Unfortunately there are few instances of good-neighborly cooperation now that the international situation has seriously deteriorated in many parts of the world and tension has mounted almost to a crisis in international political and economic relations. Considering this within context of European cooperation and security as a process towards establishing new international relations, the conclusion would be that "in spite of conflicting efforts, tending toward restrictions in the geographical sense or in substance, this concept of European security and cooperation, even though there has been a lag and many upheavals in international relations, is gradually developing and opening up scope for more favorable trends in the future. . . ."  

In this context nonaligned Yugoslavia and the independent Socialist Peoples' Republic of Albania, which for reasons of its own denounced both the policy of nonalignment and the existing blocs in its Seventh Congress of the Albanian Party of Labor, have to rely on the development of mutual cooperation on a comprehensive scale. This is largely due to the fact that they both belong to the same geo-strategic area, but another reason is that it also is their conviction and option that the only way to make a constructive contribution to peace in this part of Europe and the world is by promoting good-neighborly relations.

Both Yugoslavia and Albania are Mediterranean states, but with different conceptions of and approaches to the present political moment, and their own distinctive pattern in foreign policy; however, it is possible for them to seek some forms of strengthening mutual ties, i.e., ways and means of "realising part of what was once known as Mediterranean togetherness."  

These two neighboring states have different conditions for economic development, and the level of their development as well as economic links also differ widely. Although Albania does not attend the European conferences of a bilateral or multilateral character, both countries are interested in investigating all forms of complementariness in their respective economies, striving within these boundaries to join the currents of European economic cooperation on a long-range basis and thus including mutual cooperation.

2. Ibid.
However, it is also certain that mutual relations between these two neighbors are not only connected with economic conditions, but also with political traditions which have their effect on the character of these relations. Furthermore, relations between Yugoslavia and Albania cannot be considered apart from the Balkans, to which both countries belong.

This region is almost a miniature world, with certain additional problems and distinctions, reflecting its history, and certain ideological and political differences and contradictions. Experience has shown that misunderstandings, disputes and polemics among countries in this region do occur, but at the same time it has become increasingly evident that the resolution of these question is part of the trend towards peace, security, and equitable international cooperation. Thus, it is necessary to engage in patient efforts to achieve an upward trend in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans, as well as in Albania and Yugoslavia.

Certainly one should not labor under the illusion that problems and contradictions can be weathered only by choosing correct courses and methods. Demands and objectives cannot be set up beyond the boundaries of political realities. However, these realities, despite the general complexity and negative elements, also reflect all the objective needs and interests of these two neighboring states, which should increasingly open up to each other and intensify mutual cooperation in economy, culture, science, sports, and other fields, this being the only way to strengthen stability and peace.

There is no lack of good will and understanding between these two Mediterranean states. Their common interests are numerous, but for a long time were far from the requirements of both Albania and Yugoslavia for, there were outstanding differences between them in regard to many ideological, political, and international questions. The policy of nonalignment has done much towards Yugoslavia's emerging as an indispensable factor in international relations, and this country is well known as being open to the outside world, while Albania has a very specific position in international relations and has fairly limited contacts with other countries. Consequently, the latter is insufficiently known from the various aspects of its development, both in sociopolitical life and internal developments, and all this has its effect in understanding Yugoslavia-Albanian relations today.

At present, Albania has no firm political and economic ties with any country in the world. There have been a number of major upheavals in its foreign political orientation. Let us mention only two of them. Up to 1960, Albania was firmly bound to the Soviet Union. That year it abrogated the alliance with Moscow and immediately made friends with the Peoples' Republic of China; this friendship lasted until 1978. Since that time Albania has been going its own way—without economic, military, or political assistance from any one—firmly adhering to its own distinctive principles.