Albania point to his involvement in the structures responsible for persecution, which prompts a discussion about the responsibility of elites for repression and political violence. Embedded in a system that promoted repression against the opposition, Ylli embodies the moral and social dilemmas of that era. His death in 1975, surrounded by mystery, intensifies the aura of controversy. Drowning while swimming, despite his poor health and inability to swim, fuels speculation and remains a puzzle that is difficult to resolve, particularly in the context of the political atmosphere and practices of the regime.

⁷⁹ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 7.

Warsaw and the other in Tirana. Each subcommittee will have a chairman appointed by the government of the country in which it is located.

Article 8:

The meetings of the Joint Commission will alternate between Warsaw and Tirana, with the first meeting to be held in Warsaw no later than one month after the exchange of ratification documents. The expenses related to the Commission's activities will be covered by both parties, in accordance with the agreed arrangements.⁸⁰

Article 9:

The Joint Commission is tasked with developing a detailed implementation plan for this Agreement. This plan will cover all issues not addressed in other parts of the document, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the agreement's implementation. The plan requires approval by both governments in order to take effect. Furthermore, each party has the right to propose changes or additions to the plan. However, such modifications can only be implemented with the mutual consent of both parties. The Joint Commission will regularly present reports to the governments of Poland and Albania on the progress of the agreement's implementation. Additionally, it may submit proposals and recommendations on other matters that both governments decide to assign to it.

Article 10:

Existing agreements between scientific and cultural institutions shall remain in effect, unless they are in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement.⁸¹

Article 11:

The Agreement will be ratified as soon as possible and will enter into force on the day of the exchange of ratification documents. It is concluded for a period of five years, with the possibility of extension.

The agreement was signed in two identical copies, in Polish and Albanian, both texts having equal legal force.⁸²

The cultural cooperation agreement between Poland and Albania, signed on December 2, 1950, in Tirana, was a symbolic yet strategic move in strengthening socialist alliances in Central and Eastern Europe. The signing of this document was part of the broader context of post-war integration of the Eastern Bloc and close cooperation among socialist countries within the framework of mutual solidarity. The aim of the agreement was to deepen cultural exchange between the nations through cooperation in the fields of art, literature, education, science, and sports. This cooperation not only contributed to mutual understanding of each country's culture but also supported the socialist ideology, which was crucial for legitimizing both regimes. Through the exchange of artists,

⁸⁰ *Ibidem*, 8.

⁸¹ *Ibidem*, 9.

⁸² *Ibidem*, 9.

joint cultural initiatives, and scholarship programs for Albanian students in Poland, the agreement became a propaganda tool aimed at tightening bonds and strengthening the ideological unity of both nations. It is important to emphasize that this agreement was created in an atmosphere of enthusiasm that characterized the development of international relations within the Eastern Bloc - relations based on shared social and economic goals and the idea of proletarian internationalism. The propaganda of that period emphasized that the agreement was a manifestation of genuine friendship, not the result of *diplomatic maneuvering*.⁸³ In reality, like other agreements of this kind in the Eastern Bloc, it was a political expression of submission to Moscow. The Soviet Union played a key role as a mediator and guarantor of these relations, symbolically demonstrating international solidarity, although it left no room for individual, sovereign decisions in foreign policy.

This cultural agreement also aimed to counter Western influences, which were seen as an ideological and political threat. In the rhetoric of official media, such as the Albanian *Zëri i Popullit*,⁸⁴ it was emphasized that Poland and Albania were walking together *the same path of building a new life* in contrast to Anglo-American imperialism, which was portrayed as a destabilizing and aggressive force.⁸⁵

Analyzing this agreement as a historian, it can be observed that Polish-Albanian relations, despite their dependence on the USSR, were characterized by local cultural initiatives that fostered greater understanding and the exchange of experiences between the nations. Through such agreements, the societies of socialist countries had better access to the culture of other bloc countries, which contributed to the exchange of ideas and, paradoxically, could support national identity and pride, even in a context dominated by the international aspirations of the Soviet Union.

The telegram sent to the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Albania on December 7, 1950, is an interesting document that reflects the relations between Poland and Albania at the time, as well as the ideological dynamics of that period.⁸⁶ In the content of the telegram, the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Hilary Chelchowski,⁸⁷ expresses gratitude

⁸³ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 111-112.

⁸⁴ „Zëri i Popullit” (Voice of the People) is an Albanian newspaper founded in 1944 as the official organ of the Communist Party of Albania. From 1948 to 1991, it served the Albanian Party of Labor, and after the political changes in Albania in 1991-1992, it became the press organ of the Socialist Party of Albania, retaining its original name. In 2011, its circulation was 25,000 copies. The newspaper's editorial office was located on Stalin Boulevard, now Zogu I Boulevard.

⁸⁵ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 112.

⁸⁶ *Ibidem*, 114.

⁸⁷ Hilary Chelchowski was a Polish politician and communist activist, born into a minor noble family of Feliks and Marianna Milewski. At the age of two, he lost his father and soon received basic education. In the 1930s, he worked as a laborer in Warsaw and became a member of the Communist Party of Poland in 1932. During World War II, he was active in the People's Guard and the People's Army, adopting the pseudonym Długi Janek. After the war, he joined the Polish

for the *brotherly reception* from the Albanian government and people.⁸⁸ Such formulations are typical of communication within communist states, where emphasizing solidarity and brotherhood between nations played a key role in propaganda. This document evokes the concepts of mutual assistance and cooperation in building socialism, which was the ideological foundation of both countries at that time.

Particularly important is the reference to the *building of the foundations of socialism* and the *struggle for the consolidation of peace*, which indicate common political and ideological goals.⁸⁹ In the context of the Cold War and tensions with Western countries, such formulations aimed at legitimizing the actions of communist governments and mobilizing society around these ideas. In a statement made to a representative of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency, the Deputy Prime Minister also emphasizes solidarity with the Albanian people in the face of threats from *fascist neighbors*, reflecting concerns about the surrounding political environment.⁹⁰ This reference reflects the geopolitical context in which Albania, like Poland, sought allies in the face of potential threats from Western countries.

Another important element is the emphasis on Albania's successes in the economic and social fields, which was intended to serve as an example to follow. By describing the *great results in the economic field*, H. Chelchowski contributes to promoting the image of Albania as a country rapidly developing under communist rule. The conclusion of the statement refers to the signing of the Cultural Cooperation Agreement, signaling the intentions of both countries to strengthen relations in the cultural and educational fields. Such agreements were not only aimed at supporting cooperation but also at strengthening the ideological ties between the nations.⁹¹

The telegram and the statement as a whole illustrate the complexity of the relations between Poland and Albania in the context of the Cold War, combining elements of propaganda, politics, and culture. This document is a valuable source for historians studying not only international relations but also the ideological mechanisms that influenced the attitudes and actions of communist governments in Eastern Europe.

Workers' Party, where he held several key positions, including secretary of the Lublin and Radom districts and a member of the Central Committee of the PPR. In 1948, after the unification with the Polish Socialist Party, he became a member of the Polish United Workers' Party, continuing his work in the party leadership. From 1950 to 1952, he served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State Agricultural Enterprises. His political career ended after controversial speeches in 1956, when he was removed from important positions. After retiring in 1960, he remained active in politics, including in the illegal Communist Party of Poland. Chelchowski died in Warsaw and was buried at the North Communal Cemetery in Wólka Węglowa.

⁸⁸ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 114.

⁸⁹ *Ibidem*, 114.

⁹⁰ *Ibidem*, 115.

⁹¹ *Ibidem*, 115.

The 1951 document refers to the framework plan for the implementation of the cultural cooperation agreement between Poland and Albania. The proposals presented aim to strengthen the ties between the two countries through a series of cultural, educational, and artistic activities.

The key elements of the agreement include:

1. Publication of works: The plan includes joint literary and scientific publications, as well as translations of works from Polish to Albanian and vice versa. In particular, it emphasizes the need to promote the Polish language in Albania and to include translations into other languages, such as Russian and French.

2. Exchange of artists and scholars: The document provides for inviting artists, journalists, and scholars from both countries, aiming to foster mutual cultural understanding and collaboration on artistic and research projects.

3. Education and scholarships: The agreement also includes the exchange of students and support for Albanian students in Poland. Scholarship programs and initiatives to promote the Polish language in Albania are planned, aimed at enhancing language and cultural competencies.

4. Promotion of cinematography: The document includes a proposal for joint film productions and the translation of documentary films into Albanian. The goal is to increase the availability of Polish film productions in Albania, which have been popular in the past.

5. Music and art: Initiatives are planned to promote classical and folk music, as well as organize concerts. In particular, there is an emphasis on the need to support Albanian artists in their creative work and presentations.

6. Adult education: The agreement also includes educational programs for adults aimed at combating illiteracy and improving the quality of education in Albania.⁹²

The document on cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania from 1951 presents a complex structure of activities aimed at strengthening the relations between the two countries. It highlights significant aspects related to education, culture, and the media, as well as artistic cooperation, with the goal of not only tightening the bonds between the nations but also reinforcing the position of both states in the face of the Cold War reality.⁹³

In the field of education, the agreement provides for a broad exchange of textbooks and curricula, aimed at facilitating mutual understanding of achievements in the field of education. The introduction of the history and literature of the other country into the curricula indicates a desire to understand and accept foreign cultures.⁹⁴ Moreover, the organization of language courses is

⁹² Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 14.

⁹³ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 1-2.

⁹⁴ *Ibidem*, 2.

another step towards facilitating communication and building lasting relationships.

In the field of culture, the agreement emphasizes the exchange of publications and artists, highlighting the importance of collaboration in literature, music, and art. Joint exhibitions, translations of literary works, and inviting artists for performances aimed at promoting the cultural richness of both countries and enhancing their prestige on the international stage.⁹⁵ In the context of the Cold War, culture became a tool of propaganda, enabling the presentation of a positive image of both nations.

The agreement also provides for cooperation in the field of media, highlighting the importance of exchanging information and experiences between journalists. Enabling journalists to meet and exchange views on issues of interest could contribute to a better understanding of the situation in both countries and strengthen the bonds between their societies.⁹⁶ In the context of censorship and information control during the Cold War, such actions aimed not only at increasing the availability of information but also at creating a positive image of both states.

It is also worth noting that the document emphasizes the importance of cooperation in the field of amateur artistic movements, highlighting the effort to unite societies through art. The organization of exhibitions on cultural or political themes aimed to strengthen social bonds and increase citizens' engagement in cultural life.⁹⁷

In summary, the document on cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania from 1951 is an important testament to the international relations of that time. In the face of the Cold War, these efforts aimed not only to strengthen the ties between the two countries but also to shape their image within a broader ideological context. Cultural, educational, and media cooperation played a key role in building positive relations and promoting communal values amidst global tensions.

On April 18, 1951, at 2:00 PM, the exchange of ratification documents for the Polish-Albanian cultural agreement took place in the Reception Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event was attended by Polish Minister Stanisław Skrzyszewski and Albania's chargé d'affaires, Nesti Nase, along with diplomats Jeleń, Lassman, Mencil, Lachs, and Bartol. The ceremony included the signing of protocols and the exchange of ratification documents, followed by congratulations and a brief social gathering with wine and pastries. The entire event concluded at 2:30 PM.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ *Ibidem*, 3-4.

⁹⁶ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, k. 4.

⁹⁷ *Ibidem*, 4-5.

⁹⁸ Protokół Dyplomatyczny – umowa kulturalna polsko – albańska: wymiana dokumentów ratyfikacyjnych: program ceremoni, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (dalej: AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-16 W-4 T-54, Daty Skrajne: 1951-1951, Państwo: Albania –

The document dated April 24, 1951, originates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerns the organization of a meeting of the Joint Commission in Tirana, scheduled to take place from May 10 to 15 of the same year. The document outlines the proposed composition of the Polish delegation that was to participate in the conference. The delegation included:

1. Director Barbag from the Ministry of Education,
2. Citizen Milska from the Committee for Cultural Education (K.W.K.Z).
3. Citizen Matysiak from the Second Secretariat of the Legation in Tirana.

An intervention was requested regarding Director Barbag, which suggests that his presence at the conference was crucial for the delegation. In the event of his absence, it was recommended to send a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, demonstrating the Polish delegation's flexibility and readiness to adapt to circumstances. The document also highlights the need to obtain approval from the minister, emphasizing the formal nature of the actions and the administrative structure in Polish foreign policy.⁹⁹

The report from the meeting of the subcommittee of the Polish-Albanian Joint Commission, held on January 19, 1952, is a significant document concerning cultural cooperation between Poland and Albania. The purpose of the meeting was to review and summarize the progress made under the Polish-Albanian Cultural Agreement. The presence of representatives from both countries underscores the importance of mutual relations and efforts to strengthen cooperation in the fields of education, culture, and science. On the Albanian side, participants included Jawer Malo, Secretary General of the Committee for Cultural Cooperation, as well as representatives from ministries and cultural organizations such as Kustag Misha, Reis Malile, Spiro Xhai, and Foto Stramo. The Polish delegation was represented by Aleksander Skrzynia and Julian Forýs, highlighting the commitment of both sides to the process of cooperation.¹⁰⁰ During the meeting, Jawer Malo noted that despite technical difficulties, both sides were trying to fulfill the provisions of the agreement. The difficulties mentioned included delays in the publication of books, which affected the delivery of educational materials. From a historian's perspective, these issues can be interpreted in the context of the overall political and economic situation in Eastern Europe, where many countries faced shortages of materials and infrastructure, which often impacted international agreements.

Ludowa Republika Albani, Polska – PRL, Region Świata: Europa Południowa, Europa Wschodnia, 1.

⁹⁹ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 15.

¹⁰⁰ *Ibidem*, 18.

The implementation of specific points of the agreement

The analysis of the cultural agreement points shows that only some of the planned actions were partially implemented:

1. Education: Only 16 textbooks were sent, which indicates limitations in book publishing. Additionally, the monthly magazine „*Oświata dla ludu*“ was regularly sent, suggesting that the Albanians made efforts to maintain contact and exchange educational information.
2. Scientific cooperation: The point regarding the exchange of scholars and students highlights difficulties in implementation due to a lack of adequate resources and political uncertainty. The number of Albanian students at Polish universities in the 1951/52 academic year was 87.
3. Culture: The regular exchange of literary publications, such as *Nasza Literatura*“ and „*Młody Pisarz*“, demonstrates the desire to promote Albanian culture in Poland. The sent posters and photographs from artistic courses also indicate a dynamic approach to artistic collaboration.
4. Sports: The lack of any sports cooperation since 1949 may suggest that political tensions and isolation between the countries hindered the development of such initiatives, which typically require greater openness and collaboration.
5. Mass organizations: The report indicates active exchange between professional and women's organizations, which may reflect their importance in building civil society and strengthening relations between the countries.¹⁰¹

The next document presents a report on the activities of the Polish-Albanian Joint Commission, aimed at implementing the Cultural Agreement between Poland and Albania. Dated January 20, 1952, it is addressed to the Director of the Press and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The document discusses key points regarding cultural cooperation between the two countries. It includes plans for the arrival of Polish scholars in Albania, which was scheduled to take place around April 15, 1952, after the conclusion of the Second Congress of the Albanian Party of Labor.¹⁰² In the context of teaching the Polish language in Albania, the report highlighted the lack of available educational texts and competent teachers, which posed an obstacle to achieving this goal. It was suggested that Albanian students in Poland, with the support of Polish institutions, take on the task of preparing materials for learning both Polish and Albanian. The report also mentioned issues related to publishing literature, including the need to translate books, such as „*Węgiele*“ by

¹⁰¹ *Ibidem*, 18-21.

¹⁰² Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 26.

Scibor-Rylski, into other languages.¹⁰³ The document also refers to the organization of the exhibition *Warsaw-Peace-Reconstruction*, which was to be set up by May 1952 at the latest. It pointed out the difficulties related to the lack of appropriate exhibition materials, which could have affected its success. In the context of media cooperation, it was noted that Radio Poland had only been transmitting musical materials and had not provided content on other topics. A request was made for additional information on various social, political, and cultural aspects. It was recommended to organize a *Polish Culture Week* in Albania from April 11 to 18, 1952, which would coincide with the 60th anniversary of President Bolesław Bierut's birth.¹⁰⁴

The document regarding Polish-Albanian cultural cooperation in the 1950s emphasizes the importance of cultural relations as a key element of overall relations between the two countries. It notes that the visit of the Polish journalist, Karłowicz, to Albania was aimed at better acquainting the public in Poland with the Albanian reality, which could help strengthen these relations. The document points out that a significant amount of materials related to education, literature, and art were sent to Albania, but there were difficulties in their effective use by the Albanian side. Despite plans for the visit of an Albanian delegation to Poland and the organization of artistic performances, many initiatives were not realized. It highlights the growing difficulties in further developing cultural cooperation. The analysis pointed out the need for thoughtful and tailored assistance for Albania to support it in its fight against isolation and propaganda. It also emphasized that cooperation should include various forms of support, including in education, as well as the use of Polish experiences in shaping a new socialist culture. In conclusion, it noted the organizational and financial difficulties that may affect the future of cooperation, as well as the need for further strengthening of international relations.¹⁰⁵

From Trade Agreements to Actual Deliveries: Poland and Albania in the Context of Cold War Economic Relations in 1949-1952

The analysis of economic relations between Albania and Poland in 1949-1950 reveals significant changes and challenges in bilateral trade relations. Documents from this period highlight a shortage of data and materials concerning the specifics of agreements, making it difficult to fully assess the situation. The trade agreement of 1949 and that of 1950 differ in several respects. Notably, there

¹⁰³ Polsko – albańska umowa kulturalna, dokumenty ratyfikacyjne, roczne..., op cit, 26.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibidem*, 26-27.

¹⁰⁵ Raporty polityczne Poselstwa Rzeczypospolitej Polski w Tiranie, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (dalej: AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-18 T-159, Daty Skrajne: 1952-1952, Państwo: Albania, Polska, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Południowa, Europa Środkowa, 217-219.

is a visible decline in overall trade turnover compared to 1949. Albania's imports in 1949 amounted to \$1.1 million, whereas for 1950, they were projected at 5.83 million rubles. This difference in currencies and the variation in values may cause difficulties in interpreting the data. Exports from Poland to Albania in 1950 were also lower than those anticipated in the 1949 agreement. The credits granted to Albania for 1950 were smaller than those of the previous year, which limited trade opportunities. It is worth noting that in 1949, the credits amounted to \$2 million, while in 1950, under the agreement, credits were projected at 7.95 million rubles. A significant issue was that Albania did not fulfill all the deliveries stipulated in the 1949 agreement, which may indicate difficulties in meeting market demands.¹⁰⁶

During discussions between Albanian and Polish representatives, signals emerged indicating Albania's intention to improve the fulfillment of its obligations to Poland in the current year. The Albanians were better able to define their needs and capabilities when signing the 1950 agreement, which could have led to a more realistic approach to cooperation. It is also worth noting that Albania was considering obtaining credits from Poland and Hungary for 1950 and projected credits for the years 1951-1952. This reflects an effort to improve financial planning and cooperation with other socialist countries. Analyzing agreements with other nations, such as Romania and Czechoslovakia, reveals that these countries offered significantly higher credits than Poland. Romania granted Albania a \$3 million credit for 1950, while Czechoslovakia provided \$3.5 million. In light of these figures, the credits extended by Poland were lower, which may have negatively affected the appeal of Polish proposals.¹⁰⁷

A document dated June 30, 1950, preserved in the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, testifies to the dynamic trade and economic relations between Poland and Albania within the context of the postwar socialist bloc. The exchange between the two countries included Poland's attempt to procure 5,000 tons of bitumen, while Albania awaited the delivery of diesel engines, crucial for its oil industry, as agreed upon in the 1949 trade agreement.¹⁰⁸

In the document, the Albanian Minister of Trade, Kico Ngjela, emphasizes that the delivery of bitumen will only be possible if Poland fulfills its earlier commitments regarding engines. The text also reveals that the challenges faced by Albania's oil sector – production shortages and outdated infrastructure – posed significant difficulties for the country, making it reliant on technical and energy support from allies such as Poland and the USSR. This document highlights the economic interdependence within the socialist bloc, as

¹⁰⁶ Raporty polityczne Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej w Tiranie..., op.cit, 14.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibidem*, 14.

¹⁰⁸ Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska, Archiwum Ministerstwa Spraw Zagranicznych (dalej: AMSZ), Departament: Departament I za lata 1949-1960 (państwa socjalistyczne bez NRD), Sygnatura Jednostki Archiwalnej: Z-7 W-19 T-166, Daty Skrajne: 1950-1956, Państwo: Albania, Polska PRL, Region Świata: Bałkany, Europa Południowa, Europa Środkowa, 2.

well as the mutual expectations and limitations in achieving economic plans at the beginning of the Cold War.¹⁰⁹

In a letter dated July 26, 1950, addressed to the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Trade, issues regarding the delivery of goods under trade agreements were discussed. It was stated that in April, the delivery of 264 tons of goods for the second and third quarters of the current year began. The commitment to deliver 280 tons during the same quarters was partially fulfilled, as only 26 tons were delivered, along with an additional shipment sent on July 17 aboard the ship Olsztyn. Regarding black sheet metal, 500 tons were to be delivered in the first quarter and 605 tons in the second quarter, with an additional 500 tons planned for the third quarter's quota. So far, 466 tons have been shipped.¹¹⁰

In a letter dated July 28, 1950, addressed to the Albanian Minister of Foreign Trade, the delivery of railway track accessories was reported. In the second quarter, 138 tons of accessories were delivered. Based on information provided by Ahmet Jegeni, Director of the Export Department, it was noted that 500 tons of rails were shipped from Poland on July 24, with another 900 tons planned for shipment by August 5. According to the agreement, 462 tons remain to be delivered out of the agreed 2,000 tons. A commitment was made to deliver the remaining items by the end of August.¹¹¹

The trade agreement between the Polish People's Republic and the People's Republic of Albania from 1951 serves as an example of Cold War economic cooperation between socialist states. It was signed on January 25, 1951, in Warsaw by representatives of the governments of both countries: the Polish side was represented by Eugeniusz Szyr, and the Albanian side by Spiro Koleka. The agreement aimed to develop trade exchange and establish a system of mutual deliveries and payments.¹¹²

1. Article 1: The exchange of goods was established based on lists „A/51“ and „B/51,“ which specified the goods exported by both countries.
2. Article 2: The contracts were concluded by authorized institutions and enterprises of both sides.
3. Article 3: The prices of goods were set in rubles according to world prices, which were based on the main international markets.
4. Article 4: The terms of delivery were established as c.i.f. for goods from Poland and f.o.b. for goods from Albania at Adriatic ports.
5. Article 5: Payments were made through letters of credit and bank accounts in rubles, via the national banks of both countries.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibidem*, 2-3.

¹¹⁰ *Ibidem*, 36.

¹¹¹ Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska..., op.cit, 34.

¹¹² *Ibidem*, 62-63.

6. Article 6: Additional charges, such as insurance, transportation, and other exchange costs, were handled by both national banks through special clearing accounts.
7. Article 7: The same payment mechanism was applied to other transactions arising from the credit agreement and remaining diplomatic obligations.¹¹³
8. Article 8: The National Bank of Poland and the State Bank of Albania established the technical terms of settlement.¹¹⁴
9. Article 9: Both parties committed to ensuring that the transactions complied with national foreign exchange regulations.
10. Article 10: Albania could cover the obligations arising from the agreement with a credit of up to 6 million rubles, divided into investment and non-investment goods.
11. Article 11: The establishment of a Joint Commission was agreed upon, with the aim of analyzing the state of exchange and resolving difficulties.
12. Article 12: The agreement was valid until the end of 1951, but its provisions were to remain in effect for contracts not completed by the expiration date.¹¹⁵

This agreement, in addition to providing economic benefits, strengthened political ties between Poland and Albania, aligning with the strategy of mutual support between the countries of the Eastern Bloc.

Below is the list of goods exported from Albania to Poland according to list A/51.¹¹⁶

S.n.	Name of the goods	Quantity	Value in rubles
1.	Chromium ore	12.750 t	
2.	Wool	350 t	
3.	Blister copper	200 t	
4.	Natural bitumen	4.000 t	
5.	Tobacco	200 t	
6.	Bay leaves	100 t	
7.	Medicinal herbs		90.000
8.	Different	---	200.000

¹¹³ *Ibidem*, 62.

¹¹⁴ *Ibidem*, 62.

¹¹⁵ *Ibidem*, 63.

¹¹⁶ Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska..., op.cit, 64.

Below is a list of goods exported from Poland to Albania according to List B/51, Section I:¹¹⁷

S.n.	Name of the goods	Quantity	Value in rubles
1.	Compressors with internal combustion engines	10 szt.	
2.	Concrete mixers	3 szt.	
3.	Machine tools	2 szt.	
4.	Sheet metal bending machines	2 szt.	
5.	Locomotive jacks	1 szt.	
6.	Construction lifts	10 szt.	
7.	Iron and steel wire	200 ton	
8.	Iron rivets	16 ton	
9.	Galvanized wire mesh	10 ton	
10.	Steel ropes	10 ton	
11.	Agricultural chains	12 ton	
12.	Steel cylinders	113 szt.	
13.	Sanitary fittings		15.000
14.	Electric wires and cords		36.000
15.	Cast iron pipes, water supply fittings, and manual valves	650 ton	
16.	Cast-wrought connectors	12 ton	
17.	Various machines, devices, and metal products		250.000
18.	Railway trolley	1 szt.	
19.	Narrow-gauge locomotive	1 szt.	
20.	Diesel locomotives	4 szt.	
21.	Blast furnace iron	500 ton	
22.	Profiled iron	162 ton	
23.	Steel strip	135 ton	
24.	Black sheet metal	800 ton	
25.	Galvanized sheet metal	140 ton	
26.	White sheet metal	15 ton	
27.	Galvanized pipes	335 ton	
28.	Steel pipes	200 ton	
29.	Narrow-gauge rails and accessories	400 ton	
30.	Rebar iron (for concrete)	725 ton	
31.	Special steel	10 ton	
32.	Textile products		5.400.000
33.	Coke	4.000 ton	
34.	Cement	1.000 ton	
35.	Chemicals		1.000.000
36.	Different		250.000

¹¹⁷ Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska..., op.cit, 64-65.

Below is a list of goods exported from Poland to Albania according to the B/51 list, section II:¹¹⁸

S.n.	Name of the goods	Quantity	Value in rubles
1.	Railway locomotives/multi-gauge	2 szt.	
2.	Open wagons, multi-gauge	40 szt.	
3.	Covered freight wagons	20 szt.	
4.	Tank wagons	2 szt.	

On December 11, 1951, in Tirana, a document was drafted that serves as an official letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Albania, addressed to the Legation of the Republic of Poland. This document represents an example of post-war diplomatic correspondence, reflecting the economic and logistical difficulties faced by socialist states in fulfilling their mutual trade obligations. In the note, the Albanian government expresses regret over its inability to fully comply with the trade agreement concluded between Poland and Albania on January 25, 1951, concerning the export of goods and mutual payments. Albania informs Poland of the current export restrictions, submitting an updated list of goods for the current year, while also apologizing for the impact of this situation on the Polish economy. The document also includes Albania's commitment to cover the resulting deficit and pay 2% interest to compensate Poland for part of the losses incurred due to the failure to fully meet its obligations.¹¹⁹

Graph of goods exported from Albania to Poland in 1951:¹²⁰

S.n.	Name of the goods	Un	Agreement of 1951	Delivered by October 31, 1951	Total deliveries under the 1951 agreement
1.	Chromium ore	ton	12.750	7.999	12.750
2.	Wool	--	350	---	350
3.	Blister copper	---	200	---	75
4.	Natural bitumen	---	4.000	2.000	4.000
5.	Tobacco	---	200	---	30
6.	Bay leaves	---	100	12	100

¹¹⁸ *Ibidem*, 65.

¹¹⁹ Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska..., op.cit, 67.

¹²⁰ *Ibidem*, 68.

7.	Medicinal plants	Rbl.	90.000	---	42.000
8.	Different	---	200.000	---	---

The document of February 2, 1952, is the response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland to the diplomatic note from Albania dated December 11, 1951, regarding the fulfillment of obligations arising from the trade agreement of January 25, 1951. The Polish side, citing the significant importance for the national economy and import plans, rejects the possibility of postponing the overdue deliveries of copper and tobacco, which Albania was supposed to deliver in 1951, to 1952. Poland explicitly demands the prompt fulfillment of these contingents in accordance with the original agreement, arguing that it has either fulfilled its obligations or is in the process of doing so.¹²¹

A conversation between Aleksander Skrzynia, a representative of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania, Spiro Koleka, took place on March 17, 1952, in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Prifti. The topic of discussion was the difficulties in the negotiations concerning the Polish-Albanian trade agreement for the year 1952. A. Skrzynia, acting on the orders of Stefan Wierbłowski, presented to Koleka the issues related to the trade negotiations in Warsaw. He emphasized that the terms proposed by Minister Abdyl Kellezi, the head of the Albanian delegation, were unacceptable. He also noted that despite Poland's efforts to increase credits for Albania, the amount of goods supplied by the country was decreasing. Skrzynia pointed out that Poland aimed to expand trade cooperation and expected the Albanian side to also strive for the development of these relations.¹²²

Deputy Prime Minister Koleka acknowledged that he was aware of the difficulties that had been presented and agreed with Skrzynia's assessment. He explained that the Albanian delegation had intended to offer a specific amount of copper and bitumen, but this could not be realized due to the lack of materials necessary for the Albanian industry. As a result, the Albanians decided to withdraw the previously promised 50 tons of copper in favor of the Czechs, who had committed to supplying materials that they could not obtain from Poland. During the conversation, Skrzynia pointed out that both sides had difficulties fulfilling their commitments, which put the Albanian government in a difficult position, especially in the context of the new ambassador. Koleka promised that he would make every effort to ensure that the matters were resolved in a way that would satisfy both sides. Skrzynia also raised issues related to the transportation of oil and delays in unloading ships, which were generating additional costs. Koleka expressed hope for the prompt signing of the trade agreement for 1952, despite the complicated situation with supplies and misunderstandings. Skrzynia

¹²¹ *Ibidem*, 71-72.

¹²² Umowa handlowa polsko- albańska..., op.cit, 76.

pointed out that the lack of responsibility on the part of the Polish commercial attaché might have contributed to the difficulties, and the information about copper and chrome extraction in Albania suggested potential issues with fulfilling commitments.¹²³ This conversation illustrates the tense trade relations between Poland and Albania during the Cold War, while also highlighting the complexity of negotiations and the mutual expectations of both sides.

Summary

The relations between Poland and Albania from 1949 to 1952 reveal the complexity of Cold War diplomacy, where official socialist ideology intertwined with the pragmatic needs of both countries. The Albanian-Polish Friendship Week in 1950 and speeches by leaders such as Mihal Prifti highlighted the symbolic importance of propaganda in maintaining the image of socialist unity and loyalty to the USSR. The propaganda influence was crucial: emphasizing the common path to socialism and chanting the names of Eastern Bloc leaders aimed to consolidate internal support through the image of an external alliance. At the same time, the dynamics of economic relations between Poland and Albania revealed more practical, yet problematic, aspects of their cooperation. Despite the signed trade agreements in 1949 and 1950, the actual economic exchange was lower than anticipated. Shortages of credits and delays in deliveries pointed to differences between expectations and the capabilities of both sides. Albania struggled to fully meet its commitments, and Polish credits were less competitive than the support offered by Romania or Czechoslovakia. Such imbalances not only posed a challenge to bilateral relations but also suggested internal tensions and limitations in fulfilling the goals of the Eastern Bloc.

The 1950 cultural cooperation agreement aimed not only to strengthen relations but also to serve as a tool of propaganda. The establishment of the Polish-Albanian Mixed Commission expressed the need for controlled development of contacts and mutual exchange, while also symbolizing the desire to tighten the alliance through formal channels of cooperation. In practice, this meant incorporating culture into the broader strategy of maintaining the political cohesion of the socialist bloc, which was of significant importance both for external relations and for the internal ideological order. Diplomatic appointments, such as that of Bolesław Jeleń as the Envoy Counsellor in Tirana, were important elements of the post-war strategy to stabilize international relations. As a historian, one can observe that the process of building Polish-Albanian relations was multifaceted: official alliance declarations and symbolic events served propaganda purposes, while real cooperation struggled with numerous difficulties. It was an era in which political ambitions did not always align with economic and logistical needs, highlighting the contradictions

¹²³ *Ibidem*, 76-78.

characteristic of the socialist bloc and demonstrating how, under ideological pressure, states sought their own paths to pursue their interests.

Zaključak

Odnosi između Poljske i Albanije od 1949. do 1952. godine otkrivaju složenost diplomatije Hladnog rata, gdje su se zvanična socijalistička ideologija i pragmatične potrebe obje zemlje isprepletale. Sedmica albansko-poljskog prijateljstva 1950. godine i govori lidera poput Mihala Priftija istaknuli su simboličan značaj propagande u očuvanju slike socijalističkog jedinstva i lojalnosti prema SSSR-u. Uticaj propagande bio je presudan: naglašavanje zajedničkog puta ka socijalizmu i skandiranje imena lidera istočnog bloka imalo je za cilj učvršćivanje unutrašnje podrške kroz sliku spoljnog saveza. Istovremeno, dinamika ekonomskih odnosa između Poljske i Albanije otkrila je praktičnije, ali i problematične aspekte njihove saradnje. Uprkos potpisanim trgovinskim sporazumima 1949. i 1950. godine, stvarna ekonomska razmjena bila je manja od očekivane. Nedostatak kredita i kašnjenja u isporukama ukazivali su na razlike između očekivanja i mogućnosti obje strane. Albanija se borila da u potpunosti ispuni svoje obaveze, a poljski krediti bili su manje konkurentni u poređenju s podrškom koju su nudile Rumunija ili Čehoslovačka. Takve neravnoteže nisu samo predstavljale izazov za bilateralne odnose, već su ukazivale i na unutrašnje tenzije i ograničenja u ispunjavanju ciljeva Istočnog bloka.

Sporazum o kulturnoj saradnji iz 1950. godine imao je za cilj ne samo jačanje odnosa, već i služenje kao alat propagande. Osnivanje Mješovite poljsko-albanske komisije izrazilo je potrebu za kontrolisanim razvojem kontakata i međusobne razmjene, dok je istovremeno simboliziralo želju za učvršćivanjem saveza putem formalnih kanala saradnje. U praksi, to je značilo uključivanje kulture u širu strategiju očuvanja političke kohezije socijalističkog bloka, što je bilo od velikog značaja kako za spoljne odnose, tako i za unutrašnji ideološki poredak. Diplomatska imenovanja, poput onog Bolesława Jelenia za savjetnika izaslanstva u Tirani, predstavljala su važne elemente poslijeratne strategije stabilizacije međunarodnih odnosa. Kao historičar može se uočiti da je proces izgradnje poljsko-albanskih odnosa bio višeslojan: zvanične deklaracije savezništva i simbolični događaji služili su propagandnim ciljevima, dok se stvarna saradnja suočavala s brojnim poteškoćama. To je bilo doba u kojem se političke ambicije nisu uvijek poklapale s ekonomskim i logističkim potrebama, što je isticalo kontradikcije karakteristične za socijalistički blok i pokazivalo kako su države, pod ideološkim pritiskom, tražile vlastite puteve za ostvarivanje svojih interesa.

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