

MISSION TO TIRANA

Fidel Castro Ruz

We now know that Bush's strange visit to the capital of Albania really happened. There he resolutely spoke in favor of independence for Kosovo without the least respect for the interests of Serbia, Russia and the various European countries, all sensitive to the fate of the province which was the scenario for the latest NATO war. He lectured Serbia that it would receive economic aid if it would support the independence of Kosovo, the birthplace of that country's culture. You can take it or you can leave it!

Bush is craving after affection. He fully enjoyed his reception without protests in Bulgaria. He spoke with that country's soldiers who took part in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He tried to commit them further to spill generous blood in those peaceful wars.

When the leaders of the country complained about Bulgaria not being included under the protective umbrella against a nuclear strike, he immediately declared: you will have the necessary means to defend yourselves from medium range missiles.

From two thousand to five thousand of Bush's soldiers will be rotating constantly through the three military bases implanted by the empire in Bulgaria. As if we were living in the happiest of all worlds!

Albania was really the only place where Bush got any affection; to such an extent that the reception in Bulgaria where several thousand people awaited him waving little American flags seemed cool to him.

Bush's support for Albania's immediate entry into NATO and his decision to demand independence for the province of Kosovo made quite a few Albanians a bit crazy.

Newspapers and other media report that some of them, when questioned individually, answered :

"Bush is a symbol of democracy. The United States is a protector of people's freedom". Thousands of unarmed Albanian soldiers and policemen, because that was what the Yankee authorities demanded, stood guard in two columns along more than 20 kilometers stretching between the airport and the capital.

The thorny problem of the independence of one part of Serbia is very controversial in Europe, and a precedent that could be followed in several countries by other regions claiming sovereignty within current borders.

And so Albania went over from the extreme left to the extreme right.

To live to see it! Seeing is believing!

Serbia receives a hard blow not only political but also economic. Kosovo possesses 70 percent of Serbia's energy reserves. Between 1928 and 1999, the year of the NATO war against Serbia, the province contributed 70 percent of the zinc and silver. It is estimated to have 82 percent of its possible reserves of these metals. It also has the largest reserves of bauxite, nickel and cobalt.

Serbia loses factories, lands and properties, and is left only with the duty to pay for the foreign debt incurred for investments in Kosovo prior to 1998.

I have just received a news dispatch from AFP that forces me to extend myself for a few more lines. It literally reads:

"Moscow, June 13, 2007.

"Russia accuses the West of holding secret talks for the independence of Kosovo.

"Russia reproached the Western nations on Wednesday for working secretly and in 'unilaterally' to prepare Kosovo's independence, according to a communique released by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Relations.

"The 'secret discussions lead us to suspect that a scenario for Kosovo's sovereignty is being unilaterally prepared', indicated the Ministry's spokesman, Mikhail Kamynin, in reference to the meeting that the Western powers held in Paris on Tuesday, in the absence of the Moscow government.

"This attitude, he continued. is 'intolerable': moreover. 'Russia was not invited to the meeting, and this is incompatible with declarations in the sense of seeking accommodating solutions', he added."

[Excerpted from Castro's statement on Bush's recent visit to Albania, issued by the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba, New Delhi.]