



VOL. 7, № 10 (75)  
October - November 1996.  
Distributed free of charge on board  
of BALKAN international flights

# AVIUM

## MEMBERSHIP IN NATO IS A PARTICIPLE TO THE WORLD ELITE

SOLOMON PASSY PRESIDENT OF BULGARIAN ATLANTIC CLUB FOR AVIOFORUM



Солон Паси и заместник-главнокомандващият на Обединените въоръжени сили на НАТО генерал Макензи, който също бе на посещение в България.

Solomon Passy and General Macensy, Deputy Commander-in-chief of the United army forces in NATO.

In August 1990, Mr. Solomon Passy, deputy to the Grand National Assembly put from the parliamentary forum the question that Bulgaria should apply for membership in NATO. From this moment one long and difficult public and political debat initiated and now it already comes to its logical end. The

Atlantic Club in Bulgaria played its important role in this national dialogue as the main informant the public opinion and a stimulator for the political elite about the NATO nature and the need Bulgaria to be joining NATO.

- Is it necessary for Bulgaria to join the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization? What would it guarantee - only our security, the democratic development or it would be just that dress we should have to put on in order to unify with Europe?

- NATO is a kind of organization, necessary not only for Bulgaria or for this or that separate country, it is an organization for all world, for the United Nations Organization. The world needs a democratic leading and authority multi-national political force guaranteeing all achievements of the democracy, to keep a peace and if necessary to bring it.

From this point of view Bulgaria needs NATO and our membership in NATO is a particeple to the world elite. Bulgaria is not a state second category and in spite of the difficulties which it overcomes on its way to United Europe, its place is just among this elite.

- Is the Bulgarian society ready to admit to membership in NATO? Not only psychologically, because Bulgaria has been a member of an army organization as a NATO opponent for a long time, but as well institutionally and even in material aspect?

- Our public opinion is quite ready to admit to membership in NATO. From the last investigations (I will quote, for example, GFK - Bulgaria) it gets clear that the proportion of upholders to opponents for our membership in NATO is as 3:1. And the public opinion is so determined even in the absence of a parliamentary consensus which additionally would influenced the society for consolidating behind the cause. Now, it is

time the statemen to be true reflectors of the public opinion and to write that in their state documents. There is no time to lose.

- What is an alternative of NATO for Bulgaria? Is there any variant for the Atlantic Club and you personally in case we leave out of the organization?

- The alternatives are as following: a membership in NATO urgent ant a membership in NATO with a delay. Obviously the first variant is preferable one. The sooner the mutual adaption with our future allies starts the sooner and better will end.

- Well, what do you think about the neutrality?

- From now on, some kind of invented and introduced neutrality is a policy which could be considered only in the framework of the academic classes.

The European countries which were an examble for neutrality until recently, now slowly but surely are delimiting from their recent policy. And there is something to prevent them to be some more energetic from their joining to United Europe and to the Atlantic values, this is the inertia of the due public option which is a clumsy mechanism. Bulgaria has no neutralitic tradition which hamper its development.

Today, in Bulgaria also the neutrality would be one expensive, no resulted and social unconvincing policy (which caters only for the interests of the third countries). Because of this it is a quite futureless.

Avioforum