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RAMIZ ALIA COMMENTS ON WORLD SITUATION

The 6th Congress of Albania's Agricultural Cooperatives was held recently in Tirana. On November 21, 1988, the opening session was addressed by Ramiz Alia, First Secretary of the Party of Labour. After dealing with some questions of the development of agriculture and the countryside, Ramiz Alia took up some problems of international events and developments. Following is an unofficial resume of his remarks, as derived from Bulletin No. 94 of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency:

We are building our country, developing our economy, and improving our social relations, in particular internal and international conditions. Certainly, the progress of socialism in Albania depends on our work, our own will, on our creative capabilities. We rely on our own efforts for everything — on our own resources, our own sweat, our own brains. But we are not isolated from the world. We live in it, and are part of it. Therefore what happens in the world, in one way or another, has its impact upon us — it helps or hinders our forward march to this or that extent.

This is the reason that our Party and state follow attentively the course of events in the world and take the necessary measures to defend the freedom and independence of the homeland, to ensure the peaceful labour of our people, to pursue and implement a foreign policy in conformity with the country's lofty interests, and to render our positive contribution to peace and security, to the consolidation of general peace and security.

The situation in the world today is very complex. It is not clear what direction various tendencies, which are fiercely contending against each other, will take. Nevertheless, there is no reason to be pessimistic. We believe in the strength and the will of the peoples for freedom and national independence, to oppose imperialism and every social oppression, to avoid war and defend peace.

But there is no room to relax our vigilance, although at present a great deal is spoken about a certain detente in the world, of a tendency of the big powers allegedly towards political wisdom, and of their desire for peace, etc. Only if we believe that the policy of states is no longer determined by the social system, and that their chieftains are not the offsprings of this system — only then could we agree that we are facing a turning point in international relations with regard to understanding and confidence between allies and opponents.

But one cannot pass judgement on the basis of illusions. We cannot pin our hopes for a future of peace and general security on the good will or common sense of Reagan or Gorbachev. Of course, the Soviet-US relations, the rivalry and confrontation between the superpowers, determine in many ways the aggravation or easing of the situation. Therefore, nobody wishes that they become more and more aggravated. But this does not mean that the people should leave their destinies and the future of the international relations in the hands of the United States of America and of the Soviet Union and await their decision.

We uphold the view that the other states and nations, be they large or small, cannot and should not agree to stand aside and

exclude themselves from the building of international relations, to give up the inalienable right and historical obligation they have to fight for and contribute to a peaceful international solution. The unity of their efforts, desires and will should be utilized to lower tensions and create a genuine spirit of understanding and mutual confidence among people. Precisely this should be the main factor that will not allow any room for the materialization of the expansionist and hegemonic aspirations of the superpowers.

Our Party and country have been and are for the consolidation of international peace and security. They have made and continue to make their own contribution through an active and constructive policy, by a resolute opposition to the aggressive and warmongering plans of imperialism, by denouncing the betrayal of revisionist opportunism, by being in solidarity with the revolutionary and liberation struggles and giving them our internationalist support, and by defending Marxism-Leninism.

Socialist Albania has been and is for good neighborliness with the nearby countries. It has made and continues to make efforts for the creation of the most favorable atmosphere and conditions possible to improve the situation in the Balkans, to overcome the obstacles that hinder rapprochement of its peoples, to intensify its cooperation and consolidate its security.

The Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Balkan Countries was an important step for the beginning of an encouraging dialogue among the Balkan countries. It showed that there are many possibilities for good understanding and cooperation. To a certain extent, and as though at the beginning of a long road, it touched on the problems which at present hinder the normal development of Balkan relations, but which are not insoluble.

We attended this conference with a constructive spirit, and we shall work in this direction in the future too. We realize that historically many problems exist in the Balkans. We maintain that to solve these problems, political wisdom and farsightedness, an understanding of the common interests, and abandoning of the old mentalities are necessary.

The stability of the Balkans in general and of each country in particular should be maintained. Naturally, it is the duty of the Balkan countries in the first place to work for this. But this stability is for the general good as well.

Proceeding from this criterion, Socialist Albania is successfully developing relations of good neighborliness with Greece and Turkey, with Bulgaria and Rumania, and is making efforts to create the same positive atmosphere in its relations with Yugoslavia as well.

The world already knows the great difficulties Yugoslavia is experiencing, such as the grave economic crisis, the turbulent political situation, and the national feuds. Certainly, it is not Albania that is responsible for such a situation. We have not interfered and shall not interfere in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia, we stir up no troubles there, we support no reactionary anti-Yugoslav force. We are interested in the stabilization, the

independence and freedom of this neighboring country. But we cannot keep silent and refrain from denouncing what is being done with the Albanians there.

At present, under the pretext of solving the question of Serbia and of the struggle against so-called irredentism, an attempt is being made to limit the autonomy and rights of Kosova and all the Albanians — rights which are recognized by the present Yugoslav constitution — that is, to go backwards, to put the Albanians in the conditions existing at the time of Rankovic, with

all its consequences. These demands for regression cannot be labelled anything but political and national discrimination. Such actions serve neither the stability of Yugoslavia itself, nor peace and security in the Balkans, nor the efforts being made in Europe to strengthen confidence and cooperation among different countries.

Socialist Albania will always consistently pursue its policy of peace and friendship with all those who want such relations with us. □

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF COOPERATIVE FARM WORKERS

At the 6th congress of the Agricultural Cooperatives, which began in Tirana on November 21, 1988, the main report was delivered by Themie Thomai, Minister of Agriculture of the PSRA. (She is also a member of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour, *ed.*). Also, Ramiz Alia, First Secretary of the PLA, in his message of greeting from the Central Committee, at the start of the Congress, expressed some very significant remarks about the development of socialist agriculture in the country. We bring you here some brief extracts from both speeches:

The introduction of the countryside on to the road of the new life constitutes one of the most important historic victories of our socialist revolution. Over the decades of the Party epoch our country has constantly changed, but in the countryside the revolution is proceeding more intensively. An all-sided transformation has taken place over this period in the countryside; the character of property has changed, and nature too has been transformed, the life of the people has flourished and their thinking is emancipated.

The cooperativist order has laid deep roots in the people's consciousness, both in the countryside and in the city. The agricultural working people see their happiness and well-being, their present and their future, as inseparable from the concept of common property. The cooperativist order is affirmed in all aspects and is fully integrated in our socio-economic system; it is a component part of our new life.

The historical experience of socialism shows that the continuity on the road of the cooperativist order has been turned into a touchstone of the continuity of the revolution. The destruction of its values and victories by the revisionists in the eastern countries started precisely with the liquidation of the achievements in the field of collectivization. Socialist property in agriculture was abandoned by all, it is proclaimed to be a failure and incapable of meeting the needs of the present-day development. But now, after decades have elapsed since the beginning of the revisionist process, time has rendered a harsh judgement. Everywhere, where solutions were sought in the return to private property, difficulties in the agricultural production did not decrease, but on the contrary they increased and led to inevitable social crises.

Our practice of socialist construction in the countryside thoroughly refutes the false charges made against the cooperativist order. It shows that the source of failures in agriculture does not lie in the Leninist idea of cooperation, but in the abandonment of this idea — in revisionism.

It is to the merit of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha that cooperativism was treated as a broad popular movement, as a revolutionary act of the masses of peasantry for a better and more prosperous life. They applied the Leninist idea in a creative way, bearing in mind the concrete conditions and traditions of our country.

Although in difficult conditions and faced with the urgent tasks for the increase of agricultural and livestock production, the Party has pursued and implemented an agrarian policy

without making haste, which has responded to the interests of the peasantry and the country's socialist construction. The fact that it took more than 20 years to complete the collectivization of agriculture (1946-1967) is a clear testimony to the consistency with which the principle of voluntarism and persuasion of the peasantry has been applied. Our Party has always been prudent and careful in these fundamental questions. It has not confounded the wish with the real possibilities, has not passed over stages, and has done everything in due time.

In all its work for the development of agriculture and transformation of the countryside, the Party is guided by the Marxist theses according to which the agrarian policy is in essence a socio-class policy. It expresses the relations between the working class and the peasantry, between the city and countryside, between industry and agriculture, the obligations of classes towards society and each other, which all together constitute the foundation of the country's social-economic unity.

We have a modern agriculture based on contemporary science and technology. We have a mechanized agriculture backed up by a chemical industry, equipped with an irrigation system that is extended throughout the country's territory, an agriculture capable of ensuring high yields. We have a well-organized agriculture, that realizes its extended reproduction in ever growing proportions. Production from one five year plan to the next has increased by four to six billion leks (apprx. 1.2 to 1.8 billion dollars, *ed.*).

These achievements are the fruit of the work and sweat of the peasantry. They are a result of the aid of the socialist state and the care of the whole society for agriculture. The cooperativist system of our country was born and developed with the all-around economic, material and technical support of the socialist state. To this end the socialist state has made and is making huge direct investments in agriculture, both for the construction and the strengthening of those branches of industry which support the increase of production and the development of the cooperativist order. To this end we have instituted the MTS (Machine-Tractor Stations, *ed.*), the investments for land reclamation and systematization, irrigation projects, chemical plants for the production of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, plastic products, selected seeds and breed animals, farm credits, agricultural schools and scientific institutions, etc.

In this process the working class and the cooperativist peasantry forged their alliance, as the pillar of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Here, the peasantry, is not simply an ally of the working class, but also its working collaborator for the construction of the new socialist society. The victories of the revolution are sacred to it, that is why it resolutely defends the people's power and the socialist homeland. All the great achievements of the Party epoch, in the country's socialist industrialization, the growth of accumulation and the uplift of the material and cultural well-being of the people, bear the stamp of the intelligence, toil and sweat of the patriotic and industrious cooperativist peasantry.

Today the cooperativist system comprises 460 economic units

of large production capacity, which exploit about 75 per cent of the land under cultivation; they possess over 80 per cent of the livestock, and carry an important weight of the other means of production. The cooperatives provide nearly three-fourths of the total agricultural and livestock production. An important place in our agriculture is occupied by the state enterprises as the highest form of socialist organization in agriculture; they serve, and they must serve as an example for a greatly intensified and modernized production.

During the last 20 years alone since the 5th Congress of the Agricultural Cooperatives, over 300,000 hectares of virgin land (apprx. 600,000 acres, *ed.*) were opened up, and the area of land under irrigation in the cooperativist sector has increased by 110,000 hectares; thus about 60 per cent of the arable land in the nation is under irrigation. The work forces in the cooperatives have increased by about 250,000. The number of tractors has doubled, and the mechanical industry serving agriculture has been widely extended. Likewise, the quantity of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has increased considerably. The number of cadres has tripled. The application of the discoveries of science and contemporary technology has assumed larger proportions.

All this has made it possible that agricultural production be more independent of weather conditions. This has been proven especially in the recent years, when we suffered from extraordinary droughts. On this basis we have realized the known historic victory that the agriculture of our country, which once could hardly provide maize bread for half a year for one million inhabitants, today produces bread grains and other food articles for a population of about three million inhabitants; it supplies the food industry and the light industry with raw materials, and it renders a valuable contribution to the growth of export.

The Party has never separated the development and progress of cooperatives from the struggle to make the life of the working people of the countryside happier and more prosperous. Like our entire people, the cooperative peasantry enjoys the fruits of their work free from any kind of oppression and exploitation. Today, about 80 per cent of the cooperative families live in new buildings. Also great victories are the extension of education and medical service free of charge throughout the country, the complete electrification of the countryside, the supply of drinking water directly to all the villages (which will be completed in

1990), the extension of the telephone line network, and their linkage through motor roads, etc.

All these great transformations and historic achievements are a testament to the brilliant defense of the teachings of Lenin on cooperatives, and a complete repudiation of the denial of their values by the modern revisionists.

As it is known, after the second world war a series of countries of people's democracy entered on the road of collectivization of agriculture. But as a result of the revisionist betrayal in these countries, this process was interrupted or abandoned. The kolkhozes, cooperatives or the communes are badly discredited and now every sign of collectivization is being uprooted. In order to get out of the blind alley the revisionists are in, they have found no other alternative but to return to the division of the collective property and re-establishment of private property in the countryside. But the blame for all the bad consequences and failures these countries have experienced in agriculture does not rest on Lenin's ideas on cooperatives, but precisely on their distortion and denial. The road they are following is that of restoring capitalism, exploitation and class differentiation, of restoring that social order for whose overthrow the working class and labouring peasantry carried out the revolution.

Putting into life the ideas of Comrade Enver Hoxha, the higher type agricultural cooperatives — the most advanced and original form of the cooperativist order — were set up in the zone with the most favorable climatic and land conditions. The direct participation of the state with productive investments and other technical, material and financial means needed for the rapid rate increase of the agricultural and livestock production in these cooperatives was a powerful impetus for their development as large-scale intensified socialist economies. At the same time the socialist relations also reached a higher level, thus contributing to the creation of conditions for a gradual rapprochement of the property of the group with that of all the people.

In the entire process of the construction of socialism, agriculture plays a very important role. The level of its development is a key factor in narrowing the differentiation between the city and countryside, the extension of the home market, and the further steeling of the alliance of the working class with the cooperativist peasantry. □

ALBANIA HAILS THE CREATION OF PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENT STATE

As reported by the Albanian Telegraphic Agency Bulletin #93, dated Nov. 16, 1988, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reis Malile, stated that the Albanian Government hails the creation of the new Palestinian independent state. He added that the decision adopted by the Palestinian National Council in its meeting in Algiers (Nov. 15, 1988, *ed.*) is an event of great importance for the Palestinian people. This historic act responds to the aspirations and the rights of the brave Palestinian people to have their own homeland, and contributes to the solution of conflicts in the Middle East, as well as the strengthening of security and peace in this region.

On the following day, an article written by the journalist Sulejman Hasani appeared in "Zeri i Popullit", the organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour, under the headline "We Hail the Creation of the New Palestinian State." In this article the writer states that the Albanian people and their government have supported the struggle of the Palestinian people at every moment. Extracts from the article follow:

The proclamation of the Palestinian independent state is a

logical outcome of the protracted and heroic struggle the Palestinian people have waged for a number of years to realize their legitimate rights against the imperialist-zionist aggressors. The year-long revolt of the Palestinian population within the occupied territories has had its impact.

A direct consequence of the revolt in the occupied territories was the proclamation by King Hussein of Jordan severing all legal and administrative links with the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This action created a new situation for the PLO and the Palestinian people. The PLO was faced with the duty to undertake the responsibility of solving all the problems linked with the occupied territories. The creation of the Palestinian state and the great international support given to it is creating great difficulties for the policy of the U.S. and Israel in the region. Undoubtedly, the USA will continue its anti-Palestinian political manoeuvres.

The proclamation of the new Palestinian independent state is an historic victory for the Palestinian people. But a long road for the realization of all their legitimate rights lies ahead. □

PROTESTS AGAINST ANTI-ALBANIAN PROVOCATIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA

On Sept. 23, 1988, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PSRA issued the following statement:

Recently, in many cities of the Socialist Republic of Serbia and in some other parts of Yugoslavia, under the pretext of solidarity with the Serbs and Montenegrins of Kosova, who are allegedly being persecuted by the Albanians, there have been organized many demonstrations and rallies of the Serb nationalists, including even officials, where provocative anti-Albanian speeches were made.

The participants at these meetings, which were even held near the border of our country, shouted chauvinistic slogans and made such demands as "Death to the Albanians", "The Army to Kosova", "Down With the Albanians", "We Want Weapons", "We Want Revenge", "We Are Going to Kosova to Soak in New Blood the Peony Flowers of Kosova", and slogans of this kind.

Under the pretext of attacking the so-called separatists and irredentists, outrageous chauvinistic passions are being aroused which attack and stain everything Albanian. A whole people and nation are being denigrated and offended.

All this activity is coupled with restrictive, repressive and administrative measures, among which the dispatch of the new police force units to Kosova by the Federation and the Socialist Republic of Serbia.

This psychosis which revives the old inter-ethnic hostilities, not only in Kosova but also in other regions of Yugoslavia — this hysterical anti-Albanian activity that inflames hatred among the peoples — cannot fail to worry the Albanians of Kosova as well as the progressive democratic opinion in Yugoslavia and in the neighboring countries. It is resolutely condemned, particularly by the people of the PSR of Albania.

This stand does not constitute any interference in Yugoslavia's internal affairs, as is now being frequently charged in Belgrade. The PSR of Albania has never taken a stand in support of any reactionary anti-Yugoslav force. She has defended and will defend everything that has to do with the Albanian nation, with their history and culture, with the past and present, with the democratic rights and freedoms of the Albanians on the other side of the border, and with the independence and sovereignty of the PSR of Albania.

It is an obligation not only for the citizens of the PSR of Albania who are concerned about their brothers of the same blood, but also for all democratic and progressive people wherever they are, for all those to whom good neighborliness, peace and security, in the Balkans and beyond, are sacred — it is an obligation to reject and denounce the above-mentioned acts and slogans and the dangers they are fraught with, especially if they go out of control.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania has clearly stated that she is for good neighborly relations with Yugoslavia, for a stable and independent Yugoslavia, and for its peoples to live in harmony with one another and enjoy equal rights.

She also expressed this desire at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Balkans held in Belgrade, which marked a positive step towards understanding and confidence-building in our region.

But it is a pity that precisely from the sponsoring country where this hopeful meeting was held, winds are blowing which destroy this climate.

On October 14, 1988 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PSR of Albania sent a note to the Embassy of the SFR of Yugoslavia in Tirana, through which the Albanian Government expresses its energetic protest to the Yugoslav government for the fact that at the rally organized in Kragujevac on October 8

there was unfurled a huge streamer in which was written "Go Ahead Sllobodan, if Need Be As Far As Tirana". A photograph with such a slogan was also published on the front page of the Belgrade newspaper "Politka" on October 9, 1988. The note demands that the Yugoslav Government adopt serious measures to put an end to such provocations spearheaded against the PSR of Albania.

On the same day, the newspaper "Zeri i Popullit" carried an article "DO NOT PLAY WITH FIRE", which said:

Some days ago the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the concern of our government over the hysterical anti-Albanian campaign that has recently assumed vast proportions in Yugoslavia and which has also directly influenced the relations between the two countries.

Those in Belgrade did not want to read attentively this statement nor try to understand its content correctly. On the contrary, they made haste to label it as an interference in the domestic affairs of Yugoslavia. But it is better to let the facts speak for themselves and the broad public opinion assess who is right.

On October 9, the newspaper "Politka", the well-known spokesman of the leadership of Serbia and the most ardent propagator of the stands and actions of the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist League of Serbia, Sllobodan Milloshevic, frontpaged a photograph from a demonstration staged in the city of Kragujevac where one could clearly see the slogan which read: "GO AHEAD SLLOBODAN, IF NEED BE AS FAR AS TIRANA".

In the demonstrations organized by the chauvinist political staff of Belgrade throughout Yugoslavia, which the world press has compared to the pre-war fascist demonstrations in Italy and Germany, slogans are launched and streamers are carried which read, "We Want Weapons", "Let's Wipe Out The Albanians", "We Want Blood", "We Want The Russians", etc. Now these slogans have nothing to do with the so-called Albanian irredentists and separatists, as the Yugoslav press writes, but with a line and campaign spearheaded against the Albanians in general, against those living in Yugoslavia, on whom the pressure and discrimination have assumed the form of apartheid, but also against the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

Nothing has been said as to who wrote the slogan about the march to Tirana and who launched it, but it is clear that it was consciously selected and published by "Politka". Hence, here we have to do with a premeditated act, which as for its content and aim represents a very dangerous tendentiousness with grave consequences. It seems the hotheads of Serbian chauvinism seek to set not only Kosova and Yugoslavia on fire but the Balkans as well.

Still worse, so far none of the official Yugoslav authorities has distanced himself from this dangerous provocation.

As far as Albania is concerned we would like to say to the authors of these appeals that those men who can frighten the Albanians are not yet born. History has proved more than once: whoever has marched to Tirana has left his bones there. Therefore we would advise them not to play with fire.

The events occurring in Yugoslavia, as long as they happen within its borders, are its own affair. But when they transgress these borders then things are different. And it is our right to raise our voice of protest twice: against the persecution and discrimination of the Albanians in Yugoslavia, against the pressure and the indiscriminate oppression directed at them, as well as against the threats towards Socialist Albania, the appeals for war against her.

Yugoslavia herself, the Balkans and Europe need peace and tranquility, not disputes and conflicts. They need cooperation and friendship, and not rancor and hatred. This is not only a demand of the time, but also a desire of their peoples. □