

THE VISIT OF FRANZ JOSEPH STRAUSS IN ALBANIA AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE ALBANIAN DIPLOMACY

Alida Avdullari

Faculty of Philology and History, University of Tirana, Tiranë, Albania
Email: avdullarialida@yahoo.com

Abstract

After '80 Albania was mentioned as a self-isolated country in its foreign policy. It didn't have relationship, particularly with the western states, since it regarded them as hostile and imperialistic. Even with some states it would have only bilateral, cultural; relations because that was all allowed by the constitution in 1976. The first chance that would come to Albania for a possible orientation to the west would be the touristic journey of the head of the Federal State of Bavaria in 1984, Franz Joseph Strauss. When his sons had left for vacation in Greece, Albania was used as a transit country although this visit would be interpreted as a political visit. During this journey, Franz Joseph Strauss met deputy minister Manush Myftiu and talked about what existed between the two countries, but nothing more. However, it would not be his last visit in Albania. He would return again in 1986, this time, not only as a tourist but to make any necessary efforts in order to establish rapprochement between the two countries: Germany and Albania. Albania's condition was the reparations. Although Joseph Strauss discussions with the Prime Minister Adil Carcani the results seemed distant. He would leave Albania advising the Albanian leaders that Germany was a "good offer" in those tough economic moments for Albania. The benefits would be enormous. No later than September 1987, the relationship between the two countries was finalized successfully. The Albanian leaders had realized that this was an opportunity that should not be lost. Franz Joseph Strauss returned to Albania for the third time, this time to congratulate the Albanian leaders for this decision they had taken to establish diplomatic relations with Germany. He had become a friend to Albania. Albania experienced a good omen, because the country was currently experiencing economic difficulties and German's assistance would be very indispensable.

Keywords: *Franc Joseph Strauss, diplomacy, self-isolation, reparations, bilateral relations.*