

# ALBANIA REPORT

EDITED BY ALBANIAN AFFAIRS STUDY GROUP

## ALBANIAN WOMEN CELEBRATE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

The Albanian Women's Union opened its 17th Congress on June 11, in the northern city of Shkodra, in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm and joyful celebration.

Attending the congress were many of the leaders of the government and the Albanian Party of Labor, including Enver Hoxha and Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu.

### 25 FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Also attending the Congress were delegations from women's groups of 25 foreign countries: Cambodia, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Korea, Palestine, Egypt, Tanzania, Angola, Laos, Syria, Congo, Algeria, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Rumania, Norway, Sweden, W. Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Italy, and the Albanian colony in the U.S.A.

The Congress was originally supposed to open on June 4, but was postponed for a week at the last minute because of the arrival of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's Head of State. The Albanian leaders wanted to be free to devote their full attention to this important gathering of the country's women.

### SPEECH BY NEXHMIJE HOXHA

The opening speech to the 1400 delegates at the Congress was made by Nexhmije Hoxha, one of the leaders of Albania's women, and a member of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor. She pointed out that this was the 30th anniversary of the Women's Union, which was born in the fires of the anti-fascist war against the German and Italian invaders. This struggle was led victoriously by the Party of Labor.

Nexhmije Hoxha expressed thanks to the Party, under the leadership of Enver Hoxha, for the great advances of the women of Albania, who were so oppressed and poverty-stricken in the past. The medieval walls, the barred windows, the black veils typical of the misery of the women have been swept away, and now many women have emerged as heroes of the struggle for socialism and defense of the country.

Pointing out that the advances of Albania's women were made possible by the socialist revolution, Nexhmije Hoxha re-

ferred to the contributions that the women have made to the building of the new socialist Albania and to raising and educating the younger generation that would carry onward the torch of socialism.

### REPORT BY VITO KAPO

The main report covering the period from the 6th to the 7th Congress, was delivered by Vito Kapo, President of the A.W.U. Following is a digest of some of the highlights of her speech:

The liberation of women is inseparable from national and social liberation. The complete emancipation of women can be achieved only with the all-out economic and social development of the country, with the complete construction of socialist society.

In the past period, further gains have been made in the following key fields: 1) participation in social work, 2) the number of leading posts and professional jobs, 3) raising the educational, cultural, technical and vocational level, and 4) creating a new understanding of the equal role of women in the *family* as well as in society in general.

### WOMEN IN LEADING POSTS

At the time of the 6th Congress, women made up 16% of the deputies to the People's Assembly; today they are 27%. The percentage of women elected to the local bodies of the People's Power grew from 36% to 45%. In the leadership bodies of people's organizations 41% are now women.

In the Party of Labor, women's membership grew from 12% at the time of the 6th Congress to 24% now. Women make up 19% of Party leadership bodies.

All the women of Albania are now taking part in social and state affairs, not just those who are elected to some office. This is the finest expression of our socialist democracy.

In 1966 women constituted 36% of the work force; today it is 46%. On the farms, women make up 52% of the coops, jumping from 49% in 1966. In some areas women make up 60% of the coops.

### EDUCATIONAL ADVANCES

All children of school age, including girls, now attend the compulsory 8-year primary school. About 43% of those fin-

ishing primary school go on to secondary and vocational schooling (the average for Europe is less than 25%.) As for higher education, there is a state university in Tirana, 7 institutes, and 11 subsidiaries in the districts. Three times as many girls now attend these higher schools than 5 years ago. (Before Liberation, about 94% of the women were illiterate.)

Five years ago, women made up 39% of the specialists of medium qualification; today the figure is 43%. Likewise, the number of women in the higher professions grew from 14% to 21%.

### HEALTH CARE AND CHILD CARE

To raise the cultural level of the people and the women, there is now one cultural institution for every 620 inhabitants. There has also been a wide extension of social and service establishments, health care, and rest homes. Medical and health care have improved remarkably, lowering the general mortality rate and especially the mortality rate for children, so that now the life expectancy has been raised from 38 years to 68 years.

Working mothers enjoy a wide network of services both in the cities and the countryside. In 1967 there were 586 day-care centers; in 1971 there were 2,533, of which 2,205 were on the farms. Kindergartens jumped from 417 to 1,556 (of which 1,160 on the farms.) Maternity homes went from 126 to 2,030 (with 761 on the farms.)

### STRUGGLE VS. ALIEN IDEOLOGY

Our gains are the result of progress in socialist construction. They are based on the Marxist-Leninist teachings of our Party. We reject the many bourgeois and revisionist feminist theories, which place the blame for the oppression of women on the men, rather than on the exploitative society.

The ideal of socialism requires not only economic and social liberation, but also liberation from the spiritual slavery of alien ideology. We must carry on class struggle against the external (imperialist-revisionist) enemy who try to infiltrate their ideology in to the country to poison us; and also the internal enemy—the remnants of conservative, patriarchal, liberal-bourgeois and petty-bourgeois ideas.

(cont. on p. 2)



## ... WOMEN (cont.)

### ROLE OF THE FAMILY AND RELIGION

The women of Albania suffered the heavy oppression of the canons of the church. But all our people have risen to smash the organizational base of religious ideology. Women are taking part together with the whole people to further revolutionize the whole life of the country, especially in the struggle for the further democratization of relations in the family. The role of the family is very important in bringing up a younger generation with high moral, cultural and educational values and virtues.

Many women are taking part in the arts and literature, and are contributing to the development of healthy, positive esthetic standards and tastes.

The complete emancipation of women is the concern of the whole society.

#### SPEECH BY MEHMET SHEHU

One of the most significant speeches was delivered to the congress by Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu, a member of the political bureau of the Party. In his greetings to the congress on behalf of the Party, he made the following observations:

We won our freedom in the national-liberation war, in which tens of thousands of martyrs, men and women, gave their lives.

Nobody ever bestowed equal rights upon the Albanian women; they won these rights with their own blood, their revolutionary activity and noble labor, under the leadership of the Party.

The women of Albania have freed themselves from the shackles of religion, canon law, and backward customs. They are struggling as equals, side by side with the men, for the complete construction of socialism.

Albania's mothers have educated their children in the spirit of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, in the spirit of love for labor, loyalty to the people and the Party, of selfless defense of the homeland.

#### LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY

Without the correct Marxist-Leninist leadership of our heroic Party, led by Enver Hoxha, the Albanian women, as well as all the people, would still be in slavery, the people would not be masters, the working class would not be in power, but the bourgeoisie and the foreign invaders would still be ruling here.

Without the active participation of women in the struggle for socialist construction, socialism cannot be built. Today over 40% of the workers in the cities are women, and they are the majority in agriculture, health work, trade and other services.

The principle of equal pay for equal work is strictly observed, whereas in capitalist countries women generally get 35% to 40% less than men for the same work. Under capitalism, unemployment among

women is chronic, but we have not a trace of unemployment at all.

### SECOND REVOLUTION FOR EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN

Even after liberation, when the women had achieved legal equality, the dead weight of religion, canon law, backward customs, the negative heritage of the past, continued to oppress our women. To eliminate this second yoke, a second revolution was necessary, and our Party launched this second revolution for the further emancipation of women, within the general framework of the uninterrupted socialist revolution. This has achieved colossal victories, but it is not finished yet, what we have done is only the beginning.

Now we have embarked on the second stage of the revolution, the struggle for the *complete* emancipation of women. This is closely linked with the struggle for the complete construction of socialist society, a struggle that is going on under the conditions of imperialist-revisionist blockade and encirclement.

#### THE ROLE OF MEN

Not only women, but men too, must struggle for the complete emancipation of women; this is an indispensable condition for success.

Men have deep and ingrained feelings of superiority and domination; the sons feel superior to the daughters; and the women have the same ingrained feelings of inferiority and subjugation. These ideas must be fought against and rooted out, both by the men and the women. It is a long process which the Party continually carries out to educate everyone in the spirit of equality, social justice, marital and family unity, etc.

#### BLOCKADE & ENCIRCLEMENT

Albania is the bastion of socialism in the heart of bourgeois and revisionist Europe. We live under conditions of blockade and encirclement. Of decisive importance for the destiny of our homeland is the principle of self-reliance, proletarian discipline, ideological clarity and the struggle against any manifestations of bourgeois and revisionist ideology (especially liberalism); the spirit of vigilance and sacrifice and combat-readiness.

All Albanians should work, fight, and live with the same steel-like discipline as a military unit in encirclement.

#### ENEMY IDEOLOGICAL INFILTRATION

The imperialist-revisionist enemy uses refined methods, principally ideological penetration and diversion in a thousand ways, feeding liberalism and conservatism.

Enver Hoxha's recent speeches have aroused the whole people to struggle against these manifestations, especially in the arts and literature.

Criticism and self-criticism is going on heatedly in the factories and fields, in schools and offices, to discover our shortcomings and eliminate them. We must heat up the fires of this class struggle, especially in the ranks of the cadres.'

The women everywhere are also taking part in this revolutionary drive. The educational, cultural and vocational level of the women is still low, especially in the countryside. The struggle against this is very important, so that women can be promoted to more posts of responsibility.

#### COMBAT BOURGEOIS-REVISIONIST FASHION & TASTE

Women should fight energetically against bourgeois fashion and life style. Esthetic taste has a political and social character. Revolutionary esthetic taste is characterized by beauty, purity, modest, comfort. This has to struggle against the infiltration of bourgeois-revisionist tastes in our ranks. We cannot accept liberalism. The struggle against liberalism is a struggle against imperialism and revisionism.

No one is immune to the dust of liberalism and the rust of conservatism. We use our revolutionary brooms and brushes every day to clean them out. Everyone should be critical of his own actions.

#### REMNANTS OF CONSERVATISM STILL PERSIST

In our country, conservatism has not yet completely been done away with, its roots are deep. Albania is the first country in the world without religious cults. But although religion has been subdued, it has not been completely abolished yet, the struggle is a protracted one. Even from the grave it will try to bite and poison people.

Backward customs still impede the complete emancipation of women. There are still cases of arranged engagements of young girls, of go-between marriages, etc. We must continue and deepen the struggle against religion and backward customs.

#### VICTORIES OF SOCIALISM

Albania is a big construction site. Large, medium and small industrial projects are being built at a rapid rate. The technical base of agriculture is expanding and modernizing. The social and cultural sectors are developing rapidly. The defense of our country is being consolidated. But we are not carried away with our successes.

We have one of the highest rates of industrial development; the whole countryside has been collectivized, even in the mountains; the standard of living goes up every year; there is no unemployment; there is no inflation, prices of commodities never go up, they can only go down or remain stable; the whole country has been electrified; social security pensions have been extended to the peasants; there are no taxes, no churches or mosques; socialist education, culture and art are developing and have become the property of the masses; socialist democracy is flourishing, and the dictatorship of the proletariat is steadily being strengthened; the defense potential of the country is continually being raised; no enemy will ever catch us asleep.

(cont. on p. 3)

# SIHANOUK, CAMBODIAN CHIEF OF STATE, VISITS ALBANIA AGAIN

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Chief of the State of Cambodia, arrived in Albania June 4th for an official visit, to be greeted by an extremely enthusiastic welcome and demonstrations of warm friendship and solidarity.

Accompanying Sihanouk were Ieng Sary, Special Envoy of the Interior, as well as other high Cambodian officials. Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the PLA, received Sihanouk and his party the very next day.

In addition to the official talks during the six day visit, two banquets were given at which important speeches were made by Samdech Sihanouk, Haxhi Lleshi and Mehmet Shehu. A summary of some of the highlights of these speeches follows:

## REMARKS BY SIHANOUK

There is a "perfect harmony" in the relations between Khmer and Albanian peoples. Some small countries chase after favors of the great powers who are rich and strong. They have no use for friendship with other small countries. But not Albania, under the leadership of Enver Hoxha, which sets great importance on its relations with Cambodia.

We Cambodians rejoice at the splendid victories of Albania in socialist construction. We have seen your new plants, irrigation works, artificial lakes, power dams in the mountains. Since liberation you have changed Albania from a backward country into an advanced and prosperous one.

Albania defeated two very powerful enemies, fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. After liberation, Albania has been building the country primarily by its own efforts and has rejected the attractive but dangerous "aid" of the big powers. Albania has never made deals over the principles of independence and justice. She has become an ardent and determined defender of Cambodia's cause internationally, and especially in the U.N.

As Enver Hoxha has said, the Albanian and Khmer people have the same friends and the same enemies. This is because we have the common aims and a common struggle against all the forces of injustice, oppression, exploitation, aggression, discrimination, chauvinism.

## DANGER OF DICTATORSHIP IN U.S.A.

For three years the Khmer people have been shedding their blood to save the nation, and also to defend the future of other peoples, including the people of the U.S.A.

A long time ago the U.S. people were proud that they had created "one of the purest democracies." Today they are faced with the real danger of absolute dictatorship, represented by the reactionary anti-constitutional and shameless policy of Nixon.

Even the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have finally come around to declaring that many acts of Pres. Nixon are illegal and unconstitutional, especially the bombing of Cambodia. The Senate

and the U.S. press have stated that there are no North Vietnamese operating in Cambodia, that it is the Khmer people themselves who are fighting and defeating the Lon Nol traitor clique and U.S. imperialism.

## NO COMPROMISE WITH NEO-COLONIALISM

If we Cambodians accept a compromise with these enemies, then how can we break the chains of the neo-colonial system that U.S. imperialism has established in a good part of Indochina, in South-east Asia, and elsewhere?

And if Nixon should win the final victory in Cambodia, then it would be the turn of the American people next to be put under the yoke of this new Caesar, or rather this new Hitler, who has committed innumerable hideous crimes in Indochina.

The Khmer people have the great historic honor to stand up under the weight of the whole war machine of the U.S. and particularly its air force. In doing so, we are defending the interests of all the socialist peoples.

We thank Albania for its firm support, and we assure you that we will fight with arms to the end, till U.S. imperialism is driven out and the neo-colonialist set-up in Pnom Penh is smashed.

## COMPLETE VICTORY IS SURE

The Lon Nol puppets are in desperate straits, and we will inevitably achieve complete victory, by 1974 at the latest.

(cont. on p. 4)

## ... WOMEN (cont.)

The unity of the people and the Party led by Enver Hoxha is stronger than ever. Despite the blockade and encirclement, we are not isolated. We have powerful allies in the great China of Mao Tsetung, and the revolutionary peoples of the world.

### U.S.—SOVIET COLLABORATION

U.S. imperialism and soviet social-imperialism have intensified their collaboration to dominate the world. The greatest danger to the peoples comes from this imperialist collaboration and their plots.

On the surface it appears that the international situation is calm; but in fact dangerous plans are being mapped out in secret. The U.S. imperialist and soviet revisionists are trying their best to extinguish all revolutionary struggle, to smother socialism and revolution, to divide up the world into spheres of influence. They create illusions about peace and security to lull the vigilance of the people. They are sharpening their knives and plotting against the people, particularly against People's China and Albania. We must not be deceived by this apparent calm.

## GENERAL CRISIS OF WORLD CAPITALISM

Although the U.S. imperialists and soviet revisionists are deepening their collaboration, they also have irreconcilable antagonistic contradictions between them which can never be overcome. The *general crisis* of world capitalism is deepening and even this U.S.-Soviet collaboration will not save world capitalism. The plans of the two super-powers will never be realized. The future belongs to revolution and socialism not imperialism and revisionism.

## PEOPLE'S CHINA— BASTION OF REVOLUTION

People's China is the most powerful enemy of U.S. imperialism and soviet revisionism. It stands as an insuperable bastion and as the principal strategic base of revolution. It is becoming stronger every day and achieving great victories in construction and national defense.

We hail the great victories of the Vietnamese and Cambodian people. Despite the U.S.-Soviet collaboration, the Arab people and the Palestinian cause are bound to win.

The Albanian people will never be subdued by the imperialists or revisionists. We will never trust our enemies, we will never forget what they did to us in the past. We shall continue to consolidate the People's Power and socialist democracy. (*End of Shehu speech.*)

## SUPPORT FOR INDOCHINA AND ARAB STRUGGLES

After passing resolutions of support for the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea and Palestine, the Congress closed on June 14. A big public meeting was held in Shkodra on that day, with all the delegates and foreign delegations attending, as well as Enver Hoxha and the political bureau of the P.L.A.

During this period, also, meetings of solidarity with Cambodia were held in various cities, in which the Cambodian women's delegation took part.

A protocol on goods exchange for 1973-74 between Albania and Egypt was signed in Cairo on June 6th. A similar agreement with the Sudan was signed in Khartoum on June 15th.

## ... SIHANOUK (cont.)

And if by some miracle Nixon should be able to prolong the aggression against us beyond 1974, then we have the will and the means to continue our resistance to 1976, when Nixon leaves office. (Elsewhere Sihanouk declared that if Nixon's successor also chooses to continue the war, Cambodia will fight on till 1980, or 1984, or even longer if necessary.)

During the last few days we see how the Nixon administration is devilishly trying to oppose the will of the American people to put an end to the war of aggression. Despite the clear moral condemnation by the U.S. Congress of the air war and genocide against the Khmer people, Nixon continues to destroy our villages, to level our cities, to kill our people. Kissinger and Secretary of State Rogers have announced pontifically that the U.S.A. and the D.R.V. will soon end the armed struggle of the Khmer people and establish an "American Peace" in Cambodia, which would allow the Lon Nol traitor clique and the U.S. neo-colonialists to establish themselves in one-tenth of the country and remain there indefinitely.

But the leaders of North Vietnam, Le Duan and Pham Van Dong, who are now visiting in China, have sent a message to me repudiating this lie and asserting again that DRV would never discuss Cambodia without the presence of the Royal Government of National Union. The DRV recognizes our government as the only Cambodian state.

But Nixon doesn't want to give up his policy of force. He has threatened DRV that he will not resume the clearing of mines or give aid for reconstruction of North Vietnam unless DRV stops the armed resistance of the Khmer people!

We thank the government of the DRV for rejecting this despicable blackmail, and for respecting the sovereignty of the Khmer people.

The U.S. and their puppets in Pnom Penh are trying to use the persecution of my mother the queen and other members of the royal family to force me to accept a compromise with U.S. neo-colonialism. They can imprison my whole family again if they wish, but they can never break our will or force us to negotiate with those traitors, who only deserve to be hanged.

The U.S. is the only aggressor in our country. We demand that they stop bombing and sending in troops of Saigon and Bangkok, and withdraw the U.S. military forces operating out of their so-called embassy in Pnom Penh.

### SUPPORT OF CHINA AND ALBANIA

Our esteemed brother, Chou En-lai, Premier of China, has expressed firm support for the 5 point statement of our Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. Albania understands and approves our stand without reserve. We heartily thank our Albanian brothers who have defended our cause so well, while some rather important countries who claim to be anti-imperialist give us a cold shoulder.

(Then Sihanouk recounted some of the recent military victories of the National People's Army Forces of Cambodia, as reported in the French press.) These news reports written by correspondents of the so-called "free world" show the superiority of our liberation forces over the traitors, even over the U.S. bombers. Such a people's army is invincible, and is bound to triumph over the most powerful, barbarous and cruel imperialism in the history of mankind, the U.S.A. (*End of Sihanouk remarks*)

### COMMENTS BY ALBANIA LEADERS

The Albanian people nourish a special love and respect for the heroic Cambodian people who are fighting with a rare courage and bravery against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their Pnom Penh servants.

The recent visit made by Samdech Sihanouk to the liberated areas foretells the sure victory of their struggle. The Nixon administration is trying every which way to prolong the aggression, using troops from Saigon and Bangkok, intensifying the bombing. They are trying very hard to "legalize" their crimes, but they stand completely exposed as aggressors.

### INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF CAMBODIAN STRUGGLE

The Cambodian people will not fall into the diabolical traps laid by their dangerous enemies to put out the flames of their liberation struggle. They will smash the U.S. aggression, overthrow the Lon Nol traitors, and win complete victory based on real independence, sovereignty and freedom.

They are fighting for a just cause, and they have the aid of the Vietnamese and Laotian people, and the backing of People's China. Their armed struggle is of international importance. They are making a valuable contribution to all the peoples who are fighting for freedom and independence.

The Albanian people and government will resolutely support the Cambodian people and its sole legal government of national union. This government has already been recognized de jure by about 40 countries around the world.

We also support the heroic Vietnamese people and the Laotian people, who will eventually achieve their final and complete victory, despite the continued interference of the U.S. imperialists, in So. Vietnam and Laos.

### PEOPLE'S POWER IN LIBERATED AREAS

In the liberated areas of Cambodia, covering 90% of the territory and 80% of the population. People's State Power has been established and is operating, Washington is desperately trying to find a solution to save the tottering Lon Nol regime. The Cambodian patriots are fighting and winning with the arms taken from the enemy. The Cambodian people have become masters of their country, and they will settle their own affairs on the basis of the 5 point statement of Samdech Sihanouk on March 23, 1970.

The U.S. imperialists, the social-imperialists, and the other reactionaries, they are the enemies of mankind. Neither their ferocious violence nor their cunning diplomatic maneuvers will be able to change the general trend of world development, which is in favor of national-liberation, revolution, and socialism. The number of states that are opposing the hegemony of the two super-powers is on the rise.

### IMPERIALIST CRISIS, FRAUD AND PLOTS

U.S.-led imperialism and social-imperialism are in a deep crisis. Although they have suffered defeats, they will never give up their aims. The more they approach their doom, the more aggressive and cunning they become. They are now trying to accomplish through frauds and plots what they cannot achieve by means of war and open aggression. They sometimes change tactics, they try to lull the peoples to sleep.

All freedom loving people must increase their vigilance against the two super-powers who are preparing new plots in their secret diplomacy. They have not changed their global strategy for world domination, and their counter-revolutionary collaboration remains the greatest danger for the revolutionary forces. (*End of Albanian remarks.*)

### SIHANOUK RETURNS TO ALBANIA AGAIN FOR RELAXATION

After completing their talks, Sihanouk and his party left Albania on June 9th, proceeding to Yugoslavia for a state visit there. He returned to Albania on June 18 for 5 days of rest and relaxation in the south near Vlora. During this rest period Sihanouk and his party were entertained again by Enver Hoxha at a reception and banquet. They finally left Albania on June 22, en route to Rumania and Peking.

## SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST

\*\* On May 23rd, Albania announced the establishment of high diplomatic relations with Nigeria.

\*\* Albania produces its own silk. Mulberry tree groves bearing silk worms have been extended in a number of farm coops around Elbasan, Shkodra, Berat and Gjirokastra. New hybrid seeds have been developed to improve production. Shkodra has a factory turning out silk fabrics.

\*\* In early June, over 2000 students graduated from the State University at Tirana, and were all assigned jobs. This is a record number of graduates.

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Vol. 3, No. 6 (#23) June-July 1973

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Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Chief of State, visits Albania again, and makes some important statements.

And SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST.

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\*\* Your editors wish to apologize for the lateness in getting out this issue. This was due to personal problems and illness. Next issue will be on time.

\*\* Many subscribers to NEW ALBANIA and ALBANIA TODAY magazines have not yet received issue No. 1 although No. 2 has been out for some time. This delay is due to problems in the distribution agency. We are trying to straighten this out. Please be patient.

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