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Chairman Shehu's Reply to Premier Chou En-lai

**Comrade Chou En-lai, Premier of the State Council
of the People's Republic of China,**

Comrade Premier:

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania has received and has studied most carefully your letter dated August 2, 1963. The Government of the People's Republic of China in its letter proposed the holding of a conference of the heads of government of all nations of the world to discuss the complete, thorough, total and resolute prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

This most important proposal is an expression of the consistent policy of peace of the Government of the People's Republic of China and an expression of the deep concern of the Chinese Government in seeking a correct solution for the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons and for the removal of the danger of nuclear war with which imperialism threatens mankind.

As was pointed out in its Statement of August 15, 1963, on the Moscow partial nuclear test ban treaty, the Government of the People's Republic of Albania heartily welcomes and fully approves the Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China of July 31, 1963, and supports the proposal for the holding of a conference of the heads of government of all nations of the world to discuss the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania, faithfully pursuing the principled policy worked out collectively by the nations of the socialist camp on the questions of nuclear weapons and disarmament, has always called and is still calling for the prohibition of the use and manufacture of nuclear weapons and for their complete and thorough destruction as well as for a ban on all nuclear tests and removal of military bases including nuclear bases on foreign soil, and for general and complete disarmament. The Albanian Government supports the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons in Central Europe, in the Balkan and Adriatic region, in the Mediterranean, in the Asian and Pacific region, in Africa and Latin America.

All questions relating to a ban on nuclear tests are an integral whole which cannot be settled separately. Therefore, as you proposed in your letter to the heads of government of all nations of the world on August 2, 1963, measures for the gradual settlement of these questions should also be taken as an integral whole. The Albanian Government notes with satisfaction that the positions taken by our two Governments on this question, like those on all other questions, are in full accord, because our common policy is based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and inspired by the common ideal of socialism and peace.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania considers that the danger menacing world peace is in-

creasing. The United States is intensifying the arms race, especially that in the field of nuclear arms and is stepping up its activities to weaken the defence capabilities of the socialist countries, split the socialist camp and suppress the revolution and the anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples. It is increasing its nuclear threat and nuclear blackmail against the peace-loving peoples and is accelerating its preparations for a nuclear war against the socialist camp and other peace-loving nations. The conclusion of the partial nuclear test ban treaty by the U.S.S.R., the United States and the United Kingdom on August 5, 1963, greatly encouraged the bellicose U.S. imperialists on this perilous path. The Moscow partial nuclear weapons test ban treaty cannot guarantee a ban on nuclear weapons and their testing; what is more, it is designed for infringement upon the sovereignty of the majority of nations in the world and encroachment upon the socialist camp and the vital interests of the people of the world and of peace by means of nuclear blackmail. It serves the policies of aggression of U.S. imperialism. It cannot lead to peace, but will bring the danger of nuclear war nearer.

Under the circumstances, the only correct way to remove the danger of nuclear war lies in complete prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons, as was proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and this conforms to the interests and legitimate demands of the people throughout the world.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania agrees fully with the view of the Government of the People's Republic of China that the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons including the prohibition of nuclear tests is a question with which the peoples of the world are concerned and its settlement should be worked out collectively at a conference of the heads of government of all nations. Comrade Premier, I, on behalf of the Albanian people and the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, therefore assure you once again that we fully and energetically support the proposal of the Government of the People's Republic of China for a conference of the heads of government of all nations of the world to discuss the complete and thorough prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons.

The Albanian people and Government will remain united with the People's Republic of China, other socialist countries and peace-loving countries, and struggle, as in the past, against the policies of aggression of U.S. imperialism and its partners and for the removal of the danger of nuclear war and for the defence of world peace.

With my profound respect.

MEHMET SHEHU

*Chairman of the Council of Ministers
of the People's Republic of Albania*

Tirana, August 19, 1963.