

NAKO SPIRU AT THE HEAD OF ALBANIAN ECONOMY 1944-1947 NAKO SPIRU NE KRYE TE EKONOMISE SHQIPTARE NE VITET 1944-1947

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PËRMBLEDHJE

Studimi përqendrohet në rolin e Nako Spiru në qeverisjen e vendit në vitet 1944-1947, sidomos në drejtim të ekonomisë shqiptare. Bazuar në dokumente arkivore, shtypin i kohës, botime të ndryshme dhe gjithashtu në kujtimet e bashkëpunëtores dhe ish-bashkëshortes Liri Belishova dhënë autorit. Nako Spiru mbajti postin e Ministrit të Ekonomisë dhe Kryetarit të Komisionit të Planit të Shtetit. Ishte ekonomisti më i mirë dhe njohës shembullor i praktikave legjislative. Rrezatonte profesionalizëm dhe përkushtim. Në fillim Nako Spiru e shikonte udhëheqjen jugosllave me syzet e romantikës së komunistëve të ndershëm të asaj kohe dhe mendonte se dhe ata ishin të tillë, kundërshtarë të shovinizmit serb dhe do ta ndihmonin vllazërisht Shqipërinë e re. Mirëpo sa u ndesh me realitetin e hidhur, ai iu kundërvu çdo aspekti negativ të politikës jugosllave dhe mbrojti interesat e vendit deri në fundin e tij tragjik.

Fjalët çelës: marrëdhëniet shqiptaro-jugosllave, marrëveshje ekonomike

SUMMARY

The study is focused in Nako Spiru's active governmental role in years 1944-1947, especially in the directing of the Albanian economy. It based on wide collection of sources, like archive documents, press of the time, several publications and also memories of his collaborator and ex-wife Liri Belishova collected by the author. Nako Spiru held the post of Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Commission of the State Plan. He was the best economist and exemplary expert on practices legislative. Exuded professionalism and dedication. Early, Nako Spiru considered Yugoslav leadership with romanticies glasses of honest communists at that time and thought that they were such, opponents Serbian chauvinism and would help brotherly the new Albania. As soon as he met that harsh reality, he opposed every negative aspect of Yugoslav politics and defended the interests of the country until his tragic end.

Key words: Yugoslav-Albanian relations, economic agreement

INTRODUCTION

The point of this topic is to present a picture of Nako Spiru activity as an important person in the early years of Albanian state after Second World War. After the Albania was liberated he continued with the same position as the president of Albanian's youth anti-fascist and was chosen deputy of Durres. He was the minister of economy and the chairman of the plan commission of the state. He represented the

intellectual elite after war with the desire to build a democratic and advanced state.

Nako Spiru, as one of the most notable personalities in Fascist National Liberation War, would have an important role in the postwar state and in the reconstruction of the country. Being the President of the Albanian Antifascist Youth Union, he organized the 2nd Youth Congress in April 1945. In this congress was evidenced the role and the contribution of youth

in war and the perspectives for the future. In his opening speech, he presented a brief panorama of the continuous wars of our people for national liberation. Nako Spiru congratulated Anti-Fascist Youth for its contribution to the war against to the invaders and, at the same time, he propounded new duties to rebuild the country. He said that the people had a great reliance in youth, and this reliance should be rewarded with work by the youth. Also, Nako Spiru, orient young people, that in their relations with the Yugoslavs, in Balkan and international activities, to represent the country with dignity, to protect its interests and to raise the name of Albania, in the level that it merited.

In the Albania of the postwar, the economic situation was difficult and Nako Spiru worked to mobilize the youth to rebuild destroyed and burned homes. ACP started the reforms to limit the private property and to create state property. State and private Italian and German property, in Albania, were confiscated, also the invaders collaborators properties. In January 1945 it was decided the law to extraordinary tax on profits of the war. It was made also an agrarian reform, but the peasants didn't have permits to sell, buy or let in inheritance the property.

Nako Spiru continued to lead youth urging them to contribute in the country's reconstruction, to be in the forefront of the economic action, made by the state.

In September 1945, was convened the General National Liberation Council and it approved the law "On the Constitutional Assembly", appointed as election date December 2, 1945. Being at the head of youth and engaged to elections, Nako Spiru organized a meeting on November 27, 1945, at the Cinema "Kosovo" to prepare people for elections. In this meeting, Nako, among others, emphasized his faith for the best days that extend to Albania. According to him, the state needed new staff and, they needed to focus on the youth, but this shouldn't be done eliminating the old, but by placing them next to each other to give and exchange experience with youthful energy and momentum. He appreciated the role and the contribution of women and girls

that was rising. In this case, he also appreciated the Greek minority youth that contributed to the war and who continued to work in the country's reconstruction and creating a democratic Albania.

After the elections, regardless of the difficulties and disadvantages detected, on January 10, 1946, the Constituent Assembly started working, which, the next day, declared that Albania is a People's Republic. On March 14, the Assembly turned into a Parliament.

Nako Spiru was deputy of Durres, in the National Assembly. He was very active and dominated in discussions about different issues. During a discourse, he emphasized that Albania wasn't a socialist country people would work for their benefit, because they had his destiny in their hands. Only if socialism was something natural for him, he could choose the way that that he liked. Although he was a communist, he never thought that ACP would create one of the worst dictatorships of all time. He was a revolutionary thinker, but he was against purges and terror, representing the moderate intellectuals and reformers in the ACP.

On 18 March 1946, the National Assembly charged Enver Hoxha to form the first government after the war and, on March 24, the government cabinet was approved. Enver Hoxha held the post of Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Koçi Xoxe was appointed Vice prime and Interior Minister, Manol Konomi Minister of Justice, Nako Spiru Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Commission of the State Plan, Spiro Koleka Public Works Minister, Ramadan Citaku Finance Minister, Sejfulla Maleshova Minister of Education, Medar Shtylla Health Minister, Haxhi Lleshi and Tuk Jakova Ministers without portfolio. From that moment, Nako Spiru was appointed as the leadership of the Albanian economy. He was the best economist and an exemplary expert of legislative practices. He possessed professionalism and dedication.

He appointed skilled intellectuals in the managerial positions despite coming from the top layer. He pointed in positions the efficient

intellectuals despite that they belonged to the higher layer. He was for the activation and protection of the country's intelligence, which wasn't implicated with the nazi-fascism, because the country needed skilled specialists. Both in the economy and in all other life's areas, Nako thought that there would be appointed educated people with experience. After he returned from a visit to the Soviet Union, he held a conference to present the situation there. There, he noted the important role of the Academy of Sciences in USSR. According to Nako, it needed to devote a great importance of education and culture. Educated and emancipated Young would develop the Albania.

Regarding Commerce, Nako Spiru presented his own opinions. A part of the state benefit would be realized by selling of different products. The consumer products would come from Yugoslavia. The private commercials were assigned a "margin", a kind of percentage profit that would be assigned to the state stores, and for identical products category, "margin" would be the same, for private and for the state. Selling with high prices was punished severely. He had anticipated that private merchants would have profits, but with prices and "Marge" that were appointed, "merchants wouldn't succeed in capitalism".

About the problems of the village, he said that the peasant must keep a part of production (counting by family members) and the rest was supposed to deliver to the state. This reform was justified and was motivated by providing food for workers.

The opinions of Nako for the payroll system were interesting. According to him, the new pay system take into consideration labor productivity, even there where norms weren't applied, connecting with the general production addition of a Department, of a company or a group of companies.

At the Plenum meeting, on 7 June 1947 "Nako Spiru would say: "Prices in Albania are unique, are low, even less than in Yugoslavia".

During the period that he directed the Albanian economy, Nako often met with representatives of UNRRA mission, which developed its activity in

Albania from August 1, 1945 to July 7, 1947. His intention was to extend the residence time of this mission in our country. According to historian Hamid Kaba, while Koci Xoxe influenced negatively in the relations with UNRRA-n, among others, there was Nako Spiru that attenuated these relationship.

Nako's visits to Belgrade began to become more frequent as a result of "solid and fraternal relations" between the two countries. For all issues of economic relations with Yugoslavia, Nako discussed with Enver Hoxha, by expounding the arguments and persuasive reasons and received his approval. But, when Enver Hoxha feared to refuse Yugoslavs, Nako was forced to obey his orders, as in the case when it was created the Coordination Commission between the two countries, in November 1946. This is confirmed by frequent and the continuous correspondence that Nako had with Enver Hoxha, while he was in Yugoslavia, even during the meetings of the Political Bureau of the CC of the ACP.

The Yugoslavia's aim was to destroy American-Albanian relations. Consequently, Kardeli instructed Nako not to recognize the Anglo-Americans privileges in Albania, but to recognize some treaties for profit. Nako responded to Kardeli, that this issue would resolve after he returned to Albania and would receive the approval of the Politburo.

During the visits to Belgrade, Nako Spiru signed more economic agreements. On July 1, 1946 signed the Agreement between the two countries to create joint Yugoslav-Albanian company. According to this agreement, was created some joint company to consolidate the economic relations between two countries. They were signed by Nikola Pertoviç and Nako Spiru. After agreements with Tito, during the visit of Enver Hoxha in Yugoslavia, signed a Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance between Albania and Yugoslavia, July 9, 1946, signed by Enver Hoxha and Stanoje Simic. Essentially, it was the consolidation of economic relations.

According to this treaty, on November 27, 1946, it was signed the Economic Convention between

Albania and Yugoslavia to coordinate plans, customs union and equalization of coins, by Nako Spiru and Boris Kidric.

On June 12, 1947, it was signed an agreement was signed for 2 billion dinars of credit, appointed by Yugoslavia, signed by Nako Spiru and Boris Kidric. The agreement and the credit's aim it was to restore and to increase the economy of PRA.

Nako Spiru had a tendency to not approve the agreements with Yugoslavia. However, he must applied the Party's principles and own Enver Hoxha, who ordered to sign them. Nako Spiru asked Soviet ambassador to Belgrade a meeting to ask him about these agreements. The Soviet Ambassador didn't express his opinions for the agreements, but repeated, that Albania, as an independent country was competent to judge about them. This opinion made Nako to think that the Soviet ambassador had thought, that was violated the Albanian independence. The question of Liri Belishova on the Kosovo's issue, Nako answered: "while is violates the Albania, is violates and the Kosovo".

At the meetings of the Central Committee Plenum of the ACP, Nako Spiru evaluated the performance of the State Planning Commission and in his analysis he was very realistic and he wasn't euphoric.

When he directed the State State Planning Commission, Nako Spiru gave a great contribution, by evaluating his associates who worked with competence and dedication like their chief. He analyzed the Commission's activity in the National Assembly, since its establishment, and appointed the duties. Nako revealed the difficulty to regenerate and to establish the

economy, the barriers that appeared and the energies to overcome these difficulties.

Nako Spiru was an economic coordinator between Albania and Yugoslavia, by reason of duty that was charged. In all the cases, he thought, in the first, about his country's interests. Nako's aim was to face the difficult situation and to establish the economic standards of Albania.

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