

Albania today

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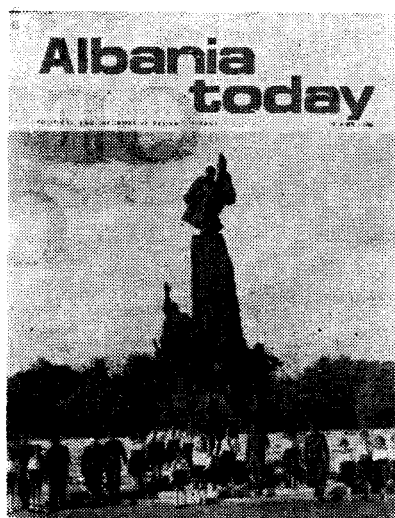
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◀ THE MONUMENT TO INDEPENDENCE, VLORA



«TOWARDS VLORA» by M. Saro



CONTENTS:

- Speech Prior to the Elections
for the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly
of the PSR of Albania* 2 ENVER HOXHA
- With the Party at the Head,
Let Us Make Socialist Albania Stronger
and Happier* 18 ADIL ÇARÇANI
- The 70th Anniversary of Independence
and the 38th Anniversary of the Liberation
of the Homeland and the Triumph
of the People's Revolution* 26
- From the Life of the Country* 42
- The PSR of Albania Consistently
Pursues an Independent and Principled
Foreign Policy* 48 REIS MALILE
- Press Review* 53

ENVER HOXHA

SPEECH PRIOR TO FOR THE 10th OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PSR

***Albania threatens nobody
with the others, but if anyone vic
retaliate in kind. Likewise, it will repl
or insults anybody n***

DEAR COMRADE ELECTORS,

I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE AMONG YOU, THE DEAR PEOPLE OF OUR BELOVED CAPITAL, AND TO THANK YOU FOR THE GREAT HONOUR YOU HAVE DONE ME BY APPOINTING ME AS YOUR CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY TO THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME BELONGS TO OUR GLORIOUS PARTY WHICH BROUGHT THESE HAPPY DAYS WE ENJOY TODAY AND WHICH IS GUIDING US, WITH A CLEAR MIND AND A SURE HAND, TOWARDS AN EVEN FINER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL FUTURE. THE PARTY TAUGHT US, ITS SONS AND DAUGHTERS, HOW TO FIGHT AND HOW TO WORK FOR THE FREEDOM AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE HOMELAND. IT WAS THE PARTY WHICH MADE US CONSCIOUS FIGHTERS FOR THE CAUSE OF THE WORKING CLASS, WHICH GAVE US THE IDEAS AND THE STRENGTH TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM IN ALBANIA.

THEREFORE, AT THESE SOLEMN MOMENTS, WHEN WE ARE PREPARING TO VOTE FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AS AT EVERY OTHER MOMENT, OUR FINEST THOUGHTS, OUR FEELINGS OF PROFOUND LOVE AND GRATITUDE ARE FOR THE PARTY, FOR ITS CORRECT LINE, FOR ITS UNSHAKEN LOYALTY TO MARXISM-LENINISM.

For almost four decades we have been living and working as free people in our Homeland. Looking back over the road we have traversed, all of us feel great joy over the successes achieved and legitimate pride in the toil and efforts of our people. This period will go down in history as the period when the vitality and vigour of our people, their militant spirit and persistence in work, their great thirst for learning and their progressive spirit were displayed in all their strength. These were the lofty virtues, which the Party knew how to bring to light and to transform into a great motive force, that made possible the rapid and successful accomplishment of all those great socio-

economic transformations which we have seen in our lifetime. It was the freedom-loving and revolutionary character of our people, the lessons they had drawn from the bitter past, when Albania was ruled and oppressed by foreigners, which impelled them to unite firmly around the Party and, under its leadership, to fight and emerge victorious over the plots and interference of the imperialists, and the betrayal by the modern revisionists — Yugoslav, Soviet and Chinese.

The elections to the People's Assembly are an occasion for us all, for the entire people, to meet and talk, to sum up the work accomplished and to examine the tasks awaiting us.

The new elections find Albania confident of its destiny, a country which stands firmly on its

THE ELECTIONS LEGISLATURE E'S ASSEMBLY OF ALBANIA

***It wants to live in friendship
protects its rights and borders, it will
in the sternest manner to the injustices
might employ against it***

own feet, which has a clear perspective and a guaranteed future. The Albanian people have never been so united in their interests, in their political and ideological views, their moral norms and social behaviour, as they are today. This steel unity, tempered by the Party in the heroic battles for the liberation of the Homeland and for the great socialist transformations, is the firm and unbreakable foundation on which the people's state power, the freedom and independence of the Homeland are based. This unity constitutes that great monolithic force which has withstood savage enemies and defeated their intrigues and plots.

Against this unity of the Party and people Mehmet Shehu, too, one of the most dangerous traitors and enemies of socialist Albania, broke his head. He had been criticized many times by the Party for his grave mistakes, but had managed to camouflage himself. The documents that have been discovered and incontestible evidence prove that since before the War he had been working for the American secret service. During the War and after Liberation Mehmet Shehu fought and worked in Albania as a mercenary in the pay of foreigners and under their orders. When he was in the 1st Brigade he was recruited by the Yugoslav secret service OZNA (today the UDB) and then, by the Soviet KGB, and he served them all zealously. Acting on the orders and instructions of foreign espionage centres, especially the CIA and the UDB,

he and the group of plotters linked with him, who are now in the hands of the authorities for full investigation, worked to destroy the Party and the people's state power and to put Albania under foreign rule.

In order to carry through the subversive, gangster plans worked out by their patrons in Washington, Belgrade and elsewhere, Mehmet Shehu and his associates were prepared to commit grave crimes. Mehmet Shehu had received orders from the Yugoslav UDB to kill the First Secretary of the Central Committee and other leaders of the Party and state, as well as to use terrorist means to crush all those who would rise against this great treachery. If they were unable to act to carry out their criminal intentions, this was connected with their great fear of the people and the Party and their steel unity, which does not allow any enemy, however cunning and diabolical, to have its way. Mehmet Shehu was never able to alter or distort the line of the Party, because if he tried to do so he would be immediately unmasked.

Caught between two fires — the order of the UDB, which was driven to desperation as it lost ground in Kosova, and his fear of the unity of the Party and the people, Mehmet Shehu could see no alternative but the shameful course of suicide.

The great unity of our people has its source in the correct line of the Party which has always embodied and expressed the historical demands

of the masses. The people dreamed of living free and independent in their own country, of eliminating exploitation and social oppression, of overcoming the age-old backwardness. They demanded the all-round emancipation of Albanian society, the liberation of all the creative forces, the free development of the capacities and talents suppressed by the regimes of the past. They wanted to be masters of their own country and equal in their relations with other nations.

Under the leadership of the Party, our people have realized these aspirations completely. They are a living reality, which we see, touch and experience every day. Socialist Albania is a completely free and independent country and state which is indebted to nobody for anything. The tutelage and dictate, interference and debts, from which many countries, not only small ones, but also big ones suffer, are alien and unacceptable to Albania. Never before has Albania enjoyed an international position stronger than it has today.

Within a relatively very short time, Albania has been transformed from a poor and starving country into one full of factories and combines, mines and hydro-power stations, with drained and irrigated fields, with schools and scientific institutions. Our people are enlightened politically and ideologically, educated and cultured, able to accomplish any work which is needed for the progress and the defence of the Homeland with their own forces. In our country a revolutionary and patriotic younger generation is growing up, an all-round educated generation which will certainly carry the torch of the revolution ever further forward and raise the glory of our socialist Homeland higher and higher.

Our people have been able to achieve these brilliant results, have advanced and are advancing, because both in their economic development and in all other fields they have relied entirely on their own forces, because our Party, in all its activity, has applied the principles of Marxism-Leninism faithfully and in a creative manner. In Albania Marxism-Leninism has given a great proof of its power to revolutionize and transform, when it is implemented correctly and consistently.

Today old and young among us see with their own eyes and feel in their hearts the justice of the people's state power, the indisputable superiority and the vitality of our socialist social order.

With the toil, sweat and creative talent of our people, relying on our own natural and financial resources, an entirely new, powerful multi-branched modern industry has been created over the whole territory of the country.

It is with legitimate pride that we see such gigantic works as the metallurgical combine and the unified power system with the hydro-power stations on the Drin River, the oil wells and the plants for the deep processing of oil, the chemical plants and textile combines, the tens of mines,

combines and factories for processing metals and many other majestic projects.

With our industrial products we now fulfil the essential needs of the people for a consumption which is ceaselessly expanding, the needs of the economy which is developing vigorously, and the requirements for strengthening the defence capacity of the Homeland. Industry has now become the main source of socialist accumulation and export income. It is a factor of prime importance in our complete self-reliance.

It is a merit of our Party that it linked the setting up and development of industry closely with the development of agriculture and the advance of the countryside on the road of socialism. Adhering to the line defined by the Party, our socialist agriculture has been ceaselessly strengthened and is advancing resolutely on the road of intensification and securing high yields. The drained, flood-protected and irrigated plains, the hills and mountain sides turned into grain producing land and plantations of fruit trees, the creation of a complex irrigation system, the increase in livestock numbers and the modernization of animal husbandry, the setting up of an extensive park of agricultural machinery — these are some of the achievements which have radically changed the picture of our agriculture.

Further evidence of the strength of our socialist agriculture and its advance is the fact that, despite the exceptionally severe drought of this year, more wheat and maize was produced than in any other year of the post-Liberation period. Our agriculture has now made the people's food supplies independent of imports, ensures the raw materials for the light and food industry and provides important sources of accumulation and foreign currency. Our socialist countryside is populated and flourishing, its way of life is becoming more and more like that of the city.

An extensive transport system has been set up with hundreds of kilometres of railway, with a large park of motor-vehicles and with a merchant fleet which is steadily growing stronger. This system has strengthened the unified character of the economy and greatly invigorated the economic and social life of the country.

The development of the economy, the progress in material, intellectual and spiritual life, have been accompanied and supported by a real revolution in the field of education and culture, the training of cadres, and science and technique. Our people, guided by the Party, have never separated their work and activity from the great question of making the socialist victories secure and strengthening the defence capacity of our beloved Homeland.

*Comrade ENVER HOXHA
speaking at the meeting with
the electors*



Four years ago, on the eve of elections for the last legislature, we publicly denounced the betrayal of the Chinese revisionists and their anti-Albanian activity. The enemies hoped that socialist Albania would be forced to its knees and appeal for foreign aid. But they were proven wrong in their calculations. Some neutral people also thought that we could not manage without foreign aid and credits.

Time proved that Albania neither bowed its head nor fell on its knees, but forged ahead proudly, relying on its own forces, without aid from anyone, and moreover, advanced more rapidly and further. But the facts speak more eloquently about this.

During the past four years tens of industrial, agricultural, transport and socio-cultural projects were completed and began to function. The coming into production of the «Light of the Party» hydro-power station at Fierza, the second blast furnace, the coking battery and the refractory materials plant at the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine, the ferro-chrome plant in Burrel, the copper smelting plant at Laç, the Laç-Shkodra railway, the doubling of the capacity of the sugar combine at Maliq, the building of eight large irrigation reservoirs such as those at Gjanç in Korça, Tapiza in Tirana, Izvor in Tepelena, etc., the construction of the Museum of National History and more than 53 thousand apartments and houses, accommodating over 250 thousand people in towns and villages, belong to the period of the last legislature.

During the past four years alone, about 160 thousand people entered employment, mainly in production, thus all the new work force was activated. The stability of our finances has been strengthened, enabling nearly 40 per cent of the funds of the state budget to be utilized for the improvement of the living conditions of the working people, for the development of education and the health service, for the extension of the system of social security and pensions, and for other needs of the community. In socialist Albania there is no unemployment, no inflation, no taxes or levies on the population. House rents are very low.

The new reduction in prices for a series of consumer goods and for communal services is another manifestation of the care of the Party for the well-being of the people, of the strength of the economy and the development of the economic and social processes in our socialist country on the right road.

The results we have achieved are even more outstanding if we bear in mind that in all the capitalist and revisionist countries there is a great depression in the economy, declining production, unemployment, price rises, great inflation and falling standard of living.

In essence, the present world economic crisis

is like all the other previous economic crises. As Marx has explained and history confirmed, they are unavoidable phenomena of the capitalist system. What is new in the present crisis is that it has demonstrated the bankruptcy of the bourgeois and revisionist theories and practices designed to avoid them. It has been confirmed in practice that the stimulation of production through the artificial increase of internal consumption, by turning all the people into debtors to monopolies, is fraught with catastrophic consequences for the entire country. The vainglorious boasts about raising the standard of living through loans, as in Yugoslavia, where people are obliged to spend this winter without heating and with great shortages of consumer goods of prime necessity, have fallen flat.

Likewise, basing economic development on foreign loans, which was trumpeted for a time, both in the West and in the East, as the road to the salvation of mankind, has turned out to be a strategy for the enslavement of the poor and weak countries by imperialism and the big industrialized powers.

Great progress has been made in the field of education and culture, technique and science. The great care which the Party has displayed for these sectors and the efforts which the people's power has made for their development have yielded splendid results. Our educational system is one of the most progressive, one of the most democratic and popular in the world. Wherever they are, our children have been provided with the possibility to attend the 8-year schools. Secondary schools have been extended to the countryside where they attract more and more an extremely large and ever increasing number of pupils. Many possibilities have been created everywhere for people to attend secondary and higher education, part time.

Creative literary and artistic work, sound in content and varied in form, enriches the spiritual life of our people. Literature, music, figurative arts, films, the theatre, television, etc., guided by the Party, carry out great political and ideological educational work and play an important role in the formation of the socialist traits in the character of our people, in implanting the norms of communist morality.

The Party has given special care to the assimilation and development of science and technique in our country. Despite the limited tradition in these sectors, this care of the Party has enabled our people, talented and thirsting for knowledge, to learn and competently apply the complicated techniques which the rapid development of the modern economy and other sectors requires. The setting up of a considerable number of specialized institutes for scientific studies, the creation of technological bureaus, many study groups, etc., testify to the expansion which scientific work has assumed in our country, as well as to the need the economy and the entire society have for it.

At the same time, the Party has always worked to ensure that scientific studies and methods in production, organization, management and everywhere else become an integral part of the daily practice of our people.

Vivid evidence of the strength of the people's state power and the vitality of our social order can be seen in the great changes in the capital of our dear Homeland. During these years Tirana has been completely transformed. Its population is over 8 times greater than that of the period before Liberation, and more than 80 per cent of this population lives in new dwellings. The secondary school pupils alone outnumber the total population of the city of Tirana before the war. Today the 70 thousand workers who work and create in the capital ensure one fifth of the industrial production of the country. All our cities and villages have been transformed in the same way as Tirana.

With the perspectives that the 8th Congress of the Party has opened, a still happier and more prosperous future awaits our people. The new legislature of the People's Assembly coincides in time with the implementation of the 7th Five-year Plan. We have all the human, material and financial resources to forge resolutely ahead and to achieve still greater results in all fields during this period. And without doubt, through our work and efforts, we shall succeed in having more oil and minerals, more steel, electric power, bread grain, and other agricultural and livestock products, more and better quality industrial goods for mass consumption.

Our economy will grow still stronger, the development of the productive forces will be carried further forward. Hundreds of important economic and socio-cultural projects will be built. Such major projects as the Koman hydro-power station, the plant for lubricating oils and the plant for the production of nickel and metallic cobalt will be added to industry. The production of the ferro-chrome metallurgical plant will be doubled, a number of factories for the enrichment of minerals and the processing of agricultural and livestock products will be built, the textile combines and knitwear plants will be extended and reconstructed, etc.

Work will begin also on the construction of many important projects of ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, hydro-power, building materials, etc. In this way, industry will be further strengthened and play its decisive role in the all-round advance of the country even better.

The course of the intensification of agriculture, placing it on a more scientific basis, will be adopted more extensively, opening up great prospects for the increase of agricultural and livestock production, for the further development of socialist life in the countryside and for strengthening the independence of the country. Priority

will be given to intensification of production in an extensive lowland zone. Big investments will be made for land development, irrigation, mechanization, the increase and improvement of plantations of pip, stone and citrus fruit and olive trees.

As you know, on the basis of the 7th Five-year Plan and the last Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party, an entire program will be implemented for the further strengthening of our transport, giving priority to railway transport which has already been extended in the main directions of the movement of goods and passengers.

The attainment of the objectives for the development of production will guarantee and raise still higher the well-being of the people, both in town and countryside. The supply of the market with industrial goods and foodstuffs will be improved ceaselessly, the structure of the food consumed by the people will be improved, important investments will be made for housing, and a number of other measures, intended for the further improvement of the well-being of the people in all aspects of life, will be taken.

The educational and cultural development of the working people and the protection and strengthening of their health will, as always, be in the centre of the attention of our Party and socialist state. New steps will also be taken in the various sectors of culture, to ensure that their work is extended deep among the masses and serves their all-round education better.

At all times and in every situation the Party and the people's state power have devoted the greatest attention to the defence of the Homeland. Today our country has a powerful defence capacity which guarantees the freedom and independence won at the cost of so much blood and sacrifices, and the peaceful work of our people. It is our duty to steel this defence more and more so that we are always in a state of complete readiness to defeat any enemy who may attempt to violate our territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

The unity of our people is as strong as steel. Our internal situation is healthy. The Decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, which will be proclaimed tomorrow, under which many prisoners convicted of various offences are pardoned or their sentences reduced, confirms this.

At a time when in all the countries of the world prices go up every day, in socialist Albania they go down; at a time when in all the countries of the world prisons are filled, in socialist Albania they are depleted. This shows the economic and political strength of the state of our dictatorship of the proletariat.

The elections to the People's Assembly have always been a manifestation of our socialist de-

mocracy, of the popular character of our state. All our people have gone to the polls enthusiastically every time and all of them have voted for the candidates of the Democratic Front, because they have been conscious and convinced that in this way they express their love for the Party and loyalty to its line, their unanimous support for the people's state power, their condemnation of the enemies, external and internal, their determination to march boldly and proudly on the brilliant road of socialism.

This is what has happened in the past. This is what will happen in these elections. Participation in the elections and voting for the candidates of the Democratic Front is an expression of political and ideological maturity, of class and patriotic consciousness, of responsibility for the fate of the country.

Dear comrades,

We are living in a very tense international situation, full of great threats and dangers to the freedom and independence of the peoples, peace and international security. This situation is the result of the intensification of the aggressive policy and activities of the imperialist superpowers and the revival of various reactionary, fascist and war-mongering forces.

Both in the United States of America and in the Soviet Union, an adventurous militarist course is becoming predominant in their foreign policy, a strategy of direct military intervention as a means to secure expansion and their political and economic hegemony in the world is being implemented. Now the superpowers have made not only the peoples and countries which have been outside the zones of their domination, but also their closest partners in the military alliances and economic blocs, the objectives of this general offensive.

In these situations, the peoples, of course, are not sitting idle. The revolutionary, patriotic, democratic and peace-loving forces everywhere in the world are putting up open and determined resistance to the inhuman aggressive policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. In Afghanistan, in the Middle East, in Salvador, etc., armed struggle is being waged to regain the violated freedom and the lost independence. The Iranian people are making great efforts to defend their revolution from the threats and blackmail of the two superpowers. In all the capitalist countries without exception the resistance of the working class to defend their democratic rights and their right to work won in long class battles has extended greatly. The struggle of many countries for national sovereignty over their raw materials and for independent development is being waged at a higher level and in broader proportions.

These struggles and efforts also constitute those main factors which hit the world capitalist and imperialist system, which cause the crises in the capitalist alliances and exacerbate the inter-imperialist contradictions, which restrain and hinder imperialism in the realization of its enslaving and war-mongering plans.

Our Party and Government, as always, attentively follow the various processes which take place in the world and draw the respective conclusions about the stands they should adopt towards them, stands which must respond to the needs of the defence and security of our state and country. We are aware that the situations in the world never stand still and immovable. They are always changing and evolving for better or for worse, according to the ratio of the class forces in the world, the development of the various contradictions, crises, etc.

Now we see that, as a result of the hegemonic policy and brutal intervention of the United States of America and the Soviet Union, new tensions and conflicts are being created in Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Balkans, directly threatening the peace and security of many countries of these regions.

The countries of Western and Eastern Europe are in the iron grip of the two superpowers which now not only want to grab their wealth, but also to squeeze the life out of them. Quite rightly, the broad popular masses in many countries have risen in protests and demonstrations against the stationing of American and Soviet atomic weapons and are insistently demanding their removal from our old continent. The masses are aware that by putting these countries under their atomic umbrellas, the superpowers want to keep them in perpetual political and economic subjection and to make the whole of Europe cannon fodder for the Americans and the Soviets.

Regardless of what justifications may be put up, the dispatch of military units from some European countries to Lebanon, along with those of the United States, constitutes a very dangerous precedent for direct military intervention in the internal affairs of independent countries. In a way, this action is a return to the old policy of the European Great Powers which, under the pretext of «putting down unrest» and «restoring order», sent their troops to various countries in order to establish their domination there.

The opinion of our Party is that the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, in the Mediterranean or in the Middle East, the development and prosperity of the European countries, the protection of their culture, traditions and civilization are achieved and consolidated by opposing the hegemonic policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, by giving them no possibility whatsoever of exploiting their political, economic and other links with these countries

in order to attack other countries, to jeopardize the freedom and independence of the peoples, peace and international security.

Neither the Atlantic Pact, the Warsaw Treaty, the military bases established in various countries, nor the superpowers' atomic weapons guarantee the defence of the European countries, their free and independent development, their sovereignty and territorial integrity. They are secured by breaking up these pacts and by sending the American and Soviet soldiers back to their homes, by breaking and smashing the political, economic and military chains, with which Washington and Moscow have bound Europe.

Such a thing should be done in the Balkans, too, where, taking advantage of the difficult situations created in some country, the superpowers have begun to move, to exert various pressures and demand new concessions in their favour. The provision of military bases and different facilities for the United States and the Soviet Union threatens the peace and security of the Balkans and so does sinking deep into debt to the superpowers, which entails many dangers, not only for the independence of the debtor country, but also for its neighbours. It is known that, when you have mortgaged your title deeds and cannot pay up, the day comes when the creditor seizes not only your home, but also the ground on which it is built.

The Balkan peoples have suffered enough in the past and do not want the map of their peninsula to be changed in favour of this or that superpower. Therefore, the Balkan states should not permit the imperialist powers to enter the Balkans on any occasion or in any way, to disturb the peace and security of their countries.

The present situation in the Middle East has become very disturbing. The new Israeli aggression against Lebanon, organized, financed and incited by the American imperialists, has created direct threats and dangers, not only for the peoples of the surrounding zone, but also for those of a much wider area.

Taking advantage of the great American aid and the divisions amongst the Arab peoples, Israel has extended its range of provocations and wants to destroy, one after the other, all those countries which do not accept the grabbing of Arab territories and genocide imposed on the long-suffering Palestinian people.

The expansionist policy and activity of Israel at the expense of the Arabs is also incited and favoured by the policy of the Soviet Union, its behind-the-scenes deals and plots to the detriment of the Arab peoples.

After Camp David, Israel attacked Lebanon. Now it is demanding the submission of Jordan and is threatening Syria with war. Whose turn will it be tomorrow — Iraq's, Saudi Arabia's or Iran's? The American and Israeli staffs are think-

ing about and working for this. But will the brave Arab peoples allow Israel and its American bosses to do whatever they please to their detriment? Will they remain divided as they are so that Israel and American imperialism defeat and crush them one by one, as they are doing?

We believe that this will not happen. The Arab peoples are freedom-loving peoples with very ancient fighting traditions, peoples that have given mankind a whole civilization. They will certainly find the strength to unite and stop the Zionist aggressors from grabbing the Arab lands and exterminating the people who inhabit them. However protracted the struggle, however great the difficulties and however many the sacrifices required of them, victory will be theirs. Right is on their side, the whole of progressive mankind is with them. Our people have always stood beside the fraternal Arab peoples, the heroic Palestinian people and supported their just cause. In the future, too, the just struggle of the Arabs and Palestinians will have the full and unreserved support of the Albanian people.

Recently, especially since Reagan came into office, there has been a noticeable increase both of American interference and Soviet intrigues in Latin America. The peoples of Latin America are responding to this attack by increasing their resistance to enslaving imperialist plans. The Albanian people have supported and continue to support this struggle of the Latin-American peoples, and this was expressed in the case of the conflict over the Malvinas, in which we supported the undeniable rights of the Argentinian people.

The struggle of our people for the construction of socialism, for the defence of freedom and independence is in favour of and an active support for the struggle the peoples are waging against imperialism and reaction. At the same time, we consider the struggle of the peoples for freedom and independence as our own struggle, as a great support for our cause.

Comrades,

At the 8th Congress of the Party the principles from which the foreign policy of our country proceeds, and our stand towards the major current international problems, as well as towards individual countries and the different political forces and movements in the world were clearly defined and expressed. Today, as in the past, this policy has the complete backing of our people, because it expresses their thoughts and desires, because it defends the supreme interests of the Homeland.

Our people support this policy because it is an entirely independent policy which is not inhi-



LAVDI MARKSIZEM LENINIZMIT

bited by any external influence of whatever nature. The voice of Albania in international relations is her voice alone. And this is an additional reason why it is listened to, respected and taken into account.

Our stands are known. We have said and continue to say that we will have no rapprochement or reconciliation with either American imperialism or Soviet social-imperialism which to us and all the peoples are the greatest enemies. We will resolutely oppose their aims of hegemony and relentlessly expose their aggressive plans. Our opinion is, and life has proved, that our struggle and irreconcilable stand against American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism constitute an essential condition for the preservation of the freedom and independence of the Homeland, for progress on our socialist road.

With the other countries, such as France, the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, etc., regardless of their social system, we are for normal relations on the basis of non-interference, equality and mutual interest. We want these relations to serve the economic, cultural and social development of both sides, the strengthening of friendship between peoples and sovereign states and, at the same time, the interests of the preservation and strengthening of peace in the world.

Our country has been and is for the development of international trade, which it considers a useful and necessary means for every country. However, we demand from all our partners in trade that it should be based only on mutual benefit and complete equality, that it should be free of any pressure and discrimination. Moreover, we do not permit trade relations to be utilized as a means to interfere in our internal affairs or to impose alien political and ideological concepts on us. To us trade means trade, that is, the free and balanced exchange of goods, and we never confuse it with the acceptance of credits, which is quite another matter.

Socialist Albania, our people, very highly esteem the progressive achievements of every country in culture, science and technology, all values which serve the development and advance of mankind. Hence, we are for normal cultural exchanges with other countries, for mutual recognition of progressive and democratic achievements in this field, without discrimination or prejudice.

As is natural, our country devotes particular attention to its relations with the neighbouring countries. What has inspired and inspires its stand is the desire to live together as good neighbours, always to have useful relations and to build normal collaboration on the basis of the principles of complete equality and non-interference in the

*Comrade ENVER HOXHA's speech
is received with enthusiasm by those present*



internal affairs of others, respect for national sovereignty and non-violation of territorial integrity, and exchanges on the basis of mutual interest.

We have good relations with the Italian people and we do not confuse them with Mussolini's fascists who spread death and destruction in our country. In my wartime notes I read with pleasure the words that General Azzi, who, after the capitulation of Mussolini's army, confidently surrendered his whole army to the General Staff of our partisan army and the Albanian people, said to me when we met in the village of Arbana, in the vicinity of Tirana, «We are grateful to the Albanian people and partisans who saved and sheltered thousands of my soldiers, sons of the Italian people. I personally and the Italian people will not forget this generosity. I will be a friend of the Albanian people till I die.» continued General Azzi. And he remained a friend until he died.

The regimes of our countries are opposed to each other, we have our laws and way of life, and the Italians have theirs. Nevertheless, we have normal trade and cultural relations with Italy, which we are ready to extend on the basis of mutual benefit and without interfering in each other's internal affairs. If any Italian government considers these relations of no interest, it may do whatever it likes, this will not affect us much. Nevertheless, we think differently — that these relations are useful to both sides. Ours is not an isolated and closed country, we have things to sell to Italy and things to buy from it for hard cash, as we have with many other countries.

A glorious Arbëreshi community also links us with the Italian people. Neither we nor the Italians should forget Garibaldi's fine words and high esteem for the Albanians and the Arbëreshi.

For five centuries the Arbëreshi have been living in Calabria and Sicily. This community has given Italy and Albania outstanding people. While living in friendship with the Italian people, the Arbëreshi have preserved their Albanian customs and language through the centuries. This community, which draws us closer to the Italian people, is a factor for friendship.

The Albanian people and the Turkish people have a great love for each other. We make «diplomatic love» with nobody. This is not the custom of the Albanian but, when we pledge our word, we keep it and do not turn whichever way the wind blows. We condemn those who violate our friendship or misuse our trust. The great and sincere friendship that links us with the fraternal Turkish people has never been shaken. The different forms of regime have never shaken this friendship, because it is based on the fine sentiments of our peoples, it is based on those links of

fraternity and blood relations with hundreds of thousands of Albanians who live, work, are married and have children, who die and are buried in a common soil with the Turks.

We honour and respect the great leader of the Turkish people, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who, as an outstanding democrat, destroyed the Ottoman Empire and the Caliphate and set up the new democratic Turkey. Let all the pseudo-democrats and pseudo-socialists who oppress the peoples, who trample on their rights and keep colonialism alive, sugar-coated with pompous words, follow the example of Kemal Atatürk who cut the «Gordian knot» of the Ottoman Empire with his sword. It is our desire that our friendship with the fraternal Turkish people should be continuously strengthened and developed further in every field.

We love and respect the Greek people, because they nurture the same feelings of friendship towards the Albanian people. We are sincere with each other. Neither wishes the other ill, but only well. These are historical links cemented with the blood shed together against the same occupiers. We do not confuse the feelings of the Greek people with those of the chauvinists.

We shall develop our relations of friendship with the Greek people further. The Greek people call the Albanian heroes of the Greek revolution of 1821 who fought under the command of Ypsilantis, «Arvanites penemeni» and «palicaria Arvanites»*. Capo d'Istria and the Russian czars, the Serbian kraljs and the Moldavian voivodes betrayed the Greek revolution, but the Albanians, with Marko Boçari at the head, with Ali Pasha Tepelena and the Çaparajs, remained loyal to it to the death.

The Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Greek governments — right-wing, new democratic or socialist, have always considered the friendship between the Albanian people and the Greek people as a pressing political necessity. Regrettably, however, for the past 40 years, without any reason, the so-called «law on the state of war with Albania», an absurd law without any basis, which is condemned both by the Albanian and the Greek peoples, as well as by world opinion, has been maintained in Greece. Every reasonable and realistic person in Greece understands that such a law hampers the shortening of ways for an even more friendly development in the direction of Arta, Preveza, and Ioannina as well as the whole of Greece.

It was not in my intention to speak today about our relations with Yugoslavia, because we have expressed the stand of our state towards that country a thousand times and we stand by what we have said. However, I am obliged to

speaking about them, because the Belgrade chiefs not only have turned a deaf ear to what our Party and Government have pointed out but have built up a whole campaign of slanders and attacks against socialist Albania and its policy which is as clear as the light of day, with all their propaganda and diplomatic means. For at least 40 years on end, not to go further back, the Belgrade chiefs have incited the southern Slavs, and especially the Serbs, to live in constant enmity with the Albanians inhabiting their own territories in Yugoslavia, as well as with independent socialist Albania. This hostility towards the Albanians, this savage chauvinism and contempt towards them, this unrestrained tendency and appetite to annex Albania is something atavistic in them. What makes the issue still more dangerous is that the other southern Slav peoples lack the courage to stop this wave of savagery.

In the time of the National Liberation War we sincerely loved the Yugoslavs, and respected and honoured Tito more than he deserved. We sent large partisan units which fought side by side with the Yugoslav and Kosova Albanian partisan units in Southern and Central Yugoslavia. Hundreds and hundreds of heroic sons and daughters of Albania were killed or wounded for the liberation of Yugoslavia, but now a Serbian dog called Sinan Hasani comes out and dares to insult on the blood they shed. He even goes to such lengths as to claim that the Yugoslavs formed our Party, they organized the Albanian National Liberation War and gave Albania everything. But let the dog bark, that is what he is paid for.

Both in the past and right up to this moment when I am speaking to you, Tito and company have always rejected our hand of friendship and done everything in their power to cut it off. Openly or through their secret agents, for forty years on end Tito and his successors have constantly hatched up plots to destroy socialist Albania, to wreck our Party, to physically liquidate some of its main leaders. This they tried to do through their long-standing agent, the traitor Mehmet Shehu, too. But all their plots failed and they will always fail.

In the past the Serbian Kralj, Karadjordjević, together with Wrangel's Great-Russian bands, brought to Albania his agent — the bandit Ahmet Zog, who, as a great traitor to the Homeland, gave Yugoslavia Shën-Naum of Pogradec and Vermosh as a gift in return for this assistance. The Belgrade chiefs want to do the same thing today with the criminal terrorist gangs of a certain hooligan and trafficker in arms, drugs and white slaves, Leka Zogu, to whom, astounding though it may seem, a country friendly to us gives shelter

and allows him to give interviews to the press and to call for the overthrow of the people's power in Albania. We have facts to prove that it was the Yugoslav Titoites who sent to our coast Xhevdet Mustafa's group of gangsters, whom we wiped out mercilessly without giving them time to draw breath or see the sun of Albania. At the appropriate moment the world will be told the details of this affair and what it was intended for. However, the dangerous thing about it is that the Yugoslavs, violating the sovereignty of two countries friendly to us and without their knowledge, trained these criminals and landed them in our country. To train terrorist gangs and send them into another country is a grave criminal act condemned in the practice of international relations.

Now we have only this to say to the Yugoslav Titoites: don't play with fire, because if a conflagration breaks out, you will get yourselves burnt in it. For our part, we defend ourselves and we know how to do so, we know how to fight and triumph over any enemy. But we do not like this ominous course, full of dangers, which you are following. Nevertheless, if you force our hand we shall give you the reply you deserve. But we tell the Yugoslav leaders not to take this hopeless course which is fraught with many dangers for our two countries, for the Balkans and perhaps even for Europe. You, the southern Slav peoples, are responsible because, instead of making the Great Serbs see reason and forcing them to change course, to adhere to the principles and practice of good neighbourliness with socialist Albania and to establish normal, peaceful relations with the Albanians living in Yugoslavia, you allow them to fan up the flames.

We are convinced that there are progressive elements among the other southern Slav peoples, as well as among the Serbs. There is no other way to solve the problems apart from a change in the political stand towards Albania and the Albanians living in Yugoslavia. We shall continue on the course set by the 8th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, the main report of which the Yugoslav leaders have read upside down. Our proposals were as wise as they were conciliatory, whereas your course is fraught with many dangers for Yugoslavia, which we want to remain as it is. You do not pay serious attention to our words which are an expression of the sincere feelings of the Albanian people. So much the worse for you. The world will charge you with grave responsibility.

Some governments of European countries and the United States of America are trifling with our feelings and interests. We say to them that nobody is allowed to trifle with Albania and its interests,

as was done in the past. The old times when the fate of our country could easily be trampled underfoot and Albania could be attacked and partitioned have gone by for good.

We shall continue, as always, to defend our Albanian brothers living on their own territories in Yugoslavia, with all the strength of our hearts, in their rights which the Constitution recognizes to them. Let the Yugoslavs and world opinion have no doubts about this. This is recognized by international law and this is how all those states which have national minorities outside their borders act.

At the 8th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania we made our stand towards Yugoslavia clear and we remain unshakeable in this stand. The destruction and disintegration of Yugoslavia will never come from us. We are for the stability of the Federation. But with the Great-Serb, Macedonian and Montenegrin chauvinists our conciliatory words go in one ear and out the other. Their eyes have been blinded by their chauvinism and megalomania. When we appealed for reason and common sense, they pressed on with even more savage terror against the Albanians living on their territories in Yugoslavia. They have thrown into jail thousands of heroic young men and women of Kosova whom they torture barbarously and to whom they apply a thousand insulting epithets. We tell the Yugoslavs to free the young people from prison, for the Albanian cannot tolerate for long such violations of the honour and rights of his young men and women. Let them not fill the cup, because the response may have very dangerous consequences.

All Kosova and the Albanian regions of Yugoslavia have been placed under savage chauvinist military pressure. Now the «differentiation», which means making Albanians spy on Albanians in favour of sinister Serbian forces, is going on on a large scale. But the people of Kosova cannot accept this shameful course, because it leads to fratricide, while the Great Serbs will rub their hands in glee.

The Serbs are inciting blood feuds among Albanians. Kosova is being plunged in poverty and covered with graves. People do not know where their sons and daughters are. The Albanian intellectuals are being decimated, insulted, humiliated and thrown out in the street. Only in the time of the Inquisition have such persecutions occurred. No, the Albanian people living in Yugoslavia will not allow anything of their sacred national heritage to be suppressed. Never at any time or in any country has the Albanian bowed in submission to or fled from the enemy when his freedom and legitimate rights have been violated.

You, gentlemen of Belgrade, have sent 60 thousand Serbian soldiers to Kosova to suppress and kill the people of Kosova and to intimidate socialist Albania. But we are not intimidated, we are ready, vigilant to a man. You speak with the language of force, while we try to speak with the language of reason. But we know how to speak in the language of force, too.

Albania is a sensitive strategic key point. Europe must keep this in mind. Some sneer at our fortifications, while arming themselves to the teeth with every kind of weapons, and others underrate our strength. So much the worse for them. Certain journalists whose pens are for hire, certain café politicians with their «analyses of strategic plans» and the Great Serbs in the first place, spread the idea and insinuate that in these or those circumstances, indeed in all circumstances, Albania will be gobbled up by the Russians, will lean to the Soviets, etc.

We tell the Great Serbs, the secret firm friends of the Russians, that there are two ways for the Russo-Bulgarian revisionists to attack Albania in order to reach our part of the Adriatic coast. The one way is through the Vardar and Kosova and the other through the Straits of Otranto. In the first case, without the slightest doubt, the whole Albanian people living in Kosova and other regions of Yugoslavia — in Skoplje and Kaçanik, in Tetova and Gostivar, in Llap and Plava-Gucia, will meet the aggressors with guns. The whole of Yugoslavia will be ablaze and the Russo-Bulgarian revisionist invaders, if they ever succeed in reaching our Alps, will be in the same shape as the German nazis after the battle of Stalingrad.

In the second case, we Albanians hold the key to the Straits of Otranto. Sazan Island and the Karaburun Peninsula — and do not fear that I am revealing any secret, are rocks clad in iron and concrete which the Soviet naval fleet cannot pass.

If our Russo-Bulgarian enemies and others want to embark on such adventures they ought to know that the Albanians are not a state of three million, but a nation of six million people. Ours was a small people in the time of the Second World War, but although alone and unarmed, they defeated and liquidated a considerable number of Italian fascist and German nazi divisions. Now the times have changed in favour of socialist Albania, hence: Hands off Albania!

Albania threatens nobody, it wants to live in friendship with the others, but, if anyone violates its rights and borders, it will retaliate in kind. Likewise, it will reply in the sternest manner to the injustices or insults anybody might employ against it.

I am speaking openly and this is the firm opinion of all our people. We say what we think, others have not failed to speak against us and moreover to slander us. We make no unfounded statements and do not indulge in slanders. Herein lies our strength, and that is why the progressive peoples respect socialist Albania just as we have great respect for them. For this just and benevolent stand, we offer them our heart-felt thanks.

Messrs the Yugoslav leaders arrogate to themselves the right to raise their voice about the «injustices» the Bulgarian, the Greeks or the Albanians allegedly commit against the Macedonians of Pirin and Aegeus or the tiny Macedonian minorities in Albania, while we, according to them, have no such right. They accuse us of «interfering in their internal affairs» when we defend the rights, under the laws of the Federation, of our brothers, whom they not only deny their rights, but whom they kill, imprison, and force into emigration, while Serbian and Montenegrin colonists are brought into their birthplace to replace them.

It was Mr Stambolić who launched the slogan of an «ethnically pure Kosova» which the «Albanian nationalists» allegedly demanded. This is not a slogan of the Albanians, but of the Great Serbs, launched in order to drown Kosova in blood. The Serbs and Montenegrins were rightly frightened by this policy of terror and began to flee from fear and because of the poverty that prevails in Kosova. The Great Serbs are now trying to saddle the Albanians with this crime, although they themselves are responsible for the exodus of Serbs and Montenegrins.

Recently the Yugoslavs, assisted by their friend — Russia, have been gathering up «Macedonians of the Aegeus» from all over the place in order to have them as a vanguard for Greece. One fine morning we shall hear that Alexander the Great was a Slav, too. Why shouldn't they do even this? They have a precedent in the Great-Russian «historian» of the 19th century, Vasilyevsky. In his book on Byzantium he goes to such lengths as to write there in black and white that since the modern Greeks are Orthodox Christians, they are Slavs, hence they do not originate from the ancient Greeks who gave mankind one of the most brilliant civilizations in the world. With the full conviction of a Great-Russian chauvinist, Vasilyevsky states quite boldly in his book: «The modern Greeks are of Slav origin.»

The chauvinists of Northern Epirus and certain Greek bishops do the same thing when, basing themselves on the statistics of Phanari of the time of Sultan Hamid II, they describe all the Orthodox Christians in Albania as Greeks. And these so-called

Greeks, who were supposed to number 400 000 at that time, have remained 400 000 to this very day, although almost 80 years have gone by. According to them, the so-called Greeks of Northern Epirus have neither increased nor decreased, have had neither births nor deaths. Likewise, they say, 28 000 Greeks of the Northern Epirus languish in «Albanian prisons» at all times and all seasons. Unfortunately for those Greek bishops, who have nothing to do with the Greek people. I can tell the Greek people and government on my full authority that in the whole of Albania there are only 33 persons of the Greek minority serving short sentences of imprisonment for various offences, and only 4 of them for political offences. Why is this so with the Greek minority of our country? This is so because our people of the Greek minority are good, honest people, like the Greek people themselves, because they enjoy all the rights which every Albanian citizen enjoys, because everywhere among the Greek minority everything is in their own hands. There the cadres of the Party and state are only people from the Greek minority. In every village of the Greek minority there are primary and agricultural secondary schools and in Gjirokastra there is a teachers training school in Greek. All the other cadres, such as doctors, agronomists, veterinarians, economists, teachers and professors, are people of the Greek minority, and there are houses of culture everywhere. The incomes of the people of the Greek minority are among the highest in our country. We Albanians live like brothers with the people of the Greek minority in our common Homeland. The Greek minority in Albania is not groaning, Messrs the chauvinists of the Northern Epirus, but singing and prospering.

As for religion, you need not worry about it. To believe or not to believe is a personal right, a question of conscience and not an institutional question: religion cannot be imposed according to the desire or will of the hodjas, the bishops or the Pope of Rome.

I follow the Greek press and have read the questions that some Greek or West-German journalists have put to the people of the Greek minority in our country and the answers they have received from them. One of these journalists asked an old woman of our Greek minority this question:

«Where is your church, where is your priest?»

She answered: «Neither the church nor the priest did anything to save me from the aghas and the beys. When they held sway, they gave me neither bread to eat nor water to drink, neither electricity to light my home nor school for my sons and daughters. Only the National Liberation War, only my Party of Labour gave me all these bles-

sings. That is why I love the Party and not the priest.»

The newspaperman went on with his questions to the old woman: «What about the sins you have committed, to whom will you confess?»

Again the old woman replied with subtle humor: «My son has told me, 'Live well in this world, mother, and as for the «other world», blame me and my Party for your sins when you get there'.»

There are hundreds and hundreds of millions of people in the world who do not want to believe in religion. Then why all this astonishment at socialist Albania?

Our state is atheistic by the will of its people and there is no moral or material force which can impose on it anything different. Our people are masters of their own fate and sentiments. The screams of Northern Epirus chauvinists do not bother the Greek minority and socialist Albania in the least, even if the chauvinists are stirred up and paid under the lap by somebody else, and that somebody is not the fraternal Greek people.

Comrades,

The new elections for deputies to the People's Assembly are being held on the eve of a major event — the celebration of the 70th anniversary of National Independence.

The Albanian people, all the Albanians, wherever they are, have always celebrated with great jubilation the great day of November 28, 1912 when that wise old patriot — Ismail Qemali hoisted the national flag in Vlora and proclaimed the independence of the country.

In celebrating this glorious anniversary, we recall the legendary battles that the Albanian people have waged for centuries on end for the freedom and independence of the Homeland, their titanic efforts to preserve and develop their

language and culture, their ardent love for their land and traditions.

Our gratitude and that of the coming generations goes to those Albanian patriots who, even in the most difficult conditions, even at the gravest moments, kept ablaze the torch of patriotism, their unshakeable conviction that better days would certainly come for their people, too. The deed of these patriots remains a permanent source of inspiration and mobilization for us. It calls on us to defend the freedom and independence of the Homeland with self-denial, to always serve the people devotedly to the end, and to work tirelessly for the good and honour of our beloved Albania.

Allow me to take the opportunity of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of independence to greet all our people, as well as all the Albanian patriots in the world, and present my best wishes to them on the occasion of this day dear to our hearts.

The elections to the People's Assembly find work going on at full swing all over the country to put the decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party in practice, to fulfil the important tasks of the 7th Five-year Plan. Let them serve as an inspiration and impulse to further strengthening the steel unity of the people around the Party, to greater mobilization and zest at work, to working with discipline and knowledge, to implementing everywhere the militant slogan of the Party, «Work and Vigilance», to making the people's state power ever stronger, our socialist Albania ever more beautiful, richer and happier.

Long live our people!
 Long live the Party of Labour of Albania!
 Long live our people's power!

* Famous Albanians and brave Albanians (Greek in the original).

BRILLIANT VICTORY OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE ON THE GLORIOUS ROAD OF SOCIALISM

**100 PER CENT OF THE ELECTORS WENT TO THE POLLS. OVER
99 PER CENT OF THEM CAST THEIR VOTES FOR THE CANDI-
DATES OF THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR DEPUTIES TO THE
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY**

In an atmosphere of great political and revolutionary enthusiasm created by Comrade Enver Hoxha's speech before the electors of the electoral zone No. 210, and of all-round mobilization to celebrate the 70th anniversary of national independence and the 38th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution, the elections for deputies to the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania took place with complete success in all the country, in the diplomatic representations abroad and on the ships at sea, on November 14, 1982.

The Central Commission, after examining all relevant documents, recognized that the elections for deputies to the People's Assembly were held in strict conformity with the Constitution of the PSRA and with the Law on Elections to the People's Assembly. Of 1 627 968 electors registered in 250 electoral zones, in the polls for deputies to the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania participated 1 627 968 electors, or 100 per cent of them.

The candidates of the Democratic Front received the votes of 1 627 959 electors, or over 99.99 per cent of them; 8 voting cards were found invalid on the basis of Article 38 of the Law on Elections to the People's Assembly; only one elector voted against.

By their total turn out at the polls and giving all their votes for the candidates of the Democratic Front, the Albanian people, free and masters of their own destinies, expressed once again, in all its splendour, their sovereign will for and determination to strengthening the people's state power, to make the dictatorship of the proletariat ever stronger, Socialist Albania ever more beautiful, the life of the people even happier, the defence of the country ever more unassailable to further steel their unity around the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, and to continue their march always ahead on the road of the construction of socialism.

ADIL ÇARÇANI

WITH THE PARTY AT THE LET US MAKE SOCIALIST STRONGER AND HAPPIER

In these conditions, the general interests of the freedom-loving people demand that the hegemonic policy and dictate of the superpowers, with determination, their plots and intrigues exposed, their

COMRADE DEPUTIES,

I FEEL OBLIGED TO THANK YOU FROM MY HEART FOR THE GREAT TRUST AND HONOUR YOU HAVE DONE ME BY CHARGING ME WITH THE TASK OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA. THIS HONOUR AND TRUST YOU SHOWED APPERTAINS, FIRST OF ALL, TO OUR GLORIOUS PARTY, ITS CORRECT LINE AND ITS UNWAVERING LOYALTY TO MARXISM-LENINISM.

I ASSURE YOU THAT, BY LOYALLY APPLYING THE LINE AND THE DIRECTIVES OF THE PARTY, THE TEACHINGS OF THE PARTY AND OF THE BELOVED LEADER OF THE PARTY AND THE PEOPLE, COMRADE ENVER HOXHA, I WILL PUT ALL MY ENERGIES TO CARRY OUT HONOURABLY THIS DUTY AND TO LIVE UP TO THE TRUST YOU HAVE PLACED IN ME.

The elections for deputies to the People's Assembly, which were held in the atmosphere of the great enthusiasm and mobilization the decisions of the historic 8th Congress of the Party and the address of Comrade Enver Hoxha to the electors on November 10 have created in our country, were a great political event in the life of our people.

They were characterized by their unbounded love for the Party, which was expressed in the results of the elections for deputies to the Peo-

ADIL ÇARÇANI — Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR of Albania. Speech held at the 1st session of the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania.

ple's Assembly, in which participation was 100 per cent and 99.99 per cent of votes were cast for the candidates of the Democratic Front.

Our people went to these elections with many achievements in all fields and with steel unity, against which all the intrigues and plots of the internal and external enemies have been thwarted and crushed.

Against this remarkable unity of the Party with the people Mehmet Shehu, one of the most dangerous enemies of socialist Albania, a spy and mercenary in the pay of the foreign secret services, also broke his head.

The internal situation of the country is healthy, strong and stable. Evidence of this is also the recently issued decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the pardon or the reduction of the term of many convicted for various penal offences.

The years of the last legislature, under the leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, constitute for our people another glorious period in the socialist construction of the country and the defence of the Homeland.

All obstacles and difficulties of encirclement and blockade and the grave crisis which has engulfed the capitalist and revisionist world, as well as those deriving from the brutal cutting off of the economic relations in the middle of the past five-year plan by the Chinese revisionists have been overcome with success.

Our socialist economy developed further at rapid rates and today, relying on its own forces, it is in a position to fully ensure the needs of

HEAD, ALBANIA

*Living people
powers should be opposed
war-mongering plans thwarted*

the extended socialist reproduction and to advance towards new heights in the implementation of the magnificent program the 8th Congress of the Party set.

No one has donated us this wonderful reality of socialist Albania. It is the fruit of the selfless struggle and labour of our people, who with their great political and ideological maturity, under the leadership of the Party, overcame all obstacles and difficulties, increased their revolutionary readiness and vigilance, made our economy strong and independent — an economy which is in a position to cope with success even with the such natural calamities as the strong earthquake of November 17 this year, which caused great material damage, the consequences of which, however, will be eliminated completely within of December this year.

Over the period of the last legislature, 1979-1982, total social product increased at an annual average rate of about 5 per cent and national income increased at rates more rapid than those of the total social product. In this way a correct combination of the numerical increase of workers in the sphere of material production and other sectors with the increase of the productivity of social labour and occupation of all working people was secured. Imports were completely covered through the increased incomes from the export of our goods, without any foreign aid or credit. The state budget successfully coped with the development of the economy and culture, and the strengthening of the defence potential of the country.

Thus, «Socialist Albania», as Comrade Enver Hoxha declared in the meeting with the electors

of the electoral zone No. 210 of Tirana, «is today a completely independent country and state which owes nothing to nobody. Tutelage and dictate, interference and debts, from which suffer not only many smaller states, but even greater states, are alien and unacceptable to it.»

During the past legislature our socialist industry took further steps towards its complex development, successfully preceding the socio-economic development of the country. The annual growth of industrial production has been over 6 per cent. One hundred eighty-seven new industrial projects, such as the «Light of the Party» hydro-power station at Fierza, the No. 2 blast furnace of the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine at Elbasan, the factory of refractory materials, the ferrochrome plant, etc were completed and came into production.

The quantitative and qualitative development of industry according to the orientations and directives of the Party have brought about improvement in its structure, while heavy industry has developed with priority. In this context the power industry which has not only coped with all the needs of the country for fuels and electric energy, but also exported large amounts of its production, has been especially strengthened. In 1982, as against 1960, there was produced about 3 times more oil and gas converted into oil, 5 times more coal and 18 times more electric power.

The priority development of the power industry has been carried out in unity with the development of all the branches of industry, especially of the extracting and mineral processing industry,

of chemical, wood-processing, and engineering industry which is more and more becoming a powerful support basis for the deepening of the technical-scientific revolution by meeting the needs of the economy for spare parts, machinery and equipment.

The implementation of the policy of the Party for the development of the heavy industry has been carried out along with the development of the light and food-processing industries on the basis of the local processing of raw materials. The increased production of this branch, the improved quality, and extension of assortments, have been an important factor for the normal supply of the market and the people with broad consumer goods.

During the years of the past legislature our agriculture has taken important steps forward. It developed in harmony with all the other branches and sectors of the economy and met their needs for an ever larger agricultural and livestock production, by relying on more advanced agrotechnics. It has entered the phase of intensive development and is rapidly marching in this direction, which is characterized by the constant raising of crop yields which, in 1982 as against 1960, increased 3.6 fold for bread grain, 2.3 fold for rice, 2.7 fold for sugar-beet, 2.5 fold for milk per head of sow, etc.

Prominent in all these achievements is the further strengthening of the material-technical base of agriculture with the necessary materials and technical means, as well as the important measures for the improvement of socio-economic relations, especially the strengthening of cooperativist property and the reduction of the cooperativists' individual plot. All these material and socio-economic factors have resulted, despite the extremely difficult weather conditions and, especially the exceptional drought of this year, in the constant rise of agricultural and livestock production at a rate of 2-3 times higher than that of the population growth, thereby ensuring a satisfactory supply of the people with agricultural and livestock products.

This rapid development of the economy and culture has, as always, been based on a program of large-scale fundamental investments and constructions. For the 4 years of the preceding legislature, the volume of investments of over 17 billion leks was fully met from our socialist accumulation, from our material, monetary and hard currency resources. Socialist Albania today has been turned into a big construction site of industrial and agricultural, transport and socio-cultural projects designed and built by our heroic working

class created by the Party, by our gifted workers and specialists who are in a position to design and execute projects of world standards, from blast furnaces and hydro-power stations to works of art of high cultural and architectural value.

The uninterrupted socio-economic development of the country, led with particular care by the Party, has ensured the further improvement of the living conditions and cultural level of the people. The real per capita income increased almost on an average of 2 per cent each year over the four years of the preceding legislature. The volume of goods turnover increased and communal and health services improved.

All this development and revolutionary transformation of the life of the country was achieved through fierce class struggle against the attempts and plots of external and internal enemies, like the great plot headed by the secret agent Mehmet Shehu and his collaborators who wanted to overthrow the Party and the people's state power.

These magnificent victories achieved in our country assume particular importance when compared with the grave situation in the bourgeois-revisionist countries. The grave political and economic crisis in these countries is more and more making itself felt on the standard of living of the working masses. Unemployment, inflation, price rises and ever heavier taxation have already become usual phenomena of this exploiting order and increased the army of the jobless and worsened their living conditions more and more with each passing day.

Our people do not know such phenomena as taxes and impositions, unemployment, inflation and price rises, on the contrary, this year, too, they gained an additional 70 million leks through a new reduction of prices.

All this clearly shows the superiority of our socio-economic order over the capitalist and revisionist socio-economic order, the vitality of the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the correct economic line and policy our Party has followed and is following.

During this period, proceeding from the decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Council of Ministers has taken a number of measures intended to constantly raise the level of scientific management and organization of our economy in struggle against manifestations of bureaucracy and officialdom, against obsolete forms and methods of work in state and economic organs.

Improvement is being made in defining the competences of state organs and their organiza-



Comrade Adil Çarçani, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, presenting the program and composition of the Council of Ministers to the People's Assembly

tional structures on the basis of the principle of democratic centralism, doing more efficient battle both against manifestations of exaggerated centralism as well as against tendencies towards liberalism, so that every organ and working man carries out the tasks they have been charged with with a higher sense of responsibility.

The tasks for the development of the economy and culture are always seen as indissolubly linked with raising the defence capacity of our socialist Homeland, with strengthening the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, with perfecting and strengthening our socialist law.

As a result of all these victories, the prestige and authority of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania in the world is higher than ever.

Comrade deputies,

Having also taken into consideration the opinion of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, I propose that the composition of the Council of Ministers be as follows:

1. Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers
Manush Myftiu
2. Vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers
Besnik Bekteshi
3. Minister of Foreign Affairs Reis Malile
4. Minister of People's Defence Prokop Murra
5. Minister of Internal Affairs Hekuran Isai
6. Chairman of the State Planning Commission
Harilla Papajorgji
7. Minister of Finance Qirjako Mihali
8. Minister of Industry and Mining Hajredin
Çeliku

9. Minister of Power Industry Lavdosh Hametaj
10. Minister of Light and Food-processing Industry Vito Kapo
11. Minister of Agriculture Themie Thomai
12. Minister of Construction Farudin Hoxha
13. Minister of Communications Luan Babameto
14. Minister of Internal Trade Osman Murati
15. Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci
16. Minister of the Communal Economy Kudret Arapi
17. Minister of Education and Cultural Tefta Cami
18. Minister of Health Ajli Alushani

In all its activity for the economic and social development of the country, the new Council of Ministers, which comprises many new capable members endowed with broad knowledge of scientific management, will be guided by the line and policy of the Party, by its orientations and directives.

Its activity will be particularly concentrated on implementation of the orientations and directives of the 8th Congress of the Party for the fulfilment of the 7th Five-year Plan of the development of the economy and culture and the strengthening of the development of the economy and culture and the strengthening of the defence of the country. It will work and take all the measures for the continuous uplift of the scientific level of organization and management of the economy, for ensuring maximum mobilization of the human and material reserves the dynamic development of our economy creates.

The further deepening of the process of socialist industrialization of the country, with priority, as always, given to the development of heavy industry, constitutes one of the most important tasks for the Council of Ministers in the future.

In this context, measures will be taken with priority for further strengthening power industry so as to fulfil the growing demands of the country for all kinds of fuels and secure important income in hard currency from the export of them. The increase of the production of fuels, liquid and solid, will be seen in unity with their consumption, while uninterruptedly enforcing a regime of frugality.

The fulfilment of the tasks for the development of the mining and mineral-processing industries raises important demands to the state and economic organs for the increase of the assortments of goods and their reserves. To achieve this, geological prospecting will be further strengthened,

the technique of mining will be perfected, while expenditure and loss involved in exploitation will be reduced. The tasks of the development of the mining industry will be carried out along with the measures for the extension of the full-cycle processing of our minerals, in order to obtain from them more products for the economy and for export. In this context, effective measures will be taken to step up the commissioning of new productive capacities at the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine at Elbasan and extend its range of products through setting up new plants.

Special care will be paid to expanding the engineering industry in extent and depth through more complete measures for the organization of production on scientific bases, the perfecting of the technique and technology of production and the further deepening of the process of cooperation, specialization and concentration.

The chemical industry, in particular, will increase the production of phosphatic fertilizers and chemicals for plant protection so as to properly back up the program for an important increase of agricultural and livestock production.

All the measures for the fulfilment of the planned tasks in heavy industry will be attained, as always, in close combination with the solution of problems emerging in the development of the light and food-processing industry. Greater care will be devoted to carrying out the tasks the 8th Congress of the Party has set for a radical improvement of quality and increase of assortments of consumer goods produced by the light and food-processing industry so as to ever better fulfil the demands of the population.

The intensive development of agriculture on the basis of the application of scientific agrotechnics and the spread of advanced experience, the uninterrupted supply of it with materials and equipment, and the perfecting of the socialist relations in production always on the correct revolutionary road, in conformity with the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, constitute a special subject of work for the Council of Ministers in the future.

The fulfilment of production tasks in bread grain and vegetables, industrial crops and fruits, forestry and livestock-raising will be achieved on a broad front, assessing them as an important source of food-stuffs for the people as well as raw materials to meet the needs of the other branches of the economy and to increase exports.

The Council of Ministers will work to carry out all the tasks the 8th Congress of the Party has set for the priority intensification of a large part of the plains of the country and for the exten-

sive dissemination of the advanced experience of the higher-type agricultural cooperative of Plasa in agricultural concentration, specialization and circulation. Increased yields of both agricultural and livestock products will be accompanied with a broader and more rational exploitation of the material and technical base of this branch of the economy through more scientific management and greater effectiveness.

The measures for the development of livestock and the increase of its yields will be centered, in the first place, on the application of scientific methods for the improvement of breeds at more rapid rates and the expansion of the fodder base.

Parallel with all the above-mentioned measures and in order to ensure the complete application of the economic policy of the Party in the field of agriculture, all the respective state and economic organs are required to give priority to the fulfilment of their obligations towards agriculture, especially in developing its material-technical base and absorbing and processing all agricultural and livestock products.

For the development of industry and agriculture and all the other branches of the economy and culture, the Council of Ministers will pay special care to the carrying out of the program of fundamental investments and constructions which the Party adopted at its 8th Congress. All measures will be taken for improving co-ordination in the work of the organs of construction with those of investment so as to further strengthen the discipline of the plan in the study, design and execution of construction projects within schedule. Special concern will be devoted to improving the quality of construction materials, to increase their resistance, stability and effectiveness in the construction of economic and socio-cultural projects. Economic-financial and bank control will be strengthened in order to ensure the thrifty use of funds and construction materials.

The important tasks the 5th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party set for the development of transport are being analysed by the Council of Ministers which will take all the measures to put them into practice. In this context, it will focus on the implementation of the measures foreseen for the priority intensification of railway transport, regarding it as the main form of transport in the movement of goods, as well as on measures for the increase of profitability of all other forms of transport on the basis of a more rational exploitation with higher technical and economic indices.

The Council of Ministers will take all necessary measures to ensure an increase in the

quantity and assortment of exports, and the improvement of their quality, and to find new markets for their sale with profit. In the field of exports tasks will be dealt with so as to improve the existing active balance of our import-export trade and to ensure the import of goods on time, while at the same time making constant efforts to use import goods thriftily or replace them with locally produced goods.

Socialist Albania which builds its present and future relying exclusively on its own forces, is by no means isolated, as the enemies of the Albanian people claim in their propaganda; on the contrary, it develops trade relations with many countries and regions of the world. These relations we will continuously extend in the future, without receiving any sort of aid and credit, rigorously sticking to the principle of normal trade exchanges with mutual benefit for both sides.

As always, in the future, too, we will pay particular attention to the implementation of the tasks the 8th Congress of the Party set for raising the material and cultural level of the people, both in town and countryside. To this end, special attention will be attached to the problem of the occupation of all the active population, the completion of 80 thousand apartments in town and countryside, the supply of the market with the necessary food and industrial products and the enhancement of the role of trade and other sectors of communal services in the ever better fulfilment of the demands of the population in time and with the proper quality.

The Council of Ministers regards the carrying out of tasks for the development of the sectors of the economy as inseparable from the development of education and culture, science and the health service, especially the qualitative uplift of work in our schools for training a younger generation with knowledge of contemporary level, as well as the further raising of the health service in all its aspects.

The tasks for the carrying out of the state plan will be treated in both their economic and financial aspect by adopting all measures for the constant increase of the productivity of social labour and the effectiveness of material and monetary expenditure. In this context, special measures will be taken to enhance the active role of finance organs, to strengthen the stability of our finances and enforce state control through the *lek*. The Council of Ministers will continue to take all the necessary measures for the further steeling of the defence of the country so that it is in a position to defeat any enemy who dares to violate the territorial integrity of the PSR of Albania, our national

sovereignty, the victories achieved in the socialist construction of the country. The organs of the Internal Affairs, the State Security, the People's Police and the Border Forces will be further strengthened for the defence of our socialist order.

In the future the Council of Ministers will place the improvement of the management of work and its scientific organization in the centre of its attention. Study and analysis of the directives and decisions of the Party, creation of all-round convictions among the people about their correctness, application of the principle of collective work in examining problems and taking decisions, and strengthening state discipline in regard to their application to the letter, will occupy the main place in its work.

Comrade deputies,

The Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania has paid special importance to the implementation of the tasks set by the 8th Congress of the Party in the field of foreign policy. It has followed carefully and with special concern the development of events in the world and adopted correct and principled stands in defence of the interests of our Homeland, the cause of socialism and the revolution, the liberation of the peoples and peace.

It has always taken account of the fact that the international situation today is tense and full of dangers to the freedom and independence of the peoples. In many zones there are hotbeds of tension and war. This is the direct result of the aggressive and hegemonic policy pursued by the United States of America, the Soviet and other imperialist and reactionary forces. The superpowers intervene brutally in the internal affairs of other states, threaten and intimidate them, and in many cases, as in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Salvador, etc resort even to direct military violence. Their preparations for war have been intensified. They carry on the armaments race to levels never known in history, multiply their military bases in other countries, fan up feuds among people and countries in order to incite them to conflicts and, thus, subjugate them more easily. Their monstrous economic expansion develops through credits, loans, aid, etc. Many countries are on the brink of complete bankruptcy.

In these conditions, the general interests of the freedom-loving peoples demand that the hegemonic policy and dictate of the superpowers should be opposed with determination, their plots and intrigues exposed, their war-mongering plans thwarted. The People's Socialist Republic of Albania has never accepted the policy of military and economic blocs, the creation of military bases in foreign

territories, the granting of facilities, as some countries do, the naval and air forces of the superpowers, alliances that threaten the freedom and independence of other countries. It has always demanded that these mechanisms, created by imperialism to enslave and exploit the peoples, should cease to exist.

On the eve of the elections for deputies to the People's Assembly, Comrade Enver Hoxha delivered a very important electoral speech in which he dwelt once again on the principles and stands of our Party and state in regard to the present-day international problems and the problems of different countries. This address is a clear program for the activity of the Council of Ministers in the international relations, to which it will abide to the letter, just as in every other field and every other question.

In the future, too, the Council of Ministers will continue to pursue a principled and resolute, completely independent and sovereign policy. We shall seek no rapprochement to or reconciliation whatsoever with American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism which are the arch-enemies of our people and the other peoples. We have not cherished and nor will we cherish any illusions about either superpower. The policy of the United States of America and the Soviet Union do not depend on the people at the head of their leading teams. They depend on their social system, which is the one imperialist, oppressive and exploiting system.

In regard to the other countries we are for normal relations, for the development of collaboration in the field of trade, culture, science, etc. On the basis of equality, non-interference in internal affairs, respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

At the same time, we shall continue to give resolute support to the struggle of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America for freedom and national independence, to back up the fight of the people of Afghanistan for liberation from the Soviet invaders, the fight of the Palestinian people for their Homeland, as well as of the other Arab peoples for the liberation of the territories occupied by the Israeli aggressors.

Proceeding from its desire for good neighbourliness, the Council of Ministers has attached special attention to the relations with the states around our country. We observe with satisfaction that positive results have been achieved in our relations with them. We desire that they develop further on the road of friendship and collaboration for the good of our peoples and peace in this zone.

Our relations with the Republic of Turkey develop on the correct road. Bonds of old and sincere

friendship link our people with the Turkish people. We are and will constantly work for strengthening collaboration in all fields of mutual benefit, for strengthening and consolidating the achievements made hitherto in the relations between our two countries.

We assess the relations with neighbouring Greece correctly and will make all the efforts that are expected from us for them to develop and the friendship between the Greek people and the Albanian people, which has sound bases, is preserved and strengthened.

We will not relax our efforts for the normal development of relations with Italy, either, in all fields of mutual benefit.

Towards Yugoslavia, too, our country has pursued a policy of good neighbour relations, but the Yugoslav side has not pursued the same policy towards us.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania has never been and is not for the destabilization of the Yugoslav Federation. In the relations between the two countries have emerged many problems which hamper their regular development, this is not our fault. The existing situation is due to the stand of Yugoslavia which, as Comrade Enver Hoxha clearly pointed out in his address to the electors two weeks ago, has interfered and constantly interferes in our internal affairs and hatched up dangerous plots against our country.

This is also linked with the stand of the Yugoslav leadership towards our Albanian brothers of Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro, who are persecuted and denied the democratic and national rights belonging to them. We cannot be indifferent towards the savage campaign that is going on against the Albanian culture, language and traditions in Kosova and other regions inhabited by the Albanians. We have backed up the legitimate demands of our Albanian brothers and will continue to do so, because their demands are just and do not run counter to the Yugoslav Constitution. Our stand over the problem of Kosova is no interference in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia, but a right recognized in the practice of regular international relations.

As we have pointed out several times, the regular development of relations between Albania and Yugoslavia will depend on the stand of Yugoslavia towards our country, as well as its treatment of our Albanian brothers who live in their own territories in Yugoslavia for centuries.

The Council of Ministers has made known its stand in favour of the normalization of relations with the Federal Republic of Germany. Trade relations between the two countries already are

developing to a satisfactory degree on the basis of mutual benefit. We think that, given the good will, the old contentious problems existing between the two countries can be resolved. It is to the West-German side to take constructive steps to respond to our stand over establishing diplomatic relations.

The Council of Ministers will resolutely defend the legitimate rights of our people and will demand that all the assets of which they have been robbed and which are unjustly withheld from them, like the Albanian monetary gold blocked in the London Banks, should be returned to our country.

The victories achieved by our people in the construction of socialism and the correct line of the Party in the field of foreign policy have made the international positions of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania stronger than ever. The Council of Ministers will struggle for the implementation of this line to the letter and for raising the authority of our country and the good name it enjoys in the world, still higher.

Comrade deputies,

The implementation of the program of the Council of Ministers which is being presented to the People's Assembly and which is completely based on the decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party, calls for increased mobilization and drive at work on the part of the working people, higher revolutionary vigilance and readiness in defence of the victories achieved.

The Albanian people are on the eve of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of National Independence. This reminds us of the centuries-long struggles and great efforts of our people for freedom and the independence of the Homeland for achieving the victories we enjoy today, in the epoch of the Party. Therefore, in celebrating this great anniversary we are inspired to mobilize ourselves and be always ready for the defence of the freedom and independence of the Homeland, to work tirelessly for the good and prosperity of the people and our socialist Albania.

I once more assure you that the Council of Ministers, under the correct leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, relying on the unbreakable unity of the people around the Party and on their untiring work, will honourably and loyally discharge itself of the duties it is charged with by the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, will fight with determination for the implementation of the principled Marxist-Leninist home and foreign policy of the Party, for the defence of the lofty interests of the people, the Homeland, socialism and revolution.

THE 70th ANNIVERSARY AND THE 38th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMELAND OF PEOPLE'S

SOLEMN MEETING ON THE OCCASION OF THE 28 AND 29 NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

The Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania and the District Party Committee of Tirana organized a commemorative meeting in the hall of the Opera and Ballet Theatre of the capital on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution.

Participating were Heroes of the People and of Socialist Labour, vanguard workers and cooperativists, veteran patriots, workers of central departments and institutions, representatives of mass organizations, militarymen, young men and women.

Those present welcomed the emergence on the tribune of the beloved leader of the Party and people Comrade Enver Hoxha with fiery applause.

Also taking part were comrades Simon Stefani, Pali Miska, Besnik Bekteshi, Foto Çami, Prokop Murra, Haxhi Lleshi, Nexhmije Hoxha, Emine Guri, Jashar Menzelxhiu and other comrades.

The member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Party Comrade Simon Stefani declared the meeting opened.

The brass band executed the National Hymn.

The speech of the occasion was delivered by the alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and first secretary of the District Party Committee of Tirana Comrade Foto Çami.

His speech was punctuated by stormy applause and ovations for our Party of Labour and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

After the meeting a festive concert was given for those present.

OF INDEPENDENCE RY OF THE LIBERATION AND THE TRIUMPH THE REVOLUTION

Comrade ENVER HOXHA greeting the participants in the commemorative meeting



COMRADE FOTO ÇAMI'S SPEECH

EXCERPTS

«Comrades,

«In the atmosphere of a great popular enthusiasm, united as one around our heroic Party, in our free socialist country, we have come together today to celebrate two great events in our national history: the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution. November 28 and 29 are two dates which mark out two glorious epics in the wars of the Albanian people for freedom and independence, for justice and social progress. Therefore, our entire people have celebrated and will always celebrate them with pride and magnificence.

«The Proclamation of Independence on November 28, 1912 — the 70th anniversary of which we celebrate today, is an unforgettable landmark in the history of our people, a day which every Albanian cherishes greatly. It is imprinted in the memory of our nation as the Day of the Flag, as the symbol of the freedom and sovereignty of the Homeland, as the day of the unity of all the Albanians. The minds and eyes of all Albanians are directed today with deep veneration towards the Hero-City of Vlorë, the cradle of the inextinguishable Albanian patriotism, the city where the wise old man patriot Ismail Qemali raised the flag and proclaimed the country independent. On this marked day of our national history we send our brothers of the same blood in Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro, all our compatriots wherever they live, our fraternal greetings.

«After five centuries of bondage, the red flag with the two-headed eagle was raised over liberated Vlorë in an extremely complicated and critical situation when the mountains of the country were still echoing the battle-call 'Freedom or death', when the entire Albanian people had joined hands and hearts in an unexampled struggle against the savage Ottoman

enslavement and against the imperialist powers and chauvinist monarchies of the neighbouring Balkan states, which were hatching up sinister perfidious plans for the partitioning and plunder of the Albanian territories. The Proclamation of Independence was the great historic act which said 'stop' to these rapacious anti-Albanian ambitions, which crowned with victory the great battles and insurrections in which torrents of blood were shed for the freedom and glory of our Mother Albania. Our people, small in number but great for their valiance and wisdom, wrote brilliant pages in their dramatic and heroic history.»

Speaking of the outstanding patriotic and fighting traditions of our people, Comrade Foto Çami said, «The patriotic fighters who came to Vlorë as representatives of all the Albanian regions, were aware that they were following in the footsteps of their forerunners of the Albanian League of Prizren, convinced that they were fighting in the spirit of its program for the defence of the integrity of the Albanian lands, for bringing about the national unification of Albania in the framework of an independent state. It was their duty to guarantee the great historic victories the patriotic movement had achieved in its struggle against the Ottoman autocracy, especially through the great general uprisings that broke out like a volcano in the period 1910-1912. The independent Albania emerged from the heat of the liberation wars and blazed new paths, sword in hand.

«The historic document of November 28, 1912 that the outstanding and far-sighted diplomat and statesman Ismail Qemali boldly signed in the name of the Albanian people, marked an important turning-point in our national history and opened up new perspectives for national unification and for the establishment of a democratic order in Albania. However, this great historic

victory was followed by a great tragedy — the Albanian territories which the historic Convention of Vlorë had proclaimed independent, had the bitter fate of being divided up amongst the participants in the Balkan Alliance, the neighbouring states. Half of the Albanian territories were cut off from the trunk of the Homeland. Among them were precisely those territories which had been the cradles of the great anti-Ottoman insurrections. This was a crime and a barbarous act against the freedom, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of a small people emerging from medieval obscurity to the light to progress.

«The Albanian people and their national movement which were closely connected with the struggle of the other peoples of the Balkans against their common enemy and a valuable contribution to the overthrow of the Ottoman yoke in the Balkans, now again were being stabbed in the back by the chauvinists and the national bourgeoisie of the Balkan countries which had the support and aid of the imperialist powers of Europe, which, in turn, acted for their own individual predatory interests in the Balkans.»

The speaker went on to dwell on the policy of the imperialist powers which aimed not only at partitioning Albania, but also at bringing about its division, its complete colonization and enslavement. «The treatment of the Albanian question by these states both before and after the Proclamation of Independence revealed all the depth of their hostility towards our country and people, laid bare their anti-Albanian plans and plots, which their apologists and the bourgeois historians try to cover up in vain.

«Although the imperialist powers and the neighbouring chauvinist states, in collaboration with the local feudal lords and traitors, undermined the Government of Vlorë and dark clouds hung again over the skies of Albania

which fell a prey to the powers to prepare and launch the First World War, the work of Ismail Qemali and other patriots, Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, was a glorious work which will remain immortal.

«The banner of this brilliant work, the banner of the popular resistance, the banner of the common people was taken up, never to be thrown down again, and raised ever higher by the Party of the working class, the Party which Comrade Enver Hoxha, the beloved son of our people, founded and led with wisdom and far-sight. The Party ensured the people what they had lacked for centuries — a united leadership organized around a clear program of action, a leadership which emerged from the bosom of the people and closely linked up with them, a leadership loyal to the end to the interests of the people

«The victory of November 29, 1944, the 38th anniversary of which we celebrate today,» the speaker continued, «opened up a new epoch in the glorious history of our people — the epoch of genuine freedom and national independence, of the people's rule and socialism. This is an historical demarcation line dividing two worlds: the old world of darkness and backwardness, of oppression and exploitation and the new world of light and progress, of prosperity and happiness for the people.

«On this 38th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution we bow with deep respect before the memory of the 28 thousand martyrs of the nation, express our boundless gratitude to our heroic partisan fighters who, with their own forces and without a single soldier of the allies coming to their aid in Albania, crushed the fascist and nazi forces which were armed to their teeth and many times superior in numbers, and opened a new page in the ancient history of our

people — the brilliant page of the great epoch of the Party.

«Our people's heroism shone as never before in the epic of the National Liberation War. The people linked on to their Party and in the heat of the war laid the foundations of the Albanian state, a qualitatively new state, the state of the workers and peasants, in which the working people took in their hands the destinies of the country and began the work for the construction of the new life.»

Comrade Foto Çami continued: «This year we celebrate these two landmarks, the 28th and 29th of November, in the revolutionary atmosphere which was brilliantly expressed especially in the elections for deputies to the People's Assembly of November 14, when our people, free and masters of their own fate, participated as a single body in the elections and cast all the votes for the candidates of the Democratic Front, thus expressing with new strength and in all splendour their sovereign will and determination for the strengthening of their state power, for making socialist Albania more beautiful and happier, and its defence still more impregnable.

«Comrade Enver Hoxha's address to the electors was an expression of the deep feelings and great aspirations of the whole of our people and Party. It constitutes a document of great historic importance in which are summed up the clear and correct Marxist-Leninist line of the Party, our victories in all fields, the principled foreign policy of our socialist state, the new horizons and our future development. It has enhanced our fighting spirit and revolutionary optimism, has released fresh energies everywhere, in construction sites and plants, in mines and agricultural cooperatives, in schools, military detachments and cultural-artistic institutions.

«This November finds our people in great work for the realization of the

program the historic 8th Congress of the Party has set, in full swing. Magnificent victories have been achieved in all fields.»

After speaking of the successes and radical transformations, Comrade Foto Çami pointed out that they are the greatest and most incontestable proof of the superiority of our socialist socio-economic order, of the correct Marxist-Leninist line of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. They are the deed of the working masses, of our new man who is the greatest achievement of our Party, who works, studies and keeps guard in unbreakable unity with the Party, according to the teachings of the Party. The beautiful qualities of this new man, his lofty virtues — his revolutionary spirit, his socialist humanism and solidarity, were expressed once again in his instant readiness to work for the elimination of the consequences of the earthquake that hit our country recently, an occasion in which our wonderful people all over the country rose to their feet to go to the aid of the districts hit by the earthquake.

«The gains of the revolution, the great socio-economic transformations, the all-round progress of the country,» he pointed out, «are the fruit of the work of the people, of their heroic struggle and gigantic efforts. But they could not have been achieved without the Party, without its wise and far-sighted line and leadership. For four decades on end, the Party of Labour of Albania has been at the head of the people, has remained loyal to the people, has raised the triumphant banner of Marxism-Leninism still higher, has ardently defended the interests of the Homeland and led the people from victory to victory. Therefore, our people are united like flesh to bone with the Party, dedicate everything to the Party, connect everything with its name, support and back up the Party in all its



activity, with all the ardour of their hearts.

«This is the reason why all the internal and external enemies, open or disguised, direct their main attacks at the Party, at its leadership and correct line, in order to realize their aims against socialist Albania. However, the plans and plots of our enemies have always ended up in complete failure. Our Party has now long experience of the struggle against enemies, it is tempered in many battles and is in a position to uncover and punish any enemy and traitor.

«Our Party is the bastion which has withstood many waves and weathered many storms, and no enemy can ever

shake it. Its strength and invincibility rests in the steel unity of its ranks and in its close ties with the people. It is precisely this unity of the Party with the people which strikes terror in the hearts of the enemies and foils their plans. Against this unity the traitor and mercenary Mehmet Shehu also broke his head.

«In the present situations the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha call on us to work tirelessly and keep vigilance high. This call gives new strength to our people, the working class, the co-operativist peasantry, the people's intelligentsia, inspires and mobilizes them as never before and launches them into major revolutionary actions and

movements for the advance of production, education and the defence of the Homeland. Our people are on the alert everywhere, wherever they work, vigilant and ready to honourably carry out their tasks on all the fronts of socialist construction».

Speaking of some problems of the international situation today, Comrade Foto Çami pointed out, «Life proves every day the correctness of the analyses and conclusions of our Party about the development of this situation, which, as the 8th Congress of the Party stressed, is full of general and local wars, just as it is full of liberation wars and revolution.»

The speaker stopped to dwell on the



View of the hall

principled, open and revolutionary policy of our Party and state, which our people support whole-heartedly, since it expresses their aspirations, defends the loftiest interests of the Homeland, serves the cause of the freedom and independence of the peoples, peace and international security, revolution and socialism in the world.

«Socialist Albania has been and will remain a staunch fighter against American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, these most dangerous arch-enemies of the peoples, will firmly oppose their expansionist aims and relentlessly expose their aggressive plans.

«Battling against imperialism and social-imperialism, reaction and modern

revisionism, our country is at the same time for normal relations with different countries regardless of their social system, for relations which serve the strengthening of friendship amongst the peoples and sovereign states and the preservation and strengthening of peace in the world.

«Our Party,» Comrade Foto Çami pointed out, «has clearly expressed, at its 8th Congress, its stand towards the Albanians of Kosova and the other Albanian regions in Yugoslavia, and Comrade Enver Hoxha repeated this correct and principled stand once again in his address to the electors.»

In conclusion, Comrade Foto Çami

said: «The whole of Albania celebrates these festivities. The whole of our people, united to a man around the Party, celebrate with joy the 70th anniversary of Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the popular revolution, proud of the successes achieved and secure about their brilliant future. Our Party and people will always hold high the red and black flag which Ismail Qemali raised in Vlora, with the star of communism which the legendary partisans added to it. There is no force or storm which can hoist it down. It will fly for ever free in the skies and over the free land of socialist Albania.»

GREAT POPULAR RALLY IN THE CITY



Leaders of the Party and state in the meeting. Comrad

All the population of Vlora turned out at the «Flamuri» («Flag») Square on the 28th of November. All of Albania was living the same experience. There were also people who had attended the Proclamation of Independence and the Congress of Lushnja, veterans of the war of 1920, as well as veterans of the National Liberation War and the struggle for the construction of socialism. The new heroes of the work were also present. Also attending the rally were the representatives of the different districts of the country. All the generations were there, side by side, in unity of mind and heart. Patriotism and the best traditions of our people are handed down from generation to generation.

For 38 years in succession our people have been celebrating this great event with the joy and optimism of the new socialist life, with their love for and gratitude to the Party and in steel unity around the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Two major events in close relationship. In the history of our people the 29th of November 1944 raised to new, unprecedented heights the same banner that was raised in 1912. Those who wrote the glorious epic that led to the triumph of the people's revolution were the sons and daughters of the fiery patriots who raised the Flag of Independence. The Party made the boldest dreams of our outstanding patriots a reality.

The joy and enthusiasm of those present at the «Flamuri» Square rose to the highest pitch as the leaders of the Party and state came up: the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Comrade Ramiz Alia, the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Comrade Adil Çarçani, comrades Manush Myftiu, Rita Marko, Hekuran Isai, Lenka Çuko, Hajredin Çeliku, Muho Asllani, Besnik Bekteshi, Llambi Gegprifti, Qirjako Mihali, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Party Vangjel Çërrava, the vice-president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Xhafer Spahiu, comrades Spiro Koleka and Shefqet Peçi, the president of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania Sotir Kocollari, the First Secretary of the Labour Youth Union of Albania comrade Mehmet Elezi, the president of the General Council of the Women's Union of Albania comrade Lumturi Rexha, the first secretary of the District Party Committee Petro Dode, the chairman of the Executive Committee of the District People's Council Luan Muhameti, members of the Central Committee of the Party, of the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Government.

Under the strains of the National Hymn executed by the brass band, Comrade Ramiz Alia raised the flag.



Adil Çarçani delivering the speech of the occasion.

Then the leaders of the Party and state paid homage to the grave of the People's Hero Ismail Qemali. Comrades Ramiz Alia and Adil Çarçani laid a wreath in the name of the Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers. Another wreath was laid in the name of the District Party Committee and the District Executive Committee of the People's Council.

During these ceremonies militarymen and young pioneers stood guard of honour.

The great popular rally which was organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland was opened by the first secretary of the District Party Committee Petro Dode.

The speech of the occasion was delivered by Comrade Adil Çarçani.

His speech was listened to with attention and often punctuated by stormy applause and ovations for the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, for our valiant and hard-working people, for the 70th anniversary of the Independence.

After the rally comrades Rita Marko, Hajredin Çeliku, Besnik Bekteshi and Qirjako Mihali, accompanied by leading cadres of the organs of the Party and state power in the district, laid bouquets of flowers at the bust under which rest the remains of the Hero of the People Avni Rustemi.

The «Pavarësia» («Independence») and «Hysni Kapo» Squares again resounded to enthusiastic ovations when the leaders of the Party and state came to visit the Independence Museum House. This museum, rich in many materials and documents of the time, shows the relentless struggles and efforts of our people for freedom and independence, which led to the triumph of November 28, 1912, the powerful popular uprisings in all the territories of Albania in the years 1910-1911-1912, the historic moment of the raising of the National Flag, the policy pursued by the government chaired by Ismail Qemali, the struggle against the threat of the invasion and partitioning of Albania by the chauvinist powers, etc. It has already become an important centre in which the working masses acquaint themselves with the glorious history of those periods, a centre for their education through the brilliant patriotic traditions of our people and their battles for national and social liberation.

In the evening amateur artistic groups gave performances of songs and dances at the squares of the city.

SPEECH BY COMRADE ADIL ÇAR

People of Vlora, Comrades,

Today we have come together here in the Hero City of Vlora to celebrate with great jubilation one of the most outstanding events in our national history — the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence.

On this beautiful festive day, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, the Council of Ministers, the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania and of our beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha personally, I greet the valiant and patriotic people of Vlora, the entire heroic Albanian people and congratulate them from my heart on the great celebrations of November 28 and 29.

Seventy years ago, here in Vlora, in this fiery centre of the struggle for freedom, amid this people of lofty patriotic traditions, the outstanding patriot Ismail Qemali raised the National Flag and proclaimed the Independence of Albania on the basis of the decision of the assembly of the representatives of the whole nation.

It was an historic act whereby the Albanian people once more showed the entire world that the ancient Albanian nation which existed long ago in the Balkan Peninsula, on the shores of the Adriatic and the Ionian Seas, had remained brave and unyielding, with their beautiful language and their noble customs, and determined to live for ever free, sovereign and independent.

The Proclamation of Independence was one of the greatest victories in our national history, a victory which crowned with success the centuries-long struggle of our people and patriots of our National Renaissance against Ottoman oppression, their protracted struggle for freedom and the independence of the country, for the creation of independent Albanian state. Speaking about this deed of lofty patriotism of our forefathers, Comrade Enver Hoxha has described it «a glorious and heroic deed» without which «even greater tragedies would have occurred in our Homeland».

In their struggle for the freedom of the Homeland the Albanians gave proof

of a high national awareness which was formed and tempered by the intense and passionate work of the outstanding men of our National Renaissance and in the armed liberation movements.

The Proclamation of National Independence represents the triumph of national unity. The Albanian League of Prizren showed that the Albanian nation was one and indivisible, united above religious, regional and administrative divisions imposed by foreigners, determined to form their free national state and to defend every inch of its land against its enemies. The idea of unity, which had struck deep roots, remained alive even after and expressed itself powerfully in the League of Peja, in the political and cultural congresses and, later, in the great liberation uprisings of the years 1910-1912, which aroused the whole nation, shook the foreign rule in Albania from its foundations and paved the way for the Proclamation of Independence.

All the Albanian territories from Dangëllia and the Dukagjin Plateau, the Plain of Kosova and Myzeqe, Labëria and Malësia e Tiranës, Dibra and Malësia e Madhe, took an active part in this struggle and contributed to the construction of the Independence of the Homeland, cementing its foundation with the blood of their sons. At those historic and decisive moments the Albanians found themselves united for the salvation of the country. Wherever an Albanian heart beat, it was full of aspiration towards the struggle to shake off the foreign yoke and to win freedom.

However, even after the Proclamation of Independence our people had to weather other violent storms which swept over their land. The imperialist and chauvinist powers of the time disregarded the will of the Albanian people and the legitimate need of the new Albanian state for its national territorial basis. Like hungry beasts, they fell on the victories of our people, on their territories and killed, burned, plundered and expelled from their homes tens of thousands of Albanians so as to

change by violence the ethnic physiognomy of the occupied territories in their favour.

At this time a great catastrophe descended on Albania. A great, tragic injustice was committed against it. The scissors of the Great Powers cut the body of our beloved Homeland into two. Whole Albanian regions were severed from the trunk of the Homeland. Kosova and other regions were left outside the arbitrarily defined state borders and fell into a new thrall. And as if this were not enough, the imperialist powers and the neighbouring chauvinist monarchies continued their anti-Albanian policy for the destruction of the newly born Albanian state, tearing other regions off the halved trunk of our Homeland. In collaboration with the local reactionary and anti-national landed gentry they undermined the Government of Vlora and forced Ismail Qemali and his close collaborators to leave their beloved Homeland.

The Albanian people never reconciled themselves to this injustice. They fought valiantly, arms in hand, against the new enemies who occupied the territories of independent Albania. Here in Vlora in 1920, fighting with rare valour, throwing themselves against barbed wire, they wrote with their blood a new national epic of struggle against the occupation forces of a Great Power, drove them out of their beloved soil into the sea. To defend their future, to escape annihilation as a people and nation at the hands of their foreign enemies, they also fought against internal oppression — against the beys and aghas who had sold themselves entirely to the foreigners. The triumph of the Bourgeois-Democratic Revolution of June 1924, although incomplete and temporary, was vivid proof of the militant spirit and revolutionary energies of the Albanian people in their struggle against reaction, for social progress, for the establishment of a new democratic order.

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence, we recall the long and difficult road

full of suffering and innumerable sacrifices our people have traversed for dozens of years in succession. We recall the miserable condition of the country, its general backwardness and its neglected position in the international arena. Before our eyes emerges the barbarous fascist aggression of April 1939, a direct attempt of the most savage forces of international imperialism.

At those moments the Albanian people found in themselves the energies to resist and to rise in the most glorious epic of their centuries-long history, the greatest turn in the whole development of Albanian society.

In the heat of the liberation war against fascism and the local traitors the Albanian communists who emerged from the bosom of the people, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, founded the Communist Party of Albania. This marks the true revival of the Homeland. For the first time in their history the people found their leading force which would carry them forward with a sure hand and a sharp eye from victory to victory. With the creation of the Party a new factor emerged, which enabled our people to cope not only with the tasks of the liberation war, but also with those of the revolutionary movement.

The liberation of Albania and the triumph of the people's revolution established the Independence of Albania on unshakeable foundations, made the Albanian people the full masters of their destinies. «November 29, 1944,» says Comrade Enver Hoxha, «opened up a new epoch in our brilliant history — the epoch of true freedom and the construction of the happy socialist future.» This is the epoch which revealed in all its majesty the vitality of the Albanian people, and all the creative capabilities of the broad popular masses.»

On these great days of November 28 and 29 we remember with gratitude the outstanding fighters and thinkers of the National Renaissance — the Frashëri brothers, Sulejman Vokshi and Ymer Prizreni, Ismail Qemali and Luigj

Gurakuqi, Bajram Curri and Çerçiz Topulli, Isa Boletini and Dedë Gjo Luli, Hasan Frishtina and Mihal Grameno, Selam Musai and Avni Rustemi, as well as thousands of modest fighters who emerged from among the people and who spared nothing for freedom and the Independence of the Homeland.

We bow with deep respect before all those patriotic fighters and legendary partisans who did not spare even their lives for Albania, for its freedom and independence, for the triumph of the People's Revolution. Their example has been and will remain a great source of inspiration and education for the present and coming generations in their work and struggle for the construction and defence of socialism.

Eternal glory to the martyrs of the Homeland, the sons and daughters of the Albanian people who cemented with their blood the foundations of the Albanian nation and the new, socialist Albania!

Comrades,

A general flowering characterizes the whole life of our society in these 38 years of socialist Albania. Under the leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, our people, free and sovereign, have completely changed the face of the Homeland. The major achievements in the socio-economic advance of the country have surpassed even the boldest forecasts and wishes of the patriots of our National Renaissance. Never has the independence of the Albanian state been better guaranteed than today, never has our country enjoyed greater international authority. The People's Socialist Republic of Albania today is stronger than ever.

Albania today has a developed multi-branched industry with modern technique and technology in a position to meet the main needs of the people, of the economy and defence. In our industry works and struggles a working class educated and tempered by the Party with the Marxist-Leninist ideology and which stands in the fore-

front of the work for the construction of socialism.

Incomparable changes have been made in our agriculture and socialist countryside. We have today a collectivized and advanced agriculture which develops at intensive rates and with high yields. In our village a new life flourishes, education and culture advance, the way of life changes with each passing day and the general standard of living of the patriotic and hard-working peasantry goes constantly up.

A whole revolution has been carried out in the field of education and culture. A broad network of cultural institutions and schools spread education and culture among the new generation, imbuing them with the socialist ideology and broad scientific knowledge. Our country today has its own people's intelligentsia, large in numbers and all-sidedly prepared, has its educationalists and scientists, its writers and artists who make their outstanding contribution to the advance of society.

The defence of our country has never been so strong and secure as it is today. The People's Army and other structures of people's defence are in a better position than ever to honourably carry out their tasks at any time and in all circumstances, to defeat any aggression against the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

Our people are fully justified to take pride in all these successes achieved and battles won. They are happy to live in a socialist society, in a completely free and independent country which owes nothing to no one. Albania does not know unemployment, with us there are no taxes and levies on the population, there are no price rises, but only price reductions, there are no crises, like in the capitalist and revisionist world, but only ever rising well-being for the people.

If our country has been able to overcome its centuries-old backwardness within a short historical period and cope with innumerable difficulties, if it has been able to face to and challenge

with unexampled courage the savage blockades, plots and pressure of American-led imperialism, Soviet and Chinese social-imperialism, the Yugoslav revisionists and reaction, if it has been able to score all these magnificent successes in the construction and defence of socialism — all this is due to our heroic people, their self-denying work and struggle, to our glorious Party, to its correct Marxist-Leninist line, to the valuable teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The year of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of Liberation finds the Albanian people mobilized more than ever to put into life the historic decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party, to carry out the 7th Five-year Plan. The very important speech of Comrade Enver Hoxha before the electors of an electoral zone in the capital gave the Albanian people fresh inspiration, armed them even better in the struggle for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland, of freedom and national independence, raised their revolutionary vigilance against their internal and external enemies to a higher level.

Our people come to the Day of the Flag united as one around the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. A fresh and brilliant proof of this monolithic unity were the elections of November 14 for deputies to the People's Assembly. The high results in these elections are another confirmation of the fact that our people unanimously endorse the general line of our Party, its internal and foreign policy, and strive with determination, self-confidence and optimism to implement the program of the socialist construction of the country.

A great victory of the Party and people was the detection and exposure of the most dangerous enemy of socialist Albania — Mehmet Shehu and his henchmen, who strove to liquidate the achievements of the socialist revolution and our glorious Party, to put our country under the dependence of the foreign imperialist and revisionist powers. His schemes and those of his bosses



who pulled the strings behind him, have been foiled, turned to dust against the strength of the Party, its unity with the people, against their determination not to allow any enemy, open or disguised, get away with it without being meted out the deserved punishment. The same fate awaits all those who will continue their course of intrigues and plots against the Party, the people's state power and our socialist Homeland. The happy revolutionary atmosphere that prevails everywhere in our country, the mobilization of the working people of town and countryside to carry out their tasks in all fields and on all fronts of socialist construction are an expression of the high political awareness of the Albanian people, of their close links with the Party, are the most appropriate repose they make to all those who, with evil

intentions, try to cast a blur on the sound reality of socialist Albania.

Comrades,

November 28 is a day of festivity for the entire Albanian people. Together with us, who live and work happily in our free Homeland, the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence is celebrated by all the compatriots who live with the longing for the Homeland. This great day is also celebrated by our brothers in Kosova and other regions of Yugoslavia, who are experiencing on their own backs the oppressive and denationalizing policy of Great-Serb chauvinism.

On the days of these national festivities we send our ardent greetings to all Albanians everywhere in the world. The great festivities of November make our hearts swell with pride



View of the popular mass rally in the Hero City of Vlorë

and optimism, enhance, as always, our confidence in the brilliant future of the Albanian nation.

Our people are aware that they are building socialism in the conditions of imperialist-revisionist encirclement and in tense international situations. They follow with vigilance and oppose with determination the aggressive and expansionist policy of the two superpowers — American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, the anti-Albanian activity of all the enemies of our country.

In the conditions when freedom and independence of the people is under constant threat, when peace and international security are more and more endangered by the great imperialist powers, our people work and struggle with all their forces to consolidate and further develop the victories won, to

strengthen ever more the defence of the Homeland, to increase revolutionary vigilance so as never to be caught unawares and unprepared.

Let the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence, the Day of Liberation of Albania and the triumph of the People's Revolution serve to preserve and develop the patriotic and revolutionary traditions of our people, to strengthen their feelings of patriotism and loyalty to the socialist Homeland and raise them to a higher degree.

With the fresh inspiration Comrade Enver Hoxha's address to the electors gave us, let us work and struggle to implement the correct Marxist-Leninist line of the Party for the strengthening of the people's state power, successfully fulfilling the tasks of the state plan so as to enhance the defence po-

tential of the Homeland, to turn socialist Albania into an impregnable fortress and to make the life of the people ever better.

From my heart I wish the working class, the cooperativist peasantry, the youth and women, the entire people of the Vlorë district, new and greater successes in the implementation of the decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party, in the accomplishment of all the tasks of the 7th Five-year Plan.

Long live the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence!

Long live the festivities of the 28th and 29th of November!

Long live the people of Vlorë!

Long live the organizer and leader of all our victories — our glorious Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head!

SPEECH BY COMRADE RAMIZ ALI

Comrades,

In the two days of November 28 and 29, history has linked two of the most important dates in the life of the Albanian people and nation — the Proclamation of Independence after five centuries of bondage and the liberation of the country from the savage fascist occupation. It is a coincidence but also an expression of the continuity of endless struggles, efforts and sacrifices our people have made in order to be free and independent, to preserve and cultivate their national identity, to carry their language, culture and ancient traditions intact through the centuries. This bears testimony to the Albanian spirit, to its indomitability in face of the many storms history has struck it with, a testimony of their lofty insurrectional spirit, of their revolutionary impetus and spirit of sacrifice for freedom and independence, for justice and progress.

Hence, the November celebrations are very dear to and full of rejoicing for all Albanians, both inside and outside the Homeland.

Allow me on this occasion, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and of our beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha personally, to greet all our hard-working and freedom-loving people, the people of the Vlora district and all those present in this reception.

In particular, I want to greet our Albanian brothers wherever they are, who with their hearts and minds remain always united with their Homeland, with the national history and the traditions of their fathers. We address today warm greetings also to Albania's friends in various countries of the world and sincere thanks for their fraternal support for and solidarity with our country.

Yesterday and today here in Vlora we took part in a number of manifestations devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Inde-

pendence. Our thoughts on this occasion go to the brave fighters of the uprisings of Kosova, the Highlands of Shkodra, of Korça, Gjirokastra and Labëria, who, arms in hand, paved the way for the Proclamation of Independence. We commemorate the outstanding men of the Albanian patriotic movement like Dedë Gjo Luli and Isa Boletini, Çerçiz Topulli and Mihal Grameno, Luigj Gurakuqi and Hasan Prishtina, who sacrificed their lives for Albania, who fought with rifle and pen for their Homeland to become independent, a state on its own and an equal among other nations. We bow with profound respect before the brave and wise deeds of Ismail Qemali and his men who, in an exceptionally complicated and dangerous situation, hissed the National Flag and proclaimed the Independence of the country.

The festivity of November 28, has been and remains a great celebration for all the Albanians. In the hard times that followed 1912, when our country was partitioned and fell a prey to the foreigners, this glorious date infused into the hearts of our people determination and courage to cope with difficulties, inspired confidence in their future. In the present days of free Albania, when we are happily building the new, socialist life, the Day of the Flag calls on us never to stop our struggle for strengthening the freedom and independence won with so much blood and sacrifice, to steel the defence of the Homeland, to ensure our peaceful work and life.

The Party brought out to light the democratic and patriotic values of the Albanian national movement and raised them to new heights, gave them their correct meaning and made them part of the political and ideological awareness of our people. True Albanian patriotism has always been progressive. It has never fallen either into narrow nationalism or chauvinism. Its catchwords have always been progressive, its aims have always been democratic. Its ideal has been the securing

of freedom and independence, the defence of the Albanian territories from foreign plunder, national sovereignty and independent development.

In our whole national history there has been no case of the Albanians' having crossed their borders on aggressions against other peoples. When they have gone to other peoples, it was only to seek friendship, to help the neighbouring peoples to win their own freedom and independence.

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of its independence finds Albania strong and self-confident, an advanced country flourishing and prospering with every passing day, a country such as was in the dreams and aspirations of the great men of our National Renaissance, such as the glorious heroes of the National Liberation War wanted it to be.

Thirty-eight years have gone by since the liberation of the country from the fascist yoke and the oppressive and enslaving regimes of the past. It is not a very long period, but the results our people have achieved under the leadership of our glorious Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, are of colossal importance. The industrialization of the country has been carried out, and agriculture modernized, people have schooling and culture has developed, the country has been given a powerful defence and the great roads of socio-economic progress have been opened. From the socio-political standpoint we live in the most progressive, democratic and humane system existing in the world, a system in which man is a friend and a brother to man, where people's work and creativeness is respected more than anything else, where citizens are really equal and where nothing can violate personal individuality and dignity. Herein lies one of the bases of the steel unity of the people around the Party, which was once again magnificently confirmed in the November 14 elections for deputies to the People's Assembly.

This unity was also the decisive factor for foiling the plot of the traitor Mehmet Shehu, the agent in the pay of foreigners, who strove for the destruction of socialism and putting the country back in thrall to the foreigners.

Dear comrades,

In the grave and complicated situations in which the world has been immersed today because of the aggressive policy and activity of the imperialist powers and the reactionary forces, our Party and people follow a foreign policy which responds to the lofty interests of the Homeland, the defence of our freedom and independence, the cause of peace and international security. This explains why socialist Albania enjoys a good name among the peoples, the respect and sympathy of progressive people.

In the future, too, our Party and state will consistently follow this correct policy, the principles and directions of which have been defined at the 8th Congress of the Party and once

more very clearly expressed by Comrade Enver Hoxha in his address to the electors on November 10, in Tirana this year.

Our people and their government will resolutely oppose the expansionist and war-mongering policy of the imperialist superpowers and will never seek rapprochement or reconciliation with them. Socialist Albania is represented by an independent and sovereign state which develops and advances relying completely on its own forces. It holds its hand out to nobody either for credits, defence or any other material aid. Socialist Albania needs no tutelage, no support from any imperialist power or bloc, no umbrella of whatever trade-mark — imperialist or social-imperialist. This is an unchangeable position of principle of ours. We are sure that our country enjoys the support of the progressive people throughout the world, and we greatly value this.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania will always strive for good

neighbourliness with the countries around us, it will strive for normal relations with those countries which want it, too. We will, however, never allow others to interfere in our internal affairs and in no case will we, for the sake of these relations, renounce the rights which appertain to our people. We will always support the peoples who fight to do away with social exploitation and national oppression, for their democratic rights. We will back up our friends and brothers in their legitimate rights and demands through to the end.

Allow me, dear comrades, to wish you from my heart happy November festivities and to invite you to raise a toast to our heroic and freedom-loving people!

To the people of Vlora!

To the glorious Party of Labour of Albania!

To the beloved leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha!

To the health of all those present!

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RECEPTION IN VLORA ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATIONS

The Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the District Party Committee and the District Executive Committee of the People's Council of Vlora put up a reception at the «Adriatik» Hotel on the occasion of the 70 anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the liberation of the homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution.

Taking part were vanguard workers and cooperativists, People's Heroes and Heroes of Socialist Labour, veterans, members of patriots' and martyrs' families, militarymen, etc.

Also taking part were leaders of the Party and state, heads of departments, of central mass organizations and various institutions and guests invited from all the districts of the country.

Present in the reception were also titular representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Comrade Ramiz Alia greeted those present on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers and Comrade Enver Hoxha personally.

His speech was punctuated by frequent enthusiastic applause and ovations for our glorious Party of Labour and our beloved leader Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The reception passed in a very joyful atmosphere.

LAYING WREATHS AND PAYING HOMAGE

On November 29, the 38th anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha, laid a wreath and paid homage at the Cemetery of the Martyrs of the Nation.

The beloved leader of our Party and people was accompanied by the minister of people's defence Comrade Prokop Murra and the chief of the General Staff of the People's Army Comrade Kiço Mustaqi.

Present in the ceremony were also a group of senior officers who welcomed Comrade Enver Hoxha affectionately. Comrade Enver Hoxha met them cordially.

In these solemn moments, under the strains of marches executed by the brass band, Comrade Enver Hoxha placed the wreath at the majestic monument to «Mother Albania». He and the comrades who accompanied him observed a minute's silence to honour the glorious memory of our legendary partisans who fell in the epical battles of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War for the liberation of the Homeland. Meanwhile the National Hymn was executed.

After this the guard of honour marched past the Commander-in-Chief, Comrade Enver Hoxha gave them the raised fist salute.

This ceremony over, Comrade Enver Hoxha walked up to the graves of Qemal Stafa, Hysni Kapo and Gogo Nushi, on which he laid bouquets of flowers and observed a minute's silence to honour the unfading memory of his comrades and fellow-fighters.

Hundreds of young pioneers stood guard of honour at the Martyrs' Cemetery, their ranks sprinkled crimson with red scarves and bouquets of flowers. Comrade Enver Hoxha went past the graves giving them the clenched fist salute. How many names dear to his heart arousing memories of so many battles and heroic deeds! Our beloved

leader has known personally and fought together with many of them.

Meanwhile, those present — mothers of martyrs, veterans, working people of different ages and professions, who had come to the cemetery to place flowers on the dead fighters' graves, broke out into enthusiastic applause and ovations when Comrade Enver Hoxha walked past them. He saluted them. All in unison cheer: «Party — Enver, we are always ready!» From the depths of their hearts they wish him, «May you live as long as our mountains, Comrade Enver!»

Greeting those present Comrade Enver Hoxha said:

«Glory to the martyrs of the Nation! Many happy returns of the celebrations!»

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On the 38th anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution wreaths were laid and homage paid at the Cemetery of the Martyrs of the Nation.

Wreaths were laid in the name of the Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania, the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania, the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union of Albania, the General Council of the Women's Union of Albania, the National Committee of the Veterans of the War of the Albanian People, the District Party Committee and the District Executive Committee of Tirana.

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Wreaths were laid and homage paid on the occasion of the great 28 and 29 November celebrations at the Cemetery of the Martyrs of the Vlora district.

The leaders of the Party and state, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Comrade Ramiz Alia, the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the

Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Adil Çarçani, comrades Manush Myftiu, Rita Marko, Hekuran Isai, Hajredin Çeliku, Lenka Çuko, Muho Asllani, Besnik Bekteshi, Llambi Gegprifti, Qirjako Mihali, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Party Vangjel Çërrava, and other leaders of the Party and state had also come to lay wreaths and pay homage.

At the monument set up to the memory of those fallen for the liberation of the Homeland wreaths were laid in the name of the Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania, the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania, the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union of Albania, the General Council of the Women's Union of Albania, the Ministry of People's Defence, the National Committee of the Veterans of the War of the Albanian People, the District Party Committee and the District Executive Committee of the People's Council, etc.

Hundreds of inhabitants thronged the «Hysni Kapo» Square yesterday to pay homage to and lay wreaths at his monument. In honour of the work and the memory of the brilliant and loyal son of the Party and people, Comrade Hysni Kapo, bouquets of fresh flowers were laid comrades Ramiz Alia, Adil Çarçani, Manush Myftiu, Hekuran Isai, Lenka Çuko and Muho Asllani.

The leaders of the Party and state paid visits to the families and relatives of the patriots and martyrs of the war and the vanguard workers.

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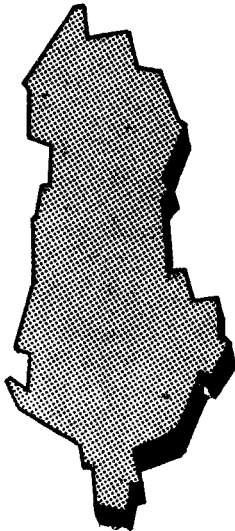
The diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania yesterday laid wreaths and paid homage to the cemetery of the martyrs of the Vlora district on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence and the 38th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution.

IMAGE AT THE MARTYRS' CEMETERY

The First Secretary of the CC of the Party and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, Comrade ENVER HOXHA, paying homage at the Cemetery of the Martyrs of the Nation.



FROM THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRY



THE 1st SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OF THE PSR OF ALBANIA

The 1st Session of the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly carried on its proceedings on November 22-23.

Vanguard workers and cooperativists, workers of various central departments and institutions, leading cadres of mass organizations and economic enterprises of the capital, veterans, military men, and others were invited to attend its proceedings.

The deputies and guests met the emergence on the tribune of the beloved leader of the Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, with stormy applause and ovations.

On behalf of a group of senior deputies the session was declared open by deputy Shefqet Peçi.

Then the floor was given to deputy Manxhar Binaj who, on behalf of a group of deputies of the Tepelena, Fier, Berat, and Kukës districts, proposed the composition of the 9-member mandate commission which the Assembly approved unanimously.

The chairwoman of the mandate commission deputy Naumka Bozo delivered the report of the commission.

In this legislature the composition of the People's Assembly is as follows: out of 250 deputies 113, or 45.2 per cent of them, are elected for the first time. Ninety-five deputies are of worker origin and status and 73 deputies come from the cooperativist peasantry. Seventy-six deputies, or 30.4 per cent of them, are women.

The Assembly approved the mandates of the deputies unanimously.

Then the deputies took the oath, standing.

Subsequently the floor was given to deputy Foto Çami who, on behalf of a group of deputies of Tirana, Elbasan, Tropoja and Saranda districts, proposed the presidency of the People's Assembly made up of the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party Comrade Pali Miska (chairman),

the comrades Jashar Menzelxhiu and Vitore Curri (vice-chairmen) and Jakup Shiqerukaj (secretary).

The composition of the presidency was approved unanimously.

The proceedings went on according to the following agenda:

- 1) Endorsement of the draft-regulation for the People's Assembly*
- 2) Election of the commissions of the People's Assembly*
- 3) Election of the Presidium of the People's Assembly*
- 4) Nomination of the Council of Ministers*
- 5) Election of the High Court of the PSRA and nomination of the General Attorney and of the vice-General Attorney of the PSRA*

6) Endorsement of the decrees issued by the Presidium of the People's Assembly

The deputies adopted the agenda unanimously.

After the Regulation of the People's Assembly was approved article by article and as a whole, the deputy Enver Halili, on behalf of a group of deputies of Korça, Kolonja, Pogradec, Mirdita and Mat districts, proposed the composition of the commissions. The commissions of the People's Assembly for juridical matters, plan and budget, industry, agriculture, building construction-communications-PTT, foreign affairs, education-culture, trade and health-communal services, was unanimously approved.

The third point on the agenda, the election of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, was treated by Comrade Simon Stefani who said:

«Comrade deputies,

«I am charged by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and a group of deputies of Puka, Fier, Vlora, Dibra and Gjirokastra districts to put forward for approval the composition of the Presidium of the Peo-

ple's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for the 10th Legislature.

«Before concretely presenting the new composition of the Presidium, allow me on behalf of the Party and your own to stress the fruitful work done by the comrades of the outgoing Presidium of the People's Assembly and to thank them for it. They have served the people with devotion in this high organ, loyally abiding by the line of the Party and the provisions of the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

«In the new composition of the Presidium, which will be proposed to you, does not figure a number of its former members whom the Party will, as up to now, continue to love and respect for their work and struggle. This change is done, on the one hand, to ease somewhat the burden of the more aged comrades and, on the other hand, to create the possibilities for younger comrades to accede to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the highest organ of our state power in permanent activity, just as to other organisms, in conformity with the orientations of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha. This is demanded by the lofty interests of the Homeland, its present and future.

«Under Article 75 of the Constitution the Presidium of the People's Assembly comprises the chairman, two vice-chairmen, the secretary and 10 members.

«In the list I am presenting for approval, there are Party leaders who have affirmed themselves with their outstanding activity and high loyalty both during the National Liberation War and after Liberation, there are also comrade deputies who have distinguished themselves in the sectors where they work and as social activists and, above all, for their loyalty to the Party the people and Homeland.

«Concretely, I propose:

«Comrade Ramiz Alia as President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, comrades Rita Marko, Xhafer Spahiu and Emine Guri to the posts as vice-presidents; comrade Sihat Tozaj as secretary; and comrades Eleni Selonica, Elmaz Puto, Faik Çinaj, Ibrahim Gjevori, Lumturi Rexha, Nik Preng Shyti, Petrit Gaçe, Rahman Hanku,

Simon Ballabani, Stefan Qirjako as members.»

After it was voted on, the composition of the Presidium of the People's Assembly was unanimously approved.

The Assembly took the relevant decision.

Then, the member of the Presidency, Comrade Pali Miska, read Comrade Adil Çarçani's letter addressed to the People's Assembly through which he tendered the resignation of the Council of Ministers.

The resignation was accepted.

Then, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party Comrade Enver Hoxha took the floor to propose the new chairman of the Council of Ministers. He said:

«Comrade deputies,

«For all of us the present day is a marked event. The people trusted us and elected us to represent them here, in the highest organ of the state power, the People's Assembly. This is a great honour and trust, it is at the same time a duty of high responsibility which we will strive to accomplish to the best of our abilities, with unbounded love for the Homeland and the great cause of the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland, in which our glorious Party leads us with wisdom.

«Allow me, on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, to propose that the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party Adil Çarçani be appointed again to the post of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and charged with the presentation of the new government to the People's Assembly. Through his tireless work Comrade Adil Çarçani has competently carried out the task of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers with which we charged him in the beginning of this year. I express my conviction that the new Council of Ministers Comrade Adil Çarçani will lead, will fulfil with high loyalty and honour the duties deriving from the Constitution and the decisions of the historic 8th Congress of the Party.

«I invite you, comrade deputies, to unanimously approve the candidature

of Comrade Adil Çarçani to the post of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.»

Comrade Enver Hoxha's proposal was received with warm applause by those present. The candidature of Comrade Adil Çarçani to the post of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers and his charge with the task of presenting the new government was unanimously approved by the deputies.

The 2nd sitting was opened by the president of the Presidency of the People's Assembly Pali Miska who gave the floor to Comrade Adil Çarçani to present the program and composition of the Council of Ministers.

Comrade Adil Çarçani's speech was listened to attentively and frequently punctuated by enthusiastic applause for our glorious Party of Labour and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Then, the discussion of the program of the Council of Ministers began.

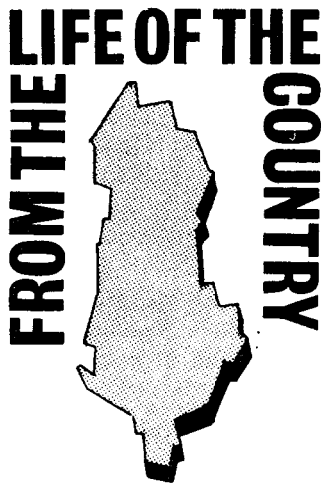
After the discussions were wound up, the deputies unanimously approved the composition and program of the Council of Ministers. The approval was met with prolonged applause by those present.

The Assembly took the relevant decision.

Deputy Lumturi Rexha, on behalf of a group of deputies of Tirana, Kruja, Lezha, Shkodra, Librazhd and Gramsh districts, spoke on point 5 of the agenda, the election of the High Court of the PSRA and the nomination of the General Attorney and the vice-General Attorney of the PSRA, and proposed the following composition of the High Court:

Aranit Çela (chairman), Eleni Selonica and Kleanthi Koçi (vice-chairmen), Adil Velja, Ali Zanko, Ajeta Haxhia, Fatmira Leskaj, Halil Kopani, Halil Sinani, Lili Robo, Liri Gjolliku, Luan Omari, Muharrem Kushi, Tamara Malaž, Thanas Vaso, Stavri Çeço, Shefqet Muçi, Viktor Ikonomi, Violeta Zeko, Ylber Malindi, and Zia Vuçi (members), as well as 50 assistant-judges of the High Court. Likewise, she proposed Rrapi Mino to the post of the General Prosecutor and Abaz Brati to the post of vice-General Prosecutor.

The deputies approved the proposals unanimously.



The secretary of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Sihat Tozaj, on behalf of the Presidium, delivered the report on the decrees issued by the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

The deputies unanimously endorsed the decrees in general and in particular.

The Chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly Comrade Pali Miska delivered the closing speech.

The 1st Session of the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly which carried out its proceedings in an atmosphere of high revolutionary enthusiasm, of steel unity around the Party, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, of optimism and determination to fulfil the tasks of this year and the 7th Five-year Plan as a whole in all fields of socialist construction and defence of our beloved

Homeland, wound up its proceedings successfully.

After the closing of the proceedings of this session, Comrade Enver Hoxha met the members of the new government in one of the halls of the People's Assembly and had a warm and cordial talk with them. He gave them very valuable recommendations to work, as they had done up to now, loyally and tirelessly for the great cause of the Party and the People, for the constant improvement of the scientific organization and management of work, to remain always modest and be creative in the implementation of the directives and teachings of the Party. Comrade Enver Hoxha greeted them on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party and himself and wished them success in the accomplishment of the important tasks the Party has charged them with.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE DEDICATED TO THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF ALBANIA

On January 19, the Academy of Sciences in collaboration with the University of Tirana organized the National Conference dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Independence of Albania in the Hall of the Higher Institute of Arts in the capital.

Participating in the Conference were scientists, historians, workers of scientific institutions in the capital and districts, teachers of the University of Tirana and other educational institutions, students, and others.

Present were also comrades Ramiz Alia, Adil Çarçani, Manush Myftiu, Rita Marko, Foto Çami and other Party and state leaders.

The Conference was declared open

by the President of the Academy of Sciences Prof. Aleks Buda.

Then were delivered the reports «The Independence of Albania — a Great Turning-point in the History of the Albanian People» by Prof. Stefanaq Pollo, «The National Forces against the Imperialist Dictate in the Organization of the Albanian State 1912-1914», by Prof. Arben Puto and «Fundamental Aspects of the Albanian National and Democratic Movement in the Years 1913-1920» by the senior scientific worker Muin Çami.

The Conference also heard a number of papers by historians, scientific workers and research institutes, teachers of the University of Tirana and others.

THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF FIGURATIVE ARTS

On the eve of the great November celebrations the Gallery of Figurative Arts of the capital opened the national exhibition of figurative arts dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence, sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the League of Writers and Artists.

Participating in the exhibition were painters, sculptors, workers of cultural and artistic institutions, amateur artists, and others.

Taking part in the opening ceremony were also the Secretary of the Central

Committee of the Party and President of the Presidium of the PSRA Comrade Ramiz Alia, the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers Comrade Manush Myftiu, the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and Minister of Industry and Mining Comrade Hajredin Çeliku, the member of the Central Committee of the Party Comrade Nexhmije Hoxha, the Minister of Education and Culture Tefta Cami, the chairman of the League

of Writers and Artists Dritëro Agolli and other comrades.

The speech of the occasion was delivered by the chairman of the Committee for Culture and Arts Anastas Kondo.

Comrade Hajredin Çeliku cut the inauguration ribbon.

Those present visited with interest the exhibition, which is a chronicle narrating by means of art the glorious history of our people, their struggle for freedom and independence, for knowledge, social progress, and a national art and culture.

Artists from the 26 districts of the country sent to this exhibition 1800 works of sculpture, painting, stone and wood carving, and the applied arts. Of them 300 of the better and more representative pieces of different genres and themes are displayed in this exhibition.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM DEDICATED TO GJERGJ KASTRIOTI - SKANDERBEG IS INAUGURATED

In the context of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of national independence, the national museum dedicated to Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg was inaugurated in the hero city of Kruja on November 1, 1982.

Taking part in the inauguration ceremony were comrades Ramiz Alia, Adil Çarçani, Muho Asllani, Besnik Bekteshi and others.

The speech of the occasion was delivered by the chairman of the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania, Aleks Buda, who among other things said:

«In these important moments all the eyes of the Albanian people, who have the one blood, language and history, are turned to Kruja — this eagles' nest; the hearts of all Albanians, wherever they are inside or outside the Republic, wherever the ancient manly Albanian language is spoken, beat in unison with

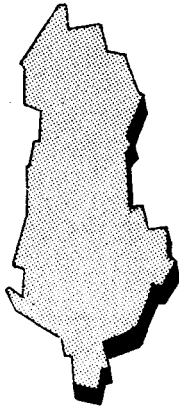
ours in inextinguishable love of country. All over the world the names of Skanderbeg and Kruja have been and will remain in the centuries immortal symbols of the giant legendary struggle in which the Albanian popular masses, with their great leader at the head, put up their chests to the innumerable armies of savage and brutal invaders that had conquered half of the world.

«Theirs was a struggle in defence of the sacred land of Albania, for freedom and independence, a struggle which laid the permanent foundations of the national unity of all Albanians, the foundations of that structure which the subsequent generations were to bring to completion — the Albanian national state. By fighting for their own freedom and independence, the Albanian people raised a bulwark which stemmed the destructive tide of the Sultans' aggressions threatening the

European civilization, a bulwark behind which Europe created the lofty monuments of the culture and art of the Renaissance.

«The ideals for which our heroic forefathers waged their life-and-death struggle in the 15th century were cherished ideals and guide of their descendants. With Skanderbeg's banner and following his example, they always fought for the defence of their sacred aspirations and rights. The whole history, which is embodied in the name and epoch of the Hero to whom this museum is dedicated, was a great challenge — a challenge to the most savage, most brutal and most sinister forces of the age and, at the same time, a shining example for the peoples of the world, because the ideals for which he fought represent, on the Albanian and international plane, the loftiest and noblest ideals of the 15th century, and not only this century. For the peoples who fight all over the world today against oppression and exploitation, for freedom and independence, for unity and culture, for ethnic and national survival, this example has been and remains a great inspiration and mobilization in the centuries. World history has known hundreds and thousands of men of the sword and just as many conquerors. However, it gave the crown of eternal glory not to them, but to Skanderbeg and his people, because their brilliant example proved once again the great truth that history, this

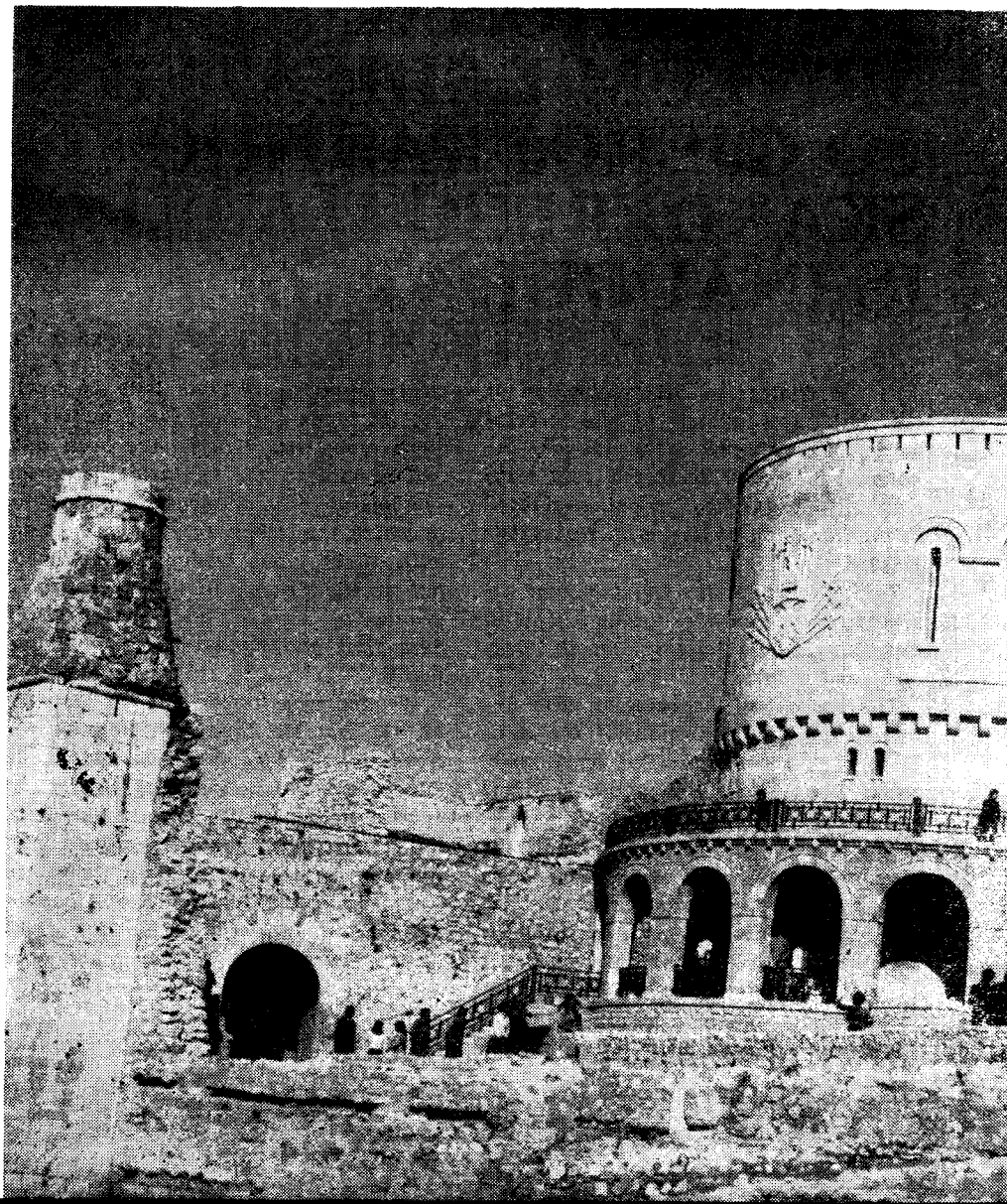
FROM THE LIFE OF THE COUNTRY



master time, teaches the peoples this. When the question is about a struggle which sets in motion the popular masses, though violence may prevail for a time, in the final analysis it has been and will always be the small that conquer the great, the oppressed that conquer the tyrant.

«Hordes upon hordes swept over this people, the hoofs of the horses of the invaders trampled on this land, their cruel swords scarred its body. The enemies turned everything to ruins, put everything to the sword and fire, divided the land and the people among themselves. But after every defeat, after every enemy expedition or massacre, the people rose again and again. With unexampled vitality, the Albanian people found inexhaustible human and material, economic and intellectual resources in their bosom. The masses of

the people rose as one, left the ploughs and took to arms. Great epochs give birth to great men — leaders, organizers, statesmen, because the masses in movement call for and impose the need for organization, direction and unification of this inexhaustible potential. From their midst, like from an immense sea, at the decisive moments emerge great leading figures which express and realize the most profound and objective aspirations and tendencies of the time: so it was in the 15th century, in the epoch which carried the great name of the legendary leader of Arbër and so happened again in the brilliant epoch of the Albanian Renaissance and of the Albanian League of Prizren, in the march to Vlorë, and in the brilliant epoch of the Party — in the heroic National Liberation War and in the glorious and triumphant



battles for the construction of socialism.

«No force has ever been able to stop this people marching on this road, which is an expression of the objective laws, valid both for the time of Skanderbeg and the days of the Party: neither brutal violence nor bloody suppression, neither intrigues and deceit, nor plots and treason, went down with us in the time of the Sultans, and they will not go down with us in the time of our imperialist and revisionist enemies and their running dogs.

«In history nothing is lost and nothing can be lost of what represents the great innovations behind which stand the masses which open up the path of progress. The future always belongs to the progressive now, no matter through how much blood and toil. This is the great lesson the epoch of Skanderbeg

teaches us, the lesson that this magnificent museum will impart to the generations of our descendants who, under the leadership of the Party of the working class and its founder, Comrade Enver Hoxha, are fighting and will always fight for the construction of our People's Socialist Republic and the defence of its achievements, waging a blow-for-blow struggle against imperialism and revisionism, against all internal and external enemies. While preserving and continuing the glorious patriotic and revolutionary traditions of our people and carrying them to ever greater heights, the Party of the working class today makes this magnificent present to the Albanian nation, which is added to the other just as magnificent presents — the Museum of National History. Equipped with the teachings of the Party and Comrade

Enver Hoxha, with their direct aid and under their leadership, architects, engineers, historians, artists, sculptors, painters, technicians and stone-carvers, old and young, from all the regions of Albania, put in all their knowledge and abilities, all their talent, overcame great difficulties, carried out a great volume of work so as to complete this project which will be and remain a memorial to the development of art, science and culture in socialist Albania in the epoch of our Marxist-Leninist Party.»

Amid the enthusiasm of those present, the member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the CC of the PLA, Ramiz Alia, cut the ribbon.

Exterior of the
«Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg»
National Museum



THE PSR OF ALBANIA CONSISTENTLY P AN INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

by **REIS MALILE**

MR. PRESIDENT,

- From the speech of Comrade Reis Malile, head of the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, at the 37th session of the General Assembly of the UNO

AN OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE EVENTS IN THE WORLD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION REVEALS THAT THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IS VERY TENSE AND MENACING THE FREEDOM OF THE PEOPLES AND PEACE. ITS EXACERBATION AND THE GRAVE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CRISIS, WHICH HAS ENGULFED THE CAPITALIST AND REVISIONIST WORLD, HAVE INCREASED THE THREAT OF WAR.

THIS SITUATION IS THE DIRECT OUTCOME OF THE EXPANSIONIST AND NEO-COLONIALIST POLICY OF THE IMPERIALIST SUPERPOWERS AND THE SUPERPOWERS, IN THE FIRST PLACE. TODAY THERE IS NO ZONE OF THE WORLD WHICH IS NOT AFFECTED BY THEIR PREDATORY AIMS AND AMBITIONS. BOTH SUPERPOWERS PERSISTENTLY CONTINUE THEIR EXPANSIONIST POLICY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR WORLD DOMINATION, WHICH IS OBVIOUS FROM THE UNRELENTING COMPETITION WHICH GOES ON BETWEEN THEM FOR ACHIEVING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER EACH OTHER, FOR OCCUPYING NEW STRATEGIC POSITIONS, ETC. THIS AGGRESSIVE POLICY AND RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS CONTRIBUTES TO THE FURTHER COMPLICATION OF THE SITUATION WHICH IS MADE STILL MORE TENSE AND DANGEROUS.

The attempts of American imperialism to impose its dictate on various countries have found their expression in its pursuit of a still more aggressive line in its foreign policy, a line which relies ever more heavily on the use of military strength. The same increased aggressiveness can be seen in the foreign policy of Soviet social-imperialism. What characterizes this policy at the present stage is the all-round militarization of the life of the country and the use of pressure and military force towards other countries.

New York. On October 4, 1982 the head of the delegation of the PSR of Albania to the 37th session of the General Assembly of the UNO, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Reis Malile took the floor in the general debate held at this session.

The intervention of the USA in Iran and the stationing of its aggressive military forces in the Middle East, the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, the fanning up of conflicts on the African continent, the interference of the two superpowers in Latin America and Southeast Asia, their political, economic and military blackmail and threats against many countries, show that they follow a policy of repression and aggression. There is no field of international relations in which one does not come up against their policy from positions of strength, there is no armed conflict and hot-bed of war in which, directly or indirectly, the hand of the superpowers is not present. They are building up their war machines as never before and adding

ALBANIA PURSUES JUST AND PRINCIPLED

new sophisticated weapons to their war arsenals. The propaganda the superpowers exercise about disarmament is nothing other than a manoeuvre to cover up their headlong armaments race. Along with arming themselves, they also carry on the arms trade which they have turned into the biggest business for fabulous profits and for making other countries more dependent on them politically and economically.

In order to cover up their real intentions and to mislead the peoples, the superpowers make a great of demagoguery in order to make believe that their actions are allegedly in favour of peace. To this end, they have set up a great number of commissions and mechanisms for various problems, ranging from SALT, «European security», «reduction of troops in Europe» to «demilitarization of outer space». All this is intended to create the deceptive impression that something is being done, that the key to peace lies in their agreements and initiatives. All this demagoguery is also intended to bring the peoples round to accepting the idea that they must not move, that they must fatally submit to the big.

The situation on the European continent continues to be very tense. The events that have taken place in and around this area clearly show that the political and military blocs, led by the USA and the Soviet Union, their policies of «atomic umbrella» and spheres of influence, are a source of division, tension and confrontation amongst different countries.

Declarations that once the Act of Helsinki was signed all political, ideolog-

ical and military tension would cease, that the Madrid meetings on «European security» would strengthen peace in Europe, were a hoax. On the contrary, insecurity in Europe has grown.

Both superpowers, with their rival aggressive blocs — NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, have strengthened their military potential with the most up-to-date weapons and unprecedentedly expanded their war arsenals. They are filling Europe with missiles and nuclear weapons in order to use them as means of pressure and blackmail on the countries where they have stationed them and on other countries of Europe. Military exercises of an aggressive character are carried out more intensively and on a larger scale. The presence of the large naval fleets of the two superpowers in the Mediterranean has turned it into a militarized sea which poses a serious threat to the freedom and independence of the countries of this basin and peace in Europe and in the world.

The Albanian delegation is of the opinion that true security and collaboration in Europe can be achieved only through the European countries strengthening their independence and sovereignty by opposing to the policy of the two superpowers, liquidating the bases and blocs of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, expelling foreign troops and dismantling foreign bases of nuclear weapons and missiles. As for the PSR of Albania, it will never permit the creation of foreign military bases and stationing of foreign troops on its own territory; this it has declared publicly and sanctioned in its Constitution.

The situation in Europe is reflected also in the zone of the Balkans. The two imperialist superpowers have not relinquished their aims and intend to transform it into a «permanent powder keg». They strive to impede the normal development of relations amongst the Balkan peoples and countries, to revive old animosities and quarrels, to stir up and encourage chauvinist feelings and the spirit of confrontation amongst them. Such attempts are a threat to the peoples of this region and go against their sincere desire for the establishment of real mutual trust, understanding and collaboration among themselves.

In its relations with the neighbouring countries, the PSR of Albania, since it was created, has always carried out a policy of good neighbourliness, proceeding from the desire and aim that the Balkan countries should live together in peace and friendship, without interfering in the internal affairs of each other, and implementing the basic principles of mutual collaboration and respect. We are convinced that this is the right road towards building stable and profitable relations for strengthening peace and security in the Balkans.

The leader of the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha has said:

«The People's Socialist Republic of Albania upholds the view that at present the genuine aspirations of the peoples of the Balkans and peace and stability in this zone can be served best by not allowing the imperialist superpowers to interfere in the internal affairs of the countries of our region and by taking concrete and construc-

tive steps towards a positive development of relations on the basis of the policy of good neighbourliness. The situation in the Balkans would be greatly improved if the Balkan countries undertake officially not to allow the superpowers to threaten or endanger other neighbouring countries from their territories. In the future, just as in the past, socialist Albania will consistently adhere to this policy and make every effort to ensure that mutual respect and genuine understanding prevail in its relations with the neighbouring states.»

The situation in the Middle East has worsened. Fifteen years after their aggression, the Israeli Zionists continue to keep the Arab territories under occupation. Outrageously arrogant, under the protection of the USA, they ventured upon new conquests. The crimes and massacres of the Israeli aggressors against the Palestinian civilian population, which surpass even those committed by the Hitlerites in their time, have sparked off the profound indignation and anger of the peoples the world over. Events in this region are the consequence of a situation imposed by the superpowers. They show that the peoples pay with their blood and extreme sacrifice for the behind-the-scenes deals and plots hatched up in secret against them.

The peoples of the world and the Palestinian people, in the first place, clearly see that this barbarous aggression is one of the most flagrant expressions of the deals and intrigues which the USA and the Soviet Union strike between themselves over mutual concessions and tacit recognition of aggressions they have committed or plan to commit, as well as expressions of the deals struck between them against Iran, Afghanistan, the countries of the Persian Gulf, the Middle East and other states in different zones of the world.

The emissaries of Washington offer different plans for a supposed solution of the question of the Middle East, but, in the final analysis, all of them are built on the basis of the agreements of Camp David and are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian question, negating the rights of the Arab peoples and ensuring the annexation of the territories Israel has occupied under the false pretext of «secure borders».

With their imperialist policy the Americans and the Soviets are the main responsible for the blood shed by the peoples. We see with indignation that governments which had the possibility to act and stay the hand of the murderers did not move a finger to prevent the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinians, to stop the genocide and the barbarous massacres against the martyred Palestinian people.

I might have couched my address in diplomatic terms, but then it would have no value. But I will speak a different language, saying openly what our people think. If the aggressive drive of the American imperialists and Soviet social-imperialists is not checked, the world will face a third world war. But this cannot be done with words and protests. Allow me, gentlemen, to observe that the protests and resolutions of the Security Council over major issues have yielded no result whatsoever. The Israeli aggression and the genocide against the Arabs, especially against the Palestinians, continues, the aggression and oppression of Afghanistan continues, and so on.

The situation in the Middle East is fraught with the danger of imperialist war in which the Arab peoples will be suppressed and drowned in blood. In our opinion, everybody should be clear that it is the American imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists that pull the strings behind all the plots against the freedom and independence of the peoples, that, with utter shamelessness, divide the spheres of influence between themselves and trifle with the destinies of the peoples, that organize spying agencies and putsches to pave the way for their expansionist and hegemony-seeking plans. This situation is intolerable to the peoples, therefore, we think that all this should be opposed and exposed resolutely.

The difficulties that might be created for the valiant Palestinian people will never make them desist from their just war. Recent events in this region showed to the Arab peoples that they can entrust no one, except themselves, with the great mission of their national liberation, of the defence of their freedom and independence. The unity of the Arab peoples against Zionism and the plots of the superpowers is

the basic factor in their war for their just cause.

The Albanian people and government firmly condemn the barbarous aggression of Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, the monstrous crimes and genocide committed against them. In the future, too, we will continue to give our full support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people to have their own homeland and state, just as all the other peoples, to the struggle of the Syrian people and the other fraternal Arab peoples to drive the Israeli aggressors out of occupied Arab territories. Lebanon should be an independent and sovereign state, and the Israeli aggressive troops should leave the country immediately.

Our country has taken all the necessary measures and is prepared to defend itself and foil any aggression by its enemies. But, being a small country, we have not the material possibilities to assist the oppressed peoples fighting against imperialist domination. The possibilities we have allow us to expose the aggressive policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, their enslaving plans. This we do and will do regardless of anything.

The situation remains serious in the zone of the Gulf where, following the triumph of the Iranian revolution, the superpowers have stepped up their policy of threats and plots. In spite of the ignominious defeat they suffered in Iran, the American imperialists have not abandoned their attempts to regain their lost positions and privileges, whereas the Soviet social-imperialists seek to turn this situation to their advantage. The valiant Iranian people coped successfully with the numerous difficulties created after the triumph of the anti-imperialist revolution and now are strengthening the defence of the freedom and independence of their Homeland.

The Albanian government is of the opinion that it is in the interest of both Iraq and Iran to put an end to the conflict between them, to solve the disagreements at the table of negotiations, and thus, ensure that the two peoples live in peace and friendship. This would also be beneficial to the peoples of this zone, their welfare and progress, as well as defeat for the policy of the superpowers which want and try to pit one country against the other.

We support the valiant Afghan people, who for three consecutive years continue their war against the Soviet occupation troops to regain their national independence.

Just a few months before, British imperialism, supported by the USA, resorted to the gun-boat policy in the Malvinas Islands. Once again the Latin-American peoples saw the true face of American imperialism, understood the true worth of the treaties and agreements they have entered into with it. Independently of how the events developed, no one can deny Argentina's right to exercise its sovereignty over the Malvinas. The sovereign rights of the nations and peoples cannot be violated or written off either by the force of arms, or by means of treaties and agreements that have been concluded to the detriment of the peoples.

The countries of Southeast Asia, which for decades on end have suffered under savage colonialist oppression and exploitation, continue to be threatened, politically and militarily, by the USA, the Soviet Union, and China, which do everything in their power to pit them against each other, in order to have the way for their intervention and, subsequently, secure their hegemonic positions. The PSR of Albania will, as in the past, support the right of the peoples of these countries to decide themselves on their internal affairs, and their future, without any interference from abroad. No one is permitted to violate their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity under whatever guise. The countries of this zone have the right to be completely free, independent and sovereign, free from anybody's tutelage.

The situation remains tense in the Korean peninsula, due to the continued presence of US occupation troops in South Korea. The Albanian people and their government support the just struggle of the Korean people for the ousting of the American imperialists from South Korea and the reunification of their homeland as an independent state.

The African peoples and countries, which have been recently liberated from savage colonialist oppression and exploitation, have stepped up their efforts and struggle to defend their so-

vereign rights from the all-round interference of the imperialist and neo-colonialist superpowers. They are continuously faced with the policy of the superpowers which keep ablaze all hotbeds of tension and conflicts there, in an attempt to pit the African countries in war against each other, so as to pave the road for their deeper penetration into Africa, for the extension of their spheres of influence and for plundering the great natural assets of this continent. This policy and activity encourages the racists of South Africa to keep Namibia under occupation and the people of this country oppressed. The barbarous oppression and savage racial discrimination are expressions of the hateful policy of apartheid pursued by the fascist regime of Pretoria towards the local population and its serious armed provocations against the neighbour countries constitute a constant menace of the African peoples. The Albanian people are in solidarity with and support the just liberation war of the Azanian, Namibian and other African peoples for the liquidation of colonialism and neo-colonialism, against the interference and intrigues of the imperialist powers.

An important factor which works negatively on the present international situation is also the general crisis which has swept the capitalist-revisionist world. It has made the inter-imperialist contradictions, the economic, political and military rivalries more acute, has led to economic stagnation and continuous fall of production, inflation, price rises, unemployment, constant decline of the standard of living of the working masses. In many countries terrorism, anarchy and political and moral corruption have grown rife, and social relations and relations between states have degenerated. The crisis has made the internal and international situations more tense, both in the West and in the East. Typical is the critical situation in Poland where the people are suffering the consequence of an opportunist and capitulationist policy dictated by Moscow. We support the firm opposition of the peoples against exploitation, plunder and financial manipulations, against the policy of the imperialist powers which try to saddle the masses of the working people with the consequences of the grave econo-

mic crisis which has them in their grip.

Today there is an ever greater extension and deepening of the resistance and struggle of the peoples of the world against the policy of aggression, oppression and exploitation practiced by the imperialist powers, and, in the first place, the two superpowers. The peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and other continents have risen in struggle for national liberation, for their sovereign rights and independence and for their economic and social emancipation — a struggle which has assumed irresistible momentum and has become an important factor in the process of world development and has won the support of all progressive mankind.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania strongly supports the struggle of the peoples and democratic states for the defence of their national sovereignty, for the protection of their legitimate rights and interests; it supports their efforts for the establishment of correct international economic relations and against colonialist exploitation. The gap between the industrialized countries and the developing countries is growing wider still and this is a direct consequence of the savage exploitation in the most various forms, beginning with the colossal profits the capitalist monopolies squeeze from the sweat and blood of the peoples in the developing countries, their exploitative credits, and ending with the very low prices they pay for primary materials as compared with the high prices they charge for industrial goods. The tactics of the imperialist powers in the so-called North-South dialogue are nothing but attempts at consolidating the old economic relations of inequality and deepening exploitation. The peoples and states have the right to exercise their full sovereignty over the assets of their own countries, and to use them to the advantage of their national development and progress.

Mr President,

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania consistently pursues an independent and principled policy of friendship and sincere collaboration with all the freedom- and peace-loving peoples and countries. Its foreign po-

licy, which is guided by the principles of proletarian internationalism, is free from the slightest taint of narrow nationalism and chauvinism, national exclusiveness and underrating of others. It has always been against the policy of aggression and oppression pursued by the two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union. With the two of them we have not and will never have any relations or connections whatsoever. American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism have been and remain the arch-enemies of the people's freedom and independence. We are against their attempts at creating the idea as though the world can never reach stability except under their tutelage and we have never accepted that international policy should become the monopoly of the superpowers.

Basing itself on the well-known principles of equality, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit, our country has extended and strengthened its relations of friendship and collaboration with other states, with all peace-loving peoples and countries. It maintains diplomatic relations with about one hundred states all over the world and state and cultural relations with a great number of countries. We are for normal and free trade exchanges, unrestricted by discriminatory or limitative measures, against machinations and attempts on the part of anyone, whosoever, to use them as means of pressure, to impose his own political views and will. We are, likewise, for exchanges in the field of art, culture, science, etc. to be extended in order to enable the peoples to get informed about the achievements of each other.

This year the Albanian people celebrate a great event in their history —

the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence which crowned their centuries-long struggles for national independence. They had to make innumerable sacrifices and shed much blood in order to win genuine freedom and independence, to become sovereign masters of their own Homeland, to open up the road of development and progress. Our people have always treasured the cause of national freedom and independence as the most precious thing. Therefore, national oppression and discrimination anywhere, under any form of pretext or excuse, are alien to them. Our people are against any denationalizing policy, against restrictions and inhibitions in the preservation and the free development of national culture, art, language and education, against the negation of national traditions and history. Every people, big or small, have their full right to preserve and affirm their own national identity. Respecting national dignity and values, along with other rights, according to the recognized principles of the UN Charter, creates the conditions for the peoples to live in friendship and the states to develop normal relations amongst them.

Without holding out its hand to anyone for aid and credits, socialist Albania has ensured an independent and vigorous development in all fields of life, has avoided the destructive consequences of the world economic and political crisis and has created conditions for the continuous raising of the well-being of its working masses. The new reduction of prices which was enacted in Albania last June, at a time when the opposite is happening everywhere else, is clear expression of the vitality of our socialist order.

There are some who accuse us that

Albania is isolated, that it is «a sealed box». This is not true. We are vigilant, because we know and are aware that our enemies plot against socialist Albania, because we see and know about the methods and plans which they use against the other peoples, too.

We are not upset because some newspaperman claims that Albania is allegedly isolated and poor. Such propaganda has no value for us. Our people are content with their political and economic situation. They have everything they need. And they are sure that in the future they will have more, too. To achieve this they work and fight, relying only on their own forces. We want to tell such people who «worry» about the well-being of our people that, there where they say there is abundance and «well-being», there is an irremediable economic crisis which has thrown millions in the streets, that in those countries there are ceaseless price rises, drug addiction, gangsterism. In our country, in socialist Albania, which they say is poor, these phenomena are non-existent. Perhaps, these critics want such phenomena to exist in our country, too. But this will never happen. In our country such things are not allowed and will never be allowed. To them Albania has been and will remain sealed off. It has been and will remain open to its numerous friends and well-wishers who exist in the bosom of the peoples and for whom we have our thanks.

The Albanian delegation will do everything in its power to make its modest contribution to the work of this session of the General Assembly, so that it takes a correct course in compliance with the interests of the peoples and peace.

press review

WHO RULES IN THE SOVIET UNION?

«ZERI I POPULLIT», — organ of the CC of the PLA

The succession of Andropov, the powerful patron of the KGB, to Brezhnev at the head of the Party in the Soviet Union attracted the attention of international political circles and the world press. Their attention grew even keener when the Supreme Soviet suddenly closed its winter session without electing the man that would have replaced the defunct president in the highest state function. For the first time in its history, the Soviet Union has no head of state, a strange situation contrary to the practice established by Brezhnev who held two functions — that of the general secretary of the party and that of the head of state, simultaneously.

Why was this pattern not followed? There is a reason to it. Andropov was appointed general secretary of the Party, but he is neither competent to fill the function of the leaders of the Soviet Party and state, nor does he enjoy the trust of the people and the army, the force that wields real power in the Soviet Union. Andropov is a complete failure. He is a man that comes neither from the economy nor from the Party, the two main sectors of Soviet life. In Khrushchev's time he was the latter's henchman and was frequently employed as a courier in the relations of the Soviet Party with the

parties of the former socialist countries. Hence, he was the expert of subterranean work. And it was precisely this quality that landed him in the KGB.

The men of the Kremlin are obliged to take account of the fact that the external world would not see with a good eye the accession of a professional policeman to the post of the president of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. The Soviet people would not receive this well, either. Even his colleagues would not tolerate the manners of a man who was formed in the shady work of KGB file indexes. Never in its history has the Soviet Union had a police chief as head of state. So, it must be inferred that Andropov's election at the head of the Party is only an expedient, a temporary solution imposed, perhaps, by the army. It chose him as a man of the KGB through whom it can keep the situation under control and ensure calm until a definitive solution is found.

That Andropov's election is an expedient imposed by a difficult situation this is apparent also from the fact that, since he was elected general secretary of the Party, he has carried out no activity as he lacks sufficient competences and powers. And this applies not only to internal, but also

external affairs, including the relations with the countries of the so-called socialist community.

No manifestation is being organized to boost Andropov's authority as the Soviet propaganda did with Khrushchev and Brezhnev in the past. Nor are the leaders of the countries of the so-called socialist community going to the Soviet Union to get acquainted with the first man in the Kremlin. Until now only the new KGB chief has publicly greeted and supported Andropov.

From Stalin's death onward it was the stand and support of the army that decided who should take the leadership of the country. Khrushchev relied on the strength of the army in his struggle for power and came out on top with its assistance. It was again the army that removed him when he began to show signs of disobedience, and Brezhnev, as the inman of military staffs, who knew well the rules of the clan, never forgot to whom he owed his power. He remained always its unconditional supporter and executed its orders faithfully and with devotion.

As far as we know the Soviet army, it can never accept to be under the orders of a former KGB chief. It can accept a party cadre, but a policeman never. So, the army will have its word

**press
review**

sooner or later. Taking account of this, the possibility cannot be excluded that a direct representative of the army or a man of proven loyalty to it may emerge at the head of the Soviet Union. The army certainly has in its midst people with qualities and experience, both as party cadres and economic and military experts.

Up till now the reins of power in the Soviet Union have been taken passing from the Party to the Presidium, through the function of the general secretary of the Central Committee. This is how Brezhnev went about it. Now,

however, the contrary may occur: the president may be appointed first and then he may also assume the functions of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Party. If Andropov remains in the post of the general secretary the Party will be placed under strict KGB surveillance and its leading role will be only formal.

In this period of grave economic set-backs and successive crises for the Soviet Union, changes and combinations at the head of the Soviet Party and government may prove to be of the most various and astonishing kind. However,

these changes have never influenced, nor will they influence the strategy and line followed by the Soviet Union. They are determined by its capitalist system, its bourgeois ideology and its imperialist policy.

As for our country, it has had no relations either with Khrushchev or Brezhnev, nor will it have anything to do with Andropov or anybody that will emerge at the head of the revisionist Soviet Union, because they follow an imperialist policy aimed at the enslavement of the world and the oppression and exploitation of the peoples.

■

THE IDEAS OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION ARE IMMORTAL

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

Revolutions not only give world history its true content and meaning, but are also starting-points of major historic epochs. The Great October Socialist Revolution, which marked the beginning of the destruction of the last oppressive and exploitative order, was, at the same time, the starting-point for a new historic epoch — the epoch of the construction of a new society without social and national oppression and exploitation — the socialist society.

The impact of the October Revolution on the world pro-

letarian revolutionary movement and the national liberation wars of the peoples, who languished under imperialist yoke, was extremely great. The overthrow of the rule of the feudal and bourgeois exploiting classes, for the first time in history became a source of inspiration and aroused the hundred-million strong masses all over the world, in the West and in the East, in the South and in the North, the masses of workers and peasants, who saw in practice the road they must take for the destruction of the hated

system of capital. «The triumph of the Great October Socialist Revolution dealt the first shattering blow at imperialism, the whole world capitalist system. It marked the beginning of the general crisis of capitalism, which continued to grow deeper,» Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses.

In the October Revolution the tens of millions of people of different nationalities see the immortal ideas of the revolutionary doctrine of Marxism. It proved that the fundamental principles of this

**press
review**

doctrine — the proletarian revolution, the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, are unavoidable, that socialism is the future of mankind.

Celebrating, as every year, the anniversary of the October Revolution, our people, under the leadership of the Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, commemorate with deep veneration this immortal deed of the proletariat, of the Bolshevik Party, led by the great strategist of the revolution — Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. Our people and Party commemorate, also, the work of Lenin's disciple and close collaborator, the outstanding Marxist-Leninist Stalin, who for three decades on end kept unsullied the triumphant banner of Marxism-Leninism.

The Party of Labour of Albania has always considered the October Revolution an event of major historic importance. Connected with its ideas are major revolutionary victories of our people, the triumph of the people's revolution, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the magnificent successes in the building of socialism. Unbounded loyalty to Marxism-Leninism, creative application of its teachings and of the experience of the October Revolution in the historic conditions of our country, have made socialist Albania an impregnable fortress for the defence and carrying for-

ward of the revolution and socialism.

The Khrushchevites, who came to power after the death of Stalin, as Comrade Enver Hoxha writes in his book «The Khrushchevites», have discarded the ideas and teachings of the October Revolution. They brought about the gradual degeneration of the former socialist superstructure and base, thus, demolishing all the gains made by the Soviet people under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin. Inside the country, the dictatorship of the proletariat was replaced with the savage dictatorship of the new Soviet bourgeoisie. The betrayal of the Khrushchevite revisionists and the complete restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union, its transformation into a social-imperialist superpower, the broad extension of the revisionist current in the international worker movement warn the revolutionaries the world over, the international working class and the peoples who fight for their freedom and independence, that the ideas and theories propagated by the modern revisionists — Soviet, Yugoslav, Chinese or Eurocommunist, represent a complete departure from the ideas and the practice of the October Revolution.

Our Party has not only come out with a complete and all-round study of the causes of the capitalist degeneration in the Soviet Union in all fields of its political, econo-

mic, ideological and cultural life, but has also exposed all the falseness of the revisionist propaganda and demagogy.

The party and the state, which in the time of Lenin and Stalin were the party of the working class and the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, today have been transformed into direct representatives of the bourgeois class in power. Only the name «communist» is left with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Its entire practical activity is evidence of the anti-proletarian, anti-socialist and anti-Marxist essence of the internal and external policy it follows.

The degeneration of Soviet society led to the revival of savage national oppression and exploitation. The multi-national Soviet Union, the offspring of the October Revolution, where in the time of Lenin and Stalin national equality flourished, today, 60 years after its creation, has been transformed into a prison of the peoples, where Great-Russian chauvinism, national oppression and Slav racism are rampant. The powerful Soviet economy of the time of Stalin now is in the merciless grip of the general crisis of the capitalist system. In foreign policy, the leaders of the Kremlin have transformed the Soviet Union into a superpower which vies with the other superpower — American imperialism, for hegemony and world domination. With a view to preserving their dominions, the Soviet

press review

social-imperialists do not stop before the ugliest crimes. The Soviet foreign policy has assumed an outright militarist character and is based on the use of military force for the realization of its expansionist aims. Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan are very convincing proofs that the foreign policy of Moscow has assumed the same aggressive, expansionist and war-mongering features as that of Washington.

The counter-revolutionary retrogression in the Soviet Union and in some other countries caused colossal damage to the revolution and socialism. This retrogression, however, is just a zigzag, a temporary turn in the course of history. «If socialism was overthrown in the Soviet Union and other countries where the revolution had triumphed,» Comrade Enver Hoxha has stressed, «this does not mean the defeat of Marxism-Leninism and its invalidity, as the bourgeois and revisionists make out. Counter-revolution can only lend a new lease of life to the old exploiting system, but they are powerless to halt the march of human society towards its socialist future.» The political developments in the revisionist countries and parties of the East or the West, the unscrupulous quarrels and kisses between the revisionists and imperialists, like recently between Moscow and Washington, the crisis which has engulfed them all without exception, speak of the cor-

rectness of this prediction of Comrade Enver Hoxha. Not only have these parties no unity among themselves, but inside each of them there are deep divisions and crises. All the Eurocommunist revisionist parties, such as the Italian, Spanish or French parties, are torn between pro-Soviet, anti-Soviet, Eurocommunist or «revival» factions. The elections held in France, Spain and Italy speak eloquently about their discredit in the eyes of the masses as new parties of the bourgeoisie. The Polish crisis is the most typical and complete example of the crisis and degeneration which has set in the body of revisionism on an international scale.

The struggle of the working class and the peoples exploited by world capital has assumed broad and varied proportions. The resistance of the working class of all the capitalist countries to the attacks of the bourgeoisie and, at the same time, its struggle for the defence of democratic rights, are growing. Only in the course of this year, million of workers in the USA, Britain, FR of Germany, Italy, France, Spain and other countries have come out in strikes and demonstrations. In this daily confrontation between the working class and all the oppressed masses, on the one hand, and the bourgeoisie, on the other hand, is revealed and exposed the social and political demagogy, the opportunism and the sabotage activ-

ity of social-democracy, of revisionism and the trade-unions under their control. Along with the growth and extension of the struggle of the working class, there is a general awakening of the oppressed peoples. The whole region of Central America is ablaze with the flames of the liberation struggle. Latin America, Africa, etc are also simmering with the struggles and revolts of the peoples against neo-colonialism. Nowadays, when the struggle of the peoples and the revolution are on the order of the day, not only as an aspiration and immediate task for liberation from capitalist oppression and imperialist servitude, but also as a historical imperative for foiling the war-mongering plans of imperialism to throw the world into a third world holocaust, the teachings of the October Revolution are more valid than ever. Neither the violence imposed by the bourgeoisie nor the undermining activity of the traitors to Marxism-Leninism can invalidate them. The ideas and teachings of the Great October Socialist Revolution strike ever deeper roots in the minds and hearts of all genuine Marxist-Leninists who hold aloft the banner of the revolution and socialism.

The ideas of the October Revolution are and will always remain the banner of victories, they have always guided our Party of Labour, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, in its struggle for

**press
review**

carrying the cause of the revolution and socialism through to the end, for strengthening and defending the dictatorship

of the proletariat in socialist Albania, in its struggle against the internal and external imperialist-revisionist enemies,

the international bourgeoisie and reaction, for the defence and triumph of Marxism-Leninism.

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FASCISTS, MIGRANT LABOUR AND THE DEALS OF THE BOURGEOISIE

«BASHKIMI» — central organ of the Democratic Front of Albania

In a number of West-European countries there is a recrudescence of fascist activities, indeed, an explosion of the hysteria against migrant workers and their families. Gangs with swastika emblems terrorize foreign workers whom poverty and unemployment have forced to abandon their countries in search of a job to secure the bitter bread of emigration in West Germany, England, Switzerland, France and the Netherlands. With «Heil Hitler!» shouts, fascists have attacked migrant workers in Tuttligen, Munich and West Berlin, in London and Birmingham, threatened them and set their houses to fire. The bourgeoisie encourages these outrageous acts even in traditionally quiet countries, such as the Scandinavian countries, where the burning crosses of the notorious Ku-Klux-Klan gangs have become a frequent sight. Fascist hysteria coincides in time with the administrative measures the governments of West Germany and other countries have taken against

migrant labour in order to expel them and their families, or «facilitate» their repatriation.

They find the excuse for unleashing this campaign in the large-scale unemployment and crisis that have affected these countries. The unemployed in West Germany are 2 million, in Britain more than 3 million, and in France, Belgium and Denmark unemployment has beaten all records. The official propaganda makes the great number of migrant workers responsible for this state of things. The bourgeoisie makes out as if these workers have been invited to the European countries only thanks to its generosity. But now that the Europeans have come up against difficulties, the foreigners must clear out!

One can call this anything, but not generosity. There was always cold reckoning in the utilization of the cheap migrant labour. The American, West-German, British, French, Belgian or Scandinavian bourgeoisie needs migrant work-

ers, who are employed in the more menial jobs, are paid less, have no rights, in order to exercise pressure on the local workers and force them to think that they must be «more moderate» in their demands and in their class struggle.

If there are so many unemployed today, migrant workers are not responsible for it. Responsible for this state of things is the bourgeois order and the appetite of the bourgeoisie for maximum profit, for the highest possible surplus value from the unpaid labour of the worker. By inciting attacks against foreign workers, the bourgeoisie imposes dangerous diversion. It tries to distract the attention of the working class from the true cause of its wretchedness, from the heavy burden of the crisis, high taxes and rents, from the insecure future and astronomical prices the worker comes up against every day. By implementing the centuries-old motto of all exploiters — «Divide and rule», the bourgeoisie and its state try

**press
review**

to shift the attention to the «harm caused by migrant labour». At the same time tens of thousands of workers are

sacked and thrown into the streets, and funds for social insurance, hospitals and schools are curtailed.

Behind the activities of the criminal gangs is hidden the hand of the bourgeoisie.

INTEGRATION COMMANDED BY THE KREMLIN

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

At the last congress of the Soviet revisionist party Brezhnev demanded that the Comecon countries went over from co-ordination of their economic plans to co-ordination of their economic policy, in general. Since then, there has been much talk on this subject in the columns of the Soviet press. The question is that the Comecon member countries should jointly draft a general integrated plan on the basis of targets and orientations set by Moscow and, in general, co-ordinate their economic policies. Thus, the Comecon member countries should determine their development and investments, and employ their accumulations only on the basis of this general integrated plan. In order to check up on this process, the «International Bank of Investments», which is under the complete control of Moscow, has been set up.

Integration is not limited to the economy alone. According to the Soviet magazine «Novoye Vremya», the current process of integration involves «a complex process of ever greater coalescence and re-

construction of economic and state structures» of the member countries. Some time ago the head of the so-called Economic Institute of the World Socialist System of the Soviet Union, Bogomolov, called for a «revision of the current concept of the division of labour», and for this purpose «Mezhdunarodnaya Zhiznj» recommended the setting up of «economic body» of the Comecon countries, which would also have its own relative structures.

At the recent meeting of the Comecon the Soviets demanded that greater attention should be paid to the new organisms of integration — inter-state trusts and institutions, in order to «accelerate the process of integration». The secretary of the CC of the Soviet revisionist party, Rusakov, in an article published in the magazine «Partijnaya Zhiznj» demands the establishment of «broad and all-sided links among the Comecon countries on a central party and state level, as well as on a local level». These demands of Moscow aim at bringing about the complete

liquidation of the independence of the economies of the Comecon countries through a new higher, stage of integration. From now on, everything should be dependent on Moscow.

Several new organisms have been created in the framework of the Comecon, which are to serve as the basis for the superstructure of the so-called «world socialist economy». Long-term perspective plans have been drafted not only for industry, but also for agriculture, transport, especially in such new branches as computers, industrial automation, nuclear materials, etc. During the last two five-year plans about 190 comprehensive agreements have been concluded to determine the development of the more important economic branches and sectors of the Comecon countries in accord with the interests of Moscow. During this period the number of economic organizations participating in this process of integration has increased three times. Direct links have been established between many Soviet and Comecon organizations

**press
review**

and organs. About 130 republics, regions and cities of the Soviet Union are connected with more than 180 districts, regions and provinces of the other Comecon countries. However, this is not enough for the Soviet colonialists. Now they are openly calling for the creation of a «single socio-economic organization». Thus, as the magazine «Novoye vremya» has it, although national security and independence should be taken account of, nevertheless, «this in no way means that the essence and content of national sovereignty should remain unchanged.» In a word, the new stage of integration should serve the Moscow chiefs to lay

the economic foundations for the complete application of the notorious Brezhnev theory of limited sovereignty on the vassal countries.

However, this is not a smooth-going process. The «internationalization of the life» inside the Comecon is exacerbating the contradictions among its member countries, and not only between the Soviet Union and its vassals, both also among the latter. «Pravda» writes that «the events in Poland have upset balanced trade among the socialist countries». The press of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and other Comecon countries is increasingly complaining over tariffs in trade exchanges,

stressing that the course of the ruble is not real, that «the convertibility of the ruble which was applied in 1964 did not yield the expected results». In the various countries of the Comecon voices are being heard calling for a «review of the system of collaboration» and the establishment of «more harmonious economic links in conformity with the real interests and the specific of each country». Of course, this worries the Soviet patrons, who try to iron out these contradictions, to check their satellites, to force them to accept the supposed «profits» accruing from the further deepening of the integration process.

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NEO-COLONIALIST BRAIN DRAIN

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

American imperialism and the other imperialist powers make a great noise about the «aid» they give the undeveloped countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. A savage neo-colonialist policy is hidden behind this demagogical noise. Thirsting for profits, capitalism uses the most sophisticated means and forms for the realization of its policy. One of these forms is the draining of these continents of the ablest specialists, cadres and scientists.

During the last 20 years this brain drain has taken great

proportions. According to different sources, thousand engineers and physicians, agronomers and biologists, architects and teachers, people specialized in various fields of the economy, education and culture, have migrated from the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America to the developed capitalist countries of the West. Most of them have gone to the USA, Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, etc.

In this manner, instead of putting their mental and phy-

sical energies in the service of the development of the economy of their own countries, this whole army of cadres is exploited in the laboratories and factories, in the construction sites and farms of the United States, Britain, Canada, West Germany, etc. They are assigned to the hardest jobs which require a relatively low degree of qualification, with the result that, for work equal to that of the local specialists, their pay is much lower. As they spend nothing for their training, the importing coun-

**press
review**

tries make a net profit of about one billion dollars a year. This is one of the reasons that the «imported brains» are preferred to the local intellectuals.

The cause of this profitable business is by no means the «overproduction of cadres» in the «exporting» countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, as the bourgeoisie tries to make out. The old and new colonialism has plunged these countries in a state of profound backwardness. The destructive one-way development of their economy makes it impossible for hundreds and thousands of specialists to find work at home according to their degree of qualification. In these conditions, the multinational companies and the big financial capital of the developed capitalist countries step in. They come out in the role of «saviours and philanthropists» with their offers to thousands of jobless specialists. So, in the logic of the neo-colonialists, they help «ease the situation created by unemployment» and relieve Asia, Africa and Latin America of «excessive cadres». The reality

in these countries refutes the assertions of the bourgeoisie about the overproduction of cadres. According to reports of the World Organization of Health (OMS), about 150 thousand African, Asian and Latin-American physicians have «migrated» to the developed capitalist countries of the West in the last 15 years, at a time when East Africa has one physician per 20 thousand inhabitants, India one per 5,000 inhabitants, and about 150 million Latin-Americans have no health facilities at all. In one of its reports the United Nations Organization says that about 25 per cent of the children born in these countries die before they reach the age of 5 years. According to an information from UNESCO, during the last decade about 150 thousand engineers and agronomers, specialists of agriculture and industry have emigrated to the United States of America. About 8 per cent of Latin-American graduates in natural sciences go to the USA. Imperialism gives priority to specialists in the military field in which it has concentrated the best trained forces of science and technology.

In order to encourage this brain drain American imperialism and the other imperialist powers resort to the most refined methods, ranging from threats to corruption. In order to facilitate their «migration», American imperialism has created the «Institute of International Education», which, according to the former American Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, is the organizing centre of the «brain drain». For American imperialism the cadres it «imports» are only a kind of commodity, a sort of capital it transfers to suit its own interests, just as it does with the natural assets of the developing countries. The mission of the Institute is to discover the emerging talents in science and technology. The next step after the discovery is to offer them a trip to the USA to «perfect their knowledge». In the first months of 1982, Washington has made about 10 thousand offers of this kind in 120 countries of the world, with the resulting migration of 10 thousand «brains» to the USA.

■

«THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER» — A NEO-COLONIALIST MASK

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

About the «new international economic order» bourgeois and revisionist theoreticians

and statesmen, the traitors of the «Socialist International» and the renegades

of the «non-aligned world» deliver moralizing lectures, schemes and projects have

**press
review**

been drafted, concrete actions have been undertaken, such as the so-called North-South dialogue, the Conference of the 77, etc. However, much time has gone by and practically nothing has been achieved. If the bourgeois propaganda indulges in so much talk about the «new international economic order» and the propaganda of the Soviet social-imperialists about the so-called new structure of international economic relations, all this talk is meant only to dupe people so that they do not see the realization of the neo-colonialist schemes in the world conditions.

«Of course, it is essential that the international economic relations are changed. This is the desire and demand of the peoples who are fighting to break free from the chains of neo-colonialism. But in what way can these be achieved?... The correct course is the struggle of the peoples to defend their rights to the end, resolute opposition to the neo-colonialist plunder, the taking over and the sovereign administration of the national assets,» stressed Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 8th Congress of the Party. The undeveloped countries which fight for their rights, have repeatedly demanded that the bourgeois-revisionist countries of the West and the East abandon their discriminating economic policy, that equal

exchanges and mutual benefit are established among them in order to close the gap caused by the profound economic backwardness in which they have remained and which is precisely due to the ruthless neo-colonialist plunder, etc. But, it is no surprise that these demands have fallen on deaf ears. Indeed, they have even refused to take them up at international forums. Speaking at the Conference of Cancun, Reagan left these countries no alternative but to open their doors to the free penetration of foreign private capital into their economies, or turning for help to such organizations as the International Monetary Fund and the International Reconstruction Bank, which are manipulated and directed by Washington.

It is known that these organisms have always been cunningly manipulated by Western capital and American capital, in the first place, as instruments of neo-colonialist plunder. The best evidence of this nature of theirs, which has remained unaltered, is the recent meeting of Helsinki in which the directors of these two notorious organisms met and decided amongst other things on reducing credits, raising interest rates, cutting on funds for social purposes and implementing other restrictive measures which will further

harm the interests of the undeveloped countries. The meeting of the «great seven» at Versailles promised nothing better. There they spoke about talks on an international level about establishing a «new economic order» but on condition that «the independence of the specialized international organisms be guaranteed.» Hence, the law will always be made by the International Monetary Fund and the International Reconstruction Bank.

The social-imperialists of Moscow, who try to pass themselves off as the «natural allies» of the undeveloped countries, in essence are no different from their rivals. They also avoid all formal international engagements to assisting the undeveloped countries and have chosen as their specific road direct economic links with the countries of «socialist orientation», or more precisely, of pro-Soviet orientation, to which they give some «aid» or «credits» in order to bring them more thoroughly under their domination.

That the «aid» and credits, which the propaganda arsenal of the bourgeoisie and the revisionists advertizes with so much noise, has brought no good to these countries, this is proved by the bitter reality of the last decade. Essentially the talks about the creation of a «new economic order» dealt with the trade of raw

**press
review**

materials. The policy of discrimination pursued by the capitalist and revisionist countries, a policy which they implement by means of their all-powerful multi-nationals, has caused colossal damage to the undeveloped countries. At the end of the 70's these countries had only 30 billion dollars of income from the export of their raw materials, at a time when the total value of these raw materials which the multi-nationals resold to the other regions of the world reached a total of

200 billion dollars. During the years 1970-1978 the total capital of 4.3 billion dollars was exported to the undeveloped countries of Africa, while the profit realized from it over the same period reached the sum of 15.8 billion dollars. The Soviet Union covers most of the deficit of its balance of payments with the Western countries through the profit it makes by means of unequal exchanges with the countries of the «socialist orientation». As a result of the protectionist measures taken by the

West against the commodities coming from the undeveloped countries, the latter showed a loss of more than 7 billion dollars in 1980. Their indebtedness exceeds 500 billion dollars. Only through the payment of interest rates these countries are compelled to refund 40-50 billion dollars every year. This is only an incomplete picture of the economic plight of the undeveloped countries which are the victims of neo-colonialist exploitation that goes under the mask of the «new international economic order».

■

RELIGION — CLOSE COLLABORATOR OF THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS

«BASHKIMI»

Some time ago, «Politizdat», the publishing house of political literature of the Soviet Union, published a voluminous book written by the chairman of one of the state committees of the Council of Ministers, a certain Kuroyedov. According to «Pravda» which reviewed the book, it is specifically written for the «Soviet working people, for the propaganda workers and teachers of the higher schools». On account of the high functions filled by this Soviet official, one would be left into thinking that this book should

serve atheistic propaganda. Nothing of the sort. The author solemnly declares that the committee he chairs «does not engage in atheistic propaganda, because such a thing does not fall within its competences.» According to «Pravda», the author has set out to tell his readers, at home and abroad, that the priests and their followers are well off in the Soviet Union, that they «take an active part in the construction of communism,» and that the Church in the Soviet Union «is active in the defence of peace in the world.»

This anti-Marxist stand of the Soviet social-imperialists towards religion and its representatives is part of their all-round bourgeois degeneration. The chiefs of Moscow have harnessed the Church to their social-imperialist ambitions and use according to the various internal and external political circumstances. Religious propaganda is spreading, the number of churches and priests is increasing, and reactionary and obscurantist mediaeval concepts are being revived.

A big factory specialized in

**press
review**

the production of cult objects was inaugurated with great pomp and ceremony not very long ago. New churches have been built and old ones are being reconstructed all over the country. Every year the top personalities of the Soviet Union send messages of greetings to the patriarch of Moscow and all Russia. According to «Pravda», in the recent years «hundreds of large mosques and thousands of village mosques have been built or reconstructed» in the Soviet Union. The Church published its own newspapers, reviews and calendars in millions of copies, religious icons and postcards have wide circulation, the Quran and the Gospel have gone through many publications. Internally, the chiefs of the Kremlin want the Church to put people in a state of apathy, to educate them in the spirit of submission and meekness, according to the sayings of the Bible: «Whoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also,» or «Blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,» so

that people do not oppose the fascist dictatorship, do not make demands for a better life without oppression and exploitation, and work as much as possible for the new Soviet bourgeoisie, part of which is the clergy with its great privileges.

Externally, the present rulers of the Soviet Union want the Church to give its «blessing» to their expansionist policy and their penetration into different regions of the world. They organize «word» conferences and congresses of religious representatives in support of their policy. The synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, for example, approved the Soviet fascist aggression against Afghanistan, and the patriarch Pimen, soon after this declaration, was awarded the order of the «Peoples' Friendship» for his «patriotic activity and defence of peace», as Kuznetsov's message of greetings puts it in a cynical manner. The Soviet aggression against Afghanistan was approved by an Islamic conference organized in Tashkent.

Besides their «world» and regional conferences, meetings and congresses of religious personalities, the Soviet social-imperialists have set up specialized religious institutions for the co-ordination of the activity of the Soviet clergy with the clergy of other countries. They openly praise not only their Orthodox Church but also the Catholic and other churches. According to the Soviet press reports, «the Catholic Church has undergone an historical change and is fighting for peace,» etc.

The yearly meetings between the «Marxists and the Christians,» as the chiefs of Moscow describe such meetings, have become a revisionist-Christian institution. In the last such meeting which was held in Madrid, the Soviets had taken along not only the so-called Marxists from their vassal countries of Europe, but also bishop Pitirim. At the press conference after the meeting the Soviet representatives declared that they had reached common views with the Christians of the West on many points.

DEFENDERS OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM

«PUNA» — *organ of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania*

The trade-union chiefs in various capitalist countries are carrying out an all-round ideological diversion by trying to convince the working class that the present crisis, the capitalist system is going

through, is a temporary and passing phenomenon, that the implementation of a number of economic and political measures, which they recommend, will allegedly bring about the disappearance of the crisis and

the improvement of the conditions of living of the working people. In this context, the trade-union chiefs, these minions of the bourgeoisie, spread the thesis according to which the cause of the crisis

press review

is only the wrong economic policy pursued by the party in power. With a few corrections to this policy, they say, or with a change in the government, the conditions of the working class will change, too. In this manner, they do the bourgeoisie a great service, becoming its tools in electoral campaigns, intended to beguile the working people, to delude them with the hope that a new government will make things better for them, pretending that the important is to change not the system, but only individual representatives of this system.

Thus, the chiefs of the AFL-CIO in the United States have embarked on a «new strategy» which, according to their authors, is «opposed to Reaganomics». At the foundation of this strategy lies the strengthening of the links and collaboration with the Democratic Party so as to ensure the victory of its candidates in the mid-term elections for the American Congress which will take place this November. The main objective of the AFL-CIO is to contribute to the victory of the democratic candidate in the coming presidential elections. The head of this trade-union organization, Kirkland, told the American workers that «now the field of battle is the Congress». So, here we have to do with an attempt to divert the American working people from the road of class struggle and distract the attention of the American working class from the revolutionary struggle by

involving it in the rivalry for power with the monopoly groupings.

A similar stand is maintained by the chiefs of the TUC in Britain, who, in the conditions of the deepening of the crisis, have come out with the appeal to replace the conservative government with a labourite government which is supposed to work out a program for the economic recovery of the country. In the same position stand the chiefs of the trade-union movement in Canada. In an article published in the bourgeois journal «Toronto Star», the president of the Canadian Labour Congress, Macdermot, proposed a number of economic measures which, in his opinion, will pull the economy of the country out of the crisis. Judging by the logic and electoral interests of a bourgeois politician, Macdermot lays the blame for the crisis on the government and its wrong policy, and declares that «had the Liberal Party (which is in office) implemented the proposals of the Canadian Labour Congress and of the NPD (with which it is linked), the crisis in Canada and its consequences for the working people would have been avoided».

With such a stand to and interpretation of the causes of the crisis, the trade-union bosses in different capitalist countries render a great service to the bourgeoisie and its state. They see the crisis as a subjective phenomenon

which originates from the wrong policy of the government, and not as an objective process which derive from the capitalist system itself. Speaking about the possibility to avoiding the crisis by means of a change in the economic policy of the government, or of the bourgeois government itself, the trade-union chiefs come out openly in defence of the capitalist system, trying to arouse the illusion among the working people that they can find a way out of the crisis even without changing the present system. What frightens most these spokesmen or the monopoly bourgeoisie is the mounting struggle of the working masses against capital. They express their preoccupation openly when they call on the bourgeois government of their countries «to rectify» their economic policies as quickly as possible, because the continuation of this state of things «would lead to social upheavals fraught with heavy consequences».

These actions and stands show them in the role of agents and defenders of the bourgeois order, which the trade-union bosses in the different capitalist countries really are. They also show an ever closer collaboration between the trade-union centres and the political parties of the capitalists, which exposes them in the eyes of the working people as appendages of the economic and political organisms of capital.



View of the interior of the Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg National Museum.

Photo: S. Xhillari

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