

ALBANIA REPORT

EDITED BY ALBANIAN AFFAIRS STUDY GROUP

ALBANIAN COMMENTS ON U.S. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

During the past few months, a number of articles have appeared in the Albanian press commenting on the presidential campaign now going on in the U.S. *Albania Report* brings you a condensed summary of some of the main highlights of these remarks:

Both U.S. parties, the Democrat and Republican, are faithful representatives of U.S. monopoly capital. Whichever candidate wins, the basic aims and objectives of U.S. imperialism will continue to dominate the White House.

Four years ago Nixon got elected on the basis of promises to bring "prosperity," but the working people are worse off. He promised to end the war in Viet Nam and reduce military spending, but instead he has further escalated the war of aggression under the banner of "Vietnamization," and military spending has gone sky high. He promised to end inflation and racial discrimination, but these problems are now worse than they were before. He said he would eliminate unemployment, but it is now worse than ever.

Taking advantage of the strong discontent of the masses of working people with the reactionary domestic and foreign policies of the Nixon administration, George McGovern won the nomination of the Democrat Party by promising to end the barbarous war in Indochina, create jobs for everyone, end racial discrimination, stop inflation, etc.

U.S. IMPERIALISM IN CRISIS

EDITORIAL

This issue marks the beginning of our third year of publishing *Albania Report*.

Looking back over the various issues of Vol. 2, we see articles which highlight the important role Albania plays in world affairs—such as articles on the struggle in the U.N. for the seating of People's China, the historic visit of Prince Sihanouk to Albania, etc.; the achievements in socialist construction, with articles on the state budget, the new Five Year Plan, the big industrial projects, the new type of advanced farming coops, the growth of the working class, the rise in living standards, the extension of social security pensions to the farmers, further advances in women's liberation, etc.

There is no doubt that the U.S. is paying a high price for its war of aggression in Indochina. Besides the loss of life and maiming of tens of thousands of American soldiers, it has resulted in soaring inflation, mass unemployment, budget crisis, balance of payments deficits, dollar crisis, a weakening of its competitive position in the world market, a tremendous growth of crime and moral and spiritual decay, a proliferation of social conflicts, etc. The class struggle of the working people in their fight for peace, jobs, civil rights, civil liberties, social equality, etc. is sharpening daily.

The U.S. capitalist class finds itself in a very difficult situation. Consequently, a section of the U.S. ruling circles is calling for a re-examination of the old theories and policies in their aggressive foreign relations; they want to adjust the expansionist and hegemonistic ambitions of U.S. imperialism to the present day realities in the world.

Domestically, they are in favor of adopting some bourgeois reforms in order to give a new boost to the stagnant economy, to overcome some of the many difficulties by means of some partial concessions, and thus to curb and diminish the class struggle of the working people.

McGOVERN'S POSITION

George McGovern is the representative of this section of the U.S. ruling class. The so-called "radical" nature of his platform is nothing more than a search

Also covered were important political developments, such as the 6th Congress and the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Party of Labor, a summary of Enver Hoxha's important political report to the congress, the on-going campaign for revolutionization and against bureaucracy, etc.; and articles reporting Albania's opinions on international events, like the Indian aggression against Pakistan, Nixon's war escalation in Viet Nam, the Nixon-Brezhnev summit talks, developments in the revisionist sector of the world.

The editors wish to thank our readers for your support which has made possible this valuable contribution to the progressive movement in the U.S.A. We ask for your continued help in the form of subs, renewals, contributions so that we can carry on for another year.

for partial bourgeois reforms.

While promising to end the war in Viet Nam McGovern at the same time promises all-out aid to Israel, continued collaboration with the Soviet social-imperialists to dominate the rest of the world, preservation of the military strength of the U.S. as the No. 1 power, etc. This shows that even if he is elected, the basic imperialist policies of the U.S. ruling class will remain unchanged.

While McGovern is making a big point of his promise to end the war in Indochina, Nixon also is trying to cash in on the wide peace sentiment by posing as an apostle of peace. He pretends to offer the Vietnamese "fair" cease-fire proposals in order to fool the American people. He has escalated the war to a greater intensity than ever before, stepped up the massive bombing of civilian targets and dikes, mined the harbors; but he dares to come out with new promises for peace, just as he falsely did four years ago.

NIXON PREFERRED BY SOVIETS

As U.S. imperialism is suffering great defeats in Viet Nam, the Soviet revisionist chiefs are doing their best to help Nixon out of his dilemma. They talk about a "peaceful solution," and are trying to put over the secret deals worked out in the Nixon-Brezhnev meeting in Moscow, to save Nixon from defeat. This mass murderer, Nixon, guilty of monstrous crimes, is clearly the *preferred* candidate by the Soviet revisionist leaders in the U.S. presidential election race.

The U.S. imperialists do not *wish* to withdraw from Indochina of their own free will. They will only do so if they are *forced* to. The kind of "peace" that Nixon offers is a peace of surrender and subjugation for the Vietnamese people under U.S. domination, a "pax americana."

The U.S. is in the grip of a sharp crisis, economic, political, social and military in character, a crisis both of the economic base and the political superstructure. Both the internal and external contradictions of U.S. imperialism are sharpening, in the context of the *general crisis of capitalism*. Despite the fake statistics of Nixon's experts, he is helpless in the face of these growing problems.

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

The Republican Party platform clearly promises a continuation of the extremely

(cont. on p. 4)

ALBANIAN PRESS HAILS OUSTER OF SOVIET ADVISERS FROM EGYPT

In a series of articles, the Albanian press has greeted with whole-hearted approval the Egyptian Government's dismissal of the Soviet military advisers.

The Albanian people consider this to be a correct decision, which safeguards the national sovereignty, freedom and independence of Egypt, confirming their right to be the sole masters in their own country and to decide for themselves their own destiny.

The speech by President Sadat announcing the decision makes it clear that the Soviet leaders were not concerned with defending the interests of the Arabs in the Middle East, but only in advancing their own imperialist interests in the area, to set up strong economic, political and military bases throughout this strategic area, and then from there to expand further into Africa and Asia.

SOCIAL-IMPERIALIST AIMS

The expulsion of the Soviet military from Egypt is a heavy blow to the Moscow revisionist clique, exposing to the whole world the nature of their social-imperialist foreign policy which strives to extend their zones of influence just as the other imperialists do. It has torn off their phony mask of "revolutionary" and "internationalist" camouflage.

The Soviet revisionists had no intention of helping the Arabs regain their lost territories. While pretending to give "aid," they refused to give Egypt any offensive weapons, and even reneged on

delivery of the other promised supplies. Their dirty game was to keep the Arabs in a permanent state of weakness, so that they would always have to come to Moscow for "aid" and would have to accept the dictation of the Soviet leaders. The arms given to Egypt were strictly controlled, and the Egyptians were not allowed to use them as they deemed fit.

Meanwhile, the Russians were free to occupy Egypt's ports, territorial waters, airfields, etc. and lord it over the country. They behaved like bosses and colonialists, and played the role of saboteurs of the liberation struggle.

NIXON'S MOSCOW DEALS

The Nixon-Brezhnev talks in Moscow worked out a dirty U.S.-Soviet deal to preserve the status quo in the Middle East, against the interests of the Arabs. This showed clearly that both the U.S. imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists have common aims, to preserve the status of "neither peace nor war" in the area so that they can maintain their military and economic hold.

The summit meeting in Moscow shows that the common interests of the two super-powers carry greater weight and stand above the rivalries and competition between the two for zones of influence and domination.

The two super-powers want to "preserve the status quo" in the area not to establish peace or avoid bloodshed. They actually want the conflict to continue indefinitely; this gives them a good ex-

cuse for not getting out of the region. If peace were to break out by chance in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the two super-powers would immediately kindle some new fighting because this is the only condition that suits their interests.

SECRET COLLABORATION

The actions of the Soviet revisionists in the Middle East are characterized by secret collaboration with the U.S. imperialists. The Russians keep talking about a "peaceful" solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and they use blackmail against the Arabs, claiming that war would be a "catastrophe." They try to sow moods of defeatism and lack of confidence, emphasizing the "weakness" of the Arabs as against the great power of the Israelis. Their aim is to pressure the Arabs into capitulation to the terms of the Israeli aggressors and the U.S. imperialists.

The Russians have done their best to sabotage the Palestinian resistance movement, calling it "adventurous" and "anarchist." They keep harping on the tune of reactivating the Jarring mission, or resuming talks between the four powers (U.S., Russia, France and Britain) to settle the Middle East conflict.

Of course the Soviet revisionists will make every effort to save what they can out of the situation, and to increase their intrigues to try to get back into their old positions again. Also the U.S. (and other) imperialists will try to move in to fill the vacuum. But the Arab people are too wise to fall into this trap, after getting rid of one imperialist gang, to fall into the clutches of the other imperialists. The Arab people must rely on their own forces, and their real friends; they must strengthen their unity and persist in their liberation struggle, to recover their lost territory, till final victory.

EXPOSING SOVIET TREACHERY

For a long time the Albanian Party of Labor has exposed the treachery of the Soviet revisionists, pointing out that the Soviet Union has ceased being a socialist country and has been transformed into a social-imperialist country; it has ceased being a support for revolution and liberation struggles, and has become counter-revolutionary.

The Albanian people, under the staunch leadership of Enver Hoxha, were the first to do battle against the dirty sell-out of the Soviet revisionists. Following one after the other, the Albanian leaders have thoroughly exposed the Russian treachery towards the peoples of the Congo, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, their invasion of Czechoslovakia and their threats against other countries. Now in the Middle East, the Albanian leaders have correctly warned the peoples of the perfidious and hypocritical actions of the Soviet revisionists towards the Arab people.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

The new school year began on Sept. 1 with a record number of students totaling 725,000. This means that one out of every three people in Albania are now attending schools of one kind or another, either full time or part time.

The 8-grade primary school has been extended to all the regions of the country, and is now compulsory for all. During the past three years, 558 primary schools have been set up in rural and urban areas, bringing the total number of such 8-grade schools to 1429.

As for the middle schools, during the past five years 277 new ones have been built, the majority of them in the countryside and in workers' settlements. This makes the total number of middle schools 443.

As for higher education, besides the State University at Tirana, there are seven institutes of higher learning, three of which were established last year. In addition there are twelve branches of the university and institutes around the country. All together, there are 4,450 students attending the schools of higher education. This is more than the number of students

who attended *middle schools* in Albania before liberation. Over 50% of the college level students receive full state scholarships.

REVOLUTIONIZATION OF EDUCATION

The number of educational workers went up by 1500 over last year to a total of 29,000. The number of *new* teachers starting their teaching profession this year is as great as the total number of teachers in Albania before liberation. During the past three years, all of Albania's educational workers have been making a serious study of Marxism Leninism, the documents of the Party of Labor, and the works of Enver Hoxha. They are striving to raise their political and ideological understanding and improve their teaching methods.

A widespread campaign has been going forward on the part of teachers and students to build teaching aids with their own hands and with their own resources, and to pay more attention to student education outside of the schoolroom. Great success is being achieved as a result of the integration of classroom studies, material production, military training and physical culture.

FIGHTING DROUGHT WITH IRRIGATION

Although Albania's farmlands suffered a severe drought during July, the socialist farmers have worked with high spirits to overcome the effects by making fullest use of the irrigation and water conservation works which they have already set up.

As a result of the steady work and long range planning of the working people and the socialist state, during the years of People's Power 62% of all arable land has been put under irrigation, whereas it was only 10% before liberation.

Work is going forward on these projects during the present 5th Five Year Plan, so that by 1975 irrigation will cover 65% of all arable land, adding an estimated 70,000 hectares. This is one of the highest percentages in the world. It should be pointed out that during this five year period, the total amount of arable land will increase by 15% as a result of the opening up of virgin soil.

During the period of this plan, major concentration in this work will be put on the mountainous areas. Thus 56% of all funds allocated to construction of reclamation and irrigation works are earmarked for these areas.

ALBANIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

During the 5th Five-Year Plan, exports will increase by 67% (During the 4th Plan, the rate of increase was only 36%.)

Whereas in the past Albania's exports were only raw materials, now finished industrial products make up 56% of total exports.

The rate of increase for various key products during the plan period are: crude oil 52%, bitumen 85%, chrome 47%, copper wire 72%, tobacco 23%, cigarettes 49%, fresh vegetables 30%.

As the construction of several large industrial plants is completed during the period, a number of new products will also be added to the list of exports: petrol, gasoline, chromium concentrates, sulphur, sulphuric acid, rolled steel, cement, bricks, etc. Also for the first time, surplus *electric power* will be exported.

There will also be a big increase in the export of medicinal plants and oils, the production of which is being pushed in the state and coop farms.

While a considerable part of Albania's foreign trade consists of exchanges with People's China, the establishment of diplomatic relations with many countries has created more favorable conditions for widely extending trade around the world.

Total foreign trade turnover (both imports and exports) during this period will increase by 86% over the past period.

ALBANIANS COMMEMORATE DIMITROV

Commemorating the 90th anniversary of the birth of George Dimitrov, the Albanian press recently carried a number of articles describing the significance of his work and its relevance for today.

Zeri i Popullit and *Bashkimi* describe Dimitrov as an outstanding leader of the international communist and workers' movement, a loyal disciple and collaborator of Lenin and Stalin, and a beloved proletarian revolutionary. He was a leader of the Balkan Communist Federation and a member of the Executive Committee of the Communist (3rd) International.

Dimitrov and Stalin, together with other Marxist-Leninists, fought persistently against opportunism and revisionism in the Comintern and helped transform it into a powerful organization of the international proletariat.

UNITED FRONT VS. FASCISM

Dimitrov's teachings about the struggle against imperialism and fascism and the danger of imperialist war are quite pertinent today. His report, "The United Front Against Fascism" (delivered to the 7th Congress of the Communist International in 1935) points up the necessity today to unite all possible progressive and revolutionary forces in a common front to fight against the common enemy—U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

Dimitrov was a close friend of the Albanian people, and worked to develop the friendship between the Albanian and Bulgarian people. He supported the Albanian Party of Labor in its struggle against imperialism and Yugoslav revisionism, and to preserve its freedom and independence.

REVISIONIST HYPOCRISY

The modern revisionists are making a great fuss about Dimitrov on the occasion

of this anniversary. They do this to hoodwink the working people and to camouflage their revisionist course, their restoration of capitalism and collaboration with imperialism.

At first, the Krushchov revisionists threw mud at the Comintern and Stalin and also Dimitrov. They needed to do this in order to justify their policies of "liberalization" and "democratization." But once the revisionists achieved their aims of making their communist parties degenerate into bourgeois parties, and the dictatorship of the proletariat degenerate into a fascist dictatorship, then they were unsparing in their words of praise for Dimitrov, in order to cover up their betrayal.

When the Soviet Union was the center of world revolution, Dimitrov pointed out that proletarian internationalism required loyalty towards the Soviet Union and the CPSU led by Stalin. The present-day revisionists try to capitalize on this. Today, when the Soviet Union has become a capitalist state and an imperialist power and a base of counter-revolution, a correct internationalist stand requires a struggle against Soviet revisionism and imperialism.

FASCISM & SOCIAL-FASCISM

The United Front against imperialism, fascism and imperialist war, called for by Dimitrov, must be directed today not only against the U.S. imperialists but also against the Soviet social-imperialists, who mask their imperialist-fascist nature behind "Marxist" and "socialist" camouflage.

The Albanian Party of Labor has very high regard for Dimitrov's contribution to the cause of revolution, socialism, and Marxism-Leninism.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

There has been a steady and planned extension of green areas in the cities of Albania since liberation. Every year new parks have been built and old ones extended, and trees of all kinds have been planted in the boulevards and streets. This has already made some improvement in the climatic conditions of the urban centers.

In Tirana, for example, despite the steady growth of the population, there is now 16 square meters of green area for every inhabitant. In the country as a whole, there was only 60,000 sq. meters of green area before liberation, but now this figure has jumped to 6,250,000.

In the big cities like Tirana, Korca, Vlora, etc. work has been going on steadily to set up big parks of culture and recreation. Similarly, there has been a big spurt in building playgrounds for children and youth, to promote the further development of physical culture and sports.

NEW HOUSING FOR ALL

During the past twenty years, over 191,000 apartments have been built in Albania by the government or by individuals, and over half the population is now living in these new homes.

New housing construction is going on constantly, and the rate is increasing. The leaders of the country have declared that there will be no housing shortages anywhere in the country in a matter of three or four more years.

The figures for housing construction by Five Year Plan periods is as follows: 1st period, 1951-55, 24,000; 2nd period, 1956-60, 59,000; 3rd period, 1961-65, 36,000; 4th period, 1966-70, 72,000.

The target for the 5th Five Year Plan, 1971-75, is 80,000 new housing units. And there is no question that this goal will be fulfilled.

BOOK PUBLISHING

During the first half of this year, Albania's publishing houses turned out an average of two new titles a day, almost twice as much as in 1960. In 1975, the end of the Five Year Plan, the number of books turned out will be 5.5 per capita (about 12 million copies) which is double the figure for 1970.

This big increase in book production consists of 1) new literary works by contemporary Albanian authors, 2) translations of Albanian works into foreign languages for readers abroad, 3) translations of contemporary foreign works around the world into Albanian, and 4) old world classical literature translated into Albanian.

The 4th group includes such writers as Thackeray, Balzac and G.B. Shaw. The 3rd group includes writers from Spain, Guatemala, Russia, South America, Trinidad, Viet Nam, U.S.A., Germany (Brecht).

The 2nd group includes translations of

WORKING CLASS GROWTH

Parallel with the rapid growth of industry, the Albanian working class has been growing steadily and consolidating its position as the leading class in Albania's socialist society.

In a country with a population of slightly over 2 million, the ranks of the working class have now reached 320,000 workers, which is about one third of the active population. In 1950 the ratio of workers was only 14%.

Although the working class still numbers only one third of the population, it accounts for two thirds of the total social production, and two thirds of the national income. This shows that it is actually the decisive force in the growth of the national economy.

FUTURE GROWTH & TRAINING

During the remainder of the 5th Five Year Plan, the size of the working class will go up still more, along with the continuing expansion of industrial capacity. It is estimated that the number of workers in 1975 will be 370,000, or 38% of the active population. The development of new working class forces will be especially marked in the heavy industries such as steel, iron, chemical, oil, machinery and electric power.

Together with the growth in the absolute numbers of the working class, there is a strong campaign to raise the technical level of the workers. This year there are 90,000 workers attending part-time schools, 37,000 of them in technical training. As a result, labor productivity is steadily rising. It is estimated that in the total increase of social production during the 5th Five Year Plan, 70% of this increase will be due to higher productivity.

"General of the Dead Army" and "The Castle" by Kadare, works by J. Xoxe, F. Arapi, D. Agolli, and others. The first group includes novels, short stories, poetry, etc. by well known writers as well as new authors. They deal mainly with the great accomplishments of the Albanian working people in building socialism, with the campaign for the revolutionization of the whole life of the country, etc.

POST AND TELEPHONE

There has been a great flourishing of services in mail, telephone and telegraph in Albania since liberation.

Before liberation these services were very backward. In the whole country there were only 68 post offices, and only one long distance telephone line 38 kilometers long between Tirana and Durres, with only 200 telephone users.

Today there are over 300 post offices spread throughout the country, and telephone service has been set up to over half the villages in the countryside. Over 1000 villages now have telephones, and the number of phone calls made during the year is about 81 times that of 1938.

Recently the Council of Ministers of Albania passed a resolution to complete the telephone network throughout the whole country by 1974, and there is no doubt that before the end of that year every single village in the country will have its telephone lines, just as it now has its electric power lines.

The Post Office now handles over 20 million pieces of mail a year, while more than 1.2 million telegraph messages are sent yearly. These figures are about 4 times more than 1938.

... ELECTIONS (cont.)

reactionary policy which Nixon has followed in the past four years. The renomination of Nixon-Agnew at the convention indicates that the U.S. big bourgeoisie consider them to be the most loyal and resolute defenders of their interests.

If Nixon is elected again, he will carry out the same reactionary policy of belt tightening for the working people at home, and dangerous adventures and war abroad. He will continue the criminal war in Viet Nam, and perpetuate his support for the fascist Thieu regime, as well as for all fascist and puppet regimes everywhere.

Nixon will continue his dangerous policy in the Middle East, and his imperialist and neo-colonialist policy in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, organizing coups d'etat wherever Wall Street's interests are threatened. He will intensify the U.S. collaboration with Soviet social-imperialism for domination of the whole world by the two superpowers.

The war in Viet Nam is the *number one* problem for the U.S.A. Nixon has no intention of ending this war. While enjoy-

HEAVY INDUSTRY

In the process of socialist construction in Albania, a clear-cut priority is given to the development of heavy industry and the means of production, as the main factor for the general development and strengthening of the people's economy. This is considered necessary in order to guarantee the economic and political independence of the country and the steady increase in the living standards of the working people.

During the years of people's Power, the production of consumer goods increased about 55 times, but production of the means of production increased over 71 times. Particular stress has been given so far to electric power, oil, coal, chromium, copper, machinery, chemicals, building materials, etc.

RAW MATERIALS

The main thrust in industrial development *so far* has been in the field of raw materials, fuels, equipment, instruments and machines. The present Five Year Plan aims at continuing this trend and raising it to a higher level. This means a more effective exploitation of natural resources, development of the iron and steel industry, further development of the copper smelting and processing, etc.

Thus, during this Plan, Albania will be able to produce its own pig iron, various kinds of steel, tubing, tin plate, etc. Step by step, the country is laying the basis for its own machine building industry, which will probably be one of the concentrations of the next Five Year Plan.

MORE WEIGHT TO MACHINE TOOLS

In 1970 production of means of production constituted 56% of total industrial output, while consumer goods made up the balance of 44%. In 1975 the ratio will be 62% for means of production and only 38% for consumer goods. This does not mean that consumer goods production is going down; on the contrary, it is steadily rising also.

Special attention is now being given to the production of *machine tools* as against ordinary machinery—that is, machines to produce other machines rather than machines to produce goods. In certain categories, Albania has already reached the level of some industrially advanced countries on a per capita basis.

ing the enthusiastic support of big business, Nixon & Agnew have earned the hatred of the American working people.

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ALBANIA REPORT

Vol. 3, No. 1 (#18)

Aug.-Sept. 1972

Some Albanian comments on the U.S. election campaign and Egypt's expulsion of soviet military advisers. An appreciation of Dimitrov's 90th Anniversary. Articles on schools, housing, book publishing, mail & telephone service, parks and playgrounds, irrigation, foreign trade, and the growth of the working class and heavy industry.

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NOTE: Did you receive AR #17 (July)? It has a red masthead and the front page story is about Prince Sihanouk. Some readers did not get it. If you missed it we will send you another.

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If you are moving, please send us your CHANGE OF ADDRESS with your new zip code. Include your old address.

We welcome any comments, criticism, and suggestions from our readers, as well as clippings or articles.