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Yugoslav diplomat in Albania Velimir Stojnić*

Abstract: After the end of the Second World War, Yugoslavia and Albania established political and diplomatic relations. Colonel Velimir Stojnić was the first Yugoslav envoy to Albania and he remained in that position until November 1945. In my paper, I will first give a brief overview of the relations between Yugoslavia and Albania 1945–1948. Then in the main chapter, I will deal with the role and significance of Velimir Stojnić in Yugoslav–Albanian cooperation and his impact on Albanian leader Enver Hoxha and Albanian politicians. My research could be part of a broader study of Yugoslav–Albanian relations, especially as an example of good practice in bilateral cooperation.

Keywords: Albania, diplomats, USSR, Velimir Stojnić, Yugoslavia

Yugoslav–Albanian relations 1945–1948: an overview

During the Second World War good relations were established between the Communist Party of Yugoslavia (CPY) and the Communist Party of Albania (CPA).¹ The trend continued after the war and consisted of ideological,

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1 See more: Nijaz Dizdarević, *Albanski dnevnik*, (Zagreb: Globus; Sarajevo: Oslobođenje, 1988); Spasoje Đaković, *Sukobi na Kosovu*, (Beograd: Narodna knjiga, 1984), 86–87; Stevan K. Pavlović, *Istorija Balkana*, (Beograd: Clio, 2001), 479; Marenglen Verli, *Historia e Shqipërisë e viteve 1912–1964 në Kujtimet e Spiro Kosovës*, (*History of Albania 1912–1964 in the memoirs of Spiro Kosova*), (Tirana: Klean, 2008), 294; Branko Petranović, *Jugoslavija*

political, economic, healthcare, military and cultural cooperation. Yugoslav–Albanian relations were modeled after the Yugoslav–Soviet relations established after the World War II. Yugoslavia and the USSR were ideologically and politically close, and therefore cooperated in many fields, especially in the economy. Economic relations were developed through foreign trade, Soviet loans to Yugoslavia and the establishment of joint ventures. That was the model that Yugoslavia applied to relations with Albania.²

Yugoslavia significantly assisted Albanian economy at the time. Yugoslav diplomats in Tirana played an important role in realization of that aid. They insisted on fulfilling Yugoslav obligations from the treaties, but also initiated or controlled the out-of-agreement assistance.³ The countries signed two treaties in 1945, one in the form of a military alliance for the joint fight against the German occupation forces, which was to be extended in the post-war years, and the other considering economic cooperation.⁴ With the Trade Agreement, the total value of the exchange amounted to about 40 million

i internacionalni radnički pokret, (Beograd: Institut za međunarodni radnički pokret, 1973), 88; Božica Slavković Mirić, „Jugoslovensko-albanski ekonomski odnosi 1945–58. Planovi i saradnja“, *Istorija 20. veka* 1/2012, 133–148; Svetozar Vukmanović Tempo, *Revolucija koja teče: memoari*, vol. 1, (Zagreb: Globus, 1982).

- 2 *Jugoslovensko-sovjetski odnosi: 1945–56*, ur. Ljubodrag Dimić, (Beograd: Ministarstvo spoljnih poslova, 2010); Milan Gulić, Momir Ninković, „Mešovita jugoslovensko-sovjetska društva: Slučaj JUSTA-e“, *Istorija 20. veka* 1/2014, 143–163; Momir Ninković, „Uspostavljanje i odvijanje redovnih ekonomskih odnosa između Jugoslavije i Sovjetskog Saveza 1945. godine“, *1945. Kraj ili novi početak?*, ur. Zoran Janjetović, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, Muzej žrtava genocida, 2016), 497–530; Milutin Živković i Momir Ninković, „Od rata ka miru. Politički odnosi Jugoslavije i Sovjetskog Saveza 1945. godine“, *Srpsko-ruski odnosi u prošlosti i sadašnjosti, II*, prir. Vesna Zarković, Marija Jeftimijević Mihajlović, Dalibor Velojić, (Leposavić: Institut za srpsku kulturu, 2018), 159–185; Aleksandar Rakonjac, „Obnova starih i uspostavljanje novih trgovinskih odnosa (1945–1947) – Jugoslavija, SSSR i države 'narodne demokratije'“, *Tokovi istorije* 1/2018, 55–79; Milan Vesović, „Štampa i publicistika KPJ o SSSR-u 1938–1948.“, *Jugoslovensko-sovjetski sukob 1948 godine*, prir. Petar Kačavenda, (Beograd: Institut za savremenu istoriju, 1999), 309–321; Sava Živanov, „Uzroci i posledice sukoba“, *Jugoslovensko-sovjetski sukob 1948. godine*, prir. Petar Kačavenda, (Beograd: Institut za savremenu istoriju, 1999), 21–34.
- 3 See more: Božica Slavković Mirić, *Jugoslavija i Albanija 1945–1948: ekonomski odnosi*, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2020).
- 4 Slobodan Selinić, Dušan Bajagić, *Jugoslavija i svet 1945–1950. Hronologija*, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2010), 46; Đorđe Borozan, *Velika Albanija: porijeklo-ideje-praksa*, (Beograd: Vojnoistorijski insitut Vojske Jugoslavije, 1995), 513–514; Branko Petranović, „Kosovo u jugoslovensko-albanskim odnosima i projekt balkanske federacije“, *Srbi i Albanci u 20. veku*, ur. Andrej Mitrović, (Beograd: SANU, 1991), 335; Josip Smolaka, *Partizanski dnevnik*, (Zagreb: Spektar, 1986), 220–222.

dinars.⁵ In addition to the contractual claims, Albania also received out-of-agreement assistance from Yugoslavia.⁶

The established Yugoslav–Albanian co-operation contributed to Albania’s economic and political recovery after the war.⁷ Relations were also developing on other levels. Yugoslav teachers of Serbian language were sent to Albania. Also, surveyors were sent to assist in the implementation of the agrarian reform, cultural experts were sent to help establish theaters, as well as medical experts to help in the area of healthcare, etc. Albanian workers were employed at Yugoslav companies, and students from Albania studied at Yugoslav universities.⁸

The highlight of the cooperation between the countries was Enver Hoxha’s visit to Yugoslavia in mid-1946 and signing of The Treaty on Economic Co-operation, Payments and Loans.⁹ A new course was set between the dinar and the new Albanian franc.¹⁰ Also, the Albanian government adopted the first planned budget (for 1946/47).¹¹ In November 1946, the Agreement on the Harmonization of Economic Plans, on the Customs Union and on the Equali-

5 Arhiv Jugoslavije (AJ), fond 50, Predsedništvo Vlade FNRJ, 48–105, Protokol povodom sklapanja Trgovinskog ugovora, 1 July 1946.

6 Branko Petranović, *Jugoslavija, velike sile i balkanske zemlje 1945–1948: Iskustvo „narodne demokratije“ kao partijske države*, (Beograd, Podgorica: Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1994), 97.

7 Ričard Krempton, *Balkan posle Drugog svetskog rata*, (Beograd: Clio, 2003), 67; Kristo Frasheri, *The History of Albania. A Brief Survey*, (Tirana, 1964), 329; *Economic change in the Balkan states: Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia*, ed. Örjan Sjöberg, (London: Pinter Publishers, 1991), 128.

8 Slavković Mirić, *Jugoslavija i Albanija 1945–1948*, 95–97.

9 AJ, fond 112, Novinska agencija Tanjug, 795–796, 22 June 1946; AJ, 112-795-796, 28 June 1946; AJ, fond 507/9, Komisija za međunarodne veze CK SKJ, f. 1, 1/1-71, 19 June 1946; Milenko Babić, *Enver Hodžina Albanija*, (Beograd: Novinska agencija Tanjug, 1981), 69; Peter Bartl, *Albanci: od srednjeg veka do danas*, (Beograd: Clio, 2001), 76; Vladimir Dedijer, *Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi: 1939–1948*, (Beograd: Borba, 1949), 152–154; Pero Zlatar, *Enver Hodža: politička biografija*, (Beograd: Rad, 1986), 112; Milovan Đilas, *Vlast i pobuna: memoari*, (Zagreb: Europapress, Novi liber, 2009), 96; Milorad Komatina, *Enver Hodža i jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi*, (Beograd: Službeni list, 1995), 48; *Balkanski ugovorni odnosi: 1876–1996.: dvostrani i višestrani međunarodni ugovori i drugi diplomatski akti o državnim granicama, političkoj i vojnoj saradnji, verskim i etničkim manjinama, t. 2, (1919–1945)*, ur. Momir Stojković, (Beograd: Službeni list SRJ; Međunarodna politika, 1998), 4–6.

10 AJ, 50-49-108, *Bashkimi*, 11 July 1946; Nikola L. Gaćeša, „Privredni odnosi Jugoslavije i Albanije 1945–1948”, *Zbornik Matice Srpske za istoriju* 42/1990, 91.

11 AJ, 112-797-799, 4 August 1946.

zation of Currencies was signed.¹² In addition to assistance coming to Albania under the signed agreements, Yugoslavia extended its assistance to other areas. In October 1946, after the floods in Albania, aid of 52 million dinars was collected in Yugoslavia.¹³

In 1947 regular transportation lines were established and roads and bridges were rebuilt in Albania. The Durrës–Peqin railway line, opened on November 7, 1947, was of great importance for traffic communication.¹⁴ In Kukes and Velika Selita near Tirana the two hydropower plants were constructed and a water supply system was arranged. Petroleum production in Kučova was developing. The construction of a hospital in Argirokastra and a gymnasium in Peshkopi were also planned. A national economic plan was drawn up, which envisioned investments in agriculture and industry. Yugoslavia enabled Albania to open several factories. Also, a modern printing house was installed, as well as an automatic telephone exchange.¹⁵

However, the Yugoslav assistance also provoked anxiety amongst Albanian leaders about Yugoslavia's aspirations to include Albania into its federation. In spite of the Yugoslav economic assistance, Albanian leaders feared Yugoslavia's aspirations to annex Albania to its federation. That was the reason why the Albanian leader Enver Hoxha wanted direct co-operation with the USSR. The crisis in Yugoslav–Albanian relations was particularly felt after Enver Hoxha's visit to Moscow in mid-1947, without consultations with the Yu-

12 AJ, 50-48-105, Ugovor o usklađivanju privrednih planova, o carinskoj uniji i izjednačenju valuta, 12 November 1946; AJ, 50-48-105, Ugovor između vlada FNRJ i NRA o usklađivanju privrednih planova, carinskoj uniji i izjednačenju valuta, 27 November 1946; Smilja Avramov, „Savezi u politici Narodne Socijalističke Republike Albanije“, *Marksistička misao: časopis za teoriju i praksu socijalizma i socijalističkog samoupravljanja* 3/1985, 175; Dedijer, *Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi: 1939–1948*, 174–177; Komatina, *Enver Hodža i jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi*, 50–51.

13 AJ, 50-48, 28 October 1946; AJ, 112-801-802, 15 November 1946; AJ, 112-800-801, 25 November 1946; AJ, 507/9, 1/1-37, *Borba*, 6 November 1946; AJ, 112-801-802, 14 November 1946; Dedijer, *Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi: 1939–1948*, 172; Aleksandar Životić, *Jugoslavija, Albanija i velike sile 1945–1961*, (Beograd: Arhipelag, Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2011); Milan V. Terzić, *Titova vještina vladanja. Maršal i maršalat 1943–1953*, (Podgorica: Pobjeda, 2005), 227; Zlatar, *Enver Hodža: politička biografija*, 120–121.

14 AJ, 112-807-808, 7 March 1947; AJ, 112-807-808, 9 March 1947; AJ, 112-809-810, 2 April 1947; AJ, 112-809-810, 4 April 1947; AJ, 112-809-810, 12 April 1947; AJ, 112-812-813, 28 May 1947; AJ, 112-813-814, 6 June 1947; AJ, 507/9, 1/3-66, *Tanjug*, 12 September 1947; AJ, 112-819-820, 14 September 1947; AJ, 112-824-825, 1 November 1947; AJ, 112-824-825, 8 November 1947.

15 Slavković Mirić, *Jugoslavija i Albanija 1945–1948*, 161–171.

goslav authorities.¹⁶ Albania then was granted assistance in setting up a factory for the production of agricultural machinery and tractors.¹⁷

Decline in Yugoslav–Albanian relations was felt in all fields. The official separation came after the publication of the Cominform Resolution in June 1948.¹⁸ Albania agreed with the resolution and terminated all treaties with Yugoslavia except the Friendship Treaty, which Yugoslavia terminated on November 12, 1949.¹⁹ All ongoing projects were put on hold and Yugoslav experts had to leave Albania. All the aid that was provided from 1945 to mid-1948 was portrayed as the desire of Yugoslav authorities to exploit Albania's natural resources, divert its industry for the benefit of Yugoslavia, and turn it into a colony.²⁰ Yugoslavia and Albania renewed diplomatic relations in 1954, but relations between the two countries in general remained cold and reserved.²¹

This paper aims to present the work of the Yugoslav envoy to Albania, Velimir Stojnić, in the period of establishment of diplomatic relations. The pri-

16 Blendi Fevziu, *Enver Hodža: prva biografija zasnovana na dokumenti od ličnata arhiva i na ispovedite na onie što go poznavaa*, (Skopje: Fondacija Otvoreno opštestvo – Makedonija, 2014), 318; Aleksandar Životić, „Jugoslavija i jačanje sovjetskog uticaja u Albaniji 1947–1948“, *Tokovi istorije* 3/2009, 97; Enver Hoxha, *Avec Staline: souvenirs*, (Tirana: 8. Nëntori, 1979), 55–90; *Histoire de l'Albanie: des origines à nos jours*, ed. Stefanaq Pollo, Arben Puto, (Roanne: Editions Horvath, 1974), 308.

17 Životić, „Jugoslavija i jačanje sovjetskog uticaja u Albaniji 1947–1948“, 109.

18 Vladimir Adamović, „Enver Hodža: mehanizmi vlasti“, *Ideje: jugoslovenski studentski časopis* 5–6/1987, 167; Đorđe Borozan, „Paternalistička ponašanja albanskih vlada prema Albancima u Jugoslaviji tokom 20. vijeka“, *Vojno delo* 2/1997, 32; Kristo Frasheri, *The History of Albania. A Brief Survey*, (Tirana, 1964), 336–337; Volter Laker, *Istorija Evrope 1945–1992*, (Beograd: Clio, 1999), 417; *Jugoslavija 1918–1988. Tematska zbirka dokumenata*, ur. Branko Petranović, Momčilo Zečević, (Beograd: Rad, 1988), 935; Arshi Pipa, *Albanian Stalinism. Ideo-Political Aspects*, (New York: Columbia university press, 1990), 137–138; Radovan Radonjić, „Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi u periodu sukoba KPJ sa Kominformom: (1948–1956)“, *Marksistička misao: časopis za teoriju i praksu socijalizma i socijalističkog samoupravljanja* 6/1985, 166; Mile Veljović, „Kontinuitet i promene u albanskoj politici“, *Međunarodna politika* 38/1987, 6.

19 AJ, fond 836, Kancelarija Maršala Jugoslavije, 1-3-B/44, Urgent Ministarstvu inostranih poslova, 1 July 1948; AJ, 507/9, 1/1-196, 1 July 1948; *Dokumenti spoljne politike SFRJ: 1949*, (Beograd: Jugoslovenski pregled, 1991), 296–303; *Balkanski ugovorni odnosi: 1876–1996.: dvostrani i višestrani međunarodni ugovori i drugi diplomatski akti o državnim granicama, političkoj i vojnoj saradnji, verskim i etničkim manjinama*, t. 3, (1946–1996), ur. Momir Stojković, (Beograd: Službeni list SRJ: Međunarodna politika, 1999), 207–15.

20 AJ, 507/9, 1/1-157, *Rabotničko delo*, 21 July 1948; AJ, 507/9, 1/1-157, *Rabotničko delo*, 29 July 1948; *Diplomatski arhiv Ministarstva spoljnih poslova Republike Srbije (DAM-SPRS)*, Politička arhiva (PA), 1948, f. 12, d. 423627, Izveštaj o klevetama albanske štampe prema FNRJ, Janko Havliček Ministarstvu inostranih poslova FNRJ, 1 September 1948.

21 Komatina, *Enver Hodža i jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi*, 95.

mary goal of the research is to bring out his role in maintaining good relations between the two countries. I will also analyze the attitude of the Albanian leadership towards him, and his engagement in the cooperation.

Biography of Velimir Stojnić

Velimir Stojnić was born on April 5, 1916, in Dobro Selo, near Bosanska Krupa and died in 1990 in Belgrade. He spent his childhood in the villages of the Bosnian Krajina, in Podgrmeč and Kozara, where his father Stevan worked as a teacher. He finished elementary school in Bosanska Kostajnica, and high school in Kostajnica and Bihać. In 1929 his family moved to Banja Luka, where Velimir finished lower high school and enrolled in the Teacher's School. Due to his connection with the revolutionary youth movement, Stojnić was expelled from the Banja Luka Teachers' School in 1936, so he continued his education in Zagreb. During his schooling in Zagreb, Stojnić continued to participate in the youth movement and in 1936 he became a member of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia.

After completing his military service at the School for Reserve Officers in Goražde, Stojnić returned to Banja Luka. He became a teacher in the village of Kamenica, near Drvar. After arriving in Drvar, he actively worked on organizing the Communist Party branch among the workers of "Šipad" company. In June 1940, at the First Regional Party Conference for the Bosnian Krajina in Banja Luka, he was elected a delegate to the Fifth National Conference of the CPY. After the April War and the occupation of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, he became a military commissioner for the Prijedor district. Stojnić participated in the conference of the Regional Committee of the CPY for the Bosnian Krajina, on June 8, 1941, in Šehintluci, near Banja Luka. He was the political commissar of the Drvar-Grahovo partisan detachment, the Podgrmeč partisan detachment and the First Krajina Strike Brigade. Then he was the political commissar of the First Krajina Partisan Detachment and the newly formed Fifth Krajina Corps. From August 1943, he was a member of the Regional Committee of the CPY for the Bosnian Krajina.

At the beginning of 1944, Stojnić was a member of the military mission of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Partisan detachments of Yugoslavia (PDY) in the Soviet Union. In August 1944, he became the head of the military mission of the PLA and PDY at the Supreme Headquarters of the People's Liberation Army of Albania. He had remained in that position until May 1945, when the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia recognized the People's Republic of Albania, and he became the first envoy.

In October 1945, Stojnić returned to Belgrade and became Assistant Minister for the Constituent Assembly. He was the Secretary and Vice President of the State Control Commission of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia until 1950. In the following years he performed numerous functions and duties; he was a member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia and a member of the General Council of the World Veterans Federation; the president of the Commission for Personnel Policy and Personnel Education of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia; member of the Federal Assembly in several convocations, and for a time he also performed the duty of the President of the Organizational and Political Council of the Federal Assembly. Stojnić was a member of the Federation Council and had the rank of reserve major general. He was also elected a member of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia at the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Congresses of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

Velimir Stojnić was the holder of the Partisan Memorial in 1941 and other Yugoslav decorations, among which were the Order of People's Liberation, the Order of the Partisan Star with Golden Wreath and the Order of Merit for the People with the Golden Star. He was also awarded the Order of the People's Hero on July 24, 1953. Velimir Stojnić died on November 28, 1990 and was buried in the Alley of People's Heroes at the New Cemetery in Belgrade.²²

The role of Velimir Stojnić as the first Yugoslav post-war envoy to Albania

In order to establish friendly relations between Yugoslavia and Albania, in the middle of 1944, Colonel Velimir Stojnić was sent to Albania as an instructor. He was supposed to provide assistance to the Communist Party of Albania (CPA). Stojnić participated at the congress in Berat,²³ as the first member of the interim government of the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia in

22 *Vojna enciklopedija IX*, (Beograd: Redakcija Vojne enciklopedije, 1975), 165; *Narodni heroji Jugoslavije II (N-Ž)*, (Beograd: Partizanska knjiga: Narodna knjiga, Titograd: Pobjeda, 1983), 210–211.

23 Congress in Berat, October 20–23, 1944 – session of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council, when it was decided that the National Anti-Fascist Committee would be transformed into the democratic government of Albania. It was also decided that the People's Liberation Committees would perform the function of government bodies, and that the National Liberation Front should act as a nationwide political organization. Peter Prifti, *Socialist Albania since 1944. Domestic and Foreign Developments*, (Cambridge Mass.: MIT Press, cop. 1978), 198; Miranda Vickers, *The Albanians: A Modern History*, (New York: I.B. Tauris, 2000), 164.

Tirana.²⁴ Along with him, Nijaz Dizdarević, an instructor of the youth war organization, was sent on the duty of the secretary of the military mission of the People's Liberation Army of Yugoslavia at the Supreme Headquarters of the People's Liberation Army of Albania.²⁵

After arriving from Berat to Tirana, Stojnić and Dizdarević were supposed to help the Albanian leadership on all issues, as well as to be the main link in connecting Yugoslavia and Albania. This was especially evident after the establishment of diplomatic and political relations between the two countries. Stojnić told Enver Hoxha at the first meeting that the task of the Yugoslav mission was to “first brotherly convey to your Supreme Headquarters the experiences of the Yugoslav headquarters in connection with large and combined operations, especially now that German troops are withdrawing from Greece, and then to establish regular connections between the Supreme Headquarters staffs and armies of our two countries, to see the possibilities of future coordination of even larger joint operations and thirdly to help in the further organization of the fraternal army of Albania.”²⁶

In his book *Today's Albania*, Stojnić states that “everyone in Yugoslavia knows that little Albania joined the ranks of those countries that did not come to terms with the loss of national independence, that the Albanian people stood up bare-handed in front of the occupier, rose up in revolt, created the National liberation army and freed the country from the fascist yoke.”²⁷ Stojnić writes very highly about the Albanian state, the Albanian people and the fight against the occupiers. He insists on the recognition of the Albanian state by Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America in order to “strengthen friendly ties” and to “give recognition to the Albanian people for the honorable performance of their duties in the war against Hitler's

24 Boris Suljagić, „Odnos jugoslavenškoga i albanskoga komunističkog vrha od kraja Drugoga svjetskog rata do prekida odnosa (1945–1948)“, *Časopis za suvremenu povijest* 1/2019, 215.

25 Nijaz Dizdarević was in this position until May 1945, when he was appointed First Secretary of the Yugoslav Embassy in Ankara, where he remained until the beginning of 1947 (See more: Dizdarević, *Albanski dnevnik*).

26 Enver Hodža, *Titoisti*, (Tirana: Izdavačka kuća „8 nentori“, 1982), 133–134.

27 Velimir Stojnić, *Današnja Albanija*, (Novi Sad: Knjižara Budućnost, 1945), 3. The book consists of several texts such as “Albania has never submitted to the occupier”, “Uprising of the Albanian people against the occupier”, “Creation of the People's Liberation Army of Albania” and “Justified demand of the Albanian people”. Those texts were published separately in *Borba* in December 1944 and January 1945.

Germany”. At the end of the book, Stojnić quotes “Long live the democratic government of Albania”.²⁸

Yugoslavia was the first country to recognize the Republic of Albania on April 28, 1945.²⁹ On November 10, 1945 the Soviet Union did the same.³⁰ Velimir Stojnić was appointed the first Yugoslav envoy, and the Yugoslav military mission was renamed the Embassy of the Democratic Federal Yugoslavia.³¹ In the first phase of the establishment of economic relations between Yugoslavia and Albania, it was thought that Yugoslav consulates should be opened in Skadar, Vlora and Đirokastra, but that idea was abandoned.³²

Establishing good relations between Yugoslavia and Albania was not easy. Albanian leader Enver Hoxha was reserved and distrustful, which he mentioned in his memoirs. Hoxha stated that Velimir Stojnić “tried to find out everything and stuck his nose everywhere”. According to Hoxha, Stojnić “considered himself responsible for organizing the army, party, government, security, education, culture and so on. In a word, he was a ‘big head’ and represented a ‘big contribution’ made by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia to our Party, sending us this man to impart his ‘experience’ to us.”³³

In the conversations that Stojnić had with Enver Hoxha, according to Hoxha’s writings, he had special ways of speaking. On military issues, he addressed him as “comrade commander”, on issues related to government “comrade president”, and on party issues “comrade general secretary”. Hoxha was particularly bothered by the fact that Stojnić wanted to participate in the meeting of the Albanian Bureau of the Central Committee. Hoxha wrote in his memoirs that Stojnić “raised Tito to the heavens, comparing him to Stalin” and that he persistently repeated that “the Albanian party suffered from sectarianism and opportunism”. Hoxha reproached Stojnić for pointing out that the “Albanian National Liberation Struggle is not something big”, that it “does not represent anything special if compared to the struggle of the people of Yugoslavia” and that “Albanian communists should follow the Yugoslav path, Tito’s advice and

28 Stojnić, *Današnja Albanija*, 25.

29 *Jugoslavija 1918–1988. Tematska zbirka dokumenata*, 791.

30 Bartl, *Albanci: od srednjeg veka do danas*, 233.

31 *Zapishnici sa sednica Politbiroa CK KPJ (11. jun 1945 – 7. jul 1948)*, ur. Branko Petranović, (Beograd: Arhiv Jugoslavije, Službeni list SRJ, 1995), 469–470.

32 Bogumil Hrabak, „Međunarodni položaj Albanije 1945–1947. i Jugoslavija”, *Istraživanja* 13/1990, 260.

33 Hodža, *Titoisti*, 135–144.

instructions”. He was also bothered by the fact that Stojnić attended other meetings where, according to Hoxha, he “continued to attack the line of our Party”.³⁴

Hoxha diplomatically and tactically praised Yugoslav aid and leadership, and covertly sought to rid himself of his opponents, some of whom were in favor of close ties with Yugoslavia.³⁵ The Yugoslav side believed that the Albanian leadership should be more enthusiastic about accepting Yugoslav help and experience.³⁶ Stojnić pointed out that members of the opposition were also reserved about how much the Yugoslav side could help Albania. Gjergj Kokoshi, a representative of the Albanian opposition, pointed out that he believes that Albania needs not only the help of the people’s democratic states, but also to rely on England and the United States. He considered that “the Soviet Union was too far away to be able to stand up for a small Albania”, and that Yugoslavia was bound by a military pact with the USSR. Kokoshi also told Stojnić that “Yugoslavia is a democratic country and a friend of Albania, but that it is also endangered and will not be able to survive.”³⁷

Another example of the difficult establishment of Albanian trust, Stojnić saw through the functioning of the company Importex.³⁸ This trade company was established by the Albanians for the sake of better trade,³⁹ and it was supposed to take over the monopoly of imports and exports, primarily in relation to Yugoslavia, under state control. At its head, however, were people who were not friendly towards Yugoslavia and who were more oriented towards Italy. Therefore, according to Stojnić’s report, “they wanted to break away from state control”, which should have been prevented in order to establish friendly relations. Due to that, the Yugoslav trade delegation had to stay in Tirana for two months, “often cheated without serious agreements”.⁴⁰

Also, Velimir Stojnić was not satisfied with the writing of the Albanian press about Yugoslavia. He resented the newspapers’ overlooking the speeches

34 *Ibid*, 154–158.

35 Komatina, *Enver Hodža i jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi*, 40.

36 Petranović, „Kosovo u jugoslovensko-albanskim odnosima i projekt balkanske federacije“, 379.

37 Bogumil Hrabak, „Političkobezbedonosna situacija u Albaniji 1945–1947“, *Istorija 20. veka 1–2/1990*, 89.

38 There were companies in Albania: the Autonomous Institution for Grain Accumulation, the Autonomous Institution of Albanian Petroleum, the Importex Company, and as far as trade delegations were concerned, only the Trade Delegation of the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Trade was present (DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 9, d. 1/153, Ministarstvo trgovine i industrije, 13 September 1945).

39 AJ, 112-788-789, 10 September 1945.

40 AJ, 507/9, f. 1, 1/1-27, 12 November 1945.

of Josip Broz Tito. Stojnić wrote in his report: “One of the serious omissions of the Central Committee is ignoring the events in Yugoslavia, in fact allowing the masses to lose interest in Yugoslavia. Here, first of all, we should look at their press. Very rarely and almost never do original articles about Yugoslavia appear by their people and journalists, nor by their leaders. Very rarely or almost never, important events in our country are commented on in order to better shed light on the situation in Yugoslavia. This neglect can be seen in particular from the following: to date, Marshal Tito’s speech has not been published in its entirety in the Albanian press, except for short excerpts, which are often placed in a secondary place in the paper.”⁴¹

Given such attitude of the Albanian side, it was very important for the Yugoslav side to make an effort to fulfill the promises it made in the agreements. Velimir Stojnić insisted that the deliveries anticipated by the contracts must have been delivered on time and in the provided quantities. In June 1945, the deputy manager of the Foreign Trade Administration, Spiro Srzentić, asked Stojnić to urge for deliveries of olive oil, oil, kerosene, gasoline, briquette resin, wool and salt. Until then, “insignificant quantities of gasoline and wool” had been delivered.⁴² According to reports, during July 1945, exports from Albania included 12 tons of wheat and 702 tons of corn,⁴³ while imports included 41.436 tons of salt, 26.050 tons of wool, 294.910 tons of gasoline, 99.865 tons of oil, 20.886 tons of petroleum and 50.076 tons of olive oil. In August 1945, according to Stojnić’s report, the Albanians demanded 200 tons of barley, which they needed for beer production.⁴⁴ The request was sent by the Albanian Ministry of Economy to the Foreign Trade Administration of the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia again in December 1945, asking for the amount of barley “that you allegedly promised” to be sent.⁴⁵ Dissatisfaction with the delay of deliveries turned Albania towards the Soviet Union, which would later cause the severance of Yugoslav–Albanian relations.⁴⁶

In order for the trade exchange between Yugoslavia and Albania to proceed smoothly, it was necessary to regulate the border relations between the two countries. Thus, at the end of May 1945, Velimir Stojnić submitted a proposal for regulating the border to the Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He

41 AJ, 507/9, f. 1, 1/1-25, 14 September 1945.

42 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 26, d. 1573, Srzentić Ministarstvu inostranih poslova, 5 June 1945.

43 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 2719, Ministarstvu inostranih poslova, 28 July 1945.

44 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 3097, Stojnić za Srzentića, 11 August 1945.

45 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 15, d. 6979, Upravi spoljne trgovine, 8 December 1945.

46 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 7, d. 4112, Kratak pregled političke situacije Albanije, 10 September 1945.

argued that regulated borderline could have remedied the foodstuff shortages, by enhancing trade and exchange considered that it was necessary to regulate that issue because there was a shortage of foodstuffs, so greater economic exchange was needed (buying grain in Kosovo and Metohija, coming to the market in Debar or Peć, etc.). Stojnić proposed measures to make it easier for the Albanian population from the border areas to commute and visit the market-places in Bitolj, Struga, Ohrid, Debar, Prizren, Đakovica, Peć, Podgorica, Ulcinj and their surroundings, about 15 km deep, with the passes issued by the National Defense sub-prefectures close to the border. But he also proposed that the Albanian government should allow Yugoslav citizens from the border areas to come to Bilište, Podgradec, the surroundings of Lake Ohrid and Struga, Peshkopi, Bicaj, Kuks, Skadar and other border places at a depth of 15 km, with a pass from the Yugoslav authorities from district centers near the border in Macedonia, Kosovo and Metohija and Montenegro. He also suggested that joint, i.e. agreed, control and security checks could be carried out at the border.⁴⁷ The Yugoslav Ministry of Foreign Affairs agreed to negotiate about sending Albanian delegation to Belgrade.⁴⁸ The president of the Yugoslav delegation was Svetomir Lazarević, head of the Consular and Economic Department of the Ministry. Representatives of the Ministry of Trade and Supply were Bogdan Stefanović and Slobodan Antonijević, while Živojin Simonović and Rade Mioković came from the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of Finance was represented by Petar Petijević (the head of the Foreign Exchange Department of the Banking and Currency Department), Andrija Četković (the head of the Administrative Department of the Customs Department) and Miloš Sofrenović (the head of the Foreign Exchange Directorate of the National Bank). Major Milić Dejanović from the Ministry of National Defense was also a delegate. The Albanian side appointed as delegates Ramadan Čitaku, the Albanian Minister of Finance, Koča Tasko, the Secretary of the Presidency of the Council of the National Liberation Anti-Fascist Council, and Behar Stilu, the Secretary General of the Albanian Ministry of Interior.⁴⁹ Negotiations were held on July 6, 1945. It was proposed to reactivate the Border Traffic Ordinance of June 22, 1926, the Decree on the Protocol on the Implementation of Proposal 5 of the Trade and Navigation Agreement of May 8, 1934, and a supplementary

47 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 1882, Predlog za regulisanje odnosa duž albansko-jugoslovenske granice, Velimir Stojnić Ministarstvu inostranih poslova, 29 May 1945.

48 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 1/223, Regulisanje odnosa duž albansko-jugoslovenske granice, 16 June 1945.

49 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 1/228, Predlog za regulisanje odnosa duž albansko-jugoslovenske granice, 29 June 1945.

agreement on the “Border Traffic Ordinance” was agreed. It was decided not to expand the border zone.⁵⁰

The proposals made by Velimir Stojnić were accepted in the agreement. The agreement on border traffic between Yugoslavia and Albania meant that citizens of one country could cross the border into the border zone of another country for certain essential reasons: to go to the market to sell or buy groceries and needs, to go to a mill for grinding, to a workshop for repair or processing agricultural machinery, tools, carts, boats and other similar means of transport, cultivation of their two-owner estates (*dvovlasnička imanja*),⁵¹ processing of the estates of their two-owner employers, chasing cattle for grazing or wintering, providing professional medical, obstetric, midwifery or veterinary assistance, performing crafts or work, transportation of passengers and goods. The border zone meant a 15 km wide belt on both sides along the Yugoslav–Albanian border. Albanian citizens living in the border area were free to import (without any customs duties) all the products of farming and agriculture, fruit, mining, livestock, hunting, fishing, poultry and beekeeping of Albanian origin, as well as dairy products, weaving, carpentry, pottery etc. The condition was that the products were reported orally and shown at the request of the customs control. In the Yugoslav market zone, they could freely procure products, but only in quantities sufficient for consumption in one week. Yugoslav citizens from the border zone were free to go to the Skadar market, enjoying the same freedoms as residents of the Albanian border zone. The two-owners were also free to cross the border if they had a certificate of possession of the property and could cultivate it every day “between sunrise and sunset”. Those who were permanent residents in the border zone could obtain a border ticket and thus cross the border. Doctors, veterinarians, midwives, obstetricians who were permanently residing in the border zone could also cross the border with a border ticket and practice their profession. Border tickets and dual-ownership crossings could not be issued to persons who were in active military service. Persons convicted three times for smuggling would lose all privileges. All disputes and complaints should have been resolved immediately or, if possible, on the same day, by the competent local authorities.⁵²

50 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 14, d. 1/240, Pogranični saobraćaj sa Albanijom, Veliša Gošović, 11 January 1946.

51 Two-owner estates were located on both sides of the border zone of Yugoslavia and Albania. They were created as a result of historical changes in state borders, migrations of hill herdsmen and lowland farmers, relocation of families, purchase, inheritance and dowry.

52 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 9, d. 2205, Sporazum o pograničnom prometu između DFJ i Albanije i pogranični promet. See more: Božica Slavković Mirić, „Pogranični promet Jugoslavije i Albanije i dvovlasnička imanja 1945–1948“, *Istorija 20. veka* 1/2020, 107–128.

Besides political and economic endeavors and border agreements, medical and healthcare cooperation was established. Stojnić forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of FPRY a request from the Albanian Ministry of Health, for assistance in the form of two thousand doses of certain sera for the treatment of bacteriological diseases.⁵³ The Yugoslav government responded to the request and also decided to send a medical team on a two-month stay.⁵⁴

In contrast to efforts of establishing good relations between Yugoslavia and Albania, Albanian leadership was reserved and suspicious of Yugoslav intentions. Namely, Enver Hoxha was very distrustful of Velimir Stojnić, emphasizing as a reason his presence at the Berat Plenum. He pointed this out later in a conversation with the Soviet ambassador to Tirana Dmitrii Stepanovich Chuvakhin, on May 20, 1946, when he accused Velimir Stojnić of interfering in the party struggle during this plenum in November 1944.⁵⁵ In his memoirs *Titoists*, Hoxha underlined his consideration that “it is not proper and appropriate that a comrade from the side participates in the session of our Politburo.” In response to Stojnić’s comment that this session took place “with the help of an external force”, he wrote, “The monstrosities of this man were unparalleled.”⁵⁶ Hoxha stated in his memoirs that “the goal of the Titoist leadership to conquer Albania, which was fully proclaimed in 1947 and early 1948, was given as an idea by Stojnić at the Berat Plenum”⁵⁷

After the Berat plenum, Hoxha writes that Stojnić maintained good relations with the Albanian leadership: “He often invited us all together to the headquarters of the Yugoslav mission and did not miss the opportunity to knock on the door for a visit, if only for one ‘how are you, how are you doing’. Immediately before leaving Albania, he turned into a distributor of invitations and proposals in order to send as many individual comrades and groups of comrades from various sectors to Belgrade ‘to gain experience.’”⁵⁸ Hoxha finally concludes in his memoirs that Stojnić was just “a worthless piece of paper” to him: “Everything that could have been beautiful (in fact, there was nothing) he had finally burned in Berat and now, whether he was in Albania or no, smiled or frowned, it was all without any value. I had the impression that Tito and his comrades smelled that opinion about him and soon they withdrew him from

53 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 9, d. 2926, Stojnić Ministarstvu inostranih poslova, 4 August 1945.

54 DAMSPRS, PA, 1945, f. 9, d. 4174, Poslanstvo u Tirani, 13 September 1945.

55 Nadežda Jovanović, „Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi 1945–1948. u dokumentima ruskih arhiva“, *Istorija 20. veka* 1–2/1999, 117.

56 Hodža, *Titoisti*, 212.

57 *Ibid*, 216.

58 *Ibid*, 227–228.

Albania. He was replaced by another Titoist Josip Đerđa, with which another long and bitter history will bind ours”.⁵⁹

Enver Hoxha also wrote in his memoirs about the “Stojnić mission”: “It was a special mission sent by Tito, at the end of the war in Albania, with the dark goals of political diversion and agency. He came to organize a blow against the CPA and its line, he came to subjugate the CPA, to turn it into a tool of the CPY. He came on the threshold of the complete liberation of Albania to undermine the foundations on which the new people’s government was based and to prepare the ground for the transformation of Albania into the seventh republic of Yugoslavia”.⁶⁰ Hoxha even describes Stojnić in a very inappropriate language, stating that he was “an ordinary donkey, an ordinary man, who learned a few formulas and only knew how to speak about them, not to mention the instructions they gave him and which pulled out of his purse, quoting them every hour.”⁶¹

The Yugoslav government, in order to maintain good relations decided to replace the Yugoslav representative in Albania. Velimir Stojnić ceased to perform his duty on October 11, 1945, and was replaced by the new Yugoslav diplomat Josip Đerđa who played an important role in establishing good relations between the countries.⁶² Also, Đerđa participated in determining Albania’s foreign policy, relations with America, France, and England.⁶³ On his initiative, the Albanian leadership was invited to Belgrade when the Agreement on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual assistance was signed.⁶⁴ When Albania began to turn to the Soviet Union, Đerđa tried to maintain Yugoslav dominance in Albania.⁶⁵ Nevertheless, Yugoslav–Albanian relations began to deteriorate. The cooperation was terminated in June 1948, and the Yugoslav envoy ended his duty.⁶⁶

59 *Ibid*, 228.

60 *Ibid*, 134.

61 *Ibid*, 144.

62 AJ, 507/9, f. 1, 1/1–37, 14 November 1945; Tadeusz Czekalski, *The Shining Beacon of Socialism in Europe. The Albanian State and Society in the Period of Communist Dictatorship 1944–92*, (Krakow: Jagiellonian University Press, 2013), 32.

63 Aleksandar Životić, „Pitanje Albanije u odnosima između Jugoslavije i Zapada 1945–1947“, *Istorija 20. veka* 3/2010, 86–87.

64 AJ, 507/9, f. 1, 1/1–70, 19 June 1946; *Hronologija revolucionarne delatnosti Josipa Broza Tita*, ur. Branislav Ilić, Vojislav Ćirković, (Belgrad: Export-press, 1978), 107.

65 AJ, 507/9, 1/1–167a, 2 June 1948; Saša Ilić, „Od nade do razočaranja – pomoć Sovjetskog Saveza u izgradnji jugoslovenske privrede (1945–48)“, *Godišnjak za društvenu istoriju* 1/2016, 37–63; Momčilo Pavlović, „Albanija između Tita i Staljina“, *Balkan posle Drugog svetskog rata*, ur. Petar Kačavenda, (Beograd: Institut za savremenu istoriju, 1996), 306.

66 DAMSPRS, PA, 1948, f. 3, d. 415459, 6 June 1948.

Enver Hoxha announced the definitive break with Yugoslavia and turning to the USSR at the 11th plenum, held from 13th to 24th of September, 1948. The main decisions of the 2nd Plenum (in Berat) and the 8th Plenum were declared “anti-Marxist, harmful and invalid”, and it was stated that “the political line of the party was damaged under the influence of the Yugoslav leadership”. At that time, the determination of the party to follow the friendship and fraternal cooperation with the Soviet Union was reaffirmed.⁶⁷ Cooperation with Yugoslavia (for the next five years) was interrupted at the First Congress of the Albanian Labor Party (the Communist Party of Albania was renamed), which was held from November 8 to 22, 1948. At that time, Enver Hoxha again stated that Yugoslavia “had a deliberate policy for the enslavement of Albania”. He believed that the Central Committee of the CPY wanted to isolate Albania from the USSR and other countries of people’s democracy,⁶⁸ in order to block aid from Soviet government to Albania that was “the only proper help, which brought great benefit to the Albanian people”.⁶⁹ With the severance of Yugoslav–Albanian relations in 1948, incidents on the border became more frequent,⁷⁰ and the Albanian side did not respond to Yugoslav requests and notes that the situation should calm down. Albanian military units were deployed along the border with Yugoslavia, and recruits and reserve personnel were kept on constant alert. Due to the change in the Albanian attitude, the Government of the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia suspended the work of the Embassy in Tirana on June 4, 1950, and dealt with the Albanian government through the Embassy in Budapest. Albania suspended its embassy in Belgrade on November 22 that year.⁷¹

67 AJ, 507/9, 1/2-111, Rezolucija 11. Plenuma Komunističke partije Albanije.

68 AJ, 507/9, 1/2-119, Prvi kongres Albanske partije rada.

69 Slobodan Selinić, *Partija i diplomatija u Jugoslaviji 1945–1952*, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2013), 300–302.

70 *Bela knjiga o neprijateljskoj politici Vlade Narodne Republike Albanije prema Federativnoj Narodnoj Republici Jugoslaviji*, (Beograd: Državni sekretarijat za inostrane poslove Federativne Narodne Republike Jugoslavije, 1961), 139; Dimitrije Bogdanović, *Knjiga o Kosovu*, (Beograd: Srpska akademija nauka i umetnosti, 1986), 303; Miomir Gatalović, *Kosovo i Metohija u državnoj politici Jugoslavije 1958–1965*, (Beograd: Institut za savremnu istoriju, Društvo istoričara Srbije „Stojan Novaković“, 2016), 50; *O kontrarevolucionarnoj i klevetničkoj kampanji protiv socijalističke Jugoslavije II*, (Beograd: Borba, 1949), 193–195; Aleksandar Životić, „Nemirna granica. Pogranične tenzije između Jugoslavije i Albanije 1948–54“, *Istorijski zapisi* 1–2/2009, 109–110.

71 Vladimir Cvetković, „Diplomatske misije FNRJ u Sofiji, Bukureštu i Tirani 1953–1954: povratak ambasadora, uslovi rada i incidenti“, *Jugoslovenska diplomatija 1945–1961*, ur. Slobodan Selinić, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2012), 206.

After the normalization of relations between the USSR and Eastern European countries and Yugoslavia, following Stalin's death in 1953,⁷² Albania and Yugoslavia reopened their embassies in 1954 in Belgrade and Tirana.⁷³

Summary

After the end of the Second World War, Yugoslavia and Albania continued the cooperation that was established during the war, when their goal was to fight against a common enemy. Yugoslavia was the first state to recognize the People's Republic of Albania in April 1945, when diplomatic relations were established. Colonel Velimir Stojnić, who was first sent to Albania as an instructor to help the Communist Party of Albania, became the first Yugoslav envoy. He remained in that position until November 1945. In his reports, Stojnić followed the establishment of Yugoslav–Albanian co-operation. He worked on establishing the Albanian trust in Yugoslav aid, because the representatives of the Albanian authorities and the Albanian opposition believed that Yugoslavia was currently incapable of helping them. Distrust was reflected in the business of companies, but also in the attitude of the press towards the events in Yugoslavia. Stojnić considered it very important for the development of good Yugoslav–Albanian relations and willingness to regulate the border, so his proposals were adopted and turned into an agreement. He insisted on more responsible Yugoslav behavior towards fulfilling the trade agreement, in order to develop mutual trust.

However, the Albanian leader, Enver Hoxha, believed that Stojnić had interfered in the party struggle during the Berat Plenum in November 1944. Therefore, Hoxha did not trust Stojnić. That was the reason why the Yugoslav government had appointed a new envoy to Tirana, Josip Đerđa. He worked on building greater trust of the Albanian leadership in the Yugoslav side and insisted on the fulfillment of the Yugoslav promises, especially those related to economic agreements. When Albania began to turn to the Soviet Union, Đerđa

72 Đorđe Borozan, „Jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi u prvoj deceniji Hladnog rata“, *Velike sile i male države u Hladnom ratu 1945–1955, Slučaj Jugoslavije*, ur. Ljubodrag Dimić, (Beograd: Filozofski fakultet, Katedra za istoriju Jugoslavije, Arhiv Srbije i Crne Gore, Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, London: Centar za istraživanja hladnog rata LST, 2005), 137. More on normalization of relations between Yugoslavia, Albania and neighboring “people's democracies” from 1953 to 1958 see in: Vladimir Cvetković, *Pogled iza gvozdene zavese: jugoslovesnka politika prema zemljama narodne demokratije u susjedstvu 1953–1958*, (Beograd: Institut za noviju istoriju Srbije, 2013).

73 Komatina, *Enver Hodža i jugoslovensko-albanski odnosi*, 95.

tried to maintain Yugoslav dominance in Albania. Nevertheless, Yugoslav–Albanian relations began to deteriorate and cooperation between the two countries was terminated in June 1948. After that the Yugoslav envoy ended his duty. Yugoslavia and Albania reopened their embassies in 1954 in Tirana and Belgrade, but relations remained cold.

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Резиме

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ЈУГОСЛОВЕНСКИ ДИПЛОМАТА У АЛБАНИЈИ – ВЕЛИМИР СТОЈНИЋ

Апстракт: По завршетку Другог светског рата Југославија и Албанија су успоставиле политичке и дипломатске односе. Наш рад се бави Велимиром Стојнићем, југословенским дипломатом у Албанији на почетку успостављања југословенско-албанске сарадње непосредно након рата. Пуковник Велимир Стојнић је био први југословенски изасланик у Албанији и на тој функцији је остао до новембра 1945. Његов основни циљ био је успостављање добрих односа између две земље. У нашем раду ћемо прво дати кратак преглед успостављања добрих односа између Југославије и Албаније. Затим, у главном делу текста бавићемо се улогом и значајем Велимира Стојнића у југословенско-албанској сарадњи и његовим утицајем на албанског лидера Енвера Хоџу и албанске политичаре. Наше истраживање би могло да буде део ширег проучавања југословенско-албанских односа, посебно као пример добре праксе сарадње две земље.

Кључне речи: Албанија, дипломате, СССР, Велимир Стојнић, Југославија

По завршетку Другог светског рата, Југославија и Албанија су наставиле сарадњу успостављену током рата, када им је циљ био борба против заједничког непријатеља. Југославија је прва држава која је признала Народну Републику Албанију у априлу 1945. године, након чега су успостављени дипломатски односи. Пуковник Велимир Стојнић, који је најпре послат у Албанију да као инструктор асистира Комунистичкој партији Албаније, постао је први југословенски посланик. На тој функцији је остао до новембра 1945. Стојнић је у својим извештајима прагио успостављање југословенско-албанске сарадње. Радио је на успостављању поверења албанске стране у југословенску помоћ, јер су представници албанске власти и албанске опозиције сматрали да Југославија тренутно није у стању да им помогне. Неповерење се одразило на пословање предузећа, али и на однос штампе према дешавањима у Југославији. Стојнић је сматрао да је за развој добрих југословенско-албанских односа веома

важно да се гранични односи регулишу, па су његови предлози усвојени и преточени у споразум. Инсистирао је на одговорнијем понашању Југославије према испуњењу трговинског споразума, како би се развило међусобно поверење.

Међутим, албански лидер Енвер Хоџа сматрао је да се Стојнић умешао у партијску борбу током Бератског пленума у новембру 1944. Стога Хоџа није веровао Стојнићу. То је био разлог што је југословенска влада именovala новог посланика у Тирани, Јосипа Ђерђу. Он је радио на изградњи већег поверења албанског руководства и инсистирао на испуњавању југословенских обећања, посебно оних везаних за економске споразуме. Када је Албанија почела да се окреће Совјетском Савезу, Ђерђа је покушао да задржи југословенску доминацију у Албанији. Ипак, југословенско-албански односи су почели да опадају и сарадња између ове две земље је прекинута јуна 1948. године, након чега је југословенски амбасадор у Албанији завршио своју дужност. Југославија и Албанија су поново отвориле своје амбасаде 1954. у Тирани и Београду, али су односи остали резервисани.