

Albania today

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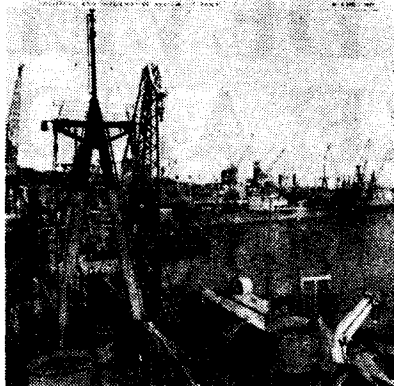


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◀ Durrës port, one of the largest ports of Albania.

During the 40 years of the people's power Albania has been turned into a huge building site. Hundreds of industrial projects have been set up, four-fifths of the population of the country live in new houses and the construction of the whole railway network of the country has been a national action of the youth.



Albania today



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ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND SCIENCE, THEIR ON THE GROWTH OF PRODUCTION SET BY THE PARTY FOR A NEW STEP FORWARD IN THESE DIRECTIONS

*From the report submitted by Tefta Cami,
Minister of Education and Culture, on behalf of the Council of Ministers*

On June 18-19, 1984 the 5th Session of the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly carried out its proceedings with the following agenda:

1. Report of the Council of Ministers «On the development of education, culture and science, their influence on the growth of production and the tasks set by the Party for a new step forward in these directions».

2. Adoption of the draft law «On the fund of state archives and on archives».

3. Adoption of the decrees promulgated by the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

Then, Comrade Tefta Cami, Minister of Education and Culture, was called upon to submit the report of the Council of Ministers «On the development of education, culture and science, their influence on the growth of production and the tasks set by the Party for a new step forward in these directions».

After the closure of the debate on the first point on the agenda, the People's Assembly unanimously adopted the relative decision.

Comrade Qirjako Mihali, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, presented the draft law «On the fund of state archives and on archives», on behalf of the Council of Ministers. The deputies unanimously adopted the law «On the fund of state archives and on archives» in principle, article by article and as a whole.

Sihat Tozaj, secretary of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, presented on behalf of the Presidium the report on the decrees promulgated by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the last point on the agenda. The deputies unanimously approved the decrees promulgated, one by one and as a whole.

Comrade Pali Miska, head of the Presidency of the People's Assembly, held the closing speech.

The 5th Session of the 10th Legislature of the People's Assembly carried out its proceedings in the atmosphere of high revolutionary enthusiasm which has spread among the working masses.

THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

OF EDUCATION, THEIR INFLUENCE ON PRODUCTION AND THE TASKS FOR A NEW STEP FORWARD

Report of the Council of Ministers

COMRADE DEPUTIES,

AT THIS SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY WHICH HAS BEEN CONVENED IN THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE HOMELAND AND THE TRIUMPH OF OUR PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF REVOLUTIONARY ENTHUSIASM WHICH HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR SOCIALIST HOMELAND FOR THE SUCCESSFUL FULFILMENT OF THE TASKS SET BY THE 8th CONGRESS OF THE PLA, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REPORTS ON THE WORK DONE BY STATE AND ECONOMIC ORGANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE, THEIR INFLUENCE ON THE GROWTH OF PRODUCTION AND THE TASKS SET BY THE PARTY FOR A NEW STEP FORWARD IN THESE DIRECTIONS.

THE YEARS OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION HAVE BEEN YEARS OF A DEEP-GOING IDEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE CENTURIES-OLD BACKWARDNESS AND THE CREATION OF A DEVELOPED MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL CULTURE. THE PARTY AND COMRADE ENVER HOXHA HAVE DIRECTED THE ENTIRE STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES FOR THE CREATION OF THE NEW NATIONAL AND SOCIALIST CULTURE AND SCHOOL IN UNITY WITH THE WHOLE ECONOMIC AND THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY, PROCEEDING FROM THE TEACHINGS OF MARXISM-LENINISM THAT WITHOUT NATIONAL CULTURE AND EDUCATION AND THEIR SOCIALIST CONTENT THERE CANNOT BE SOCIALISM.

Our Party has constantly concerned itself, among other things, about the creation and development of our national and socialist education and school, giving them priority and seeing them as great factors of progress, as the main means for the assimilation of culture, knowledge and science. Our people take legitimate pride in this immortal deed of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Albania, the country which in the past lamented the highest percentage of illiteracy in Europe, boasts now an advanced educational system

and a school which is being constantly revolutionized. Pre-school education includes more than half of children of 2-6 years of age; compulsory 8-year schooling is being applied all over the country for many years now; 51 per cent of the students who graduate from 8-year schools, go over to full-time middle schools and about 20,000 working people are admitted to part-time middle schools. Girls make up 46 per cent of the total number of students. The creation of higher education in the first years of the people's power is one of the major deeds of our Party. Specialists

and cadres for all fields of our economy, culture, and defence are trained at the University of Tirana, the greatest educational and scientific centre of the country and the main institution for the training of the new people's intelligentsia, as well as at 7 other high schools. One in 3-4 people attends school. The number of working people with a medium or high schooling has risen to 230 thousand and 56 thousand respectively. More than 80 thousand students have graduated from the middle school and about 8,200 students terminated the high school in the last three years.

There is a wide network of cultural institutions: professional drama theatres and variety shows, publishing houses and libraries, museums, palaces and houses of culture, the Film Studio, the Theatre of the Opera and Ballet, the Symphonic Orchestra, etc. Our radio and television have entered almost every home in the city and country. There are about 4,000 cultural and artistic institutions all over the country.

The Academy of Sciences is another great deed of the Party and a remarkable achievement of Albanian scientific thought. Now we have a broad network of specialized scientific institutions and 50 research and design institutes functioning in different fields of the economy and culture. The broad working masses, workers and cooperativists, people with a higher education and others working in study groups, technological bureaus and scientific nuclei take a direct part in the development of the technical-scientific revolution. During the year 1983 alone, the working class applied about 10,600 rationalization proposals, built 177 new lines, 19 new factories and 86 new sections. Studies of the history, language and culture of our people have been raised to a higher level. The unification of the Albanian literary language is among the more remarkable achievements of our people. The achievements of social sciences, which study the political, ideological and economic processes of the development of our society, occupy a particular place in this development.

The working masses of our country have been placed in conditions of true equality in regard to education and assimilation of culture and the creation of material and spiritual values. With us education is given free of charge, without any fee, to everybody. It is the same for boys or girls. The national minority enjoys complete equality in the development of education and culture in their mother tongue. A qualitative index is the overcoming of the former inequality and disproportion in the development of education and culture between city and country, and among the different regions and districts of the country. The contrast between city and country, this century-old ulcer of exploiting orders, has been done away with, and essential distinctions in the field of culture between them are being

narrowed down more and more with each passing day. A significative expression of the radical transformations carried out in the years of the people's power is the change that has taken place in the mode of living of the broad masses of the people, the improvement of their well-being.

Education, culture and science, as important sectors of the superstructure, are remarkable not only for their development in extension and depth and at high rates, but, in the first place, also for their sound ideological content and their militancy which enables them to respond to the requirements of the socio-economic development of the country. They have always played an active role in the struggle for the creation of the new man imbued with the Marxist-Leninist ideology of our Party, and for the eradication of the leftovers and influence of old reactionary conservative and liberal ideologies, as well as the bourgeois and revisionist ideology. Our country has set the great example of a successful struggle against the ideological and cultural aggression of the imperialist superpowers and the whole bourgeois-revisionist world.

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During this period the Council of Ministers has directed the work in the sector of education, culture and art and science according to the orientations of the 8th Congress of the PLA, the decisions of the Plenums of the Central Committee of the PLA and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha. Education, culture and science have become important factors in the struggle of the Party and the masses for the construction of socialism on the basis of self-reliance.

The Party teaches us that more efforts should be made for education, culture and science to be placed more extensively in the service of our socio-economic development. The state plan for the development of these sectors has been drafted and is being realized according to the requirements of this orientation. «As everything in our socialist order,» says Comrade Enver Hoxha, «our new school must also have its own laws of development which should be adapted to the socio-economic structure and serve it, because school and education are an important part of the superstructure which should be led by our Marxist-Leninist materialist philosophy.» Hence, the measures that are being taken for further raising the qualitative level of the content of the school and for deepening its mass character are intended to link school as closely as possible with life, production and the technical-scienti-

fic revolution. The organs of state power and education have given priority to work for the implementation of the law «On compulsory 8-year education». They have followed with particular attention the development of vocational medium education which comprises about 80 per cent of middle school students. During this five-year plan 10 new profiles have been opened in industrial middle schools and 15 new branches in higher schools. Special care is being taken for the consolidation of some important schools and profiles, such as those of geology, oil, mining, important metallurgy, agriculture, etc. For a more rational development of vocational education, demands for qualified workers must be studied more thoroughly by the executive committees of the people's councils of the districts, especially as far as the main branches of the economy are concerned so that the contingents that graduate from those schools are adequate and employed according to their qualification.

The national character and socialist content are standing out more and more in our culture, art and literature today. They represent great ideological values and reflect our reality in all its dimensions, past, present and future. The national character, the socialist content of our culture have been strengthened in struggle against the preachings of the bourgeois and revisionist ideologists to the effect that allegedly the time has come for the overcoming of national distinctions, for the internationalization of culture, for the elimination of national cultural traditions and peculiarities, especially among the smaller peoples. These preachings support the policy of cultural aggression of the superpowers and sinister regressive and chauvinist forces.

The strengthening of our culture has always been done by relying on and preserving and developing further the treasury of the cultural legacy of our people. Expressions of the continuation of this work during this five-year plan are such major achievements as the publications in the field of culture, the studies on the national history, language, literature and culture of our people, the reconstruction and protection of monuments of culture, the new archaeological discoveries, the Historic Museum and «Skanderbeg» Museum, the preparation of the Encyclopaedic Dictionary of the Albanian World, etc., monumental works which bear testimony to the wealth and value of our cultural legacy and are a great support for the further flourishing of our culture. The cultural and scientific institutions should improve their work for the discovery, study and propagation of the treasury of the cultural legacy of our people. This task is fulfilled ever better when these traditions are properly assessed, enriched and raised to a higher level and placed in the service of the socialist revolution.

Our culture distinguishes itself for its spirit of proletarian internationalism, its respect for the progressive cultural values of other peoples. On the other hand, it is closed to everything decadent and reactionary from the degenerate bourgeois and revisionist world. Our culture and art have also raised the authority of our country in other countries. The documents of the Party and the major Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha have a great response and broad propagation among the progressive people throughout the world. Literature and figurative arts, artistic ensembles, ballet troupes and symphony orchestras, the cinematography and other sectors of the Albanian culture are warmly received in other countries and successfully represent our Homeland abroad.

The greatness of the ideological and cultural revolution that is developing in our country consists also in the fact that it has transformed culture and education from a monopoly of a minority into a property of the broad masses. With us people are not only the object of these activities, but also and, in the first place, a creative force, their true subject. Significant in this direction is the fact of the participation of about 70 thousand people in all the phases of the National Folklore Festival of 1983 which clearly shows how beautifully our people preserve, develop and transmit their rich culture. «The main objective of all the scientific study work is to give the 7th Five-year Plan the necessary support to ensure its complete fulfilment,» said Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 8th Congress of the PLA. «Along with this, an important task and objective of our science is to begin immediately to carry out studies in regard to the next five-year plan.» Therefore, our scientific research is orientated towards application and there are many fields now in which sciences are engaged in the solution of major and important problems posed by the intensification of production, the raising of its productivity and improvement of its quality, the introduction of new technologies, reduction of cost, and the further deepening of the technical-scientific revolution. The plan of scientific research work on a national scale comprises a great number of important themes. Other valuable studies are being carried out and they represent the scientific basis for the drafting of the future five-year plan.

In the recent years there has been a further integration of scientific research work, especially in some fields of agriculture, construction building, etc. Nevertheless, the integration process has not yet the necessary extension and depth as a constant and steady activity. The great scientific potential of higher schools, especially the University of Tirana, is not yet being used with due effectiveness. It is up to the Committee of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Educa-

tion and Culture and all scientific departments and institutions, higher schools, etc. to plan and carry out this process in an appropriate manner.

The development of science, education and culture call for better organization of the work for the elaboration and diffusion of scientific information.

National scientific activities such as conferences, symposiums, seminars, etc. have become more frequent in the recent years. Many of them have been important events not only in the educational, cultural and scientific life of the country, but have also had an echo abroad. These activities have developed more in the fields of social sciences and less in those of technical and natural sciences. This ratio cannot be justified with the real and fruitful development of scientific research work carried out in these fields. It is the duty of the Academy of Sciences and the University of Tirana and other scientific and educational institutions to plan this activity better so as to make it serve the development of science and technique more effectively.

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The objectives set by the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha for a rapid increase of production, the modernization of industry, the intensive development of agriculture, the further improvement of the well-being of the people and the strengthening of the defence capacity are connected directly with the raising of the level and quality of education, culture and science.

The organs of education at the centre and in the districts are engaged in intense work for the implementation of the decision of the Political Bureau on further raising the level and quality of teaching and education work in our school. Plans, programs and some new textbooks have been compiled with many improvements in their ideological, scientific and pedagogical content, which enable our new generation to be equipped with knowledge of a contemporary level. Some measures have been taken for the qualification of teachers and experiments are being carried out over particular problems of our school. However, demands on school documentation should be raised higher and there should be a more active participation of the more qualified forces of education, science and production.

The struggle for better quality is also a struggle for the further revolutionization of our school. It is linked, in the first place, with the quality of work of teachers, headmaster's offices and organs of education and culture. Only those teachers achieve success who work with love to serve the lofty interests of the Party and Home-

land, who love their students, who struggle constantly to carry out militant scientific work, who are exacting towards themselves, their comrades and their students, who work for the development of the capacities and inclinations of their students, for the strengthening of order and discipline at school, etc. The struggle for raising the level of work at school calls for the further deepening of educational work so that students, proceeding from sound revolutionary motives in the assimilation of knowledge and science, raise ever more their demands for the strengthening of discipline and the further deepening of socialist democracy, be ready to serve passionately and militantly there where the Party and the people need them.

The Party has always highly valued teachers for their outstanding work for the education and training of the new generation. In this session of the People's Assembly, in particular, the Council of Ministers congratulates all the teachers of first classes, who have achieved the passing of all their pupils and those who are doing commendable work in second classes and, through them, those who are experimenting with the new mathematics text, the teachers and specialists who are working on the compilation of new texts as well as the great army of teachers who are carrying out their duty with great devotion.

The Ministry of Education and Culture and its organs will study and resolve in the process the problems which concern the school and have to do with its level and content, the quality of assimilation of knowledge, the new methods, the raising of the effectiveness of the qualification of cadres, the study and generalization of advanced experience, increased demands, the organization of complex studies in the field of education, pedagogy, psychology, etc. so as to find new, better and more permanent solutions. Particular attention will be devoted to raising the level and consolidating the middle school, especially agricultural, oil, geological, mining and other middle schools, etc.

The young teachers and scientists must rely more on their own scientific work.

The improvement of quality is an acute problem in the field of study and design. The Party instructs that it should precede the development of every sector. The intensified economy and large-scale production call for complex studies which comprehend all aspects and envisage the interaction of many sciences and methods of scientific research such as mathematics, informatics, physics, chemistry, etc. Such studies open new prospects for the production of oil and gas, chromium, iron, bauxite and other minerals. One of the reasons for shortages in livestock production is lack of harmonization of studies with their

practical implementation, as in the case of the studies on the fodder base, constructions and technologies of management, etc. Reduction of cost and lowering of expenditure per unit of production must be permanent criteria for the assessment of the value of scientific studies, new production lines and the introduction of new technologies.

More care should be devoted to raising the quality of studies and designs by applying more advanced methods and technologies. They must be based more on laboratory experiments, models, the results of pilot plants or experimental plots. Studies and designs and the engagement of people should be concentrated more on the realization of the tasks of this five-year plan and on preparatory measures for the fulfilment of the targets of the coming five-year plan.

The improvement of quality in the field of art and culture calls for higher demands for the strengthening of the ideological partisanship, the popular spirit, the national originality and a fuller reflection of the socialist reality in the field of creativeness. This calls for a higher level of cultural and professional formation of writers and artists, more attention to the training of new talents and greater support for them, better organized work for a more profound acquaintance with life, for a more truthful reflection of the reality, for perfecting artistic skills, while avoiding sketchiness and subjectivism. The creative forces and the cultural and artistic institutions of our country, inspired by the ideals of the Party, will know how to fulfil the new tasks set at the 3rd Congress of the Writers and Artists' League and raise our art and literature of socialist realism to a higher level to the benefit of the communist education of the working people.

Cultural and artistic work must be assessed by all circles and institutions according to its quality, as well as its contribution to the enrichment of the spiritual life of the masses and their inspiration to cope with the ever new tasks arising from life. Our state has put large material and financial, cultural and artistic means at the disposal of the masses, and they must be used rationally and with the fullest effectiveness possible.

The raising of the quality of educational, cultural and scientific work is closely linked with the further enhancement of the feeling of responsibility and the militant spirit in struggle against bureaucratic, technocratic and intellectualist manifestations which hamper our onward march. According to the orientations of the Party we will continue on the road of the strengthening and intensification of scientific studies and cultural activities. This will be done not only through the increase of cadres and the expansion of the material base, but especially through

raising the productivity of the work of teachers and scientists, cadres and specialists and all the working people, in general. Along with the further qualification of cadres, a particular role in this direction will also be played by the creation of a sounder atmosphere, the raising of revolutionary vigilance, the encouragement of debate and scientific criticism in the party spirit which stimulate advanced scientific thought and push it forward.

A number of measures have been taken for a better organization of the post-university qualification and specialization of cadres. About 1,200 working people have gone or will go through long-term full-time courses during this five-year period. This form of qualification is at its first steps. It is up to the higher schools and the relative departments to devote more attention to the further raising of the scientific level of these courses, to meet the needs for laboratories and employ more effectively in production and science the cadres that go through these courses. Special measures have been taken for the qualification of the working people in full-time and part-time courses.

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The fulfilment of the tasks set in the field of education, culture and science calls for the further raising of the level of the management and organization of work and the enhancement of the feeling of responsibility on the part of all state organs, from those at the centre to those of the local government and administration.

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The great achievements in the field of education, culture and science are only part of the victories our people have won under the leadership of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, on the 40-year long road of the all-round construction of socialism. They are evidence of the undisputable superiority of our socialist order, of its strength and inexhaustible vitality. Our people look forward to an ever brighter future of triumphant socialism. A guarantee for it is the wise leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, and the steel unity of the people round them, is their readiness and enthusiasm to devote all their forces and energies to overcome all difficulties and obstacles, to cope with and defeat any blockade and hostile activity, holding always high the triumphant banner of Marxism-Leninism and carrying the construction of socialist society ever forward.

TWO NEW BOOKS BY COMRADE ENVER HOXHA

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Comrade ENVER HOXHA's book

*The book
«Among the Common
Folk» (Memoirs)
was published in June*

This book of essays is part of the series of Comrade Enver Hoxha's memoirs of the years of the National Liberation War, which reflect events and the author's impressions mainly from two of the gravest and most difficult periods of the war.

In the pages of this book the brave and patriotic common folk are portrayed with penetrating clarity and love.

This book «Amongst the Common Folk», published in the context of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland, is another expression of the profound honour, gratitude and respect which the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha nurture for our valiant, industrious and freedom-loving people, for all those thousands of individuals from all parts of the country who, during the years of the National Liberation War responded to the call of the Party and gave their all for the liberation of the country, for the triumph of the revolution and for the establishment of the people's state power.

*The book
«Reflections on the Middle
East» was published
in July*

This work is one of the series of books drawn from «The Political Diary on International Issues» on international matters. It includes notes, observations and analyses of events in the Middle East made in the period from 1958 to the end of 1983.

This book reveals the roots of conflicts in the Arab world, unmasks the open and secret enemies of the Middle East and exposes the intrigues, plots and rivalries between the imperialist Great Powers and their interference in order to subjugate and plunder the peoples of that zone.

At the same time it makes a high evaluation of the resistance and struggle for freedom and independence of those peoples, of their outstanding traditions and their ancient art and culture.

This book also reflects the correct, principled stand which the Party of Labour of Albania and our country have maintained consistently in support of the just cause of the Arab peoples and all the other freedom-loving peoples of the world.

The book has been published in foreign languages.

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«Among the Common Folk» (Memoirs)

These days the working masses of our country, the communists and the cadres have in their hands the book of Comrade Enver Hoxha «Among the Common Folk», which is part of the series of memoirs from the years of the National Liberation War. It is dedicated to the simple, courageous and patriotic people who sheltered, protected and accompanied leaders of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha through the great dangers of the spring and summer of the year 1942 in Tirana and the enemy offensive of the winter of 1943-1944 in the regions of Elbasan, Librazhd, Gramsh and Korça.

Although it reflects events of the time of the War, although it speaks of individual families and people, the book has great generalizing values and is valid for today. The links of the Party with the people, which began to be tempered in heroic events and through hard tests, have been and remain the source of all our victories. In this direction, too, the experience of the War, enriched with the experience of these just as glorious 40 years, serves the present and will serve the future.

This book is, first of all, the expression of the feelings of love, gratitude and respect of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha for the people, for the patriotic and revolutionary villagers and town folk who, in those very grave days, opened their doors and hearts to the leaders of the Party and all the fighters for its cause. The book reflects, at the same time, the strong bonds of the people with the Party, with the communists, with the new people's state power, with great convincing truthfulness. This boundless love and these monolithic bonds are seen and analysed in their dialectics. Through many

details and events, with which are depicted a variety of the representatives of the masses of the people, the reader sees how the love of the people for the Party was born and grew, which were the factors that influenced in the continuous steeling of these bonds, how the Party, its leadership and the mass of the communists used such traditions of the people as generosity, hospitality, steadfastness in order to give them a new content and raise them to a new qualitative level.

In the large store of means that were used during those years in order to strengthen and steel the links of the working masses with the Party continuously, the principal place was occupied by the educative propaganda work which was aimed at capturing the hearts and minds of the people, mobilizing and throwing them into the war. The first printing shops, which spread the warming and convincing word of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, were set up in basements or the huts of the poor. At no time before had any political group or organization in Albania carried out such a widespread militant propaganda and agitation with such a healthy ideological contents, so clear and tangible as the propaganda and agitation which the Communist Party of Albania carried out in those years among the masses of workers, peasants, intellectuals, the youth, the women. The main place in this propaganda work was occupied by oral agitation, the work done with each individual. This was dictated not only by the circumstances of the time, the mass illiteracy of the population, and the persecution to which the press of the Party was submitted, but also by the fact that this form, which was in conformity with a centuries-old tradition,

yielded its fruit more effectively and more rapidly. In the pages of the book «Among the Common Folk» the reader sees Comrade Enver Hoxha talking warmly and simply alike with a tender mother, with a downtrodden worker, with an educated intellectual, or with an illiterate peasant at a hut in Galigat, with the children of Çermenika, etc. Besides the exacting work to direct the organs of the Party and the new people's power and the big formations of the National Liberation Army, the beloved leader of the Party and people did not spare his efforts and time to enter into conversation and clarify any possible sympathizer and supporter of the Liberation Movement. The auditoriums of these conversations were ordinary rooms, mud-floor huts, walls masked to protect him from being discovered, the hills commanding the roads from which the enemy columns approached, or simply a partisan fire, any place where the patriotic and freedom-loving people lived. As for the time in which these talks were held, there were no fixed hours. The time for talking was found in the breaks between meetings, during meals by the fire-place, in the short walks to shake one's legs, at the time when lying in bed and preparing to sleep and the unschooled, but honest and patriotic peasant dreamed of and asked questions about the future, in the low hut in which the tongues of the flames created a whole universe of lights and shades. It is communist work that knows no fixed hours and accepts no officialdom.

On the other hand, the book is a strong and truthful embodiment of the idea that the propaganda work of the Party to capture the hearts and minds of the people was not just and merely a question of words and ideas. It was preceded and accompanied with continuous revolutionary actions, in which the communists, the best sons and daughters of the people, stood at the forefront, even at the risk of their lives. All this began as a tradition which all the communists and cadres have inherited and make it their duty

to develop and raise it still higher in our days.

It is not accidental that, although the book turns to the years of the War, Comrade Enver Hoxha describes characters who lived in the period after Liberation and are still alive today. This is not a demand of the composition of the book, it is rather a question of the embodiment of the idea that the ties of the leader with the simple people, the ties of the Party with the people, struck root during the War, and developed and grew stronger in the battles for the construction of socialism. Besides, this has enabled the author to reflect the transformation of the world outlook and the moral growth of our people in their dialectical continuity, and thus, bring out better the values of the book for today. Comrade Enver Hoxha writes, «The Party would be again and again encircled by savage enemies, but just as it defeated the enemy winter operation, so would it smash and defeat the blackmail, plots and blockades of the future. Our Party would never fear anything, because it knew that just as it was ready to sacrifice itself for the people, so would the people be ready to sacrifice themselves for the Party.» These closing words of the book express in a nutshell not only the central idea of the book, that alloying element which binds together and creates the ideo-artistic coherence of a rich mosaic of memories, but also its validity for today.

Displaying the same characteristics which we see in the other works of the collection of memoirs by Comrade Enver Hoxha, such as the resilient and attractive style, marked journalistic-literary form, vivid language full of popular colour and idiom, the book «Among the Common Folk» has real artistic values.

For all these reasons this book is also a weapon in the present struggle and work, as well as a beautiful gift which comes at an appropriate time in the jubilee of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution.

PROFOUND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

**Comrade ENVER HOXHA'S book «Reflections
on the Middle East»**

Comrade Enver Hoxha's new book «Reflections on the Middle East» has been welcomed and is being read with special interest by the communists, cadres and our working masses, by those who study in various political, historical and social fields. Through the notes, observations, analyses and general panoramas in this book which are part of the author's «Political Diary» and which refer to events of the period from 1958 to the end of 1983, a scientific Marxist-Leninist analysis is made of major political problems of the time, which are linked with the Arab and non-Arab peoples of two continents, Africa and Asia, and which in the international arena are linked with what is called the Middle East crisis. These materials reflect some of the main moments and events, some of the inhuman imperialist activities of the superpowers and Israel as well as moments from the heroic struggles of the Arab people of Palestine, the other Arab peoples, the Afghans and the Iranians against the plots of the two superpowers.

The book «Reflections on the Middle East» grips the reader from the first pages on account of the complete and accurate reflection with scientific objectivity which it gives of major political, economic and social events during the past 25 years and the profound analysis and important conclusions and lessons which it contains.

By following the contemporary events which have taken place in the Middle East and writing about them at the moments when they are fresh, the author makes an all-sided analysis of them, based on historical materialism and the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism, reveals their internal and external causes, their complexity and interconnection, and makes assessments and forecasts the accuracy of which has been completely proved by the development of events in subsequent periods and which are valuable to the present day.

In this new book by Comrade Enver Hoxha we find correct answers to why so many wars have taken place in this region of the world during a relatively short period; why the Middle East crisis has assumed such proportions today that its inherent dangers and consequences exert an influence on the whole world situation; who has turned the Middle East into an extremely dangerous hotbed of endless conflicts; who are the open and secret enemies of the Arab people and a series of other acute political problems.

While throwing light on many facts and events, Comrade Enver Hoxha dwells in detail on those capital problems which have worried and are worrying the peoples of the Middle East and the whole world. First of all, he discloses the true causes of the explosive situation in that re-

gion, the roots of conflicts in the Arab world in which a number of wars, one bloodier than the other, have been waged between 1948 and 1983. In each decade there has been war and indeed two in one decade in the case of the wars of 1967 and 1973. On two occasions, in 1958 and 1983, the United States of America has employed its military forces to occupy Lebanon.

Comrade Enver Hoxha makes a stern, all-sided denunciation of the hostile anti-Arab expansionist policy of Israel and international Zionism. He makes a similar, firm, all-sided denunciation of the likewise anti-Arab, pro-Israeli policy of the imperialist powers which today, as in the past, stop at nothing in pursuit of their own interests just so long as they are able to achieve their aims of robbing the Arab peoples of their freedom and national independence and above all of their oil. As Comrade Enver Hoxha points out, «The American and British imperialists and the revisionist traitors are in diplomatic movement. All of them are waving the olive branch, all 'wailing' about the defence of the freedom and independence of the peoples, all of them writing and sending telegrams and messages to this address or that, but all of them hide the truth that with all this deafening clamour, the American, British and French imperialists, the Soviet revisionists, the Titoites and the others, are defending nothing but their own dirty interests to the detriment of the Arab peoples.»

A profound and all-sided analysis is made of the content and true aims of the global strategy of American imperialism in the Middle East, followed by all the American presidents before, during and after the Second World War, down to president Ronald Reagan, of the unprecedented arrogance of the United States of America which has proclaimed and treats the Middle East as a sphere of its national interests and its own domain. In this context the author reveals the «new» forms and methods which are being worked out in the White House to place not merely one or two countries, but all the countries which stretch from Morocco to Iran, within the orbit of American imperialists and keep them there.

With irrefutable arguments, Comrade Enver Hoxha explains the aims of the shuttling of American diplomatic missions around the Middle East, their step-by-step policy which led to «cooking up» the Camp David agreements which did not and could not bring peace or settle any part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The reader finds the true reason for this in a number of articles which show what place and role Israel has played in the context of the overall anti-Arab strategy of American imperialism, what efforts the United States of America has made and is still

making to ensure «secure borders» for its pistol in this region, that is, borders which will include all the Arab territories occupied by force of arms. The basis of the American-Israeli friendship and their political, economic and military alliances has always been their common hostility and struggle against the Arab peoples. This friendship and this alliance of identical anti-Arab aims has its roots in the motives and interests from which the United States of America and its allies proceeded for the establishment of the state of Israel. «No aims based on altruism or national sentiments impelled the British or American imperialists to create the state of Israel. Their aims were linked with their own predatory economic and strategic interests in the Middle East to preserve their bases and to have a centre of diversion amongst the Arab states.»

Besides the open support of American imperialism, Israel has always had the secret aid of Soviet social-imperialism which is trying to grab a place in the sun in the Middle East. Therefore, those articles in which through many facts and arguments the policy of the Soviet social-imperialists in the Middle East is exposed, have great value today. On the surface, the Soviet social-imperialists present themselves as «friends» and «saviours» of the Arab peoples, but in essence, they are nothing of the sort. As time has confirmed, at the most critical moments they have betrayed the Arab peoples and left them in the lurch.

Many articles in the book show what features the policy of the Soviet social-imperialists has in common with the policy of the American imperialists, what brings these two superpowers closer together and what makes them clash and battle fiercely with each other openly or behind the scenes, over many years, and trample on the freedom, the independence and the national and social interests of the poor, industrious peoples of the Middle-East countries.

«It is truly a great tragedy for a series of Arab peoples in the Middle East that they have long been the prey of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. They have been continually caught up in the intrigues of the Warsaw Treaty, represented by the Soviet Union, and of NATO, represented by the United States of America, that aim to have spheres of influence, markets and military bases in those countries. The aim of the two superpowers is to keep these peoples divided and, in fact, for the time being they have achieved this aim.»

Comrade Enver Hoxha's writings cover a wide range of themes and include the main fields of life. They have to do not only with the struggle of the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressors, but also with their struggle for social liberation, with their co-

colossal oil wealth, and the very ancient culture of the peoples of the great region of the Middle East.

The materials which deal with the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist uprisings of the peoples of the Middle East, such as the heroic fights of the martyr Palestinian people, the struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet social-imperialist occupiers, and the articles which give a wide ranging and detailed view of the great values these peoples have created in the fields of culture, art, science, philosophy, etc., and their major contribution to the treasury of world culture, have great value as studies.

Equally great values have the materials about the energy crisis which has swept the capitalist-revisionist world and in this context the role of the Middle-East countries, which are among the biggest oil producers in the world.

Major, acute problems are facing all the peoples of the Middle East who are struggling to solve them in correct ways. As this book points out, the crisis in the Middle East can never be resolved until the Palestinian people regain their homeland stolen from them and martyred by the Israeli aggressor, and this will be achieved only when the political, economic and military influence of the superpowers and other imperialist powers is dealt powerful blows from all the Arab peoples and their political and economic influence is finally rejected. Today the primary question facing the Palestinian, Lebanese, Afghan and Iranian peoples and all the other Arab and non-Arab peoples of the Middle East is to avoid falling deeper into the traps and the deceptive and disruptive plots of the superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union and of Israel, and to establish and strengthen true unity internally and amongst themselves in order to withstand and overcome the united forces of Israel, the American imperialists, the Soviet social-imperialists and the reactionary local feudal-bourgeois circles. Only resolute uncompromising struggle, based on genuine Arab unity, will carry them to the triumph of their genuine independence and freedom, to the utilization of their

colossal oil wealth in favour of their national and social development and progress.

The materials contained in the book «Reflections on the Middle East» openly express the stand of the Party of Labour and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania on all the problems which have to do with the Middle East crisis, at the time when they have occurred, hence they bear the stamp of the time. They present the principled and resolute stand of our country and people in favour of the struggle of the Palestinian people and the other Arab peoples against Israel and the imperialist superpowers, of the Iranian people, the Afghan people and the freedom-loving African peoples. These stands have been expressed also in many important documents of our Party and state in various international institutions such as the UNO, etc., where our representatives have defended the just cause of the struggle of the fraternal Arab peoples. The opinions and assessments which are included in this book, too, are further proof of that warm and sincere friendship which has always linked the Albanian people with the Arab peoples and with all the freedom-loving and peace-loving peoples of the world.

Proceeding from concrete facts and events, in a number of materials Comrade Enver Hoxha expresses his profound grief over the misfortunes which have befallen these peoples, over the injustices which they have suffered and are suffering and, at the same time, he stresses that their exemplary struggle for their own freedom and national independence against savage Israeli imperialist and social-imperialist invaders gives him joy and inspiration.

The publication of this book, which focuses on an important region of current interest, which the two imperialist superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, for their own predatory political, economic and strategic-military purposes have made one of the most tense and potentially explosive regions of the world, undoubtedly constitutes an outstanding political, ideological and scientific event in the life of our country.

THE YOUTH ARE A GREAT REVOLUTIONARY FORCE *by REMZI LANI*

The youth of socialist Albania have continuously fought to safeguard their ideological, political and moral purity. They grow healthy and are imbued with the revolutionary ideals of the Party

THE MILITANT ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH OF ALBANIA, TODAY THE LABOUR YOUTH UNION OF ALBANIA, WAS CREATED ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, ON NOVEMBER 23, 1941, UNDER THE DIRECT LEADERSHIP OF COMRADE ENVER HOXHA. THIS WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT. GUIDED BY THE TEACHINGS OF MARXISM-LENINISM ON THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN THE REVOLUTION, OUR PARTY, WHICH HAD JUST BEEN FORMED, FROM THE START DEVOTED SPECIAL CARE TO THE WORK FOR ORGANIZING AND THROWING INTO THE WAR FOR FREEDOM THE BROAD MASSES OF THE YOUTH, AND TO THEIR REVOLUTIONARY MOBILIZATION. THE PARTY SAW IN THE YOUTH THE MOST ACTIVE PART OF THE PEOPLE, WHO HAD ALWAYS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE HEROIC EFFORTS FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE HOMETLAND AND THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION, SAW THE FOLLOWER OF THE BRILLIANT PATRIOTIC FIGHTING TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE AND THEIR BEST QUALITIES. IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY THE YOUTH FOUND NOW THE LEADING FORCE WHICH SHOWED THEM THE TRUE ROAD OF NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION, THE ROAD OF GENUINE FREEDOM.

From the first call of the Party, the youth threw themselves without reserve, with all their energies and drive, into the Anti-Fascist National Liberation War, confronting its difficulties boldly, bearing a heavy burden on their young shoulders. At the 1st Congress of the Anti-fascist Youth of Albania, held in August 1944, Comrade Enver Hoxha said: «When the Communist Party of Albania sounded the call to save our beloved Homeland from the clutches of fascism, the Albanian youth were the first to respond to its call, were the first to throw themselves into the war; the choicest sons of the people filled the ranks of the guerilla units of the towns and fighting units in the mountains, filled the partisan battalions...» The youth threw

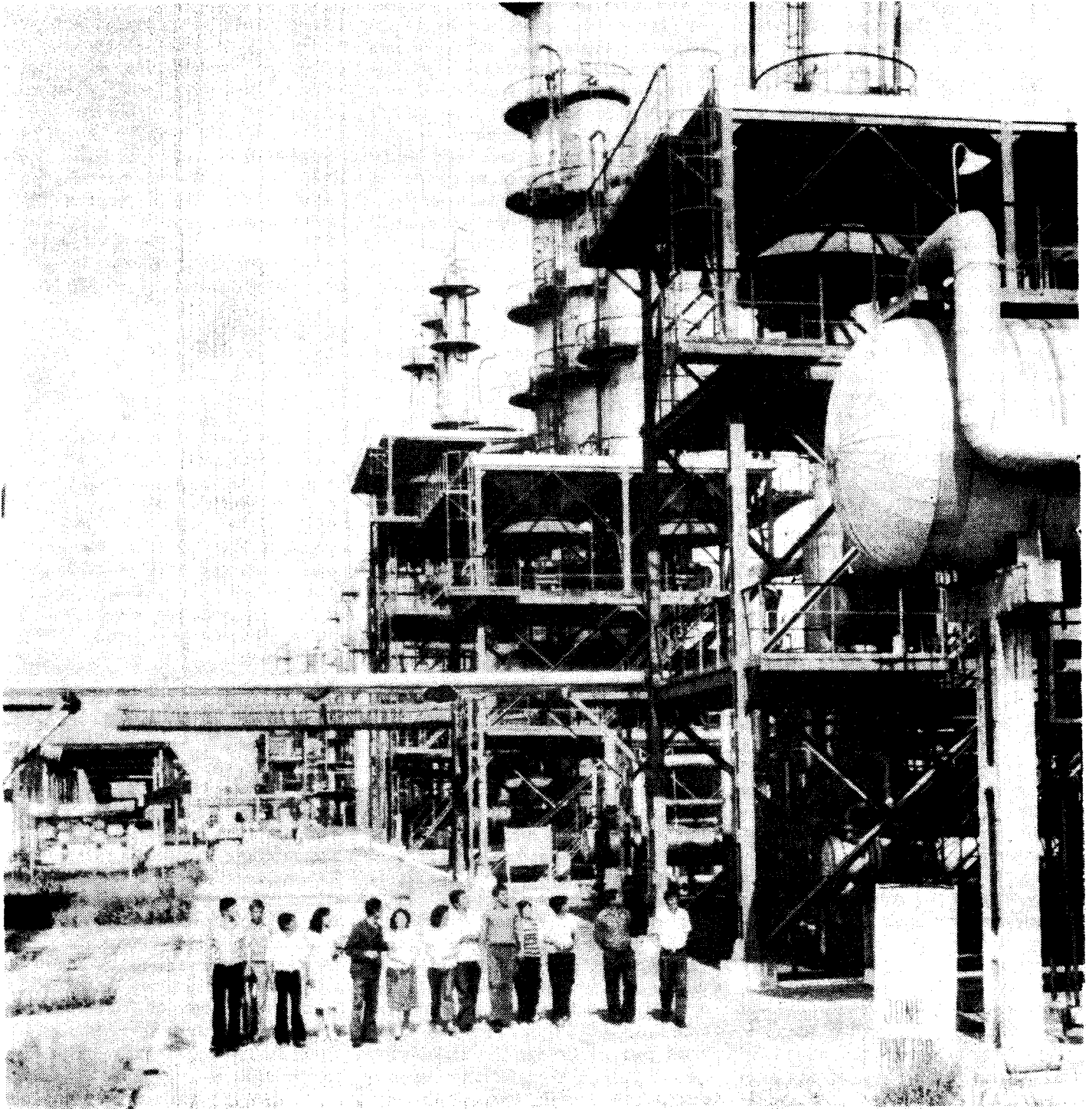
REMZI LANI — Chief editor of the newspaper «Zëri i rinisë»

themselves into the war with inexhaustible energies because, for the first time in their history, they had found a genuine, just and far-sighted leadership. In the program and the line of the Party the youth saw the embodiment of their own interests, ideals, the Liberation of the Homeland, the secure future. The youth justified the great confidence the Party put in them through their struggle and life in the service of the revolutionary ideal. Glorious pages were written in the history of our younger generation and its militant organization during the partisan epic. Young men and women, young pioneers and children, spared nothing, not even their lives, for the cherished ideal of freedom. The names of Qemal Stafa, Vojo Kushi, Misto Mame, Margarita Tutulani, Manush Alimani and others shine like brilliant stars

over the road on which our younger generations march. The role of the youth in the Anti-fascist National Liberation War is illustrated by the fact that 70 per cent of the fighters of the National Liberation Army were young people. Their heroism, the blood they shed, was a major contribution to the achievement of the historic victory of 29 November 1944.

This date is connected with the beginning of a new epoch for Albania, the epoch of socialism, or the general rejuvenation of the country and the life of the people. Socialism released the inexhaustible energies of the youth, placed their dignity to the right proportions, put an end to oppression, exploitation and all that grave burden which the old world of injustice had thrown on the shoulders of the youth. This emerged clearly in the years of the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country, the years in which the glorious tradition of the youth labour actions begins. With just as great resolve as during the war, the youth went from one labour action to another for the reconstruction of the burned-down houses, blown-up bridges, for the building of new roads, rail-ways, plants, mills, and hydro-power plants. In those days the beloved leader and teacher, Comrade Enver Hoxha, called on the youth: «Never let your triumphant drive recede, let your new song be heard everywhere, your strong hand be seen everywhere, your sound mind be felt everywhere.» Indeed, the songs of the youth were heard in the work for draining the Maliq

Y PROGRESSIVE



marsh, in the construction of the «Road of Youth» (Kukës-Peshkopia), the «Road of Light» in the North, and especially, in the uninterrupted labour actions for building railways. These actions became schools of the revolutionary education and tempering of the younger generations. More than 500,000 young people have participated in such national actions which became the places in which they combated illiteracy and old backward customs which were a stumbling block to progress. In 1947 when the Durrës-Tirana railway was being built, the volunteers who were working there wrote to Comrade Enver Hoxha that they would complete the railway on schedule and not a single illiterate young man and woman would leave the construction site without learning to read and write. Participation in revolutionary actions on all fronts has been an important means for the revolutionary class education of the younger generation, for the inculcation of correct concepts about work, for the strengthening of the spirit of collectivity, revolutionary determination, etc. New projects, the fruit of the voluntary labour actions of the youth, continue to be built in this jubilee year of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland. In the North the railway track continues to advance towards Han i Hotit, in the South towards Vlora. The youth continues to work on the completion of the green «amphitheatre» of Lukova with new terraces to be planted with orange lemon and olive-trees.

Socialism opened brilliant perspectives for the youth, and the youth work and learn with enthusiasm and zeal, as part of the army of builders of the new life, as part of the working class, of the cooperativist peasantry and of the people's intelligentsia, in order to make them a reality. If socialist Albania today has gigantic projects such as the hydro-power plants in Fierza and Koman, the metallurgical mills, and the terraces on the Ionian coast, all this is dedicated to the tireless work of the youth. In our reality there is no projects in which the mind, toil and talent of the youth is not seen and felt. In these 40 years the youn-

ger generations have written more pages of heroism with their construction work. From the generations of the builders of socialism emerged scores of heroes of labour such as the heroines of Mirdita, Nikë Pjetër Ndreka, Shkurte Vata, Agron Elezi, Ismet Sali Bruçaj, Ylli Zaimi, Ilia Qiqi, Ilia Kici Dashi, and many others.

The role of the youth is felt throughout the whole process of the socialist construction of the country. Participating in the revolutionary class struggle, they have been continuously educated with the line of the Party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha, and have fought with all their forces to put them into practice. The active participation of the youth in the mass movements, which broke out all over the country during the process of the further revolutionization of the whole life of the country, was a powerful demonstration of the new qualities of the younger generation of Albania, who have thoroughly assimilated the Marxist-Leninist ideology of our Party and the norms of proletarian morality.

From a country of mass illiteracy and backwardness, Albania has become the country of mass education and learning. Every family in socialist Albania has its own young people who go to school, whereas the adult members have already finished school. The young people work industriously for the mastering of science and socialist culture. Socialism creates all the possibilities for them to get education. A dense network of schools of all categories of the education system covers the whole country. The country has its new higher education, which has given, until today, 40 thousand cadres of different specialities. Education in Albania is free of any fees. The doors of schools are opened to the sons and daughters of the people. Our education does not suffer from the grave ulcer of social distinctions, which characterizes the education in the capitalist and revisionist countries. The youth of our country are aware of all this, therefore they work persistently for the assimilation of knowledge and culture. In the process of the revolutionization of our

school, the youth organization played an important role. Both as the object and the subject of the process of learning, the youth have boldly had their say about the level of the process of teaching, text-books, and lectures, and have become a barrier to all manifestations and stands that impede progress. Our school, permeated through and through by the Marxist-Leninist ideological axis, is in a position to train people prepared from the ideological point of view, imbued with the scientific Marxist world outlook. The harmonization of the three components of our school: lessons — productive work — physical and military training, is a guarantee that those who graduate from our school are not only good pupils and students, but also good workers who serve the Homeland on every front of the socialist construction and defence.

The role of our youth emerges still more clearly in the great struggle of the Party for the further revolutionization of the whole life of the country, especially in the movement for the eradication of backward customs and prejudices. This movement was aimed at throwing off the whole burden that lay heavy for centuries on our people, for the liquidation of all those ills which the old world of private ownership fostered. Of course, a series of conditions had to be prepared in advance. The Party prepared them gradually. At its call to combat backward customs and prejudices, the whole youth of the country rose to their feet, and with the enthusiasm which characterizes them, with their youthful drive, stood at the forefront of this struggle which was by no means easy. The question had to do with the emancipation not only of the women, but also of the whole society. In the records of the youth organization there are countless letters which the highland girls sent to Comrade Enver Hoxha, in which they condemned the old customs and prejudices and stood up boldly against them. It was then a courageous step on the part of those highland girls who, daring the fanatic opinion, had the revolutionary courage to participate in the mass labour actions of

the youth far from their homes, for the building of railways, or to the terraces of the coast, in order to respond to the call of the Party. Putting the Albanian girls in the place they deserve in society is the fruit of a long and complicated struggle. The relations between girls and boys were freed from the cob-webbs of the old world and emerged with new dimensions. But the struggle against the frontiers of the past is not over. The youth are educated and tempered in the process of the struggle against the manifestations of the past in the consciousness of man. They fight, at the same time, for the consolidation of the new socialist way of life, for the affirmation of the new norms of socialist life. With their revolutionary role in production, the youth have carried out well the tasks set by the Party to become the pillar of the technical-scientific revolution. Countless innovations, inventions and rationalizations bear the signature of the youth. The impetuous socio-economic development of the country, the ceaseless strengthening of the economy and the defence capacity of the Homeland, the increase of the productivity of labour, the introduction of new technique and technology in production, could not have been achieved without the participation of the youth, too. The creative thinking and the practical spirit of the youth have contributed to the designing and construction of the major projects of the five-year plans, the introduction and application of modern technique and technology. The tasks that await the youth in this field are still greater. The raising of the level of professional qualification, the efforts to keep abreast of the new achievements of science and technique, the exploitation of all the great possibilities socialism creates in order to learn and gain scientific knowledge, this remains the constant duty of the youth organization.

Socialist literature, art and culture have assumed impetuous development in Albania. They exert a powerful influence on the communist education of the younger generation. The youth, the greatest consumers of these assets, are at the same time active creators of outstanding values in li-

terature, art and culture. The youth organization has always worked to acquaint the youth with the material and spiritual values of our people, the best achievements of other peoples in arts and culture, to cultivate in them a healthy Marxist-Leninist aesthetical taste, a preference of the progressive new and the beautiful, to make them irreconcilably opposed to bourgeois and revisionist tastes and to vulgar and patriarchal tastes. Our youth reject with disdain the pseudo-modern attitudes and any such stand, which in the name of the «new» ignore the values of popular culture and, thus, opens the way to the degenerated bourgeois and revisionist art. 80 per cent of the participants in the National Folklore Festival of Gjirokastra, in 1983, were young people. This speaks of the love and passion with which the younger generation assimilates and further enriches the art of the people.

The youth organization has carried out all-round work for the education of the younger generation with the spirit of socialist love of the country. Today, when the bourgeoisie with its cosmopolitan and chauvinist ideologies preaches the negation of the national traditions and culture of the peoples, this education assumes special importance. Our youth cherish and defend the national assets of the past and those of the present with great devotion. In the epoch of socialism, patriotism has assumed a broader significance and deeper revolutionary content. It is based on the Marxist-Leninist ideology of our Party. This patriotic spirit of our youth finds its expression in the consistent assimilation and application of Marxism-Leninism, the line of the Party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha, and the laws of the state, in the tireless work for the fulfilment and overfulfilment of the tasks, in the acquisition and application of science and technique, in the training for the defence of the Homeland, in the pure moral-political figure, etc. The deepening of the revolutionary initiatives to know the past of our people, the glorious history of the National Liberation War and the socialist construction, the History of our Party,

the life and activity of the most outstanding progressive figures in the history of our nation, have animated the work for the patriotic revolutionary education of the youth and the young pioneers. The younger generation of socialist Albania has never divorced the all-round work of the revolutionary patriotic education from the day-to-day political-military training for the defence of the Homeland. Considering it as the duty above all duties, our youth are trained militarily and stand vigilant guard of the victories achieved. Their role in the free military schools, in the army and in the base, increases more and more each day. As the main force of the military structures, standing shoulder to shoulder with the whole of the armed people, the youth are aware of their role in this field, therefore they see the problems of physical and military training in close connection with their whole life and activity.

The Albanian younger generations are educated by the Party with the spirit of proletarian internationalism. They have always aligned themselves on the side of world progressive youth in struggle against capitalist oppression and exploitation, against American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, against modern revisionism and all reactionary forces, for freedom and national independence, for democracy and social progress.

Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: «Our youth have not been brought up in comfort, with murky scholastic books, they have been tempered like steel and have been educated with an unyielding revolutionary spirit in the heat of the stern battles against the savage external and internal enemies, through the colossal difficulties which we have had to overcome in the struggle against the profound backwardness which we inherited from the anti-popular regimes, in the stern struggle to break the hostile imperialist-revisionist blockade which was imposed on our country.»

The internal and external enemies have always aimed at hitting at our youth, in particular. The pressure of the bourgeois-revisionist ideology is aimed at poisoning the mind and

consciousness, at causing the degeneration of our youth. The youth of socialist Albania have continuously fought to safeguard their ideological, political and moral purity. They grow healthy and are imbued with the revolutionary ideals of the Party. They do not know the many ulcers of the bourgeois-revisionist world. At a time when many of their contemporaries in the world are in the streets unemployed, our youth have guaranteed work and work with dignity for their own future. At a time when many of their contemporaries in the world have no possibility to get education, do not know how to read and write in their mother tongue, our youth learn in schools and universities, acquire knowledge in order to put it in the service of the socialist Homeland, to make it prosperous. At a time when many of their contemporaries in the world sleep under the bridges and in slums, victims to drug addiction and diseases, our youth grow up healthy, without suffering even remotely the consequences of such life. At a time when many of their contemporaries are used as cannon fodder in imperialist wars, to serve the sinister interests of the superpowers, our youth keep vigilant watch in defence of their freedom. The ideologists of the bourgeoisie and their revisionist servants keep churning words about the so-called freedoms of the «free» world. These are nothing but high-sounding phrases and lies. Behind the articles of the Constitutions of these countries about the so-called human rights is hidden the impossibility to realize the rights of man in practice. Socialism alone encourages the full development of the

personality of the youth and all working people. Socialism alone opens before the youth the perspectives of the beautiful secure future, and makes them a reality.

After the 8th Congress of the Labour Youth Union of Albania, in 1983, in the work to carry out the tasks of the historic 8th Congress of the PLA, the whole youth of the country was included in the revolutionary movement: «Where there is the youth, there should be the progressive». This movement aims at putting the working, cooperativist, and intellectual youth at the forefront of the struggle for the carrying out of the tasks set in all fields. As the banner-bearer of progress, the youth realize their colossal force, with physical and mental energies, which socialism enriches and multiplies. In this process the youth put into practice the general knowledge acquired every day at school, in work and everywhere.

The most important objectives of the youth are: in the field of production the aim is to increase productivity, strengthen the regime of frugality, lower costs, introduce the advanced technology, raise the technical-professional level of the working people, etc. At school the aim is to carry out the tasks in the light of the ideas of the 8th Congress of the Party, which have to do with the improvement of the quality of knowledge acquired on the basis of sound criteria of study, promotion, the introduction of contemporary knowledge in the teaching process, the connection of lessons with practice, etc. In the social activity the aim is to fight petty-bourgeois mani-

festations, to maintain a socialist stand towards work and property, to deepen the socialist way of life, to combat manifestations of conservatism and liberalism in social and family relations, to educate the youth with the patriotic and revolutionary traditions of the people, etc. In the field of defence the aim is to master the Military Art of People's War, to attain the objectives set for raising the fighting readiness in the shortest time, etc.

This movement includes other fields and directions of the technical-scientific revolution, art and culture, etc.

The attainment of the objectives of this movement requires a high fighting spirit of the youth organization as a whole and every individual member, an irreconcilable stand towards any manifestation of bureaucracy and liberalism, the old spirit of work and procrastination; it requires exemplary initiative in everything and everywhere. By acting and fighting in this manner, the Youth Organization rises fully to the height of its role as the aide of the Party.

In this year of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland the movement of the youth to be at the forefront of progress has reached a new height. It includes all the youth organizations of the country. On every front of work and life, the youth show everyday that they are the youth of books, and work and rifle, loyal to the people and the Party. From the distance of 40 years, they see the road they have traversed under the leadership of the Party, the road of ceaseless battles and victories, the road towards new horizons.

ALBANIAN AGRICULTURE ON THE ROAD OF ITS CEASELESS DEVELOPMENT AND INTENSIFICATION

by **LUFTER XHUVELI**

The development of agriculture in Albania has taken place in two, both extensive and intensive, directions. With the progress from one five-year plan to the other, intensification has more and more prevailed over extension

AGRICULTURE, AS THE BASIC BRANCH OF THE ECONOMY, HAS ALWAYS REPRESENTED TWO OF THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. COMRADE ENVER HOXHA HAS POINTED OUT, «OUR PARTY ADHERES TO THE LINE THAT WE MUST HAVE NOT ONLY A DEVELOPED INDUSTRY. BUT ALSO AN ADVANCED AGRICULTURE, THAT FOR OUR ECONOMY TO BE STRONG AND INDEPENDENT IT MUST RELY ON BOTH FEET: INDUSTRY AS WELL AS AGRICULTURE. THIS IS A MAJOR QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE WHICH HAS PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE FOR OUR COUNTRY»¹.

THE SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE — A GREAT POLITICAL VICTORY OF THE PLA

On the day of its liberation Albania was a war-ravaged country with a very backward agriculture. The transformation of agriculture as ra-

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pidly as possible was one of the main tasks dictated by the time.

In the past, agriculture constituted the main and almost only branch of the economy. Eighty-five per cent of the population of the country was engaged in agriculture. The best part of the land, however, was owned by a handful of landlords, beys and big merchants. They oppressed and exploited the peasants.

The cultivated land accounted only for 10.2 per cent of the total area. On the coastal zone marshes and swamps stretched over more than 13

per cent of the total area. Malaria, which was endemic, took a heavy toll of the lives of the inhabitants of this zone.

Winter and summer pastures accounted for 31 per cent of the area.

The tyrannical regime of ex-King Zog had left agriculture in a state of utter backwardness. The wooden plough was in general use. Chemical fertilizers, tractors and other farming machines were altogether unknown. The single-crop system (grain, maize or forage) was the rule. The extremely low yields (not more than 7-8 quintals for wheat per hectare) were the concrete expression of the backwardness of agriculture at that time. Stock farming, with sheep and goats occupying the main place, was just as backward.

Forests were exploited barbarously, as there were no rules for their proper exploitation. Forests were admi-

nistered according to the cadastral Law of 1869 which divided them into «private», «ecclesiastical», «communal» and «state-owned». Uncontrolled deforestation, over-grazing and fire has brought about the degradation of about 350,000 hectares of forests.

The centuries old feudal relations kept people in poverty and inhibited their initiative.

After the triumph of the people's revolution the time of transformations came for agriculture, too. Implemented immediately after Liberation, the Land Reform applied the principle that «the land belongs to him who tills it». It liquidated the feudal and capitalist relations of land ownership and expropriated the land holdings of big landowners, the Zogite state and, partly, rich peasants and religious communities. The expropriated land was distributed among the poor peasants. From the political standpoint the Land Reform marked the first important step towards the transformations of the socio-economic relations in the countryside. It turned a centuries-old dream of our peasantry into a reality. The state sector of agriculture (initially 13 enterprises) was created at the same time.

Under the new socio-political conditions the peasant began enjoying the first fruits of the people's power. He was gradually convinced of the possibility of a happy future for himself. So, he stepped up his work and redoubled his efforts. The alliance of the peasantry with the working class was strengthened further. However, the small-sized economies could not go very far. Their possibilities for the rapid intensification of production and the further social and cultural development of the countryside were limited. The Party saw the collectivization as the only road for the rapid advance of agriculture and the countryside in general. In 1946, the 7 agricultural cooperatives which marked the beginning of the socialist transformations in the countryside, were set up. The correct line of the Party, its clarifying work, the strengthening of the material base, the improvement of the well-being in the countryside, the rise of the political awa-

reness and the uplift of the cultural level of the peasantry were the main factors which made the collectivization of agriculture possible. As a result of the implementation of the directive of the Party for the first phase of the collectivization of agriculture, namely, «We must neither hurry up nor mark time», in 1955 there were 318 agricultural cooperatives.

The all-round assistance of the state through the MTS (machine and tractor stations), the breaking in and cultivation of new land, land improvement schemes, the creation of new fruit-tree plots, the development of animal husbandry, the proper administration of forests, etc. changed the physiognomy of the countryside further. All this had a powerful influence on the peasantry which set out on the road of socialism.

The 2nd Five-year Plan (1956-1960) called for the further deepening of the socialist transformations. All the conditions existed for stepping up the rates of collectivization of agriculture and the ceaseless strengthening of the cooperativist order. So after 1955 the mass collectivization of agriculture took place in the plains. Later collectivization extended to the hilly and mountainous areas, too. In 1967 it was completed. In this way, with the building of the socialist economic base in the countryside the second revolution in the socio-economic relations in the countryside was successfully carried out. All was done with the complete free will of the peasants who were convinced of the advantages of collectivization. A number of carefully programmed measures such as price reductions, taxes relief and payment facilities for surplus production handed over the procurement centres, strengthening of the links with the MTS, technical assistance, supplying of small farming machines to the cooperatives, etc. made the superiority of the socialist order even more obvious for the peasants.

However, the concrete conditions of the building of socialism in the countryside called for other measures which would mark a new step in its development. So the united cooperatives and, later, the higher type coope-

ratives, were set up. They raised the level of socialization of the group property to a higher level, strengthened the cooperativist order further, imparted a fresh impulse to the development of the productive forces, created the conditions for the perfecting of the socialist relations of production, brought cooperativist property closer to the property of the whole people.

In these four decades agriculture developed alongside industry. Industry and agriculture advanced hand in hand and their achievements represent some of the greatest victories of the correct Marxist-Leninist line of our Party for the construction of socialism. The total agricultural production has increased about twice as rapidly as the growth of the population, and 1.7 fold per unit of acreage as compared with 1960. The real income per capita has increased 12-20 per cent from one five-year plan to the other. The meeting of all the needs for bread grain locally from 1976 on is the greatest achievement of our agriculture because it has an influence on the further increase of all the other agricultural and livestock products. The land under culture increased, too. With the mass participation of the peasants, thousands of hectares of terraces were cut out on the hill slopes facing the Ionian sea and huge plantations of oranges, lemons and olives were set up on them. Systematized fields and terraced hill slopes made Albania a richer and more beautiful country.

INTENSIFICATION — THE MAIN AND PERMANENT ROAD OF AGRICULTURE

The development of agriculture in Albania has taken place in two, both extensive and intensive, simultaneous directions. Along with the extension of the cultivated land through the creation of new fruit-tree blocs, vineyards, olive and citrus-tree groves, and the increase of the number of cattle in animal husbandry particular attention has been devoted to increasing yields. With the progress from

one five-year plan to the other, intensification has more and more prevailed over extension. At the 8th Congress of the Party the task was set in the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) for a more than 90 per cent which should be achieved through increasing crop yields and the productivity of animal husbandry.

The Party of Labour of Albania sees the intensification of agriculture as an objective necessity, a combination of the uninterrupted development of the forces of production and the socialist relations of production. The Party conceives it as planned, rational and harmonious development of scientific bases of all the factors conditioning production and ensuring its growth at low cost. Through it the Party aims at securing the advance of all the branches of agriculture in conformity with the general socio-economic development of the country. While giving priority to the development of agriculture in the plains, it has never lost sight of its development in the hilly and mountainous zones. While strengthening the state sector of agriculture, it has never allowed the development of the cooperativist sector to lag behind. Along with the strengthening of the higher-type cooperatives it has always seen to it that the production of the other cooperatives is constantly increased. Along with the priority intensive development of the production of bread grain, it has, at the same time, worked for the complex and harmonious development of agricultural production in general. It has treated all these factors as inseparable elements of the process of the perfecting of the socialist relations in the field of ownership, exchange, distribution, direction and organization.

Studies were carried out for the implementation of the directives of the 7th Congress of the PLA for a distribution as rational as possible of crops, livestock and fructiculture among the different districts, zones and agricultural economies. This qualitative advance improved the concentration and specialization of production, strengthened the cooperation between agri-

culture and livestock-raising and created conditions for an effective rotation of crops.

However, the socialist organization of work and production could not be done without carrying out deep-going, changes in the ecology of agriculture. By means of ever increasing investments, more than 30,000 hectares of new land were broken in and another 120,000 improved through the draining of swamps and marshes. The largest land reclaiming and irrigation scheme of our country (about 117,000 hectares) lies in the Myzeqe Plain in the western part of the country, along the Adriatic coast.

The systematization carried out in the hilly and mountainous zones and the cultivation of new land have changed the face of our country. Huge plots of fruit-trees on hillslopes which until recently were covered only with useless shrubs form now beautiful «crowns» around our cities.

Water reservoirs and other drainage and irrigation objects are built all over the country and have made our agriculture to a large degree independent from unfavourable weather conditions. All-round land conservation measures of a technical, organizational and scientific character have increased the fertility of the soil further. Along with the doubling of the area of cultivated land the coefficient of land utilization per year has risen to 1.3 (30 per cent of the acreage is sown twice a year).

Important changes have taken place in the hilly and mountainous areas which account for 3/4 of the territory of the country. The correct agrarian policy of the Party has brought about the uninterrupted development of these areas, the constant increase of production and income and, as a result, the improvement of the living conditions there. The peasant is no longer economically or socially interested in abandoning the countryside in which about 2/3 of the population of the country live. The problem of the depopulation and abandonment of villages does not exist in our country.

Today the hilly and mountainous zones account for about 52 per cent

of the arable land and over 45 per cent of the total agricultural production of the country. In the ten-year period 1970-1980 net incomes of the peasantry have doubled. Beginning from 1975 the state has granted the hilly and mountainous cooperatives over 400 million leks in long-term credits and 185 million leks in non-returnable loans for productive investments. The state has taken a number of measures in favour of these cooperatives, such as favourable prices for agricultural products, low prices for work implements, differentiated tariffs for the work the MTS carry out in the cooperatives, social insurance, etc.

State investments in agriculture are very large. Only in the years 1976-1980 they accounted for 22.5 per cent of the total investments. The bulk of them is made in land improvement reclamation and systematization, in irrigation projects, in the production of chemical fertilizers and mechanization of farm work. Although the land fund has doubled, the areas under irrigation has increased 54 per cent. All the land in the plains has been systematized and 70,000 hectares of it have been drained. Apart from terraces, anti-erosion works have also been built in the hilly and mountainous zone. An average of 80 quintals of organic fertilizers and over 245 kgs of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash is used per hectare. There is one 15 HP tractor per every 25 hectares of land. Work in wheat, maize and sugar-beet fields is fully mechanized in most of the plains area.

The genetic improvement of plants is a very important investments for the future. The work in this field is based on the creative forces of our workers and specialists. New home-produced high-yield hybrid seeds and cultivated varieties are being planted all over the country. Such are the cultivated varieties of wheat «Dajti», «29-73», the maize hybrids «Rozafa», «ILB» and others. Advanced techniques of crop rotation, ploughing, fertilization, sowing and irrigation, processing of agricultural products, etc. are being applied on an ever larger scale.

The intensive development of agriculture has already yielded its fruits. In 1983 we had an average yield of 31 quintals of wheat per hectare on a national scale (45 quintals in the high intensification zone of the plains). The state farm of Plasa (Korça district) had an average yield of 64 quintals of wheat per hectare; the higher type cooperative of Dajç in (Shkodra district) took in 95 quintals of maize per hectare over more than 800 hectares. Yields of 80 quintals of maize per hectares are taken in thousands of hectares.

Fruticulture is a new sector of our agriculture, but it, too, reflects its intensification and development. Large plantations of vines, olives, fruit-trees, citrus-trees of 500-2,000 hectares each have been set up with state investments. More work was done in the space of three decades than in several centuries before Liberation. Today only two districts, those of Berat and Fier, taken together have more olives than the whole of Albania had in 1938.

The olive groves and fruit-tree plots set up in the terraces of the Lukova and Jonufër hills in Saranda and Vlora and renowned all over Albania, just as the apple-tree plots of Korça district and the fig-tree plantations of Berat district.

Large-scale investments have enabled the application of advanced techniques in the livestock-raising sector. Now our livestock is made up of high productivity breeds selected according to the concrete conditions of agricultural economies. In industrialized livestock-raising complexes the feeding of animals is done according to scientific criteria and the physiological condition of the animals, etc. In several livestock-raising complexes of Tirana, Lushnja and Shkodra districts yields of 4,000 and more kg of milk per head are being achieved from thousands of cows. The construction of another 38 livestock-raising complexes within 1985 shows that our animale husbandry has entered the phase of its industrial development. Ten new big factories for the processing of livestock products and a whole complex of measures for

securing balanced feeds for cattle will bring about a 30 to 55 per cent growth of livestock production in 1985, as against 1980.

The intensification of agriculture during these four decades has affected the entire countryside. It has had a powerful influence on the growth of its population and the improvement of its living conditions. The new villages have motor roads which link them with the towns, running water, electric light, social cultural objects, shops, etc., which has radically changed the life of their inhabitants.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND SCIENCE — A SOUND BASIS FOR A MORE RAPID ADVANCE

Before Liberation the regime of ex-King Zog pursued a policy of the maximum limitation of education. More than 80 per cent of the population, in general, and more than 90 per cent of the peasantry in particular, were illiterate. The state of agricultural education was lamentable indeed. Until 1939 there was only one agricultural middle school with a few students for the whole country.

Within the four decades of the people's power the centuries-old backwardness was overcome once and for good. This could not be done without the general education of the population. In the years of the people's power very great importance was attached to agricultural middle schools which today represent more than half of the general and vocational middle schools of the country. There are more than 400 agricultural middle schools. About 15,000 cadres of medium training and qualified workers graduate from them each year.

The creation of a system of high schools after Liberation was one of the more important events in the field of education, culture and science. The High Institute of Agriculture of Tirana was opened in 1951. Twenty years

later, another such institute was set up in Korça.

The High Institute of Agriculture of Tirana is the more important national centre of agricultural science which trains specialists of different profiles, general agronomers, agronomers specialized in plant protection, fruticulture, economists, veterinarians, zootechnicians and forest engineers.

When the country was liberated there were only 50 agronomers for the whole Albania. Today 800-1000 specialists in agriculture graduate from the High Institute of Agriculture, ready to shoulder the tasks set by the present and future development of our socialist agriculture. They are added to the army of 10,000 specialists these Institutes and their affiliates have turned out to this day. However, along with an education of a mass character, particular attention is attached to the raising of the qualitative level of the training of specialists. Parallel with general agricultural education there is a multi-branch system of post-university qualification and specialization which functions through individual study, long and short-term qualification courses, etc.

The development and intensification of our agriculture are closely linked with the development of science in our country, in general, and agricultural science, in particular. Pedological and agro-chemical studies has been completed for the whole cultivated area more than 10 years ago. Agrotechnical studies are repeated once in every four years. The criteria of land systematization, ploughing, fertilization, irrigation, crop rotation and the protection of land against erosion are worked out on the basis of these studies. Seed selection has been organized better, and new high yield seeds and cultivated varieties and hybrids have been created (with yields of 80-100 quintals of wheat and more than 100-120 quintals of maize per hectare, etc.). The regionalization of crops is done on the basis of the experiments and studies carried out in the respective zones. Likewise, studies are carried out over

problems of mechanization, fodder crops, vegetables, fruticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, etc.

The achievements of our agricultural science are many. They are reflected in the results of the vanguard economies some of which match advanced world levels. The task set by the 8th Congress of the PLA, «The many problems related to the intensification of agriculture can be successfully solved only by placing all agricultural production on rigorously scientific foundations,»¹ is being carried out on a broad front. Nevertheless, agricultural science in Albania has still many problems to solve.

A large army of workers and specialists, participants in the technical-scientific revolution, are engaged today in the solution of such problems as the further increase of the fertility of land and the biological productive capacities of new seeds, the rapid introduction of new techniques into production, the rapid improvement of animal breeds, the raising of the productivity of the forests, the lowering of cost and expenditure for production unit, etc.

There exist all the scientific, intellectual and material conditions for the fulfilment of the tasks set to agriculture. Ten scientific research institutes work for it, and 10 agricultural stations and over 30 university chairs are engaged in the solution of scientific problems related to agricul-

tural production. These institutions, equipped with laboratories and the necessary equipment, co-ordinate their studies, experiments and applications with the work of the specialists of agricultural economies. Advanced scientific thinking, studies and experiments, designs and their application, as well as co-ordination of advanced local experience with the pioneer achievements of world science, constitute a sound basis for the solution of all problems, no matter how complex they may be.

Scientific activities in agriculture have already assumed their own physiognomy. Studies of a more complex character are being carried out on an ever larger scale. Modern methods of research and the achievements of modern biology, mathematics, computer science, new economic, financial and organizational methods are being applied on a broad front. Special attention is devoted to reducing the time from the completion of studies to their practical application. All this greatly increases the profitability of scientific work.

Scientific publications and libraries help a great deal the qualification of specialists in agriculture. The library of the High Institute of Agriculture is an important centre of agricultural literature. It plays the role of a central library, being the most specialized institution of this kind for the sector of agriculture, and is in close

contact with all the libraries and scientific institutions of the country as well as over 120 institutes and libraries abroad.

With what they have achieved so far, agricultural education and science are a sound guarantee that, in the future, too, they will always promote the development of our socialist agriculture in general and its intensification in particular.

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The achievements of our socialist agriculture and countryside during these four decades reflect the correctness of the Marxist-Leninist line followed by our Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha also in the field of agrarian policy, for the establishment and ceaseless perfecting of the socialist relations in the countryside, for the uninterrupted development of the productive forces, the harmonious integration of agriculture, as the basic branch of the economy, into the whole national economy. The experience gained so far makes even more clear the prospects for the future, when our agriculture achieves even greater successes.

¹ Enver Hoxha, *Report to the 8th Congress of the PLA*, p. 30, Eng. ed.

TOWN-PLANNING OF THE PEOPLE *by*

*The achievements made hitherto
by our science of town-planning constitute
a great school of rich
experience and valuable lessons
for the future work, for the
major tasks which await it in order
to make our Homeland still more prosperous*

THE BUILDERS' SCAFFOLD HAVE BECOME A DISTINGUISHING FEATURE, AN INSEPARABLE PART OF THE ALBANIAN SCENERY. CONSTRUCTIONS GO ON IN EVERY QUARTER OF THE HOMETLAND, IN TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE, IN THE PLAINS AND HILLS ON THE SHORES, AND IN THE MOUNTAINSIDES IN THE INTERIOR. THE VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTIONS INCREASES AT RAPID RATES, AND THE ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY CHANGES CEASELESSLY.

OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN GOOD BUILDERS SINCE OLD TIMES, AND OUR MASTER BUILDERS HAVE DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES IN THE CENTURIES FOR THEIR SKILL AND FINE TASTE EVEN OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF THEIR COUNTRY. THEIR CREATIVE IMAGINATION AND THEIR SKILL HAVE LEFT US WITH A RICH LEGACY — BUILDINGS OF GREAT VALUE AS REGARDS THE HARMONY OF EXECUTION, PERFECT SOLUTIONS OF THE COMBINATION OF FUNCTIONAL DEMANDS WITH THE NATURAL SETTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS, BUILDINGS EXECUTED WITH FINE PROPORTIONS AND A VARIETY OF FORMS AND SUCH DETAILS.

This can be seen not only in thousands of individual buildings all over the country, in the monuments of culture, but also in groups of buildings, entire residential quarters, such as those of the quarters of Mangalem and Kala of Berat, the marketplace of Kruja, many quarters of Durrës, Korça and Shkodra, and virtually the whole of the town of Gjirokastra. As documents which bear the stamp of the capacity of our people as talented builders, which powerfully express the national physiognomy and individuality, these masterpieces of our popular architecture have many technical and artistic qualities, and are protected and maintained by the state with great care.

SOKRAT MOSKO — Architect

Despite this our people did not build in all the past centuries of their history as much as they have built in the last 40 years of their free life of efforts and work to build socialism. The liberation of the country and the triumph of the people's revolution opened a broad road and brilliant perspectives to the rapid and many-sided development and advancement of the life, the economy and culture. This very rapid development and progress could not be achieved without increasing constructions, as one of the important factors for the creation of the necessary material conditions for the industrialization of the country, for the radical improvement of the living and dwelling conditions of the people, for the extension of education and health

IN THE SERVICE

SOKRAT MOSKO

services, for the ceaseless raising of the cultural level of the people, etc. Therefore, when our country, under the leadership of the Party of Labour and Comrade Enver Hoxha, began the implementation of the magnificent program of the rapid, harmonized and planned development of the economy and culture, special importance was given to constructions. Their volume has kept increasing at more and more rapid rates.

Whereas in the 2nd Five-year Plan, 1956-1960, the volume of constructions doubled against the 1st Five-year Plan, 1951-1955, in the 7th Five-year Plan, 1980-1985 it will be ten times as great against the same period of comparison. In 1950, the volume of constructions carried out was nine times as great as that of 1938, whereas in this jubilee year of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the homeland and the triumph of the people's revolution it is 170 times as great. Therefore, now, in two days we can carry out all the constructions of the whole year of 1938.

In order to cope better with all this great construction work, to harmonize the development and growth of our towns and villages, our people's state power created its new town-planning science which solves the problems of the distribution and location of buildings on scientific bases.

It is known that the character of town-planning in different historical periods is determined by the level of economic and social development, is connected with the natural and weather conditions and the specific way of life and culture. But as a field in which the operation of many political, ideological, economic and social factors are in play, its activity is always determined by the social order which engenders it and which it serves. So, town-plan-

ning has a marked class character. Consequently, from the anti-popular regimes of the past we have a number of towns and villages, in which, despite the efforts of the people's masters to create buildings combining the functional with the beautiful, the pronounced economic backwardness, the private ownership, the exploitation of man by man and other ulcers of the old society with divided antagonistic classes unavoidably left deep traces in their complex aspect as regards town-planning. All this was reflected in the squalid aspect of the towns in general, and of the villages, as a whole, in the very slow and irregular extension of the constructions, in the class differentiation of zoning and types of construction, in the narrow streets, in the lack of systematization, water supply and sewer system, etc. Institutions specialized in town-planning studies did not exist and, consequently, the country had no town-planning engineers. Even the partial odd study that was made on sketching some new road, especially before the Second World War, by foreign specialists, was not executed to the end because it met with resistance on the part of the private owners and rulers. As for some town-planning studies and drafts of regulating plans proposed during the fascist occupation for the towns of Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan and some other centre, all of them were worked out on the basis of colonialist ambitions, with the aim of creating suitable dwelling and trading conditions for the occupiers and the local bourgeoisie. Thus, the class differentiation of the zoning of constructions were further sharpened, at a time when the whole country had a limited number of towns, when only seven of them had a population of over 10,000 inhabitants, when the entire urban popu-

lation amounted to not more than 160,000 inhabitants, or 15 per cent of the existing population of the country, which is equal to three fourths of the inhabitants of Tirana today. With this slow and chaotic development, the towns continued to retain their old mediaeval aspect. Obviously, in these conditions, the situation of the villages was still more backward than that of the towns.

That was the situation of constructions, the aspect of towns and villages, and the conditions of living, 40 years ago.

In order to live up to the brilliant prospects opened up by the people's state, to cope with the great volume of constructions that were to be carried out at ever more rapid rates, our new town-planning faced a series of complicated tasks. It must precede the rapid development and all-round progress of the country, the harmonized building of towns, village and other inhabited centres, the industrialization of the country and the modernization of agriculture, the extension and raising of the level of education, the health and communal services, the development and advance of culture, the ceaseless raising of the standard of living of the masses of working people, in order to liquidate the backwardness and the wounds of the past, in order to make the towns, villages and inhabited centres as suitable for living as possible, in order to liquidate class distinctions and to bring about a complete harmonization of the constituent parts of them. Our socialist town-planning service carried out these tasks with authority, with a high ideological, technical-scientific and artistic level. Only a few facts and figures are sufficient to demonstrate this.

In the last 40 years, the new buildings set up in towns and villages

accommodate three fourths of the whole population of the country, which has increased three-fold, and that of the towns only has increased more than six fold. The constructions made in the field of industry, agriculture, education, culture, health, etc. bear no comparison with the pre-war period, because they have increased by scores and even hundreds of times. The volume of constructions in 1980 as against 1960, in industry increased 4.2 fold, agriculture 2.7 fold, housing 2.8 times, and buildings for education, culture, health services and other sectors 6.9 fold.

All these constructions have been executed in a harmonized way, on the basis of town-planning studies. Each town of Albania has its regulating plans, which have been improved upon from time to time in order to respond to the demands of the time and the rapid development of the country as well as possible. Regulating plans for all the villages of the country were completed last year. The constructions for housing, for the needs of the sectors of education, culture and health services, for social buildings, for the economy and communal services, in the villages are worked out according to the hygienic-sanitary demands and the esthetic requirements of their inhabitants. Besides the electrification of all villages, another, just as important victory has been achieved; all constructions in the country-side are to be made on the basis of regulating plan and partial town-planning studies. Just as for all the towns, these plans and studies constitute the basis of the expansion, modernization and improvement of the aspect of constructions, so that the villages are built with a variety of houses, against background full of greenery and light.

There is no town and village in Albania which has not entirely changed its aspect in these four decades. Even such towns as Berat and Gjirokastra, the aspect of which had been formed in the centuries, have been further improved and beautified through the great number of new buildings executed with great care so as to ensure their harmony with the old parts of the towns. Whereas such

old towns as Durrës, Shkodra, Kruja, Korça, Elbasan, and Vlora etc. have been transformed beyond recognition. The extension, strengthening and transformation of the towns and villages of our country is a general phenomenon and a striking historical fact. The many friends of our country have noticed this. Some time ago, after a visit in Albania, a group of Italian citizens who had participated in the last War on the side of our partisan brigades, declared that they could not recognize our towns and villages because they found them entirely transformed, enlarged and very beautiful in comparison with what they had known. And this regards only the towns and villages which existed in their time. But, a number of other entirely new towns have been set up all over the country. Among them are the towns of Ballsh, Patos, and Cërrik (the three of them centres of oil workers), Maliq (with its sugar refinery), Laç (the town of the superphosphate fertilizer), Bulqiza (the centre of the chrome extraction), Prrenjas (the town of iron-nickel extraction), Memaliaj and Valias (the towns of coal miners), Lukova and Ksamil amidst the citrus-tree plantations build on terraces, Kamza (the town of agricultural students and wheat growers), and many many more. The waters of the lake of the «Drita e Partisë» hydro-power plant at Fierza submerged the old town of Kukës, but a new town was built entirely new, without a single low house, complete with many-storied dwelling-houses, with educational, health, cultural buildings, etc. on the hills on the edge of the lake. Many a village has been razed to the ground by the earthquakes, but the state of the people rebuilt them with houses which respond to the demands of the present and the perspective, within a record short time. Every single new building in them is set up in conformity with town-planning studies and regulating plans, with the individual plans drafted for each of them, in conformity with the terrain and weather conditions, and, above all, on the basis of the principles of our socialist life, our new town-planning science, which serves the socialist order and has man in the centre of its attention.

Town-planning devotes is also specially interested in the attainment of the objectives set on the basis of the principles and objectives of socialism, for the protection of towns, villages and inhabited centres, industrial zones, recreation areas and all other environments against pollution. Despite the rapid an all-round development of the industry of the country, our environment has remained clean.

In order to cope with success with the broad perspectives and great tasks which have been assigned to constructions after the victory of the people's revolution, the new state set up the respective organs in conformity with the possibilities. So, in 1947 the «Projekti» (designs) state enterprise was set up as the first institute of studies and designs in the country, which among other things, covered town-planning studies, too. This was a pioneering enterprise in the field of Albanian building designs. Today in our country, where everything is designed and executed entirely relying on our own forces, we have a complete system of institutes of studies and designs with specialized branches, as well as the institute of town-planning and architecture, with branch offices of town-planning in all the districts of the country. At the state University we have the department of architecture and constructions engineering with the branch of town-planning and architecture which trains higher cadres.

The development, progress and raising of the level of our creative forces in the town-planning sector has proceeded along with the requirements of the uninterrupted increase of the volume of constructions, indeed, preceding them with a view to working for the distant perspective, for the attainment of new targets, for the further harmonization of constructions, in order to make our town and villages still more beautiful.

The achievements made hitherto by our science of town planning constitute a great school of rich experience and valuable lessons for the future work, for the major tasks which await it in order to make our Homeland still more prosperous, in order to meet the requirements of the present and the perspective ever better.

THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY IS BASED ON THE ARMED PEOPLE

by **METO METAJ**

Only the army which is led by a Marxist-Leninist party, which emerges from the people, which is trained, keeps vigilant watch and lives with the people, which remains loyal to the people, grows strong and invincible

THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA WITH COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AT THE HEAD HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE DEFENCE OF THE HOMELAND AS THE DUTY ABOVE ALL DUTIES. IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS OF THE SAVAGE IMPERIALIST-REVISIONIST ENCIRCLEMENT, ESPECIALLY, IN WHICH ALBANIA IS BUILDING SOCIALISM, THE DEFENCE OF THE COUNTRY HAS ASSUMED FIRST-HAND IMPORTANCE. AS A RESULT, OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY HAS BEEN CEASELESSLY STRENGTHENED ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHER ARMED FORCES, IN CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE PEOPLE AND IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR CAUSE, STANDING GUARD OF THEIR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THE PARTY HAS TAUGHT AND EDUCATED THE WORKING MASSES, ALL THE PEOPLE, THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM SHOULD NEVER FOR A MOMENT BE SEPARATED FROM THE DEFENCE OF THE HOMELAND. THIS CORRECT MARXIST-LENINIST LINE HAS BEEN SUMMED UP IN THE WELL-KNOWN REVOLUTIONARY SLOGAN, «WE MUST BUILD SOCIALISM HOLDING THE PICK-AXE IN ONE HAND AND THE RIFLE IN THE OTHER», WHICH WAS ISSUED IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIBERATION AND BECAME THE MAIN «MOTTO IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE». THE ASSIMILATION AND IMPLEMENTATION IN LIFE OF THE GREAT IDEAS EXPRESSED IN THIS MILITANT SLOGAN BY THE PEOPLE, HAS SECURED THE FREEDOM OF OUR HOMELAND TODAY, THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM IN ALBANIA AND HAS BECOME THE GUARANTEE FOR THE FUTURE.

1.

The military line, as an indivisible part of the general line of the Party, has been defined by the Party to defend and safeguard the victories of the revolution.

METO METAJ — *Specialist in military affairs*

The military thinking has developed in step with the socialist construction, the military line of the Party has been improved, and changes and transformations have been made in conformity with the stages of development, the requirements of the time, the situations created. These measures

have further strengthened the army in general and all the armed forces of the country have made them a reliable support of our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The Marxist-Leninist military science lies at the basis of the military line of our Party. It is the materialization of the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin in the concrete conditions of Albania. It reflects our revolutionary thinking and practice in the military field, the strategy, tactics, and the concrete measures which are taken to guarantee the defence of the country.

In his work, «Civil War in France», in which Marx summed up the experience of the Paris Commune, he pointed out: «The first decree of the Commune was the liquidation of the standing army and its replacement with the armed people.» Whereas Engels, when he spoke of the communist society in the conditions of its encirclement by the bourgeois countries, stressed that it is easy for any member of this society, who can carry arms, to learn, apart from other things, the use of weapons to that extent which is necessary for the defence of his country. Lenin has also stressed that «the ruling class, the proletariat.

must prove this also with its military organization if it wants to rule», and calls that «the army should merge in one with the armed people».

All these teachings of the classics of Marxism-Leninism express one single idea: when the proletariat in a given country takes power in its hands, it must not relinquish its weapons, on the contrary the whole people must be armed as long as imperialism, revisionism and the different enemies to socialism exist.

These teachings have been taken into consideration by the PLA and Comrade Enver Hoxha and they have been consistently implemented in the struggle for the liberation of the country from foreign occupiers. The National Liberation War was a general armed uprising of a profoundly popular character. From the Resolution of the founding meeting of the PLA (November 1941) the Party set the task to prepare the people for the general armed uprising politically and militarily, uniting all the patriotic and anti-fascist forces in the war. In the decisions, orientations and directives which the Party issued at that time, it was stressed that the main link for achieving the objectives of the general armed uprising would be the army that emerged from the people, an army loyal to the end to their interests. But it would not be the only armed force in the struggle for the liberation of the country. Along with it there would be the territorial armed forces, the guerrilla units of towns and villages under occupation. Thus the entire people became the reliable support of the war. Comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out, «Our National Liberation War brought the people to the fore and here and only here lies the reason for our victory... Our war developed with success because our movement was a movement of the masses and had a popular character.»²

The war ended and the victory was achieved, but the freedom and independence that were won at the cost of much bloodshed and innumerable sacrifices had to be defended, because the enemies were there and are still active. Therefore, after the liberation of the country and during the period of socialist construction, along with the all-round work and measures that

the Party has taken for the modernization and strengthening of the standing army, it has also devoted special care to the organization, arming and military training of the whole people. On this question it has proceeded from the principle that the Homeland belongs to the entire people, therefore it must be defended by the entire people. The army is only part of the armed people. The implementation of this principle gives our defence not only a profoundly popular character, but also preserves and further deepens the revolutionary and popular character of the army. Only the army which is led by a Marxist-Leninist party, which emerges from the people, which is trained, keeps vigilant guard and lives with the people, which remains loyal to the people, becomes strong and invincible.

2.

The arming and military training of the entire people is the concrete implementation of the Marxist-Leninist line of the masses also in the field of defence. The Party proceeds from the principle that, as long as the revolution is the doing of the masses, its victories too, can and must be defended by the masses better than anyone else, precisely those masses which have assimilated and carry out the teachings on the military art of people's war. «There is no army which is stronger than the people armed and militarily trained, and there is no weapon which is more powerful than the popular war in the fire of which any aggressor is consumed and destroyed.»³ Therefore, the notions «soldier people», or «army of the soldier people» in our country are not mere slogans and words. We have changed this into a reality in which every citizen participates and is trained in one military structure or the other. And the force of this reality the enemy sees and reckons with.

The arming of the people is not merely a question of a subjective or technical matter. This principle and this reality stem from the very character of our socialist order. The broader is the socio-political basis of the social order, the broader the interest

of the working masses for its defence becomes. Therefore, the people are armed only in a genuinely socialist country, as Albania, in which the working class, the working masses really exercise power, in which the people themselves are interested in the defence of the Homeland and the victories they have achieved.

In the world where capital, oppression and exploitation dominate, the regime in power cannot permit the working masses to arm themselves, because this would lead to the overthrow of its own system, quite the contrary, stresses Comrade Enver Hoxha, «the bourgeois army in general is the bourgeoisie armed to its teeth, as an army which confronts the proletariat and the masses of the people.»⁴ So, the bourgeoisie not only does not allow the people to arm themselves, but uses the army and police to suppress the people, to stop them from rising in the revolution. Precisely for this aim it trains its army as a means to suppress the popular revolution, to defend its rule, to realize its own expansionist aims and ambitions. This speaks of the profoundly reactionary character of the bourgeois-revisionist armies and exposes the views according to which the armies are «supra-class», «national», «extra-political» groups. These armies, in fact, are detached from the people, are anti-popular. But since the bulk of the soldiers are the sons of the workers and peasants whose interests are the opposite of those of the bourgeoisie, the latter is forced to shut them up in barracks to isolate them from the people and to educate them with a hatred against the people. Therefore, the army of the bourgeois-revisionist countries is weak, «because the class which leads and uses it is deteriorating as such and heading towards its fall, because the ideology and the aims which inspire it are retrogressive, reactionary, and doomed by history.»⁵

In our socialist country in which the people are in power, the tasks the Party has set in the field of defence are the expression of the will, desires and interests of our people. The correct understanding of this encourages the masses to fulfil and overfulfil

the tasks of production, which is also part of the problems of defence, while at the same time giving special care to the military training and the increase of their military knowledge and skill. The assimilation and mastering of the military art today has become the concern of the entire people, in any structure.

While making the question of the defence of the Homeland the concern of the entire people, the PLA has implemented another Marxist-Leninist principle, the principle of self-reliance. The teachings of history, both past and present, have convinced the Albanian people that freedom and socialism can never be expected as a donation from anyone, can never be defended by the others. They are won and guaranteed by the people of the country under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party. The bourgeois-revisionist theories of cosmopolitanism, of «limited sovereignty», the preachings on the possibilities of defending national sovereignty only by accepting the umbrella of one superpower or the other, by joining their military-political alliances, etc., are alien to the working people of socialist Albania. All these so-called theories and doctrines that the superpowers concoct, are supported by the psychosis of war and intimidating means. Their aim, as Comrade Enver Hoxha pointed out to the 7th Congress of the Party, is «to create the capitulationist idea that no state and no nation can live outside the domination and tutelage of the one superpower or the other.»⁶

The PLA has never based the defence of the Homeland on foreign aid; it has never allowed the foreigners to trample the interests of the Homeland and the people underfoot or left the country to be involved in their military-political and economic situations. All this has been sanctioned in our Constitution which stresses that: «The territory of the PSRA is inalienable and its borders inviolable» (Article 87), because «the stationing of foreign military bases and military troops is prohibited» (Article 91) in its territory, and because «...it is prohibited to give concessions, to set up other foreign economic and finan-

cial enterprises or joint enterprises with the monopolies and the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist states and countries, or receiving credits from them» (Article 28), etc. These laws of our socialist state are clear proof of the application of the principle of self-reliance in the practice of the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland. They reject any submission to dictate and pressures, the different «flatteries» of the superpowers or any other power.

The consistent stand of our Party on this line, relying completely on the internal factor, on our human and material forces, on the strength, patriotism, courage of the people, on the all-round training and constant fighting readiness of the whole country, has become the guarantee for peace, has enabled us to cope with success with the imperialist-revisionist blockades and to build a strong economy, which is stable and in continuous growth, an economy without crises and inflation.

The principle of self-reliance is a universal principle, which is valid for any country and people who want to defend themselves or to rise up in war for their own national and social liberation. It has special importance for our country. If the enemies dare enter a military adventure against our country, the peoples and the revolutionaries of the world will rise in our defence. But it is understood that the main burden in it will fall on our people. In the conditions when not only individual aggressors but also groups of aggressors might attack our country, everyone, old and young, men and women, all the soldier people included in the structures of our defence, will rise in war. This will occur because our people, educated by the Party with the lofty virtues of love of country and socialist patriotism, know what they fight for; therefore, they will fight with courage and selflessness to cope with any aggressor, however strong it may be. Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches: «History has shown that the people, however small and inferior in armaments they be, who fight for a just cause and are resolved to defend it to the end, are invincible.»⁶

3.

Reliance on the entire armed people constitutes the greatest guarantee not only for the defence against any foreign aggression, but also for carrying our revolution forward, and prohibiting the usurpation of the state by the revisionists or the military caste.

The bitter experience of the advent to power of revisionism in the former socialist countries shows that the army, which had been wormed from within, played a negative role. This occurred in the Soviet Union where Khrushchev took over with the direct aid of the armymen, this happened also in China where the army has been used sometimes by one revisionist clan sometimes by another, etc. «The American imperialists and Soviet social-imperialists have carried out military coups with which they have brought to the head of the state reactionary cliques in their own service.»⁷ This is what the enemies B. Balluku and Co., who were directed and inspired by the multiple agent M. Shehu, wanted to do in Albania. In order to realize their aims they tried to change the revolutionary popular character of our army. But the Party foiled their plans in the making and defended the army from their aims. Comrade Enver Hoxha says that our army is not an army of barracks, a caste shut up in itself which is isolated from the people and above the people, but an army which has merged into one with the entire people. Our working masses take part in and train themselves as soldiers of the people for the defence of their state against any danger from any quarter, just as they take an active part in the governing of our socialist state.

In the formation of the revolutionary popular character of the army our Party has always kept in mind the teachings of the classics of Marxism-Leninism. Lenin stressed, «It would be a mystification, a humbug and a lie to say that since there is a revolutionary army, it is superfluous to arm the entire proletariat... The workers need have an army which is not isolated from the people, want the workers and peasants to merge in one militia (read: army — M. M.) in

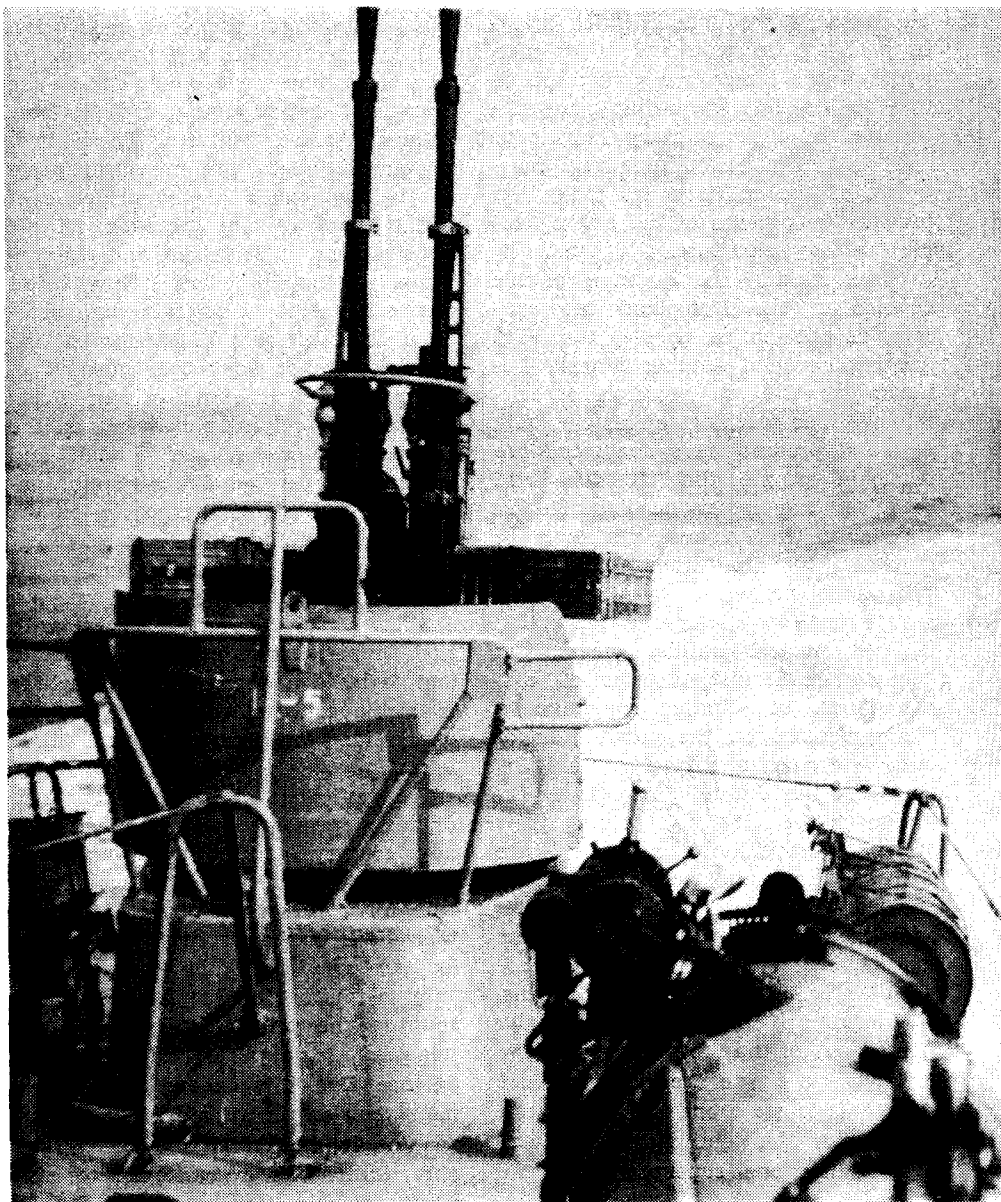
the entire people.»⁸ Whereas Stalin writes: «Only when the victorious people are transformed into a revolutionary army are they in a position to inflict total defeat to the dark forces which keep low.»⁹

This stand, this great work of the Party, has made our army, which is inspired by the revolutionary ideas of the proletariat, capable of defending the freedom, independence and sovereignty of the people, stand guard of the genuine democracy for our working people and not the «democracy for a handful of capitalists.»

4.

In socialist Albania the defence of the Homeland as the duty above all duties, as the great question of the entire people, is not a mere slogan. The duty for the defence of the Homeland is the most important task, a task of responsibility. With the defence of the Homeland we understand the defence of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the most progressive order in the world, socialism, and the guarantee for the continuity of this order on the road on which the Party leads us. Our people understand that socialism will exist in Albania, the Albanian nation will exist, people will be politically and economically free, only in a free Homeland. The building of socialism in Albania depends on the fulfilment of this task to defend one's Homeland, means to ensure the independence and sovereignty of the people.

The defence of the Homeland is the duty above all duties and the most difficult duty of all. The work and the struggle for the defence of the Homeland call for great sacrifices. In this case, our country, our people, our socialist order are put to a great and arduous test. Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us, «The question of the war is a difficult question, from every aspect, from the human aspect, from the material aspect, from the moral aspect and from the psychological aspect.» In case of war, man is put to



test, even his life is required, a test which has to do with the highest degree of placing the general interest above the personal interest. Therefore, the Party has always taken measures to prepare the people militarily and economically, as well as politically, ideologically and morally.

The defence of the Homeland as the duty above all duties is dictated by the situations. The Party has continuously made it clear that we live in an international situation full of threats and dangers. This situation appears still more complicated in Eu-

rope and in the Mediterranean region. Comrade Enver Hoxha in his speech before the electors said, «Now we notice that in Europe, in the Mediterranean, in the Middle East and in the Balkans, new tensions and conflicts, which constitute a direct threat to peace and security of many countries of these regions, have been created as a result of the hegemonic policy and the brutal interventions of the United States of America and the Soviet Union.»¹⁰

The superpowers and chauvinist states have not given up their old



hostile plans for the invasion of Albania as a neuralgic strategic point, and of using it as a bridgehead for their expansionist aims and ambitions towards the other peoples and countries. Their hostility becomes even more intensive because of the fact that Albania is the only socialist country in the world.

The enemies are enraged by the word, the stand and the reality of our socialist country, therefore they hatch up most dangerous plans against it. In these circumstances we develop and strengthen our economy, steel our

unity, raise the fighting readiness for the defence of our Homeland ceaselessly.

The strengthening of the economy, the building of socialism and the defence of the Homeland, all this the PLA has seen as one inseparable thing. The people in Albania are both builders and defenders of socialism. They link everything they do in the enterprise, in the cooperative, in the institution, at school, with the development of the economy and with the strengthening of the defence capacity of the country. The strengthening

of the economy helps strengthen the economic base of defence. The building of socialism, Comrade Enver Hoxha points out, is a great, indeed very great, struggle, is a serious, absolutely necessary preparation to cope with an eventual war.

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Basing the defence of the Homeland on the armed people constitutes the surest guarantee for a lasting peace and independence and for carrying socialism forward with success in our country. This has its basis in the fact that the Party, the people and the army in our country are one and indivisible; «our army is strong because it is linked with the Party and the people like flesh to bone, because it defends and loyally implements the line of the Party, because it is always ready to make the supreme sacrifice for the cause of the Party, the people and the Homeland.»¹¹

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- 1 «History of the PLA», Tirana 1981, p. 274, Alb. ed.
 - 2 Enver Hoxha, Works, vol. 3, p. 373, Alb. ed.
 - 3 Enver Hoxha, «Reports and Speeches 1974-1975», Tirana 1977, p. 36, Alb. ed.
 - 4 Enver Hoxha, «Eurocommunism Is Anti-communism», Tirana 1980, p. 263, Alb. ed.
 - 5 Enver Hoxha, «For the Assistance of the Popular Army», vol. 3, Tirana 1975, p. 29, Alb. ed.
 - 6 Enver Hoxha, Report to the 7th Congress of the PLA, Tirana 1976, p. 215, Alb. ed.
 - 7 Enver Hoxha, «Reports and Speeches 1974-1975», Tirana 1976, pp. 35-36, Alb. ed.
 - 8 Enver Hoxha, «Eurocommunism Is Anti-communism», Tirana 1980, p. p. 271, Eng. ed.
 - 9 V. I. Lenin, «On War, the Army and Defence», vol. 1, p. 618, Alb. ed.
 - 10 Enver Hoxha, Speech before the electors, 1982, p. 24, Alb. ed.
 - 11 Enver Hoxha, «Reports and Speeches 1974-1975», p. 36, Alb. ed.

THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES ARE INSEPARABLE FROM THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

by **KOÇO SKËNDERI** and **YLLI VEJSIU**

The population of our country is envisaged to reach about 4 million inhabitants in the year 2000 mainly by maintaining the present birth-rate and lowering infant mortality. The population will continue to increase nearly at the present annual average rate, whereas the average age of the population will be about 28 years old, against 26 that it is today

THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES AND ALL THE PROCESSES OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING ALL THE STAGES OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT ARE CONNECTED AND INTERWINED CLOSELY WITH ONE ANOTHER. NATURALLY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES DEPENDS ON THE KIND OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ORDER IN WHICH THE POPULATION LIVES AND WORKS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE LATTER ARE ALSO DETERMINED BY DEFINITE OBJECTIVE LAWS WHICH OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE WILL OF PEOPLE AND OUTSIDE IT, THESE PROCESSES CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT TRACE THE COURSE OF THE ENTIRE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Marx, in his work «Capital», discovered and studied the specific laws of the capitalist mode of production and, at the same time, the demographic processes as a constituent part of this mode of production, and reached the scientific conclusion that any socio-economic formation is subject to the operation of the specific laws of population. Marx points out, «Any historically specific mode of production has, in fact, its own specific laws of population with an historical character.»¹

In his study of the demographic processes in close connection with the other laws of capitalist reproduction, Marx reduced to nothing all the claims of the Malthusianists who tried to explain the economic difficulties of the working people and unemploy-

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economists.

ment not with the specific laws that operate under capitalism, but with the so-called growth of population in geometric proportions against the growth of production in arithmetic proportions.

Life has fully confirmed the validity of the Marxist-Leninist theses on the connection between demographic processes and the socio-economic processes. Today although the developed capitalist countries have a very slow increase of the population, the number of the unemployed is still continuously growing and misery becoming more and more of an ulcer, instead of diminishing. So, unemployment and the deteriorating conditions of the working masses have their roots not in the laws of the development of demographic processes, but in the capitalist mode of production. This is confirmed by the fact that although the rate of the

increase of population in our country is much higher than that of the developed countries of Europe, which is due to the dynamic and proportional development of the economy, all the work force is occupied with social useful work and the level of well-being has been gradually but steadily raised, at a time when unemployment in Europe and elsewhere has reached a critical point, the highest since the 30's.

The extended reproduction of the work force in our country is part of the extended socialist reproduction. In the development of this all-round and complex process the socialist law of the population, the essence of which is its continuous increase, the occupation of all the able-bodied population in a rational manner, the ceaseless increase of the material and cultural well-being of the people, have been and are always taken into consideration.

Historical experience shows that the requirements of this law are not realized spontaneously, without knowing them and without taking concrete measures to direct the demographic processes in a planned manner in close connection with the development of the entire economy and culture of the country.

PROCESSES

DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the whole period of the socialist construction in Albania the main features of demographic processes have been: first, relatively high rates of the increase of population, coping ever better with the needs of the rapid development of the economy and culture and the strengthening of the defence capacity of the country; second, the complete occupation with work of the active population, which has brought about the rapid growth of the social product and national income, and on this basis, the uplift of the well-being of the working masses; third, the optimal territorial distribution of the population, in order to ensure the harmonized development of countryside and town, and of the different branches of the economy, culture and the defence of the country; fourth, the demographic development has been accompanied with an entire revolution in the field of education, culture and health services.

But in the present conditions of intensive development, and the perspective rapid development of the economy, education and culture, the demographic processes in our country call for a more comprehensive and deepened study of them. This is also required because the processes of demographic development take their effect in the economy and in some other fields, especially in some of their fundamental aspects, not immediately but after the lapse of some decades.

The Party of Labour of Albania has focused its attention, among other problems, also on maintaining the

present level of the natural increase of population, the further reduction of infantile mortality, the preservation of a correct ratio between the rural and urban population and the securing of the conditions for the complete occupation of the able-bodied population with work.

During the 12-year period (1971-1982) the population of our country has had an average annual increase of 54 thousand people, i.e. at a growth-rate of 2.2 per cent, which is nearly four times as high as the annual average rate of the other countries of Europe.

A great victory of the demographic and economic policy pursued in our country is the increase of population both in town and in countryside. The increase of population in recent times has proceeded at an annual average of 22 thousand inhabitants in town and 32 thousand in countryside. The rapid increase of the rural population, the correct territorial distribution of the productive forces and their organized distribution have brought about that about 2/3 of the population of the country today live in the countryside, and are engaged mainly in agricultural and other pursuits, and whereas industry and other economic and socio-cultural activities have also extended. This structure of the population and its increase in all the districts of the country is diametrically the opposite of what is happening in the countries of the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist world, in which agriculture is degrading and the village abandoned, in which the ruined peasant population flows to the big cities to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

The high birth-rates make the Peo-

ple's Socialist Republic of Albania outstanding for the structure of its population in which young ages are predominant. The age group under 15 years old occupies 37 per cent of the total population of the country at a time when this same age-group accounts for 21-27 per cent of the total population in the other countries of Europe.

Another characteristic of our country is that, despite the dynamic growth of population in general, the number of working people has increased at rates higher than the average increase of the population. It is a fact that the present structure of the population today allows a still more rapid increase of the able-bodied population in comparison with the increase of population, in general. This constitutes an important base for the continuous increase of the social product at high rates and for the further strengthening of the defence capacity of the country.

Comrade Enver Hoxha instructs that in order to have an ever young population and to avoid the ageing of the population of our country, a phenomenon which today has become a threat in all the capitalist and revisionist countries, it is necessary that the rates of population growth be maintained nearly at the present levels. The decisive factors to achieving this target are the increase of birth-rates and the reduction of infant mortality.

It is a known fact that before the liberation of the country the tendency for the creation of large families existed because of the need for the family to cope not only with the high mortality among infants and children up to 4 years old (in that

period there was one death per two childbirths), but also to cope with the economic difficulties arising especially at an old age. However, despite the great number of births under the anti-popular regime of Zog, the natural growth of the population at that time was slow, because the mortality rate, in general, and infantile mortality, in particular, were very high due to the great socio-economic backwardness of the country. During the period 1923-1938 the population of the country increased by 1.7 per cent annually, because of the great mortality rate — about 18 per 1 000 inhabitants.

Whereas today, in the present socio-economic conditions, when every able bodied member of the family has a guaranteed job, i.e. a guaranteed pay and old age pension, child birth is connected with interests and aims quite different from those of the past. Today the encouraging factors are the desire to enjoy life in the family, the guarantee for the present and the great and secure perspectives that have been opened in every field of life, as well as the fact that the general interests of society are placed more and more above the personal interests. The whole society in our country today is interested in the increase of population, and the Party and state have taken and continuously take measures to ensure the necessary material and social conditions for the increase of population at relatively high rates.

The development of education and the extension of the school network in all the country have created ever more favourable conditions for the working masses to raise their educational and cultural level ceaselessly. The dwelling conditions of the people have been continuously improved with the increase of the number of apartments built each year. The protection and strengthening of people's health have been considered by the Party as an inseparable part of its policy for the uplift of the general well-being of the working masses with the result that today all the health services and curing in health institutions are given free of charge by the state for the whole people without exception.

The facilitating measures which the Party took in 1981 for the extension of childbirth-leave for mothers (from 84 days to 170 days) is one of the important factors which has a great influence both on the increase of birth rate and in the lowering of infant mortality. Thus, for instance, against 71 thousand and 400 which was the average of births per year in the period 1978-1982, in the year 1982 it reached 77 thousand and 300, thus marking an increase of 8.3 per cent in the birth rates of recent years.

All the socio-economic conditions of our socialist country as well as the demographic factors (favourable structure of female population according to age groups, the tendency for the number of marriages to increase, etc.) constitute the objective basis for the maintenance of relatively high birth rates in the coming periods. So, the number of marriages per 1000 inhabitants has also shown an increase: against 6.8 marriages per 1 000 inhabitants in 1970, their number has increased to 8.1 per 1 000 inhabitants in 1980, and 8.9 in 1982.

The increase of the number of births is influenced also by the uplift in the level of sanitary education and the creation of most suitable conditions of work for expectant mothers. In this context, the Party has always attached great importance to the improvement of dwelling conditions, the extension of communal and vital services, the increase of the number of child-caring institutions, such as creches, kindergartens, etc.

The lowering of mortality rates, in general, and infantile mortality, in particular, is another important factor of the increase of the population. Thanks to the care which the Party has devoted the level of mortality in our country is 40 per cent lower than that of the other countries of Europe.

The care shown for the mother and for strengthening the socialist family, as well as the fact that the ulcers of the capitalist society such as alcoholism, drugs, moral decline, etc. are not known in our country, contribute to the birth of healthy children. The average weight of the child at birth is satisfactory. Over

95 per cent of the children have an average of over 2 500 grams at birth. Infant mortality up to 28 days after birth is relatively low and is at the same level as or even lower than that of many European countries. The population of our country is envisaged to reach about 4 million inhabitants in the year 2 000 mainly by maintaining the present birth-rates and lowering infant mortality. The population will continue to increase nearly at the present annual average rates, whereas the average age of the population will be about 28 years old, against 26 years old that it is today.

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Through the distribution of the different projects of the material-technical base according to the districts and zones the structure of population develops not only depending on the natural movement of population, but also on its mechanical movement.

The socialist industrialization of the country in the period 1950-1965 demanded that a part of the work force be drawn from the countryside. This was an imperative need and a positive trend of the time. But the mechanical movement of population from countryside to town in our country has been carried out under control and direction. In the last ten years, as a result of a more rational distribution of the work force, the drawing of population from the countryside has been slowed down. At present we draw an average of 6 000-7 000 people from the countryside as work force.

On the basis of forecast studies, envisaging a certain mechanical movement of the population from countryside to town at an average annual rate more or less like that of the last five years, it is estimated that the country population will increase by 42 per cent and the town population by 44 per cent in the period 1982-2000. Meanwhile, the sources of able bodied population for the period 1982-1997 are already known, and objectively no measure can be taken to change their number and structure. Whereas the birth rates of the period 1983-1997 will have their influence on the in-

crease of the number of work force in the period 1998-2012. Naturally, these data must be studied for each individual district, for each zone and each agricultural cooperative, so that the demographic development is harmonized with the economic development of the country, in conformity with the territorial distribution of work force. The question is to avoid any surprise situation, to avoid any manifestation of spontaneity in the development of the productive forces not only on a regional scale, but also for each zone, in town and countryside, taking timely measures to cope with the mechanical movement of population where and when necessary. Thus, for instance, it is envisaged that the able-bodied population of the country in agriculture is to increase with about 375 thousand people above the present number of forces in the agricultural cooperatives and state farms. But this calls for more profound studies in each district about their needs for work force in this sector, taking into account the further intensification of agriculture, the extension of the arable land, the raising of the degree of mechanization, the changes in the structure of field crops, in livestock farming, etc.

The policy of the Party to realize the further harmonization of industry with agriculture and the territorial distribution of the productive forces

in all the districts has created the possibilities that about 120 thousand people can be occupied in industrial activities, in construction, land improvement schemes and many other branches of the economy and culture of the state sector (without including agriculture) without leaving their dwelling place. In our country there is no district which has no workers who live in the village. This merger of town-countryside industry-agriculture interests is one of the factors that contributes to the gradual narrowing of the gap in the per capita income between town and countryside. This has had its influence in the further strengthening of the alliance of the working class with the cooperatorist peasantry and the socio-cultural advance of the countryside.

For the next five-year plans it is envisaged that part of the work force of the countryside, along with their work in the mines, in the forest exploitation, in geology, in oil prospecting, land improvement schemes, etc., should also be occupied with other productive pursuits in the countryside. The possibilities exist for industrial activities, working on primary materials produced in the countryside, to be further extended there.

On the basis of the demographic data covering the whole country, work has begun on the studies that will be conducted during the 8th Five-year

Plan (1985-1990) for the increase of the social product, for the per capita consumption of the main food products and clothing, for the increase of real incomes, for the development of the textile industry, the knitware industry, the needs for building apartments and the structure of apartments, the extension and increase of the trading network and communal services, the needs for water, etc. Relying on the development of the demographic processes and the structure of the active population, profound prognostic studies will be carried out during the period 1986-2000 on the needs for specialists with higher and medium training, the problems of planning constructions in towns and villages, the development of urban and interurban transport, the construction of new water pipes and the extension of the existing ones, the course of development pensions, etc.

The question is that, as Comrade Enver Hoxha instructs, «The demographic problems... should be better placed in the epicentre of our plans, the work of the Party, the other state and social organs.»²

1 K. Marx, «Capital», vol. I, book 3, pp. 98-99, Alb. ed.

2 Enver Hoxha, «On the 7th Five-year Plan», p. 172, Alb. ed.

LABOUR LEGISLATION A MAJOR VICTORY OF THE AND ALL THE WORKING CLASS

by **PASKAL**

*The Labour Code of the
the will of the working class and the other workers
of the dictatorship of the proletariat to regulate the relations
from exploitation*

IN THE PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA PARTICULAR ATTENTION IS DEVOTED TO SOCIALIST LEGISLATION IN GENERAL AND LABOUR LEGISLATION IN PARTICULAR, AS A POWERFUL MEANS OF THE STATE OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT FOR THE SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY.

WE FIND THE FIRST STEPS FOR THE REGULATION OF LABOUR RELATIONS IN THE EARLY DOCUMENTS OF THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR. IN THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS, WHICH WAS ADOPTED AT THE 2nd MEETING OF THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL LIBERATION COUNCIL IN BERAT ON NOVEMBER 22, 1944, IT IS STRESSED THAT A LIFE OF HUMAN DIGNITY SHOULD BE ENSURED TO THE WORKERS. ON JULY 9, 1945, THE PRESIDENCY OF THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL LIBERATION COUNCIL ADOPTED A LAW WHICH REGULATED THE LABOUR RELATIONS OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES IN GENERAL OUTLINE.

It defined the working time which was 8 ours, the weekly and annual rest and sanctioned the equality of woman with man in the remuneration of work. This law had major political importance because it sanctioned the socialist institutions of labour which constituted the starting point of our socialist labour legislation which was developed further along with the deep-going economic and social changes that were carried out in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

In 1946 the first socialist Constitution of Albania was adopted. It sanc-

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tioned the main principles of the labour legislation which defined the further development of the socialist labour relations of work. The Constitution sanctioned the right of citizens to work, the general obligation of work, the limitation of working hours, paid annual rest, the right to state social insurance, etc. As provided for in the Constitution the People's Assembly adopted the new Labour Code a year later. This was a great victory of our working class. It opened a new page in the development of socialist legislation and resulted in the further strengthening, broadening and perfecting of socialist labour relations.

The first Labour Code and the laws which followed it expressed and sanctioned the great revolutionary changes that had taken place in the field of labour relations and served as a powerful means in the hands of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat to create and strengthen the new, socialist labour relations, and especially to educate the working people with the socialist stand towards labour and socialist property as well as to raise work productivity.

The carrying out of the tasks of that period for the transformation of Albania from a backward agrarian country into an agrarian-industrial country called also for juridical regulation of the socialist organization of labour, especially, towards raising the qualification of workers. For this purpose a number of norms were issued during the period 1949-1956 for resolving the problems emerging from practice in the field of labour relations.

The successes achieved in all fields at that time called for the revision of the first Labour Code and the drafting of a new Labour Code which would respond better to the new situation. So, in 1956 the People's Assembly adopted the second Labour Code. This

LEGISLATION - THE WORKING CLASS WORKING PEOPLE

HAXHI

*PSR of Albania expresses
the will of the working masses and is an important means of the state
in the regulation of social work of workers and employees liberated
from exploitation of man by man*

Code and others promulgated for its implementation played an important role in the improvement of the conditions of work and living, the further qualification of working people and their broader participation in the direction and management of the economy, in the perfecting of the organization and remuneration of work.

In 1966 the need arose for further perfecting the labour legislation. Under these conditions the third Labour Code was drafted and adopted on November 1, 1966.

The new Labour Code not only sanctioned and further elaborated rights and duties, but also served as a juridical base for the further development of labour legislation. In the process of its implementation a number of juridical acts were issued which resulted in the further improvement of the system of wages towards gradually narrowing down differences between mental and manual work. The revision of the provisions on safety at work, inventions and rationalizations, work discipline, etc. was of particular importance in this period.

As a result of the great and deep-going revolutionary transformations in

all fields of the political, economic, cultural and social life, which carried Albania to a new stage of its development, the stage of the complete construction of socialist society, a revision of the Labour Code imposed itself again, «Each time the objective conditions change, each time development creates new contradictions and problems.» Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us, «this must be accompanied with the revision and change of our decrees and ordinances.»¹

The second socialist Constitution, which was adopted by the People's Assembly in 1976, reflected the policy of the Party in the struggle for the complete construction of socialist society. In the Constitution are sanctioned the main principles which served as a basis for the fourth Labour Code which came into force on October 1, 1980.

The fourth Labour Code is the logical continuation of the previous codes, but at a qualitatively higher level, because it reflects the deep-going transformations that have taken place in our socialist base, in the political and social life of the country in the conditions of the savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement and a fierce class struggle waged on a national

and world scale. The Labour Code of the PSR of Albania expresses the will of the working class and the other working masses and is an important means of the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat to regulate the relations of social work of workers and employees liberated from exploitation of man by man, in enterprises, institutions and social organizations.

The Labour Code has its political and ideological base. It proceeds from the policy of the Party of Labour of Albania and is based on the ideology of the working class — Marxism-Leninism. «The leading role of the Party in our society and state not only constitutes a basic demand of Marxism-Leninism, but it also represents an historic reality,»² says Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The construction of socialism is a process of protracted and fierce class struggle of an all-sided — political, economic and ideological character, a struggle between socialism and capitalism which goes on during the whole period of transition from capitalism to communism. In this struggle and through it, the working class as the class in power must organize and guide the whole political and ideolo-

gical, social and economic, educational and cultural life of the country and create the conditions not only for the bourgeoisie to disappear as a class but also for any element or premise of a political, economic and ideological character which enables the restoration of capitalism to be eliminated.

The revolutionary experience of socialist Albania, summed up scientifically in the documents of the Party and the Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha, shows that the class struggle... is an objective phenomenon, the main motive force which carries the revolution and the construction of socialism forward, which protects the Party, the state and the whole country from bourgeois-revisionist degeneration and the restoration of capitalism.»³ All the institutions of the Labour Code are pervaded by this lofty principle. It appears, especially, in the provisions bearing on protection of common property, discipline at work, workers' wages, defence of the workers' rights, etc.

The principle of the line of the masses is concretized in a number of provisions of the Labour Code. Thus, in Article 14 it is said that the workers and employees organized in trade unions, conscious of the importance of the rapid, uninterrupted, planned and harmonious development of the economy, take part in the drafting and implementation of state plans. Likewise, Article 16 states that the Trade Unions collaborate with the state organs and other social organizations to ensure the organized participation of the working people in the direct management of the economy and the government of the country. Another clear expression of the implementation of the line of the masses is the principle sanctioned in the Labour Code that all differences that may emerge between workers and employees and the managements of enterprises, institutions or social organizations, when they cannot be resolved directly between those involved, should be settled by the trade-union committee of the basic organization of the trade-unions.

The working class, as the leading class of society under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, exercises its immediate control on the activity of institutions, enterprises and social organizations, among other things, also in the field of relations which is guaranteed by our socio-economic order, and is inspired and guided by the Marxist-Leninist policy and ideology of our Party.

The views of the bourgeois and revisionist ideologists, who especially in the recent years, call for woman to abandon social work and consider her as a delicate being capable only of devoting herself to the education of her children, are alien to our society. With us women have become a major social force for the socialist construction of the country.

In our socialist society, in which private property, the exploiting classes and the exploitation of man by man have disappeared and socialist property is the basis of the social order, work is the main source of livelihood for workers and employees. By stressing the particular role of work and socialist property, Comrade Enver Hoxha has called them «two great pillars on which the development of the economy, the entire life of the country, its present and future, are based.»⁴

Everybody's right to work, which is guaranteed by the state and expressed in Article 44/1 of the Constitution of the PSR of Albania and in Article 22 of the Labour Code, is one of the major victories of our socialist order. It marks the definitive liberation of our working masses from the grave ulcer of unemployment which has become chronic and incurable in the capitalist and revisionist world.

Work is among the fundamental duties of every able-bodied citizen and, at the same time, a question of very great social and state importance. Unemployment does not exist in our socialist country. Our citizens' right of work is a reality which is based on sound material, political and juridical guarantees. It stems from the very essence of our socialist social order

and is a direct expression of the fundamental economic law of socialism and the law of the planned and proportionate development of our national economy. Hence, our Labour Code says: «The State guarantees work to all citizens there where it is required for the economic and cultural development of the country. Conscious that socialism is built and the socialist social order is strengthened only through work, workers and employees work there where work has been ensured them.»⁵

In socialist society every able-bodied citizen works according to his capacities and takes consumption means according to the work he performs for society. Distribution according to quantity and quality of work done is one of the economic laws of socialism. In implementation of this principle our labour legislation provides that wages should be set proceeding from the level reached in the development of the socialist order, social production and work productivity as well as from the necessity of meeting essential living needs, keeping a fair balance between work for oneself and work for society, between the fund of individual consumption and the fund of social consumption. On the other hand, on the basis of what has been achieved in narrowing down differences between mental work and manual work, between work in agriculture and work in industry, between skilled work and unskilled work, our state sees to it also that relative differences in wages are also reduced, while at the same time allowing no equalitarianism, but maintaining always alive the interest of the working people in raising their own qualification and the productivity of their work.

In line with the teachings of the Party and the provisions of the Constitution, the Labour Code also envisages a fair ratio in the setting of wages so as to prevent large differentials in the level of income and the way of living and, thereby, the creation of privileged strata.

Likewise the right of work includes

a correct combination of material with moral incentives, with priority given to moral incentives, so as to encourage workers or employees to ever greater achievements at work.

In the PSR of Albania great importance is attached to the constant raising of the ideo-political, educational, cultural and technical level of the working people.

The training of workers and employees and the constant raising of their qualification is done in accordance with the requirements of social production on the basis of the uninterrupted deepening of the technical-scientific revolution and their participation in the management of the economy and the government of the country. The successful fulfilment of this task conforms also to the call of the Constitution for narrowing the gap between mental and manual work and between work in industry and work in agriculture.

The right of work envisages a number of facilities which ensure the workers the conditions to continue learning at part-time schools as well as to attend vocational schools or different courses for their qualification and specialization.

The worker or employee who attends part-time school is entitled to a paid leave. When workers attend fulltime courses for their further qualification or specialization, their ideological or professional uplift, as well as for learning a second profession, they are entitled to their whole wages for all the time they do not work.

Our socialist legislation envisages a high level of safety at work, technical security and hygiene and sanitation in all kinds of jobs. Under our labour legislation provisions the state cares about and takes the necessary measures to ensure safety at work for workers or employees to carry out their activities in normal conditions and without any threat to their life or health.

The administrations of enterprises, institutions or social organizations ensure their workers and employees nor-

mal conditions of work in accordance with the norms and regulations established for safety at work by the Ministries and other central institutions. They are obliged to instruct their workers and employees how to avoid dangers at work, how to protect their health as well as teach them all the rules which have to do with safety at work.

Workers or employees who are engaged in such work processes as endanger their lives or health, damage or soil clothing and footwear are entitled to protective means, special clothing, antidotes, special or supplementary food and, if the conditions of social hygiene call for it, working clothes free of charge from enterprises, institutions or social organizations.

To safety at work are also related such provisions as those on shorter working hours for workers and employees engaged in difficult jobs or jobs endangering their health, protracted leave for those engaged in heavy work, protective means, etc.

Under our labour legislation women and minors enjoy particular protection. So pregnant women or women with child up to one year old, minors under 16 years and those with a medical certificate are not allowed to work night shifts or at difficult jobs. In cases of pregnancy and childbirth women workers or employees are entitled to a 6 month paid leave. Women workers or minors under 18 years are not allowed to work under earth or at jobs harmful to their health, as defined in the rules and instructions of technical security and hygiene at work.

Special care is shown for invalids and the handicapped for whom the managements of enterprises, institutions or social organizations are obliged to find permanent jobs and take special measures for their rehabilitation.

A great achievement for the working people is also the right of social insurance which guarantees them the meeting of their material and cultural needs when, because of disability

or old age, they are relieved of the obligation of work, or are under the care of other persons because they have lost their bread-winner.

In the Constitution of the PSR of Albania it is said that «the working people of city and country are guaranteed the material means of livelihood in old age, in case of illness or loss of capacity for work.» This principle of the Constitution finds its reflection in Article 10 of the Labour Code of the PSR of Albania which say that «the workers and employees are guaranteed the material means of livelihood when they lose their capacity for work or in old age.»⁶

If the right of work and remuneration according to work fulfils the material and cultural needs of every able-bodied citizen, the right to state social insurance provides for the needs of those who have become disabled or are no longer obliged to work because of old age.

Thanks to the strengthening of our economic order, the right of social insurance has been greatly extended recently. At present it covers not only all workers and employees, but also members of agricultural cooperatives, which constitutes one of the greatest victories of our working masses.

Expenditure for the means of livelihood in old age, in case of illness or loss of capacity for work constitutes that part of the social fund of consumption which is distributed free of charge.

The state provides not only for social insurance in pensions for old age or disability, but also guarantees the medical service and treatment in sanitary institutions free of charge to all citizens, cares for the rehabilitation of invalids as well as for the minors of those fallen in defence of the homeland and the socialist construction of the country.

Besides, state social insurance provides funds for a number of services to meet the cultural needs of the people, rest homes for the workers and employees, summer camps for children, etc.

The working people of the PSR of

Albania are free from any obligation of payment to state social funds which are formed entirely from the payments of enterprises, institutions and social organizations.

In implementation of the principle of the right of work, and in conformity with the Constitution, our citizens have the right to choose and exercise their profession according to their personal abilities and inclinations and in accordance with the needs of society. On the realization of the right of work depends the realization of a number of other rights such as the right of rest and safety at work, the right of remuneration for work according to its quantity and quality, the right of part-time education and qualification, the right of material means in case of disability, etc. An essential distinctive characteristic of a principled character for the socialist relations of work is the fact that the rights of workers and employees are not formal juridical statements. Our legislation envisages all the means and guarantees necessary to ensure their complete and uncompromising implementation in practice. Here comes the obligation of enterprises, institutions and social organizations not to refuse admission to work to citizens for reasons which are not envisaged by law, the precise definition of cases of dismissal from work, the legal regulation of the training and ideo-professional uplift of the working people, provisions for admission to work according to the profession and qualification of the working people, guaranteed wages for workers and employees, wage reductions allowed only in very rare and rigorously specified cases, a simple and operative procedure for settling controversies at work which is carried out by authoritative social or state organisms that must be totally independent from the influence of enterprise administrations, guaranteed wages for the period of forced un-

*A walk on the hills
surrounding Tirana during
free time*





employment to the workers who return to their jobs after having been unjustly dismissed, etc.

The Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha have constantly called for the right of the working people to be defended to the end, but on the other hand they teach that rights can never be considered formally or separated from the fulfilment of duties. Duties and tasks are linked in indissoluble unity. In this context, the principle of the right of work is closely and dialectically linked with the principle of the general obligation of work. The organic link and mutual influence

of these principles have found their full expression and sanctioning in the Constitution and Labour Code in which it is said that work is not only a right but also a duty and an honour for every able-bodied citizen. The general obligation of work is, in the first place, a moral and political obligation which is based on the sound political and ideological convictions of our people. Clarified by the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, our workers and employees go there where the lofty interests of the Homeland call for them, because they are aware that

only through work can socialism be built, material and cultural blessings created and our socialist social and state order strengthened.

1 Enver Hoxha, «Reports and Speeches 1970-1971, p. 114 Alb. Ed.

2 Enver Hoxha, Report to the 7th Congress of the PLA, p. 22, Eng. ed.

3 Enver Hoxha, Report to the 7th Congress of the PLA, p. 25, Eng. ed.

4 Enver Hoxha, Report to the 8th Congress of the PLA, p. 130, Eng. ed.

5 Labour Code, Article 8.

6 Constitution of the PSRA, Article 46.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALBANIAN ETHNOGRAPHY AND FOLKLORE

by **QEMAL HAXHIHASANI**
and **ABAZ DOJAKA**

Our ethnography and folklore contribute with their studies to the solution of complex problems connected with the knowledge of the laws and peculiarities of the development of folk culture and the integration of its values into the mainstream of culture for the further flourishing of the socialist culture of our country

DURING THE 40 YEARS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE POWER OUR ETHNOGRAPHIC AND FOLKLORISTIC SCIENCES HAVE RECORDED IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS BOTH IN THE COLLECTION AND SYSTEMATIZATION OF THE TREASURY OF THE POPULAR CULTURE AND ITS ALL-ROUND STUDY AND PUBLICATION. THESE SCIENCES HAVE HAD AN INCREASING INFLUENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC LIFE OF OUR SOCIETY. AS THE OTHER SCIENCES, ETHNOGRAPHY AND FOLKLORE WILL UNDERGO FURTHER AND MORE RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE. RELYING ON THE PRINCIPLES OF MARXISM-LENINISM, THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA HAS PLACED POPULAR CULTURE, AS THE CREATIVENESS OF THE MASSES, AT THE CENTRE OF ITS ATTENTION.

Problems of ethnographic and folklore legacy have also been dealt with at the congresses and plenums of the Party in the decisions of an ideological character of its leading forums, and the instructions given for their proper assessment in the conditions of socialism, for their utilization for strengthening the popu-

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lar and national character of our new, socialist, culture and art. Comrade Enver Hoxha's teachings on the major problems of this legacy, on its class content, on the dialectical development of tradition and innovation, on the role of the popular creativeness in the practice of the revolutionary development of our new, socialist culture, constitute an important contribution in this direction. Albanian ethnography and folklore

were born and consolidated as sciences only after the establishment of the people's power. The first institutions to lead the scientific ethnographic and folkloristic activities were created in this period. Work began with great enthusiasm although means were scarce and possibilities limited. In 1947, for the first time in the history of Albanian ethnography and folklore, the sectors of ethnography and folklore attached to the Institute of Sciences were created. A year later, in 1948, the first museum of the country, the Archaeological-Ethnographic Museum, was opened in Tirana. In the process of the socialist construction and the development of our new culture, Albanian ethnography and folklore grew and developed led by theoretical and methodological principles of Marxism-Leninism, assuming and strengthening their physiognomy as materialist sciences. In

1960 the Institute of Folklore and in 1979 the Institute of Popular Culture comprised of 4 sectors: Material Culture, Social Culture, Popular Prose and Poetry and Musical and Choreographic Folklore, were set up. The Institute has its own organ, the review «Popular Culture», in Albanian, with a selection of its more important materials in French.

Through their fruitful activity over these years Albanian ethnography and folklore have played their role in the practice of the socialist construction and implemented the great principle of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy, namely, that the task of science is not only to know the reality, but also to contribute to the revolutionary transformation of it. Our ethnography and folklore have done much to discover, collect, study and make known the invaluable treasure of our popular culture, to place it in the service of the construction of our socialist society.

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Among the main tasks of our ethnography was the collection of materials for museum and other funds. Ethnographic materials increase as a result of the work of many expeditions which covered all the country for this purpose. The materials collected to this day comprise about 25,000 objects of material culture, more than 64,000 pages of expedition reports, about 45,000 photos, sketches, etc.

The districts and many villages also have their ethnographic and folklore museums, which document their ethnographic and folkloric peculiarities.

Some of the more ancient pursuits of our people: hunting, fishing, animal husbandry and agriculture, are illustrated by means of collections of work tools and implements. An im-

portant place is occupied by complete collections of work tools of more than 25 crafts which have become extinct in our days.

There are rich collections of textiles and embroideries of great artistic values. Of particular interest is the collection of folk costumes, with their main types, variants and derivatives according to region, class, age, sex, profession and season.

Particular care has been devoted to the collection and conservation of kitchen utensils, house furniture, weapons used until the end of the past century, etc.

The objects of the collections of material culture come from more than 300 towns and villages of our country. As to time, they belong (with a few exceptions) to the two last centuries and document the mode of life of our people before Liberation. Over a period of years the main aim was to collect as many as possible objects testifying to the life of our people in the past and which were going into disuse. The collection and classification of ethnographic materials connected with the development of the folk culture in the conditions of the construction of socialist society has begun only after 1955 and has continued ever since on an ever larger scale.

The collection of ethnographic and folklore materials has imparted a great impulse to the studies in these fields. The study of the Albanian folk culture, taken in its broadest sense — as a material, social, spiritual and artistic culture with its distinctive ethnic and national features, was among the more important tasks of our ethnographic science. As a result, 13 issues of the collection «The Albanian Ethnography», 8 albums of the series «Folk Art in Albania», many articles in the scientific reviews «Historical

Studies», «Studia Albanica», «Folk Culture», etc. have been published.

Our ethnographic studies show that, despite the great variety of the traditional culture of our people, this culture is formed on a very ancient common base covering the whole territory inhabited by the Albanians. This is apparent not only in their material culture, in their costumes and buildings, but also in their social, spiritual and artistic culture, in their customary laws, customs, traditions, etc.

The National Conference of Ethnographic Studies (1976) occupies an important place in the development of our ethnography. The reports and papers read at this Conference represented a broad, many-sided and deep-going study of the Albanian folk culture and showed its place and role in the development of our national socialist culture.

Bearing in mind Comrade Enver Hoxha's instruction to our ethnographers, «to redouble their efforts so as to make the science of ethnography a really great propaganda means for our people, in the first place, to acquaint themselves with the deep roots of their culture developed in the course of many centuries»¹, the Albanian ethnography has further intensified its activities for the collection, classification and study of ethnographic materials, for the as full as possible documentation of the development of the folk culture in time and space. It is rising to a higher level, engaging in more comprehensive studies tackling major global problems.

The Albanian ethnographers have worked out a clear program both for the present and the perspective, which maintains a correct balance between studies of the past and studies of the present development of folk cul-

ture. Although much has been done in the study of the folk culture of the past, its problems will continue to figure among the more important ones as the process of study of many aspects of the historical development of the Albanian culture will be further deepened. The summing up of the experience of traditional architecture and agriculture, of folk crafts and applied arts, the study of the population movements, the Albanian family, the family customs, customary law, social psychology and virtues of our people — all these are problems on which our ethnographers are working.

Albanian ethnography is also working on the compilation of the Albanian Ethnographic Atlas which is a synthesis of the results of the studies carried out so far in the field of ethnography. Much work has already been done in the collection and study of the materials for some themes of the Atlas.

The Corpus of Albanian Folk costumes, Dwellings and Customary Law in several volumes will occupy a particular place among the publications of the Cultural Legacy carried out by the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania.

Apart from the past, our ethnography devotes special attention to the study of current processes. The changes that have occurred in our country — in the way of living, customs and family life, the creation of new traditions, etc. occupy an important place in our ethnographic studies. By studying these problems, the Albanian ethnography is closely connected with our reality and responds ever better to the needs of the complete construction of socialist society.

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The collection of the folklore materials and the study of the folklore

of the past and present was an urgent task of our folklore. Research carried out in about 500 places has enriched the folklore fund with new materials which give a clear picture of the Albanian folklore, the wealth of its different genres and their geographical distribution. In traditional folklore, special attention has been devoted to subjects expressing the protest of the popular masses against class exploitation. The problems of the present condition of the different genres of folklore, their historic development, the reflection of the National Liberation War in folklore, the documentation and classification of folklore materials, etc. were tackled in a new manner. The folklorists were faced with new tasks. They had to study folklore as a means of political and ideological education and take a critical approach to its ideal values. For this purpose a number of collections of an anthological character, which make an important contribution to the scientific presentation and popularization of the wealth of our folklore, were prepared in the first years.

The demands of the new school, the development of the people's culture, as well as the utilization of folklore as a means of ideo-aesthetic education faced Albanian folklore with the task of carrying out special studies. Two selections for the former High Teachers' Training Institute (1948, 1950), and the general survey on folklore in the first volume of the History of the Albanian Literature (1959) marked the beginning of genuine studies in the field of folklore. The prefaces to the selections of historical, legendary and lyrical songs, folk tales, proverbs, etc., included in the publications of a general folkloric character of this period, not only brought out the wealth of the dif-

ferent genres of our folklore, but also laid the foundations for their study on new theoretical bases.

With the founding of the Institute of Folklore, research was extended to musical folklore, folk melodies and dances. Specialists of three profiles co-ordinated their work so as to achieve a better knowledge of the three syncretic aspects on which folklore creativeness is regularly based. The scientific method of complex folklore research (for the three profiles) was improved along with the constantly increasing interest about the artistic life of the people. Works of genuine value of the traditional and modern folklore have been discovered. The materials collected by folklore expeditions, in addition to the materials coming from external collaborators, form the basis on which the Folklore Archive have been created. Today the funds of these Archives number more than one million verse, some thousands of pages of prose, 60,000 proverbs, 23,000 recordings of melodies, about 11,000 notations of dances, a wealth of photographic documents about rhapsods, singers, instrumentalists, dancers, and others. The funds of the archives of the Institute also contain folklore materials of the Albanians of Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro, as well as of the Arbëreshi populations of Italy.

The constant enrichment of the folklore funds has made possible the publication of a vast corpus of folklore materials in several volumes. It reflects the great historical and social values of the folklore of our people, in which they have expressed by artistic means their experience of life and their feeling of beauty. Five volumes of prose, 7 volumes of poetry of the period of the National Liberation War and socialist construction, 2 volumes of legendary epic, 2 volu-

mes of lyrics, 1 volume of more than 14,000 proverbs, etc. have been published so far in the framework of this corpus. Other volumes will follow soon.

The beginning of scientific publications of folk melodies and dances has been an important achievement of Albanian folklore. For the first time in the history of Albanian folklore 13 volumes of special selections of musical folklore with about 1,200 polyphonic and homophonic songs and instrumental music, divided into their individual genres, have been published. Six volumes of choreographic folklore mark the first serious attempts at a scientific recording and presentation of folk dances. The corpus of folk instruments and volume one of the corpus of folk dances are in the process of publication.

Among the problems studied are the wealth of the different genres of folklore, the laws of their development, the reflection in folklore of events of the national life, the following up of the dialectical development of folklore in the new conditions of the construction of socialist society, etc. Contrary to the theses of bourgeois folklorists who see «no future» for folklore which, according to them, is «an archaic product of the backward social strata», etc., the Albanian folklorists have set themselves the task of studying the historical development of folklore in the process of the cultural development of the popular masses and enlivening everything of value of the traditional legacy, by giving it a new content. Our folklorists study the problems of the development of folklore among the working class, of the extinction of some genres of folklore which have lost their actual function, assess folklore as a product of the collective creative genius of the people, while

not overlooking the role played in it by individual talents. They deal with problems of folk creativeness in the conditions of present-day development of other artistic forms, the amateur movement, cultivated art, etc., and the new problem of folklore performances on the stage, etc. The aesthetic values of folklore, the high degree of self-consciousness expressed in folk creation, the enrichment of folklore through life, the reality, etc. have been subjected to a deep-going analytical survey.

The organization of National Folklore Festivals, which represent major manifestations of our folk art, has become an important tradition. The scientific sessions organized immediately after the Festivals for the assessment of their achievements as stages in the development of folklore, the 1st National Conference of Folkloric Studies (1972), etc. constitute important activities for the promotion of studies in the field of folklore. Albanian folklore has placed the development of these activities on the basis of the materialist methodology and ideo-aesthetic principles. It utilizes the experience inherited from the studies carried out by the former generations of folklore collectors as well as the results of world progressive science. Apart from specialists, a large army of scientific workers of different cultural and artistic institutions in the centre and districts — art critics, writers, composers, choreographers and others make their contribution to these studies.

The rates of the economic and cultural development of our socialist country face Albanian folklore science with a number of new tasks.

Among these, a collection of the folklore wealth of our country and, especially, research to discern as

clearly as possible some archaic layers of the Albanian folklore — the Cycle of the Kreshniks in all its extension, the balads of a mythical and legendary character, folk prose, folklore creations of a ritual character, etc. remain important tasks for the future.

Publications in the series of the Corpus of Albanian folklore, a fundamental work which will represent an encyclopaedia of the Albanian folklore legacy, will go on in all fields: prose, legendary epic, historical epic, lyric, etc. Along with this there will also be publications of folklore materials collected by the different workers of the Institute, as well as various publications to meet the needs of the school, etc.

Studies in the different field of folklore will occupy an important place. These studies will deal with the more important problems of folklore and will be of practical value to our school and culture. In these studies particular attention will be devoted to the problems of theory and method, of the trends of development of folklore amongst the working class, of the new ideo-aesthetic consciousness of our cooperativist peasantry, as well as to some problems of traditional folklore: the heroic epic, ballads, folk songs and music.

Other important fields of study will entail the folklore that lives on in the Albanian settlements of Italy, Greece, etc., as well as the relationship between the folklore of the Albanians and the other Balkan peoples.

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With these achievements and in ceaseless struggle against idealistic views and theories and the reactionary schools of the bourgeois-revi-

sionist ethnography and folklore, Albanian folklore and ethnography have risen to a worthy level among our other materialistic sciences. They have made a valuable contribution to the elucidation of the historical development of Albanian folk culture within the boundaries of the PSR of Albania, in the Albanian regions of Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro and in the Albanian settlements throughout the world, to the clarification of its profound significance and powerful vitality, to the summing up of the experience of the present and perspective development of folklore, to the promotion within and outside the country of the values of this cultural legacy created in the course of many centuries. In the present conditions, our ethnography and folklore contribute with their studies to the solution of complex problems connected with the knowledge of the laws and peculiarities of the development of folk culture and the integration of its values into the mainstream of culture for the further flourishing of the socialist culture of our country.

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Folk culture represents the democratic and progressive culture created in the conditions of class antagonism, in struggle against the culture and ideology of the exploiting classes; it represents the art by which the masses have expressed their spiritual world, talents and aspirations, their struggle for freedom, justice and social progress. This content, which directly reflects the socio-historical reality, the class struggle of its creators and carriers, has given folk art its profoundly progressive spirit. Our proletarian culture relies on these values of folk art, uses them as important

sources for its growth and development, for the strengthening of its democratic spirit. On the other hand, the democratic spirit of folk art finds its harmonious development only in our socialist society where all our culture, as the creation of the masses, has a popular and democratic character. In these conditions, the characteristic qualities of the traditional folk culture created in the course of the historical development of our people — patriotism, courage, the aspiration to freedom, the feeling of solidarity with the liberation struggle of the other peoples, have been enriched with new qualities such as socialist patriotism, revolutionary enthusiasm, and internationalism.

The strengthening of the national popular character of culture assumes particular importance in the present situation when the superpowers are making all-out attempts to impose their decadent culture and way of life on the other peoples. At the 7th Congress of the PLA Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: «Under the present conditions, when proceeding from their objectives of world domination, of the spiritual and political enslavement of the peoples, the American imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists are spreading the ideas of cosmopolitanism, of the so-called internationalization of art and culture, the struggle to defend the national culture of the peoples assumes very great importance.»²⁾

The superpowers propagandize the cosmopolitan idea of the internationalization of art and culture, of the creation of «homogenous» cultural patterns allegedly in the name of progress and in order to pull the smaller peoples out of backwardness. In reality, however, they are attempting at bringing about the decomposition of national cultures, their uniformity

which would serve the socio-economic interests of the hegemony-seeking powers bent on the ideological and cultural enslavement of the peoples.

Under these conditions the working people all over the world are showing an increasing interest in the traditions of their national cultures. The peoples turn to the sources of their history, to their national cultures in order to oppose the expansionist powers. The peoples find in their folklore the expression of their national awareness, the history of their resistance to the hegemony of the superpowers, to the exploitation of the ruling classes and national oppression. In socialist Albania the folklore and ethnography have been placed in the service of the ideological education of the working people.

The Party has pointed out that the collection and publication of the cultural legacy of the Albanian people should proceed at rapid rates and be done at a proper scientific level so as to show the cultural and artistic values our people have created in the course of centuries and use them as a broad basis for more comprehensive generalizations of the key problems of these sciences. With their constantly improving qualification, with a better organization of their work and the deepening of the mass character of science, the Albanian folklorists and ethnographers are working for the accomplishment of their tasks, placing our folklore and ethnography fully in the service of the construction of our socialist society.

1 Enver Hoxha, «Reports and Speeches 1976-1977», Tirana 1980, pp. 344-345, Alb. ed.

2 Enver Hoxha, Report to the 7th Congress of the PLA, p. 152, Eng. ed.

WHO HINDERS ALBANIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

The Yugoslavs cancel the invitation to the Folkloric Festival

IN THE LONG-STANDING PRACTICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR BRINGING THE PEOPLES TOGETHER AND MAKING THEM ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER, AND A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CREATION OF A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF MUTUAL TRUST. THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKED UP ON AS CONDUCIVE TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.

PROCEEDING FROM THESE PRINCIPLES, THE PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA HAS ESTABLISHED A GREAT NUMBER OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AND, IN PARTICULAR, ITS NEIGHBOURS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS NOT OCCURRING WITH YUGOSLAVIA, AND WE ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR IT.

We welcomed it as a good and promising sign when the Initiative Committee of the Ohri Balkan Folklore Festival, in which we had taken part on several other occasions, by its letter dated February 20, 1984 invited us to send a folkloric group to the competitions that would be organized in the beginning of July. As early as March 12 1984 the Ministry of Education and Culture of the PSRA officially informed the sponsors of the Festival that it accepted with pleasure the invitation and that the Folkloric Ensemble «Migjeni» was appointed to go to Ohri.

However, when the time came for the Folkloric Ensemble «Migjeni» to leave for Ohri, the Yugoslav side cancelled its invitation in an arbitrary

manner. On June 21, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the PSRA received a strange telegram which read: «Your proposal about the Folkloric Ensemble 'Migjeni' is unacceptable without official information». What was the cause of the cancellation of the invitation to the Festival? If the Yugoslav side relates its act to the non-existence of a general cultural agreement between the two countries, this did not exist at the time the invitation was made, either. Nor did it exist when our ensembles went to the Ohri Folklore Festival on other occasions.

The cancellation of the invitation to the Ohri Festival is clear evidence of lack not only of sincerity, but also seriousness in the way the Yugoslav side deals with international relations.

The Yugoslav stand on this question shows that Belgrade is not inclined

«ZËRI I POPULLIT» — organ of the
CC of the PLA. Article published on
July 4, 1984.

ALBANIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS?

Ensemble «Migjeni» to take part in the Ohri Festival

to have cultural relations with its neighbour — the state of Albania. The invitation it extended to us to participate in the Ohri Festival was not sincere. Apparently, the Yugoslavs have fallen victims to their own propaganda which tries to convince public opinion that allegedly the Albanians do not want to have cultural relations with Yugoslavia, etc. However, miscalculations are inevitable when judgements are not based on the reality, on the objective consideration of our stands and policies, but on themes of the anti-Albanian campaign of Yugoslav propaganda which is based on the most trite inventions and insinuations.

Contrary to the facts, the Yugoslav leaders have pretended that Albania wants to have cultural relations with Kosova only and that it refuses to have such relations with the other republics of Yugoslavia. We have declared and proved that we are not for such a thing, that we are ready to have relations and exchanges with all the republics and regions of Yugoslavia, without in any case encroaching on or violating the fundamental laws and norms of the Yugoslav state. Our acceptance to participate in the Festival taking place in the city of Ohri which, as known, is not part of the Region of Kosova, proves once again this stand of ours. However, just as we are not for cul-

tural relations with Kosova only, we do not accept its exclusion from these relations, either.

We did not invite ourselves to the Ohri Festival, nor did we thrust ourselves on Belgrade to discuss the conclusion of the cultural program between the two countries.

Both initiatives came from the Yugoslavs and we accepted them, because we thought that those in Belgrade had reflected on it and decided that in their stands towards Albania, they would from now on be led by restraint and wisdom and, above all, from the mutual interests of the two countries and peace and security in the Balkans. However, the cancellation of the invitation to the Ohri Festival and the intransigence and the negative spirit which the Yugoslavs displayed at the Belgrade talks about establishing direct contacts and exchanges between our academic, university and cultural institutions and their counter-parts in the republics and regions of the FSRY, which has been the regular practice of the Yugoslavs in their relations with other countries or their inexplicable refusal to exchange folkloric groups, as in the case of the Balkan Folklore Festival, do not testify to the desire of the Yugoslavs to develop normal relations of collaboration with our country.

The Yugoslav leadership continues

to suffer from an anti-Albanian mentality which makes it think and act not how to improve Albanian-Yugoslav relations, but how to deteriorate them, not how to contribute to the creation of a spirit of rapprochement, collaboration and good neighbourliness in the Balkans, but how to stir up hatred, splits and enmities.

As far as the Albanian side is concerned, it has always been of the opinion that regardless of the different social systems of the two countries, independently from the ideological polemic which cannot die away, the normal development of relations in various fields, including the cultural field, is entirely possible and beneficial to the two countries. It contributes to the efforts to strengthen mutual trust among the peoples of the Balkans and to consolidate security in this sensitive area.

One thing should be well understood in Belgrade: the propaganda that is conducted there to show that allegedly Yugoslavia is for good relations in all fields with Albania, while Albania is opposed to them, has lost all credibility. If the Yugoslav side really wants to have cultural exchanges with Albania, it must give up such practices as that of Ohri and sit down at the conference table with good will and sincere desire to achieve concrete results on the basis of complete equality and mutual respect.

UNJUSTIFIABLE CLAMOUR *«ZËRI I POPULLIT»*

AS KNOWN, ON JUNE 18 THIS YEAR AN UNIDENTIFIED MOTORBOAT, WITH THREE PEOPLE ON BOARD, ENTERED THREE TIMES THE INNER TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE PSR OF ALBANIA AND LAY FOR SOME TIME ONLY SOME METRES OFF SHORE ALONG THE VRINA COAST OF THE SARANDA DISTRICT. DURING THE SECOND ENCROACHMENT ONE OF THE MEN ON BOARD ALSO CAME ON SHORE. IN STRICT OBSERVANCE OF RULES, OUR BORDER GUARDS CALLED ON THE INTRUDERS TO HALT ON THE SPOT AND BE IDENTIFIED, BUT THE UNKNOWN PERSONS DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE CALL. THEN, THE BORDER PATROL WAS OBLIGED TO FIRE WARNING SHOTS, AND THE INTRUDERS, INCLUDING THE PERSON WHO HAD LANDED ON SHORE, HASTENED TO GET AWAY FROM THE ALBANIAN COAST.

FIVE DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT WE LEARNED FROM THE FOREIGN PRESS THAT SOME GREEK SAILORS HAD FOUND THE BODY OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL JEAN MARIE MASLIN OFF THE SHORES OF CORFU ISLAND.

The French press wrote a great deal about this incident and, despite our clear explanations, made impermissible distortion of the facts and unjustified attacks on Albania to which it attributed Maslin's death. Now, however, that uncontrolled emotions and the passions they have aroused have cooled down somewhat, we may look into this incident with coolheadedness and clarify who is directly or indirectly responsible for what has happened.

The crew of the motorboat entered and stayed in our territorial waters fully aware of the place they found themselves in, as well as fully aware that with this intrusion they were vio-

lating not only the rules and laws of our country, but also international law. What the people on board that motorboat did was utterly impermissible. Likewise, it is a fact that they did not comply with the calls of our border guards to let themselves be identified and clarify their position. All this shows that the Albanians were acting within their own rights.

The French press, however, tries to ignore this aspect of the question, the violation of the Albanian border and failure to comply with the rules existing about the international borders of any country. It prefers to attack and denigrate our country. Newspapers, which consider themselves serious, indulge in vile abuse and

insults instead of treating the question dispassionately and seeing that our border guards only carried out their duty.

The duty of border guards, not only of our country, but of any other country, is to halt, control and identify trespassers of the borders they are entrusted to guard. On other occasions, too, Albanian territorial waters have been in various circumstances encroached on by means of navigation and persons of other countries and matters have always been dealt with calm and justice. They have been halted and when it has emerged that border violations were done by mistake, they have been allowed to return to where they had come from.

Some organs of the French press dealt with the June 18 incident as an anti-French action. The Albanian border guards, however, could not know what the trespassers were French, Greek, Russian or men sent in by the son of ex-King Zog. The motorboat had no identification signs which would have shown that it was French. The French nationals themselves, who sailed close to the Albanian coast, made many declarations, gave interviews and spoke on television. None of them, however, said that they presented themselves as such by our border guards. The identity remained unclarified to the Albanian

authorities until they learned from the foreign press that French people were involved in the incident.

So, the Albanian stand is clear for everybody to see. Unclear is what the French press organs write, just as the intentions of those who incite them to attack Albania. Those newspapermen who call us savage, killers and other names, inflate this question in the interests of those who want to drive a wedge into the friendship and good relations between France and Albania. They play the game of those who may have provoked this incident.

This we say because there are many unclear things about this happening. Why should the motorboat come twice to the same place and within the same day? The French press writes that a Greek fishing boat had brought the three Frenchmen to the Albanian waters and that its skipper had told them before sailing out of the port that they should not go there because the Albanians allowed no encroachment of their territorial waters. Why, then, being already warned, did they enter into our territorial waters? Why did one of the motorboat crew go on shore and, only when he was detected by our border guards, did he hasten to join his comrades? We learn from the French press that another ship

unknown to us was following the movement of the motorboat sailing towards the Albanian coast. What was the mission of this ship? There are contradictory versions in the foreign press about the behaviour of the French national Maslin and his dress. Some write that he was in swimming trunks and a white T-shirt, others insist that the victim was in a diver's suit. At a time he was said to have been found dead from a blow on the head, then that he had died from a bullet. All this cannot fail to arouse the suspicion that something is hidden behind the mission of the motorboat and the persons on board it. We have said all what we know and kept nothing hidden. We have neither arrested nor killed anybody. We know nothing what has happened with the motorboat and its crew after they left our coast.

We think that foreign opinion understands where the truth lies about the incident that happened on our southern coast and cannot be influenced by the malicious distortion of certain newspapers. Our friendship with the French people and our friendly relations with France, which are being constantly developed and enriched, cannot be affected by an uncontrollable incident.

WHAT DO THE GREAT SERBS WANT TO ACHIEVE WITH CHAUVINIST TERROR IN KOSOVA *«ZËRI I POPULLIT»*

A NEW WAVE OF ANTI-ALBANIAN TERROR HAS BURST OUT IN YUGOSLAVIA. IN THE MONTH OF JUNE ALONE TEN PUBLIC TRIALS AGAINST ALBANIANS IN WHICH 90 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED HAVE BEEN HELD. IN RECENT DAYS IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT FURTHER 7 ALBANIANS WILL SOON BE PUT ON TRIAL IN MANASTIR.

IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE, IN A STATE WHICH BOASTS SO LOUDLY OF ITS FREEDOM AND SEEKS TO TEACH THE WORLD DEMOCRACY, IN A COUNTRY WHERE SO MUCH IS WRITTEN AND SAID ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WHICH PROCLAIMS ITSELF THE STANDARD-BEARER OF HELSINKI, HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF ALBANIANS ARE SENTENCED TO TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT, BECAUSE THEY HAVE READ A BOOK OR HAVE SUNG A FOLK SONG, OR BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THEY HAVE SAID IN THE PAST. NEITHER PEOPLE OF ADVANCED AGE NOR SCHOOL CHILDREN ARE ESCAPING HEAVY SENTENCES. THE YUGOSLAV TRIALS ARE TRULY UNPRECEDENTED FOR THEIR INHUMAN AND OBSCURANTIST NATURE.

For a long time, the pages of the Yugoslav press have been carrying frenzied chauvinist calls for a return to the policy of the Serbian trial towards the Albanian population. The minister of the interior of the Federation has declared that «We have 30 police for every village in Kosova». The Zagreb magazine «Dan» has written that «in Kosova there is no Albanian family that does not have someone in prison».

Why is this happening? What do the Great-Serbs want to achieve with this unrestrained chauvinist violence? Albanians are being tortured, imprisoned and killed, not because they have committed any crime, not because they have violated any law, not because they have offended someone, but simply because they are Albanians. In Kosova and other parts of Yugoslavia inhabited by Albanians a typically racist, colonialist policy of denationalization is being pursued. The human

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conscience, the democratic opinion of every country and nation, progressive people everywhere cannot fail to be revolted by this blind persecution and savage oppression which is being inflicted on a whole people who are proud of their history and culture, progressive in their opinions and right in their demands.

For a long time the Yugoslav leadership has been pursuing a hopelessly wrong course in Kosova, but the time has come when all must understand that any attempt to put Kosova in a «straight jacket» will never be successful. The violence and terror can only further exacerbate the situation and add to the anger of the people.

The policy of national oppression in Kosova has been tried at other times too, but it has always failed. Before the war this policy was applied by the Serbian monarchist bourgeoisie and after it by Ranković and company, but Kosova did not submit. The demands for equality in political and

REAT-SERBS VE THROUGH THEIR ROR AND VIOLENCE

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economic rights with the other nations of Yugoslavia, within the framework of the Yugoslav constitution are completely lawful demands. And because they are such, they cannot be quelled either with demagogy or with force.

The problems of Kosova cannot be solved through arrests, trials and imprisonment. The chauvinist terror cannot solve anything. The only future course is that of putting an end to the national question and talking calmly with the people of Kosova, in order to find that reasonable solution which responds to the interests, both of the Albanians who live in Yugoslavia and of the Yugoslav Federation as a whole.

At all times socialist Albania has forcefully condemned the chauvinist violence and terror against the Albanians of Kosova and other parts of Yugoslavia and it will continue to do so. Let the Yugoslavs shout that with this we are interfering in internal affairs and want to destabilize the Federation. Does Belgrade expect us to remain silent or even to applaud when the Great-Serbs imprison, put on trial, condemn and kill Albanians who demand political and economic equality, who demand the right to speak and write Albanian, the right to cultivate their national traditions?

Neither today, nor in the past has Albania interfered in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia, or ever sought to destabilize it. Nevertheless, we will resolutely defend the people of Kosova and the other Albanians in Yu-

goslavia when they are unjustly imprisoned and persecuted, because we are brothers of the one blood, we shall boldly defend them when they are oppressed and exploited, because we are communists, we shall defend them unhesitatingly when they are denied their democratic and national rights, because these activities are contrary to the spirit of freedom and progress, which are ideals dear to the whole of mankind.

We did not cause the events in Kosova and we could not have caused them. They are a result of those unjust relations which the Titoite line has created in the Yugoslav Federation and, in particular, a result of the all-round discrimination against Albanians. In Belgrade they know this very well. Therefore, we say to them: Don't make vain efforts to find the causes of the existing situation outside the terrain on which they have emerged. Look at the economic differences and the national inequalities which exist in Yugoslavia and there you will find the cause. Don't try to find the causes of the grave situation in Kosova in the songs and dances of the folklore groups from Albania or in the verses of poets of the Albanian Renaissance.

The tales about «Greater Albania» which they attribute to Albanians are a provocation from start to finish. The Albanians have never been chauvinists, because they have never oppressed or exploited any people, have never violated and partitioned the territories of neighbours as others have done against

them. The Albanians of Kosova have not sought to set up their empire or to rule over others. What they have demanded and still demand is to be equal citizens, to have the same rights and duties as other Yugoslav subjects and that the Constitution and other fundamental laws of the country should be applied to them, too.

The tales about «Greater Albania», irredentism, unification of Albania, and the interference of the PSR of Albania in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia are inventions of the Yugoslav UDB, which were employed as justifications for the terror and violence of the courts against Albanians and as propaganda slogans to deceive foreign opinion.

The peoples of Yugoslavia have made innumerable sacrifices and shed torrents of blood in order to get rid of national oppression and to create a true unity and fraternity amongst them. Therefore, they can never have an easy conscience about what is occurring in Kosova. The policy of national oppression which the Great-Serb chauvinists are applying there is not aimed against the Albanians alone, and does not attack them only, it attacks the other peoples of Yugoslavia, too, it tramples underfoot their anti-fascist struggle and compromises their future. If the chauvinist drive of the Great-Serbs is not stopped, what is occurring in Kosova today will occur in Bosnia and Croatia tomorrow, then in Macedonia and so on in turn. The bitter history of pre-war Yugoslavia must not be forgotten.

SOCIALISM — THE MOST ADVANCE

FREE-OF-CHARGE HEALTH SERVICE

In the years 1933-1940, in pre-Liberation Albania, with a population of one million inhabitants, there were registered 246 545 malaria cases, 16 764 syphilis cases and 14 949 consumption cases. Thousands of others were left out of these statistics as they had no possibility to see a doctor or buy medicine.

In 1929 there were 12 806 births and 12 025 deaths.

In the PSR of Albania today there is no more question of the scarcity of doctors, who could be numbered on one's fingers, or hospitals, which at that time had one bed for a thousand inhabitants, or of the primitive medicine. Statistics show that budget expenditure for the protection of people's health is increasing from year to year. Without mentioning the great army of the workers in the health service (in 1981 there was one doctor for every 583 inhabitants), and the known fact that every town and almost all united villages of the country have their own health centres equipped with modern means (their total number now is 4 051), we will list only some figures:

In 1981 the health service, which is run on state funds, spent 150 leks per inhabitant;

While in the past every inhabitant went to see a doctor on an average of once in seven years, now

there is an average of three visits per inhabitant annually;

Campaigns of general vaccination of the population are carried out whenever the spread of this or that epidemic had to be prevented, regardless of heavy cost;

All people in Albania enjoy equal rights, including the right to free medical care. In the same health centre you meet both the worker and cooperativist and the cadre and high functionary. During the whole hospitalization time the patient, no matter who he is, not only pays nothing for medical treatment, but also receives his salary regularly, with some minor deductions. Prescriptions of medicines for children up to one year old are free of charge. This care for people's health is reflected in the everyday talk of our people. They ask about each other's and their children's health. However, it crosses nobody's mind to ask a question which was the obvious one in the years before Liberation, «Are all your children alive?» This is because our society does its utmost to ensure that each of its new born babies lives.

Medicines for hospitalized patients are also free of charge, and for the rest of the population they are sold at prices which, compared with those of other articles, are among the lowest, and there is a constant trend to-

ED SOCIAL ORDER

wards their further reduction. From the reduction of prices for 174 kinds of medicines by government decision of November 1969, the population profited about 7 million leks annually.

Another reduction was made in 1974 and further on.

In April last year another price reduction came into force for 137 locally made or imported medicines.

cialist construction, which then led to the creation of the appropriate socio-economic conditions for complete abolition of them.

The taxes, for as long as they were in force, caused no material difficulties for the population, and this is not difficult to prove. This is evident not only in their slight incidence on the income of the working people, but also in their ratio to the expenditure made by the state to ensure the free — of charge fulfilment of a number of social needs of the working people. At a time when taxes, reckoned per head of inhabitant, did not exceed 17 leks, through the free educational service alone the state spent about 170 leks per capita of population, that is, ten times more than its income from taxation, without reckoning the other part of the social product which went to the working people in other ways.

The abolition of taxes and impositions served the purpose intended by the Party, that is, «to fully free the income of the working people of all curtailment». The increase of the real income of the working people through the abolition of taxes and other measures is proven best by the increase of the number of depositors and the amount of deposits in saving banks. In 1960 there were 235 000 depositors, while in 1970 their number doubled, not to speak of the more recent years when one in three people is a depositor.

Abolition of taxes and impositions is possible only in a genuinely so-

NO TAXES OR IMPOSITIONS

It is nearly 15 years now since socialist Albania has been living without any tax or imposition. For the first time in history it is being proved that taxes and impositions are not a condition sine qua non to keep up the state, its administration and other organs. What for Albania is an indisputable truth, among many others which, taken together, complete the picture of our social order — the most humane one for our people — is an «unsolvable mystery» for many other people.

Our socialist state does not belong to a class which constitutes a minority living at the cost of the masses, it is neither a parasitic nor an exploiting state which works to ensure the enrichment of a class or stratum through the toil of the working people. By means of taxes, capitalism robs the proletariat of what it is left with after the creation of the surplus value. While in its first years the socialist state uses the system of taxes to clamp down on the former exploiting classes and to create facilities for the working masses.

But why was the tax system maintained in Albania until 1969? Although taxes were maintained up till that time, in their aim and content, the few taxes levied on the working masses had nothing in common with the taxes levied under the capitalist-revisionist system. At that time taxes were a very light burden for the working masses and were long ago tended towards their reduction. So much so that in 1955, taxes and impositions accounted for only 8 per cent of the income of the state budget, and in 1967, that is, two years before their abolition, they accounted for only 0/9 per cent of it, that is, 9 times less. So long as they were in force, taxes with us served the elimination of individual capitalist elements, the limitation of small private property and the development of the process of socialist construction. Taxes never weighed heavy on the working people who had political power in their hands. They accounted for a negligible part of the family income. The constant reduction of taxes was a reflection of the victories achieved in so-

cialist country. When it comes to making comparisons, foreigners are at a loss, because they have no comparison base, because no comparison can be made with something that does not exist. What occurs with taxation in the capitalist-revisionist world is quite the contrary of what is happening here, the same as the social systems. Only from 1969 to this day, taxation in the developed capitalist

countries has gone on constantly increasing, resulting in intensified social oppression of the exploited masses. Nowadays taxes and impositions in the capitalist-revisionist countries gobble up nearly 20 per cent, and at times even more, of the family income. They represent an important source of income for the state budget, covering 80, even 90, per cent of its expenditure.

ONLY TWO WORKING DAYS ARE ENOUGH TO PAY THE RENT

In socialist Albania rents are among the lowest in the world and they have not changed nor will they ever change in the future. And this at a time when, compared with the situation ten years ago, rents have gone up 453 per cent in England, 322 per cent in Spain, 482 per cent in Yugoslavia, 215 per cent in Hungary, 305 per cent in Portugal...

Some people have difficulty to imagine a city without slums and ghettos. But both words, slum and ghetto, have become obsolete in the Albanian language (when they are not used to describe the condition of the working masses in the capitalist world). This can be explained only with the fact that our cities lack such «embellishments».

There is no place for such things in Albania, not only because almost all city buildings are new, but first and foremost, because the laws established by the people in our socialist state are new, too. From the first year after Liberation to 1982 about 350 000 dwelling-houses have been set up.

Eighty per cent of the population lives in new houses.

But the contrast neither begins nor ends with what is apparent for an outsider. The question should be gone deeper into. What part of the family monthly income is used to pay the rent in our socialist country and in the bourgeois-revisionist countries?

In our country the pay of one working day of a married couple is enough to pay for the rent of a three-room apartment in a state-owned house, even if below average wages are taken into account.

It is not by chance that in the conversation of our people, whoever they may happen to be, you never hear such expressions as, «I live in a rented house», or «I'm a tenant», etc. And this because nobody calls his home «rented-house» or himself a «tenant». On the contrary, everybody says, «my house», «my dwelling», «my apartment», although they are built with state funds, and the rents they pay are negligible.

Of course, the question here is not

one of denomination. It is not that one fine morning people fenced to call their homes not «rented houses», but «our houses». This change of wording would express nothing, if things had not changed, too. The citizen of socialist Albania says «my house» because the house, complete with all the necessary installations and facilities, is truly his, is given him at a minimal rent, while all maintenance expenditure is defrayed by the state.

No American, Japanese, Yugoslav or other proletarian would ever imagine calling his dwelling «my house» as long as he is forced to pay for its rent 10, 20, 25 per cent, and at times even more, of his monthly wages, and has to incur additional expenses for the slightest communal service in his home.

If this does no longer occur in our country, this is the direct result of the implementation of the Leninist slogan that «state power derives from the people and belongs to the people». We will recall only a moment of our socialist life of nearly 40 years.

In order to eliminate the material damage caused by the April 15, 1979 earthquake in the districts of Shkodra and Lezha, the Party and the people's power spent 150 million leks, thereby enabling the building and repair of as many buildings as those of Durrës and Berat taken together. And all this expenditure was made to wipe out the traces of a natural calamity for which nobody was to blame! Apart from this, at the same time the Party informed that «the new houses are given to the peasants, victims of the earthquake, in personal property». This is what has occurred and will occur with us, because we build socialism and act up to its laws.

IN SOCIALISM SCIENCE CARRIES OUT ITS NATURAL FUNCTION

«Disillusionment by Progress» is the title of a book published in the West, on problems of the technical-scientific revolution. It is essentially a synthesis of a typical manifestation of the great conflicts that accompany technological-scientific progress in the distorted logic of the exploiting order.

Marx observed that there is no crime before which Capital desists for the sake of profit-making. The crime becomes a monstrosity when it directs science, one of the finest creations of mankind, of its naturalness. What else can be said to explain the fact that two in every three best scientists of the superpowers, the USA and the USSR, work directly or indirectly for the war industry and destruction? What brand other than that of indelible infamy can be put to such weapons as those of mass annihilation, of the substances with extreme toxicating power on human organism, or the germs with surprisingly high virulence created in laboratories, etc. Three in every four discoveries are employed for uses which do not serve mankind. This is the most abhorring dehumanization of science, a terrible indictment against the order which engenders it every hour.

In order to secure high rates of profit, the exploiters do not stop before anything. They care little if the degree of environment pollution rises at abnormal speed every 8-9 years, that they plunder the natural assets and the energy resources of the planet without criteria and destroy them, that they have destroyed the ecological equilibrium of the world, that they are leading the world towards irreparable catastrophe. Besides this, technology and know-how, which should make the work less painful, more fruitful and interesting, in fact, leads to exhausting intensification, to

the «technical depersonalization» of man, in the capitalist and revisionist countries. The huge propaganda machine is unable to cover up this hideous reality. But when it sees that the people can no longer be misled by its efforts to make a fetish of the technological-scientific revolution which has the miraculous power to create «improved variants» of the capitalist order, it turns for help to its ill-auguring prophets of «technical pessimism», who curse science and human reason and preach technophobia. «We have invoked the punishment of Prometheus,» shouts one of them. «Science wanted to overthrow God and raise man to the throne of the deity.» In order to escape the «tragic dialectics for the sake of which progress is bound to erode its own base», the only alternative proposed is return to the primitive stage. A poor perspective, indeed.

The superiority of socialism in the field of science is obvious, indisputable. And this gains greater still more significance and value when a small country like Albania, which set out on its socialist road beginning from an age-long scientific and technical backwardness, provides a living proof. Albania, a country of almost total illiteracy, now cultivates with success the fundamental sciences, states its scientific opinion with authority at international forums, which appreciate it, copes with its own forces with the complicated technical problems and gives them original solutions, executes large-scale projects in agriculture, entirely transforming the plains and mountain-sides, totally liquidates many diseases which are endemic in many other countries, has built a modern education system for the masses, from the preliminary school to the university, etc.

We can go on mentioning a great

deal more achievements but the main thing is that socialism, which is built in Albania under the leadership of the Party of Labour and Comrade Enver Hoxha, gave science its natural social function, put it in the service of the loftiest ideals of mankind. All scientific achievements are subordinated to the only imperative aim of making the life of the working people prosperous, ever better fulfilling their growing material and spiritual demands. Besides, in socialism the character of work and the direction of the process of production is different, the creative aspects of work and production are enhanced to the utmost, even in the ordinary spheres of activity. Obviously, this requires the involvement of the whole intellectual potential of every working man, therefore our society is interested in and realizes the more and more complex scientific education of its members. Science, with us, cannot be imagined without democratization.

Only those who have a sound world outlook, a mind freed from prejudices and all the distorted images of reality which have been projected and kept alive by religion and idealist philosophy can be conscious builders of socialism. Comrade Enver Hoxha points out, «Every step forward of science... causes the dark and irrational mysticism to recede one step backward.» Science carries out this function unimpeded only in socialism. The fact is that in our country, where science is not smothered by any pseudoscience, scientific knowledge has always played its significant role in the formation of the new man. The whole of our life has Marxism-Leninism, the ideology of scientific socialism, the very essence of materialist science, the synthesis of the major achievements of mankind, which develops and is enriched in complete conformity with science, as its guiding compass. This ideology, as the irreconcilable enemy of agnosticism, assesses the true strength of human reason and has worked out the best method of scientific, dialectical, materialist cognition.

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WHY THE SUPERPOWERS FALL BACK ON RESOLUTION 242 OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

«ZËRI I POPULLIT» — organ of the CC of the PLA

There is great talk recently about Resolution 242 of the Security Council on the Middle East. Not only the American imperialists and their stooges in the Middle East, but also the Soviet social-imperialists and their clients are making a great fuss about it. On May 8, king Hussein of Jordan reaffirmed that «Jordan's conditions for peace in the Middle East are based on the Resolution 242 of the Security Council». The Israeli ambassador expressed the support of his government for this resolution in a letter addressed to the UNO. He writes, «The road to the solution of the problem of the Middle East lies in direct talks on the basis of the Resolution 242 of the Security Council and the Camp David agreements.»

What this Resolution represents is known. It has a pronounced anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian character, because it places the Israeli aggressors and their victims, the Arab countries, on the same plane. It sacrifices the just cause of the Palestinian people by treating it merely as a refugee problem. The Resolution 242 on the Middle East was adopted by the Security Council under the pressure of the imperialist powers who tried to profit from the results of the 1967 Israeli aggression on the Arab countries in order to extend their influence in this region. It is

not an accident that as soon as this Resolution was adopted the American representative to the United Nations, Arthur Goldberg, welcomed it as a document «which is in accord with the policy of the United States of America». As the Soviet representative also voted for this Resolution, it is clear that it was also in the interests of the Soviet social-imperialists, it suited their policy in the Middle East. That is why all the plans and plots of the American imperialists and Soviet revisionists to extinguish the liberation struggle of the Arab peoples, to force them to renounce their supreme national interests, to abandon the Palestinian people and leave them in a state of permanent refugees, have been based on Resolution 242 of the Security Council on the Middle East. Because of its character, this Resolution was never accepted either by the Arab peoples, or their true friends, or all those who hold dear freedom and the independence of the peoples. Arab progressive and patriotic opinion has criticized and resolutely condemned this infamous Resolution and maintained a clear-cut stand towards the compromise it entails.

In these conditions, the demand of a return to Resolution 242 of the Security Council is presented as an initiative of Jordan and Israel.

In reality, however, this is done on the insistence of the American imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists who, each proceeding from their own interests, see in this Resolution a basis for the further activation of their anti-Arab aggressive policies in the Middle East. In order to regain their lost position in the Middle East, the American imperialists have stepped up their political, diplomatic and military activities in this zone. The imposition of the Reagan Plan on the Arabs and the Palestinians, in particular, stands high on the American agenda. For their part, the Soviet social-imperialists, trying to exploit the situation and, in particular, the growing indignation of the Arab peoples against American imperialism and its military intervention, have come out with the demand of holding «an international conference» with the participation of all the sides involved in the conflict as well as the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The two imperialist superpowers advertise their plans as «initiatives taken for the good of peace and security» in the Middle East and for the good of the Arab peoples. At the same time each of them criticizes the plan of the other and tries to make its own plan palatable to the Arab peoples. But the fact is that both the American imperial-

ists and the Soviet social-imperialists base their plans on the same Resolution 242 of the Security Council. Regardless of their rivalry for hegemony in the Middle East, they try to carry out their expansionist plans jointly and force the Palestinians and the other Arab peoples to give up their struggle for the liberation of the territories occupied by the Israeli invaders and come to the conference table at which «all

problems will be solved».

Washington and Moscow turn to Resolution 242 of the Security Council on the Middle East so as to be able to stick an international label to their «plans». By this they hope to make their anti-Arab solutions acceptable and to cover up their direct interference in the internal affairs of the Arab peoples so as to prevent any unfavourable reaction on the part of these

peoples and progressive world opinion. However, what the American imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists are doing cannot escape the attention of the Arab peoples who know the true enslaving essence of the imperialist plans of the United States and the Soviet Union. That is why the Arab peoples reply to these plots with their resolute struggle to stop any foreign intervention in the region of the Middle East.

GREAT «GUARANTORS» OF «SMALL» SOVEREIGNTIES

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

It has always pleased the great powers to pose as the tutors of other countries and peoples. However, no country and no people have ever asked for or liked their tutelage. This practice is assuming ever greater extension in the present times when the United States of America and the Soviet Union have given themselves the right to trample underfoot international law and justice. It has become in the order of things for the American or Soviet leaders to bring forward now and then their supposed mandate as guarantors of the sovereignty of other countries. President Reagan caused a shock in the international political and diplomatic circles recently when he declared in so many words: «We pride ourselves on being the guarantors of Austrian sovereignty».

Until recently the American and Soviet leaders used to claim the role of «guarantors» of the sovereignty of other countries only as far as the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty were concerned. The guarantees of either superpower for the member countries of these two blocs are declared explicitly at their forums and high level meetings. Now, however, we are witnessing a further extension of the limits of the guarantor's mandate. Reagan extended them in such a manner as to include Austria. In a solemn declaration of the Soviet government on April 12, the Soviet prime minister, Nikolaj Tikhonov, emphasized the guarantor role of the Soviet Union not only for its allies, but also for its «friends». And among the friends of the Soviet Union figures

Afghanistan whose sovereignty is being «guaranteed» by the Soviet army of occupation.

The concept of the great guarantor of the sovereignty of other countries is a typically imperialist concept. It is an expression of the superpower mentality and ambitions of both the United States and the Soviet Union. The two superpowers not only are not satisfied with the exercise of their «guarantees» on their «allies» but also seek to impose them on all the other countries and peoples. This means that either superpower thinks that no country should remain outside its control. As Comrade Enver Hoxha put it: «What the United States and the Soviet Union seek and intend is to force the other countries to entrust their fate to the superpowers so that they become the arbiters not only

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of the foreign affairs of other countries, but also of their internal affairs». The proclamation of the «guarantees» of the superpowers for the sovereignty of other countries constitutes a flagrant and arrogant interference in the internal affairs and life of sovereign countries and peoples.

By means of their mandate as guarantors the United States and the Soviet Union try to push the countries and peoples under their respective umbrellas and force them to renounce their national sovereignty on the political chessboard of the two superpowers. It is known that the great «guarantors» not only give guarantees but also demand them. Their guarantees demand that you should follow the American or Soviet policy, that you should support and advertise their stands on this or that international problem, that you should try to create as favourable conditions as possible for the American or Soviet influence in this or that region of the world. The American journal «Newsweek»

published recently the directive 124 of President Reagan in which it is stated in an ultimative manner: «If Mexico does not support the policy of the United States of America in Central America, all economic aid to Mexico will be cut.» It is not necessary to go further and mention the role played by the American «guarantor» in the recent events in Lebanon.

By giving themselves the mandate of the guarantors of the sovereignty of other countries, the United States and the Soviet Union also arrogate to themselves the right to define the measures, the limits and the sense of this sovereignty. So, they suggest such sovereignty as gives them port facilities, naval bases, air corridors and rocket launching pads, joint enterprises or capital investments in order to force the other countries to fling their doors wide open to them. It is not difficult to imagine that this is a heavy mortgage on the freedom and independence of sovereign

peoples and countries. The great «guarantors» demand and tolerate only «limited sovereignty».

The imperialist concepts of the American and Soviet leaders do not affect only one country or people. They have a general character and are the expression of a strategy of conquest and domination from which no people or country, including those which the White House or the Kremlin call «friends and allies», can consider themselves excluded. The American or Soviet pretensions to «guaranteeing the sovereignty» of other countries represent a dangerous escalation of the American or Soviet foreign policy, because the superpowers will try by all manner of means to realize it, even by the use of force. This cannot fail to draw the attention and arouse the vigilance of the sovereign countries and peoples which hold dear their freedom, sovereignty and national dignity and indignantly refuse the guarantees of the imperialist superpowers.

THE «ABSTENTION FROM FIRST NUCLEAR STRIKE» OF THE SOVIETS —A VARIANT OF THE «LIMITED NUCLEAR WAR» OF THE AMERICANS

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

The proposal mania is an old political illness in the Kremlin. There are so many proposals of «disarmament» that they are bound to re-

peat each other and, at the same time, express aggressive concepts ever more openly. Such is also the new Soviet proposal of «abstention

from first nuclear strike» which is being advertised by the diplomatic representatives and the propaganda machine of the Soviet Union as

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«a new cornerstone in the building of world peace». What this new Soviet proposal is after is explained by the TASS news agency which says that «all the nuclear powers must subscribe to an agreement under which none of them will be the first to resort to a nuclear strike». With this proposal the Soviet diplomats seek to befuddle international opinion.

If the laurel leaves with which the Soviet propaganda covers the proposal of «abstention» from first nuclear strike» are shaken off, it emerges that not only has it nothing to do with peace or disarmament, but, on the contrary, it expresses the concept and policies of an imperialist superpower. This proposal is intended only for the great nuclear powers and, in the first place, the two greatest of them, the United States and the Soviet Union. The Soviet representatives have made it clear that it should be based on Soviet-American understanding and agreement. They have even stressed that it may also assume the form of a separate nuclear treaty between the two superpowers. As it comes out from the explanations given in the Soviet press, such a thing would require the verbal pledge and written obligation of the United States and the Soviet Union not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Of course, while pledging not to attack each other, the United States and the Soviet Union give themselves the right to use nuclear weapons against those countries which do not possess them.

This is the meaning and intention of the limitation «only for the nuclear powers», as expressed by the Soviets. This means that «first nuclear strikes» may be dealt at territories and regions which lie outside the United States or the Soviet Union. In this manner the Kremlin does not exclude the development of a nuclear war in the territories of other countries. The concept of «limited nuclear war», expressed by Reagan and other American leaders, has the same meaning. According to this concept, the United States and the Soviet Union might carry out a limited nuclear war in Europe or other regions of the world without extending it to their own territories. «The employment of some tactical nuclear weapons in a war, which would be waged exclusively on the European theatre of operations, cannot be excluded,» said the American Secretary of Defence, Weinberger. With their proposal of an agreement on «abstention from first nuclear strike» between the United States and the Soviet Union the Soviets are indicating that they, too, accept this concept.

The Soviet proposal of «abstention from first nuclear strike» includes only nuclear weapons, and not the other kinds of weapons. With this proposal the Soviets give themselves the right to be the first to strike with conventional weapons. This means that the superpowers may attack again, as they did in Afghanistan or Lebanon, Grenada or Cen-

tral Africa. On the other hand, the proposal of «abstention from first nuclear strike» does not touch on the problem of the production, limitation or destruction of nuclear weapons, thereby legalizing the continuation of the production, improvement and deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe and other regions of the world. While trying to calm the peoples of the world by pretending that they are allegedly reaching an understanding on «abstention from first nuclear strike», the superpowers continue to build up their nuclear armaments all over the globe. And understandably, the imperialist superpowers do not produce their armaments to store them in depots or on board airplanes or warships. It is not an accident that the American generals and the Soviet marshals talk a great deal about the use of nuclear armaments in «an inhibiting role». The American admiral, Woel Geiler, speaks about «a reasonable utilization of nuclear weapons as a means of inhibition». The vice-minister of defence of the Soviet Union, Alexander Altunin, boasts «the inhibiting force» of Soviet strategic nuclear missiles. So the use of nuclear armaments is being legalized under the pretext of «inhibition». «Abstention from first nuclear strike», apart from its role in the demagogy about «peace and disarmament», sanctions the recourse to imperialist nuclear war as a means for the realization of the hegemonic strategy of the superpowers bent on world domination.

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«Abstention from first nuclear strike» called for by the Soviets is a variant of «limited nuclear war» of the Americans and both of them are expressions of the attempts at legalizing the course of war preparations in all directions and by all means.

In his work «Imperialism and the Revolution» Comrade Enver Hoxha writes, «The imperialist superpowers will always remain imperialist and belligerent and, if not today, tomorrow will hurl the world into a major atomic war». This is a great

truth which is being proved more and more by everyday events and which calls for a powerful opposition of the peoples to the aggressive plans of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

■

**«PREVENTIVE STRIKE» —
A STEP AHEAD TOWARDS IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION**

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

President Reagan signed a special directive for a preventive strike to suppress any anti-American terrorist activity outside the USA. By this directive, the president ordered the setting up of special groups at the CIA and the FBI, which will carry out this directive in the other countries. These special groups will ensure the co-ordination of the civil and military forces and agents, who, together with the regular troops, will be launched into action on president's orders in all those regions of the world where Washington thinks that «terrorist» activities threatening the vital interests of the USA are prepared.

The first thing that must be said is that the label «anti-terrorist», in Reagan's special directive, attaches to the national liberation struggle of the peoples in the whole world, to the democratic, progressive and anti-imperialist movements. It is

meant to boost the notorious policy of suppression and subversion, plunder and enslavement, which the American president pursues. Seen from this angle, the special directive about the «preventive strike» and «repressive strike» has its specific political-military components which consist in the combination of open military aggression that the Pentagon has in its plans, with the subversive and diversionist political activities of the CIA and the FBI. The «preventive» character of this directive implies the adoption of measures to prevent any anti-American activity, to secure the interests of the USA in given regions, whereas the «repressive» character of it lies in the surprise punitive strike that is to be delivered to such activity in certain regions.

So, everything is done in order to deliver a blow and to reduce with steel and fire

the anti-imperialist just struggle of the peoples everywhere in the world, which are directed against American intervention. From this emerges the main reason why precisely now the White House issued the directive for the «preventive strike». This is done at a time when the tide of anti-Americanism is mounting powerfully, with the result that the American prestige is falling drastically. This is evident in all the regions of the world. The peoples' hatred and opposition to American interference and dictate in Central America, in the Middle East, in Europe and in the Far East is so great that the government circles in the USA have sounded the alarm. The facts show that the peoples want to choose and decide for themselves the forms of direction and government. They do not obey the orders of the superpowers. They want to live free and inde-

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pendent from any imperialist superpower. This anti-American tide, this anti-imperialist spirit, which is mounting higher day by day, is a barrier to the implementation of the hegemonic plans and ambitions of American imperialism. That is the reason why Washington has sounded the alarm and president Reagan issued the directive for the «preventive strike».

In the present case we have to do with the intensification of the aggressive activity of Washington, now presented under the lable of «preventive strike», which stands as a fresh confirma-

tion of all previous imperialist doctrines. The «new» in what the head of the White House proposes with his special directive is the dozing of the efforts to consolidate American hegemony and domination, is its open and brutal emergence with claims to making the law in the world, and the stress on the adventurous features of the American foreign policy. This aggressiveness, this militarist step is expressed in so many words in the directive for the «preventive strike», which gives American imperialism the right to intervene everywhere. It reveals clearly those

fascist concepts and that logic of criminals which dominates and guides the whole of the policy in the White House, the logic of the American monopoly bourgeoisie which wants to become a gendarme of the world.

With the new presidential mandate round the corner, Ronald Reagan is driving the aggressive political and military machine of the USA hard against the freedom and independence of the peoples. However, the revolutionary struggle of the peoples all over the world will certainly inflict still greater defeats to this policy.

WHY DO THE SOVIET MARSHALS TALK ABOUT THE «BORDERLINE» BETWEEN THE TWO BLOCS?

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

In recent times the Soviet marshals and generals are ever more frequently coming out with concepts and claims of a typically militarist and imperialist character. One after the other, Ustinov, Kulikov, Gorshkov, Altunin and others let no occasion go by without expressing also in the theoretical-strategic plane the venturesome course of an imperialist superpower followed by the Soviet Union. Ustinov talks about «maintaining the equilibrium of power at all costs and taking the necessary measures for this purpose». His deputy, Altunin, claims that Soviet military activities, all over the world

are in accord with the «defensive character of the Soviet military doctrine». An «original» conception of the Soviet military doctrine was recently expressed by the commander-in-chief of the Soviet military forces in the German Democratic Republic, General Mikhail Zaichev, who declared that «on the Soviet army devolves a heavy responsibility for the defence of the borderline between the countries of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO». Following Zaichev's statement, the concept of the «Soviet responsibility for the defence of the borderline between the two blocs» is being repeated time and

again by other Soviet generals and in the pages of the Soviet military press.

Why do the Soviet marshals talk about it?

The concept of the «borderline between the two blocs» is intended, in the first place, to justify the Soviet claim to dominate its zone of influence in Europe which includes the Warsaw Treaty member countries. Thus, the Soviet Union expresses itself openly for the division of the zones of influence and their preservation on the European continent. Besides, with this concept the Soviet social-imperialists try to justify their illegal military pre-

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sence in the Warsaw Treaty member countries. «The defence of the borderline» calls, according to them, for the presence of Soviet troops, bases and missiles. They have become even more vocal about this in the present conditions when, as is known, the Soviet Union is pressing on with its program of deployment of medium-range missiles in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia. By talking about «the defence of the borderline between the two blocs» the Soviet marshals want to deter the opposition and anger of the peoples of the Warsaw Treaty member countries who want neither the Soviet missiles nor the Soviet military presence on their territories.

The Soviet military strategists have built their great-state imperialist concepts based on the two fundamental «theories» of Soviet social-imperialists — «limited sovereignty» and «border security». They also consider such concepts as those on the preservation of the zones of influence, as having the force of law. The borderline between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, or the boundary between East and West, should be defended, say the Soviet social-imperialists who proclaim themselves its guarantors.

It is evident that the view that the world and all world affairs should be supervised by the Soviet Union and the United States is closely linked with the recognition of and respect for each other's

spheres of influence. That the Soviets want the respect of the borderline between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty means that it is accepted also by the Americans and NATO. It is clear that such a recognition of «borders» and zones of influence applies not only to Europe, but also to other regions of the world. With their aggressive military concepts the Soviet social-imperialists pursue two aims: first, to have the respective zones of influence recognized both by the countries included within their zone of influence and by other countries. Second, to step up the oppression and exploitation of their peoples and nip in the bud any centrifugal or independent tendency in the regions and zones in which they rule.

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