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THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT IN MACEDONIA IN THE PERIOD FROM 1946 – 1953

Keywords: Yugoslavia, Macedonia, government, political system, 1946 - 1953

Summary

The paper makes an attempt to analyze the status, the role and the functioning of the executive branch of the government in Macedonia in the first decade after the liberation. Following the successful liberation, the first authorities with executive competences were officially set up by the Antifascist Assembly for National Liberation of Macedonia (ASNOM). In that direction, the paper analyzes the transition in the organization of the executive branch through the main phases (establishment of the Working body, election of the first Macedonian government as well as 1946 and 1953 constitutional framework). Finally, the paper makes an attempt to answer the question whether there were any specifics in the organization of the executive branch in Macedonia compared to other Yugoslav republics.

Introduction

During World War II the territory of Macedonia was occupied by Bulgaria, Italy (Albania) and Germany. Since the autumn of 1941, Macedonian people and other communities have organized a successful resistance, joined the Yugoslav partisan movement and allies and claimed final victory in the second half of 1944. Over 25 000 lives have been lost in the liberation war.

Following the liberation of a greater part of the territory of Macedonia, the First Session of the Antifascist Assembly for People's Liberation of Macedonia (Antifasisticko sobranie na narodnoto osloboduvanje na Makedonija - ASNOM) was held on August 2, 1941. The assembly has adopted the key – documents that founded Macedonia as a separate republic in the Yugoslav federation including the documents that defined the basic authorities in the transitional period from liberation to the election of new state organs. In that sense, ASNOM represented a crucial milestone in the organization of postwar government of Macedonia.

Having that in mind, we will focus on the development of the executive authority in this Yugoslav Republic. The development of the executive branch in Macedonia went through a number of phases. In the beginning the executive functions of the government were performed by the Presidium of ASNOM (August 1944 – January 1945); later a number of competences were transferred to the Working Body (January – April 1945) after which the Government of Macedonia was established (April 1945). Within a general transformation of the political system of Yugoslavia and Macedonia, in 1953 the government was replaced by a new authority – the Executive Council. In that direction, the paper will explore the main transformation of the executive branch in the period (1945 - 1953) from both federal and national perspective.

Establishment of the postwar provisional authorities in Macedonia

The Provisional government of Yugoslavia under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito was established on March 7, 1945. This government included both representatives of the partisan movement and the Royal government in exile. A total of 11 out of 21 ministers in the

government were communists. The royal government was recognized by the major powers including the United States in December 1945.

During the research that led to the preparation of this paper, we came across an unpublished document of the US Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of CIA, dated April 21, 1945, that included biographies and basic information regarding the members of the Provisional government. Two ministers from Macedonia were members of the Provisional government: Bane Andreev, Minister of Mining and Emanuel Čučkov, Minister for Macedonia. In this OSS document their nationality has been listed as “Macedonian”.¹

In accordance with the acts of the First Session of ASNOM, in particular the Decision for declaring ASNOM the highest, legislative, executive, people’s representative body and highest state authority in Democratic Macedonia, ASNOM itself was in charge of both the legislative and executive branch of the government.² Article 11 of this Decision has foreseen that until the people’s government of Macedonia is elected, the functions of the government will be carried out by the Presidency of ASNOM. In other words, the Presidency was foreseen as both parliament and government of the republic between two sessions of ASNOM. During the first session of the Presidency of ASNOM, held on August 6, 1944, a decision was reached to establish eight Commissions.³

However, the concept of provisional organization of the government of Macedonia was considerably affected by the decision to establish a “Working Group” of the Presidium of ASNOM on January 22, 1945. Although the Working Body was foreseen to serve as an ad hoc body with the task of resolving the “current issues”, in fact it represented an instrument for centralization of power. The Secretary of the Communist Party of Macedonia, Lazar Kolisevski, was appointed President of the Working Body and later the people’s government of Macedonia. In the period between the establishment of the Working Body and the election of new government, the Working Body has gradually begun to take over the executive competences of the Presidium. According to Veljanovski, the establishment of the Working Body was a

¹ United States. Office of Strategic Services. (1945). Personnel of the Yugoslav Provisional Government. Washington, DC. 24 April 1945, p. 45.

² Решение на АСНОМ како врховно законодателно и исполнително народно претставително тело и највисок орган на државната власт на Демократска Македонија. Во: Институт за национална историја. (1964). *Зборник на документи од АСНОМ*. Скопје, стр. 235–238. [Decision for declaring ASNOM the highest, legislative, executive, people’s representative body and highest state authority in Democratic Macedonia. In: Institute of National History (1964), *ASNOM Collection of Documents*, Skopje, pp. 235-238]

³ The following commissions were created: Commission for Information, Interior, Education, Economy and Reconstruction, Finance, Traffic and Construction, Social Policy and Health as well as Judiciary.

manifestation of the federal tendencies for Kolisevski to be in charge of the management of ASNOM and the overall control of the country. It is obvious that Kolisevski had the reputation of “a man of confidence for Belgrade”. Finally, it should be emphasized that this type of working body was unique for Macedonia – it did not exist in the National Liberation Committee of Yugoslavia nor in the other antifascist assemblies of the Yugoslav Republics.⁴

The first Macedonian government

The first people’s government of Macedonia was elected on ASNOM’s Third Session held from 14 – 16 April 1945. The legal basis for the election of the government represented the Law on the Changes and Supplements of the Decision for declaring ASNOM the highest, legislative, executive, people’s representative body and highest state authority in Democratic Macedonia, dated April 15, 1945, as well as the Law on the People’s Government of Macedonia, which regulated several aspects of the organization of the executive branch.⁵ “The achieved level of development and functioning of the people’s authority” was stated as one of the primary reasons for the establishment of the people’s government.⁶ According to the Law on the people’s government, the government was expected to serve as “the highest executive authority of the federal unit Macedonia” (Article 1). Although the people’s government was appointed by the Presidium of the Assembly, the government was responsible for its work in the Assembly itself. The law regulated the composition of the government and ministries. At the same time, for the purpose of implementation of the legislation passed by the federal and national assembly, the government was entitled to pass acts, decrees and regulations. As far as the parliamentary procedures relevant for the government are concerned, the law regulated the issues of the Representative’s question and legislative initiative.

Lazar Kolisevski was elected President of the government. Other members of the government included Ljupco Arsov, Minister of Finance and Vice – President; Abdurahman

⁴ Докмановиќ., М. (2010) *Право и политика во Македонија: 1946 – 53*. Скопје: ИСИЕ, стр. 40 - 41. [Dokmanović, M. (2010). *Law and Politics in Macedonia: 1946 – 53*. Skopje: Akademski pecat, pp. 40-41].

⁵ Закон за народна влада на Македонија. Во: Архив на Македонија. (1995). *Извршни и управни органи на Македонија. Документи: Прва влада на Македонија*, т. II, кн. 1, стр. 5–7. [Law on the People’s Government of Macedonia. Documents: First Government of Macedonia].

⁶ Велјановски, Н. (1992). *Административно-централистичкиот период во државноправниот развој на Македонија: (1945–1953)*. Скопје: Институт за национална историја, стр. 112. [Veljanovski, N., *Administrative – Centralistic period in the State and Legal Development of Macedonia*, Skopje: Institute on National History].

Mehmed, Vice - President; Kiril Petrusev, Minister of Interior; Pavel Satev – Minister of Justice; Nikola Mincev – Minister of Education; Strahil Gigov – Minister of Industry and Mining; Tode Nospal – Minister of Trade and Supplies; Bogoja Fotev – Minister of Agriculture and Forestry; Vukasin Popadic – Minister of Public Health; Nexat Agoli – Minister of Social Policy and Gorgi Vasilev, Minister of Construction.

As far as the composition of the government is concerned, it is evident that the Assembly took into account the mixed population and the need for “equitable representation” of all communities in the new state organs. Furthermore, 3 out of 12 members of the first government belonged to the non-majority communities in Macedonia.

Another important issue represented the fact that the Assembly decided to elect Kolisevski as President of the Government. Undoubtedly, by this decision the Assembly has concentrated the highest executive and party office in Macedonia in one person.⁷

The 1946 constitutions

Following the postwar political and economic consolidation of the country, the abolition of the monarchy⁸ and the beginning of the reconstruction, the communist leaders decided to proceed with the adoption of the first Yugoslav constitution and consequently, the constitutions of the federal republics. The Constitution of Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) was adopted on January 31, 1946 by a Constitutional assembly.

It should be mentioned that the 1946 constitution did not represent a continuation of the previous constitutional acts of Yugoslavia and secondly, included a large number of provisions regarding the social and economic issues in society.⁹ According to Dragnich, the constitution was based on three main features: the republic (as opposed to the monarchy that existed before the war), federal organization (composed of six “people’s republics” and inspired by Soviet model) and the separation of the church from the state.¹⁰ The constitution did not affirm the

⁷ Ачкоска, В. (2006). Политичките прилики за време на формирањето на првата народна влада на Македонија. Во: *Годишен зборник на Филозофскиот факултет во Скопје*, кн. 59, Скопје, стр. 253. [Ackovska, V., Political Circumstances During the Establishment of the First People’s Government of Macedonia, In: *Annual Proceedings of the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje*].

⁸ The monarchy was abolished in November 1945.

⁹ Докмановиќ., М. (2010) *Право и политика во Македонија: 1946 – 53*. Скопје: ИСИЕ, стр. 39. [Dokmanović, M. (2010). *Law and Politics in Macedonia: 1946 – 53*. Skopje: ISIE].

¹⁰ Dragnich, A. N. (1946). Yugoslavia’s New Constitution. In: *Current History*. Vol. 26, June 1954, p. 420–422.

concept of separation of powers – on the contrary, it incorporated the concept of unity of powers by introducing a new Soviet – type organ Presidium with large competences.

Among other issues, the first Yugoslav postwar constitution created the basic framework for development of the executive branch. According to the constitution, the highest executive and administrative body of the state authority was the Government of FPRY. The Government was appointed by the People's Assembly on joint session of both Houses. The government was responsible for its work before the Assembly. However, in the period between two sessions of the Assembly, the Government was responsible to the Presidency of the People's Assembly. According to Article 81 of the Constitution, the Government of Yugoslavia was composed of president, vice-presidents, ministers and the presidents of the Federal Commission for Planning and Federal Control Commission. The members of the Government did not enjoy immunity (Art. 84).

The most important documents passed by the Government were the decrees. According to the Constitution, the Government could adopt three different types of decrees: (1) decrees for application and implementation of laws; (2) decrees which were issued on the basis of authorization of the law and had the force of law and (3) decrees issued on the basis of direct constitutional authorization and regulated the internal organization of the ministries and other institutions. The majority of the issued decrees belonged to the second type. This instrument allowed the government to control the legislation including the change and supplement of the existing laws and consequently to control the Parliament. In other words, the Assembly instead of regulating certain areas by its own acts indirectly transferred the competence to the government.¹¹ The competence of the Yugoslav government was prescribed in Article 80 paragraph 1 of the Constitution.¹²

The composition of the government was later extended with the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Communal Work as well as the Presidents of the Commission for Control and the Planning Commission. Later in September 1947 the Ministry of Local Transportation was established. The Planning Commission was set up by the Law for General State Plan and State

¹¹ Sruk, J. (1976). *Ustavno uređenje Socijalističke Federativne Republike Jugoslavije*. [Constitutional Organization of Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia] Zagreb: Informator, стр. 41.

¹² Владата на ФНРЈ се грижеше за подготвување и реализирање на општодржавниот стопански план и буџет, утврдување и реализација на годишните стопански планови, раководење со кредитниот и паричниот систем, заштита на уставното уредување и на граѓанските права, раководење на општата организација на југословенската армија, раководеше со одржувањето на односите со странските држави, се грижеше за исполнување на меѓународните договори и обврски, основаше комитети, комисии и установи со цел спроведување на стопански, одбранбени и културните мерки.

Planning Authorities and its prime competence represented the submission of draft economic plans for approval by the Federal Planning Commission. On the other hand, the Commission for Control was created on the basis of the Law for General State Control and performed the supervision of the work of the government authorities, state and other related organizations, as well as other institutions and companies supervised by the state according to the law. The Commission was also in charge for monitoring of the implementation of the democratic rights of the citizens. In 1949 the Ministry of Science and Culture¹³ and the Ministry for State Procurement¹⁴ was inaugurated. Finally, in 1950 the Ministry of Electric Energy and the Ministry of state agricultural enterprises of PRM were established.¹⁵

Following the election, the first government of Macedonia has adopted the Declaration of the First People's Government of Macedonia which defined its main program, priorities and tasks.¹⁶ The priorities of the government included the definitive liberation of the country, achievement of the brotherhood and unity of the Yugoslav peoples as well as "internal unity of all nationalities", criminal prosecution of war criminals, their supporters and war profiteers, improvement of health protection, improvement of literateness, definition of the Macedonian alphabet¹⁷ and standard language, establishment of a university, improvement of legality and direct and indirect control of the implementation of laws, expeditious and independent judiciary, fight against bureaucracy and corruption. Apart from that, the declaration has announced the forthcoming agrarian reform and the resolution of the status of the colonists. Finally, in the overall spirit, the declaration emphasized "the deep love of the Macedonian people for the fraternal Red Army".

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Name of PRM, which was adopted on March, 8, 1946, the official names of all state authorities were harmonized. Consequently, the

¹³ Указ за оснивање на министерство за наука и култура на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 24/1949). [Decree for Establishment of Ministry of Science and Culture of PRM, Official Gazette No. 24/1949].

¹⁴ Указ за образување министерство на државните набавки на Владата на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 10/1949). [Decree for Establishment of Ministry of State Procurement of the Government of PRM, Official Gazette No. 10/1949].

¹⁵ Указ за оснивање на министерства на Владата на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 4/1950). [Decree for Establishment of Ministries of the Government of PRM, Official Gazette No. 4/1950].

¹⁶ Декларација на првата народна влада на федерална Македонија. Во: Архив на Македонија. (1995). *Извршни и управни органи на Македонија. Документи: Прва влада на Македонија*, т. II, кн. 1, стр. 10–15. [Declaration of the first People's Government of Federal Macedonia. In: *Archives of Macedonia, Executive and Administrative Organs of Macedonia: First Government of Macedonia*].

¹⁷ Резолуција на Комисијата за јазик и правопис при Министерството на народната просвета, донесена на заседанието на 3 мај 1945 година, по прашањето на македонската азбука. (Сл. весник на федералната единица Македонија во ДФЈ, бр. 7/1945). [Resolution of the Commission on Alphabet and Spelling, Ministry of People's Education, adopted on the session held on May, 3, 1945. (Official Gazette No/ 7/1945)].

name “Democratic Federal Macedonia” was transformed to “People’s Republic of Macedonia (PRM)” and “People’s Government of Macedonia was changed to “Government of PRM”.¹⁸ This official term for the government was used until 1953, when in accordance to the Constitutional law the Government was renamed to “Executive Council of PRM”.

The first government reshuffles commenced as early as February 1946¹⁹ and during the 8-year leadership of Kolisevski 16 government reconstructions were carried out including 5 entire reshuffles of the government.²⁰

As it was already mentioned, the adoption of the 1946 Yugoslav and Macedonian constitutions represented a very important phase in the development of postwar executive branch of the government. Provisions regarding the executive branch represented standard material constitutionis and thus, were included in both, the federal and republic’s constitution.

It should be underlined that the 1946 Yugoslav constitution has established two types of ministries: general federal and so-called “federal - republican”. The general federal ministries included: ministry of foreign affairs, people’s defense, information, maritime, posts and foreign trade. The federal – republican ministries were: ministry of finance, interior, justice, industry, mining, trade and supplies, agriculture and forestry, labor and construction. The general federal ministries directly managed the respected area of public administration on the whole territory of the federation. On the other hand, the so-called federal – republic ministries managed the specific area indirectly through the ministries of the people’s republics as well as directly for certain issues, companies and institutions of state importance.²¹ The federal ministries could appoint their plenipotentiaries in the republics and they could participate in the session of the government with an advisory vote.

The 1946 Constitution of PRM further specified the position of the government compared to the Law on the people’s government of Macedonia. In that direction, the government of PRM represented the highest executive and administrative authority in the republic. The government was elected by the people’s assembly and was responsible for its work to the assembly. The

¹⁸ Закон за името на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 7/1946). [Law on the Name of PRM. (Official Gazette No. 7/1946)],

¹⁹ Указ на Президиумот на Народното собрание на Македонија за уважување на оставките на министрите Љупчо Арсов и Страхил Гигов од 11 февруари 1946 година. [Decree of the Presidium of People’s Assembly of Macedonia for Accepting of the Resignations of Ministers Ljupco Arsov and Strahil Gigov, February 11, 1946].

²⁰ Џиков, С. (1994). *Македонија во комунистичкиот триаголник*. Скопје: Гурџа, стр. 79. [Dzikov, S., *Macedonia in the Communist Triangle*, Skopje].

²¹ Членови 86–88. Устав на ФНРЈ. (Сл. лист на ФНРЈ, бр. 10/1946). [Articles 86-88, Constitution of the Federal People’s Republic of Yugoslavia, Official Gazette No. 10/1946].

government was composed of president, one or more vice-presidents, ministers as well as the presidents of the Planning Commission of the Republic and the Control Commission. At the same time, the constitution has foreseen the possibility of electing ministers without portfolio.

Similar to the provisions of the Law on the People's Government of Macedonia, the Government of PRM was authorized to pass decrees with the force of law. According to Article 79 of the Constitution, the Government was responsible for: (1) preparation and execution of the general state and republic's economic plan and budget; (2) carrying out necessary measures for securing and protecting the constitutional and social order, interests and civil rights; (3) assistance to the federal government in achieving general state tasks; (4) making decisions regarding legislation draft proposals submitted to Assembly by the members of the government; (5) regulated the internal organization of the ministries and other authorities and (6) establishment of special commissions, committees and other authorities within the government for the purpose of carrying out economic, cultural and other types of work for PRM.²²

Apart from the two types of ministries envisaged in the federal constitution, the constitution of PRM has foreseen a third type of ministry. The third type of ministry was entrusted with the management of certain areas of public administration in the jurisdiction of PRM and was responsible to the Government of NRM only. According to Article 85 paragraph 3 of the Constitution of PRM, the list of republic – based ministries included the ministries of education, social work, health and communal work. The decision to develop three types of ministries (general federal, federal – republican and republic's ministries) was obviously inspired by 1936 Soviet Constitution (Articles 77, 78 and 84).²³

The position of the Government of PRM was further strengthened by the provision which allowed it to pass regulations with the force of law in the field of economy, reconstruction as well as expropriation of property in public interest.²⁴

²² Член 79, Устав на НРМ. Во: Здружение за уставно право на Македонија. (1996). *Педесет години од Уставот на Народна Република Македонија*. Скопје, стр. 179. [Article 79, Constitution of PRM, In: Association of Constitutional Law of Macedonia, *Fifty Years from the Constitution of the People's Republic of Macedonia*, Skopje].

²³ Politics Forum. (2008). *1936 Constitution of the USSR*. [online]. Available at : http://www.politicsforum.org/documents/constitution_ussr_1936.php [Accessed on April 14, 2015].

²⁴ Закон за овластување на Владата на НРМ за донесување уредби по прашањата од народното стопанство и обновата на земјата и Закон за овластување на народната влада на НРМ да донеси уредби за експропријација на недвижните имоти од општ интерес и да ја одредуе височината на накнадата за тија експропријации. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 29/1946). [Law for Authorizing the Government of PRM to Pass Decrees Regulating People's Economy and Reconstruction and Law for Authorizing the People's Government of PRM to Pass Decrees for Expropriation of Real Estate of General Interest and to Determine the Compensation for these Expropriations (Official Gazette No. 29/1946)].

1953 constitutions and the transformation of the executive branch

Additional changes in the organization of the executive branch of both Yugoslavia and Macedonia were passed in 1953. A number of changes in the political system occurred with the adoption of the 1953 Constitutional law. In that direction, a new federal authority (Federal Executive Council) that replaced the Government of Yugoslavia was created. Furthermore, the Constitutional law improved the adequate representation of all Yugoslav peoples in the Council and decreased its jurisdiction. Additionally, the administrative authority was separated from the executive branch.²⁵

The process of reorganization of the executive branch started immediately after the passing of the Basic law on Management of State Economic Enterprises i.e. the decrees passed by the Presidium of People's Assembly of FPRY in April 1950.²⁶ This reorganization has abolished the ministries in charge of management of enterprises on federal level and transferred the competence to the republics. With these acts the ministries for electrical industry, mining, agriculture, forestry, construction, trade and supplies were abolished. Another reorganization of the federal government took place in April 1951 and led to transfer of the authority to directly manage 108 enterprises from the federal government to the republics. As a result of that, the federal state apparatus decreased for 40- 60%.²⁷

Having in mind the changes that occurred on federal level, reorganization of the government of the republics also took place in April 1951. As it was already mentioned, the federal government transferred the competence of managing the enterprises from federal level to the republics and consequently, the authorities of the republics became the most important body for managing the economy.²⁸

As a result of the new approach of reducing the concentration of authority in the central organs as well as the existing mechanisms for control, the Control Commission of the

²⁵ Whitehorn, A. J. (1975). Yugoslav Constitutional Developments: An Expression of Growing Nationality Rights and Powers (1945–1972). Во: *East European Quaterly*, Vol. IX, No. 3, стр. 348.

²⁶ Указ о реорганизацији Владе ФНРЈ. (Сл. лист на ФНРЈ, бр. 18/1951). [Decree on Reorganization of the Government of FPRY, (Official Gazette No. 18/1951)].

²⁷ Kovač, P. (1951). *O razvitku organizacije upravljanja privredom u FNRJ*. Beograd: Rad, стр. 119. [On the Development of Economy Management Organization in the FPRY].

²⁸ Bilandžić, D. (1973). *Ideje i praksa društvenog razvoja Jugoslavije 1945–1973*. Beograd: Komunist, стр. 118–120. [Ideas and Practice of the Social Development of Yugoslavia, 1945 - 1973].

Government of PRM was abolished. The modifications in the organization of the executive branch in Macedonia continued in 1951 which led to decrease of the number of ministries, commission and state directorate. In that direction, on April 13, 1951 the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Macedonia has passed the Decree for Reorganization of the Government. According to the decree, only three existing ministries remained in the new government (Ministry of interior, justice and finance). In other words, the government retained the ministries of so-called "state" character and replaced the other ministries with councils (Council on Legislation and Development of People's Authority; Council on Education, Science and Culture; Council on People's Health and Social Policy; Economic Council; Council on Energy, Processing and Extraction Industry; Council on Construction and Communal Work; Council on Agriculture and Forestry; Council on Traffic).²⁹ In that sense, the decree has abolished 6 ministries, 5 Committees and 3 General directorates.³⁰ Following the reorganization of the executive branch, a government reshuffle was carried out.

The launching of the councils was justified by the authorities with the need for democratization of the administration. In that direction, a significant transformation represented the fact that representatives of the business and other areas of society were appointed in the new councils. The new approach was developed for the purpose of de-etatization of the administration.³¹ The councils that were in charge of the production process were not under direct control of the government anymore consequently resulting in decentralization of the overall management of the economy.

Having in mind the changes of the political system that were implemented on federal level, the 1953 Constitutional law introduced a new authority – the Executive Council of PRM.³² The new political body was entrusted with the following competences: representation of PRM,

²⁹ Велјановски, Н. (1992). *Административно-централистичкиот период во државноправниот развој на Македонија: (1945–1953)*. Скопје: Институт за национална историја, стр. 247. . [Veljanovski, N., *Administrative – Centralistic period in the State and Legal Development of Macedonia*, Skopje: Institute on National History].

³⁰ Указ за реорганизација на Владата на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 13/1951). [Decree on the Reorganization of the Government of PRM (Official Gazette No. 13/1951)].

³¹ Христов, А. (1977). Владата на Народна Република Македонија, политичкоизвршните и управните органи. Во: *Државноправниот развој на СР Македонија (1944–1974)*. Скопје: Институт за социолошко и политичко-правни истражувања, стр. 76–78. [Hristov, A., The Government of the People's Republic of Macedonia, Political Executive and Administrative Organs. In: *State and Legal Development of SR Macedonia*, Skopje: Institute for Social, Political and Legal Research].

³² Уставен закон за основите на општественото и политичкото устројство и организација на власта на НРМ. (Сл. весник на НРМ, бр. 3/1953) [Constitutional law on the Basis of Social and Political Organization of Power in PRM, (Official Gazette PRM No.3/1953)].

implementation of the laws, supervision of the public administration as well as the people's boards and other autonomous authorities.

The Executive Council operated as a body of the People's Assembly. Between 15 and 25 members of the House of the Republic of the People's Assembly were elected for the Executive Council. The Executive Council was led by a President who was in charge of representing the Council, presiding its sessions, submitting reports regarding its work to the People's Assembly as well as signing the decrees for the promulgation of the laws and regulations. The constitution of the republic did not foresee a separate office of "a president of the Republic" as it was the case with the federation. The establishment of the Executive Council has resulted in abolition of the Government of PRM, an executive organ that has existed from 1945 – 1953.

As a result of the aforementioned concept of division between the executive and administrative authority, a number of distinctive state organs of the administration have been set – up (state secretariats, autonomous bodies, administrative agencies etc.). In accordance with Article 87 of the Constitutional Law the following state secretaries have been established: interior, justice, management of economy as well as budget and state administration. Besides that, two councils have been established (Council of Education and Council of People's Health and Social Protection). The state secretariats were managed by state secretaries and the council – by President. The state secretaries and members of the Councils were accountable for their work at the Executive Council.

Conclusions

In the period from 1946 – 1953 the executive branch has played an important role in the political system of Macedonia. For the first time in history the people in Macedonia had their own separate republic. At the same time, the new authorities have faced a lot of challenges with the establishment of the new republic and the postwar reconstruction of the country.

In that direction, it should be underlined that the establishment of the Working body immediately after the first session of ASNOM represented an important characteristic of the postwar political developments in Macedonia. No such body was created in any other Yugoslav republic. It is evident that the establishment of the body further jeopardized the democratic

process of establishment a new government in Macedonia. As a result of that, it provided a unique opportunity for personal centralization of power on a long run.

It is evident that in the period from 1946 – 1953, the real political power in the republic was concentrated in the hands of the Government. Also the position of the government was made possible by the fact that the People's Assembly was not in permanent session which provided the government with the opportunity to regulate issues which *per definicionem* belonged to the competence of the legislative branch. At the same time, the government represented the key-factor for the transformation of the ownership in the republic. The government was directly in charge of the implementation of confiscation, agrarian reform, nationalization etc. As a result of that the government obtained key-positions in the economy.

Apart from that, the development of the organization of the executive branch has strictly followed the framework designed by the federal Yugoslav authorities. All the transformations (1946, 1950 and 1953) were carried out under the federal pattern. Under these circumstances the space for intervention in the organization of power by local authorities was very limited.

Furthermore, it should not be forgotten that the executive branch played a crucial role in the processes that led to definition of a Macedonian alphabet and standard language, improvement of education (from primary schools to the first university) as well as the development of Macedonian culture.

Finally, it is very important to emphasize that the first government included members of other nationalities as ministers. This represented a clear political message for the future development of the republic.

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