

ALBANIA REPORT

EDITED BY ALBANIAN AFFAIRS STUDY GROUP

ALBANIANS PLEDGE FULL SUPPORT TO VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR COMPLETE VICTORY

In speeches, articles, and messages the leaders of the Albanian Party and State have extended to the Vietnamese people their congratulations on their success in driving out the U.S. imperialists, while pledging continued support for their on-going struggle for complete freedom and independence.

When the ambassadors of North and South Viet Nam called on Enver Hoxha, the leader of the Albanian people, to advise him of the agreement on ending the war in Viet Nam, Hoxha praised the glorious struggle of the Vietnamese people against U.S. imperialist aggression. He pointed out that the Albanian people had always wholeheartedly supported the struggle of the fraternal Vietnamese people, and they would continue in the future to support their just cause.

GREAT DEFEAT FOR U.S. IMPERIALISM

A few days later, on January 30, *Zeri i Popullit*, the leading Albanian newspaper, published an editorial on the subject which made the following points:

The cease-fire is a great defeat for U.S. imperialism, which has been compelled to withdraw from Vietnam and pull out of the most shameful and barbarous war in its history. This is a great victory for the Vietnamese people and for all the peoples of the world.

The legendary struggle of the Vietnamese people has been an inspiration and brilliant example for all fighters for freedom, democracy and progress. It proves that a small courageous people can stand up to a mighty, barbarous and cynical enemy equipped with the most modern armaments, and force the super-power to withdraw.

PEOPLE MUST FIGHT WITH ARMS

The Vietnamese struggle has proved graphically that imperialism never gives freedom, sovereignty, or independence to the peoples. They have to fight for it with arms and defeat the enemy on the battlefield.

The Vietnamese people smashed the myth of U.S. invincibility, and the terror of atomic blackmail. Nixon decided to pull out not because he is a man of peace, but because he was *forced* to get out, he

was defeated by the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, and by the severe political, economic and military crisis brought on by the war.

U.S. imperialism has become isolated in the world, even from its own allies. It stands branded as an aggressor, a murderer, a barbarian. Even at the very end, Nixon carried out the criminal air raids of December-January in a futile attempt to win the war by barbarity. This confirms that Nixon always was and remains a war-monger, and his policy is thoroughly aggressive and expansionist.

SOVIET REVISIONIST TREACHERY

The Soviet revisionists have been trying to cash in and claim all the credit for the U.S. retreat because of the "Soviet aid." Their claims are ridiculous and diabolical. Soviet policy in Viet Nam was to undermine the struggle and exert pressure on the Vietnamese, not to help them win complete victory, but to help Nixon "withdraw with honor." The Soviets have always operated on the basis of their Soviet-U.S. joint understanding of "zones of influence" and division of the world between them. The Soviet leaders have shown many times that they were ready to sacrifice the interests of Vietnam in favor of U.S. imperialism, in return for compensation in some other zones or spheres.

It is true that the Soviet leaders have given some arms to the Vietnamese, but mainly to avoid being exposed, to maintain their facade as a "socialist" country, to extend their influence and interfere in the internal affairs of Indochina.

PEACE IS NOT ASSURED

However, this cease-fire agreement does not mean a guarantee of peace, nor freedom and independence for the Vietnamese people. The puppet Thieu clique immediately made known that it did not intend to observe the agreement; it has intensified its terror against the people of South Viet Nam; intensified reprisals against progressive and democratic elements; has taken brutal measures to prevent any political activity or free expression.

Thieu refuses to recognize the exist-

ence of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and he howls that he will kill every Communist he can get his hands on. And all this is done with the connivance of his boss, Nixon.

As long as the Thieu clique remains in power in Saigon, a great danger exists for the Vietnamese people, there can be no guarantee for peace and security in South Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people know that U.S. imperialism is perfidious. In 1954 the U.S. also pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty of Viet Nam. But the whole world knows how it kept its word. Now Washington is doing everything it can to keep Thieu in power. And it cannot be ruled out that the U.S. imperialists may decide later to send their forces back into South Viet Nam.

VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CANNOT BE TRICKED

But the Vietnamese people will not lower their vigilance nor lose their perspective. They will know how to fight under these new conditions with the same determination and wisdom as before to win completely their national independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, their right to self-determination of their own destiny without foreign interference. They will keep a firm grip on their arms, and will never give up an inch of their liberated areas.

The Albanian people will always support the Vietnamese people in their liberation struggle, and wish them complete victory over U.S. imperialism and the traitor Thieu, to be able to live free, independent and united. (*End of resume of editorial.*)

THE STRUGGLE IS IN A NEW PHASE

On Feb. 1st the Albanian leaders sent messages of congratulations to the leaders of North Viet Nam and South Viet Nam. In the one to the south the Albanians emphasized that they recognize the PRG as the only legitimate government of South Viet Nam.

On Feb. 7th, an agreement was signed in Hanoi covering *free* economic aid from Albania to the DRV for 1973, in addition to the normal trade agreement between the two countries. (*cont. on p.4*)

IMPERIALIST AID—A NEO-COLONIALIST TRAP; SELF-RELIANCE—BASIC PRINCIPLE OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

Two recent articles in *Zeri i Popullit* deal with the need for self-reliance in construction and development as the only way to maintain independence, and warn against imperialist "aid" and investment as a trap which leads inevitably to neo-colonialist enslavement.

EXPORT OF CAPITAL

The article of Jan. 29 makes the following main points: export of capital is one of the forms of imperialist expansion, used to exploit and plunder the peoples of other countries. U.S. capital invested abroad grew by 350% from 1950 to 1970. For every dollar invested in Latin America as "aid," U.S. imperialism drew out five dollars in profits.

The Soviet revisionists have not been lagging behind. Their export of capital has gone up by 600% from 1957 to 1970. Taking India as an example, the Soviet Union extended to India 420 million rupees in "aid" during the 1967-1968 period; but at the same time, India had to pay back 530 million rupees on previous debts and interest, in addition to payments of 470 million rupees she had to make to the Soviets on armaments.

A characteristic of Soviet "aid" is the high interest rate they charge, usually 6 or 7 percent. Also the policy of "economic integration" of the COMECON members ensures the Soviet revisionists a large secure market for their products at high prices and great profit.

NEO-COLONIALISM IN DISGUISE

This policy of "aid" is advertised by the imperialist powers as a "great contribution to the economic development" of the small countries. But it is simply part of the strategy of neo-colonialism for the economic, political and military penetration and subjugation of the small countries by the big powers, especially the super-powers.

The article then quotes from the writing of Enver Hoxha: "The two super-powers, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, which are preparing for a hot war, try to enslave you by means of their so-called 'generous aid'; they try to catch you in their economic-political claws, to include you in their spheres of influence, and to colonize you."

Despite the propaganda about "food for peace" etc. the loans and credits of the imperialists and social-imperialists are merciless traps which suffocate the economies of the recipient countries. The billions of dollars of "Marshall Plan" aid poured into Europe for "economic reconstruction" only resulted in economic enslavement of the European industries.

SOCIAL-IMPERIALIST EXPLOITATION

The Soviet social-imperialists have succeeded in gaining complete control over the economies of their satellite countries in the revisionist bloc. Their phoney "theories" of "international division of labor," or "economic integration," or "limited sovereignty" are only a cover for their neo-colonialist relationship.

For instance, the Russians permit the Bulgarians to produce only fruit and agricultural products, which they buy cheap. In turn, Bulgaria must buy from Russia at high prices all the machinery and processed goods it needs. The Soviet leaders wanted to set up the same deal for Albania, but the Albanian people would not buy it; they are successfully building up their own independent and comprehensive modern industrial economy based on self-reliance.

FROM ECONOMIC AID TO POLITICAL CONTROL

The two imperialist super-powers use their economic domination to carry out their military-strategic plans. In 1971 about 53% of all U.S. "aid" went for military uses. U.S. "aid" has been going mainly to Saigon, Cambodia, Laos, South Korea, the Chiang Kai-shek clique, Portugal, Spain, Israel, and the Latin-American fascists. The Soviet revisionists too have been giving such aid to the fascist Djakarta clique, the Franco regime, and assorted military dictatorships in Latin-America.

The imperialist countries use the power of their money to control the political life of the various countries. To this end they arrange coup d'état, change of cabinets, change of important policies, etc.

ALBANIA'S EXPERIENCE WITH "AID"

Right after liberation, when Albania was devastated, the U.S. and British imperialists also offered "aid." But the Albanian party and people refused to give up their independence and freedom, and went ahead to rebuild the country by self-reliance. Then later, when the Party of Labor exposed the Krushchov revisionists as traitors to Marxism-Leninism, the Russians tried to sabotage Albania's economy and organized a savage blockade.

But the Albanian people did not bend their knees. They proved (together with People's China) that socialism can be built in one's country by relying on one's own resources.

REAL SOCIALIST AID

When the Soviet Union was led by Stalin, it gave real socialist internationalist aid to Albania and the other socialist countries. This is the kind of aid that

People's China is giving today to Albania and to other countries. This kind of aid is given without interest, in long term loans, with no strings attached, without seeking any economic, political or military benefits. It is part of China's support for all peoples fighting for freedom and against imperialist aggression.

The article concludes that imperialist "aid" is a trap for colonial enslavement. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America are learning to refuse this kind of "aid," to reject these loans and credits, to nationalize the foreign monopoly companies, to throw out the foreign "specialists."

PRINCE SIHANOUK ON AID

The ATA Bulletin of Jan. 31 reports a message to the Khmer Nation by Prince Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, in which he said, among other things, referring to the question of reconstruction aid: "You have not forgotten what I have said since 1963 that the U.S. imperialists give nothing without taking something in return. If we want to have a stable peace and independence, we must reject the diabolical "aid" of the U.S.A."

SELF-RELIANCE IS ESSENTIAL

Another article in *Zeri i Popullit* on Feb. 11 written by Prof. H. Mara, points out that self-reliance is a permanent, revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist principle of socialist construction. It is not just a temporary policy, nor a tactical expedient arising from internal or external circumstances, nor is it the result of national pride.

Self-reliance was an essential ingredient of the whole struggle for national and social liberation from the very beginning. When we set up People's Power, to have accepted imperialist "aid" would have been the same as tying a noose around our neck with our own hands.

THE ECONOMY

MUST BE INDEPENDENT

In today's world, with imperialism and colonialism still strong, no country (socialist or not) can remain independent without an independent national economy. Our party and people have followed this logic of self-reliance in building a strong, diversified, comprehensive, industry including both extracting and processing of raw materials, heavy industry and light industry, machine building and consumer goods, and based on a speedy development of agriculture to keep pace with industry. This is a policy of standing on both feet.

This policy requires a thorough mobilization of all internal resources, strong concentration and centralization, eliminating waste, practicing thrift, and ensuring

(cont. on p.3)

BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLAN FOR 1973; PEOPLE ENJOY GROWING PROSPERITY

In the closing days of December, the People's Assembly of Albania met in Tirana to approve the state budget and economic plan for 1973.

1972 PLAN FULFILLED

Abdyl Kellezi, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, reported that the 1972 economic plan had been carried out successfully. Total industrial production was 10% higher than 1971; and despite bad weather, agricultural production increased 12%. Also 25,000 hectares of virgin land was reclaimed.

In all other sectors, such as Transport, Construction, Trade, Investment, etc. the plan was also fulfilled.

The 1972 budget showed the income target realized by 100%, while expenditures were only at 97% of the plan, leaving a surplus of 400 million leks.

The plan adopted for 1973 includes a 10% increase in total industrial production, 6% increase in agriculture, 10% in investments, 11% in national income and trade.

STATE BUDGET FOR 1973

The People's Assembly adopted the following state budget for 1973 (figures in millions of leks):

Income	7,100
Expenditures	6,800
Surplus	300

These expenditures which are 8% higher than 1972, break down into the following categories (with percentage of total):

Economy	4,269	62%
Social-Cultural	1,664	24%
Defense	589	8%
Administration	99	1.5%

The item for economy includes development of industry, mines, geology, agriculture, transport, trade, etc.

The social-cultural item includes schools, libraries, theatres, hospitals, health, sports, physical training, kindergartens and creches, pensions and social security, etc.

... AID (cont.)

a high rate of accumulation and extended reproduction. Thus capital investments during the 5th Five Year Plan will be 75% more than during the 4th Plan.

SELF-RELIANCE IS NOT ISOLATION

The real internationalist aid of People's China is also a valuable help, but it is the internal factor which is the decisive factor in socialist construction.

Self-reliance does not mean self-isolation. Albania is extending its ties and trade with many outside countries, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. But Albania will never, for the sake of trade, make any political or ideological concessions to the enemies of socialism, the imperialists and revisionists.

The People's Assembly also voted to set up a new Ministry of Light and Food Industry. Myqerem Fuga was named by the Assembly as the Minister of this new department.

GROWTH OF NATIONAL INCOME

During the last Five-Year Plan, national income grew by 55% over the previous five-year period. Thus by 1970 national income was double that of 1960. And at the end of the present Five-Year Plan (1975) the national income will grow another 55% over 1970.

During this Five-Year Plan, the distribution of the social product will be about 63% for consumption and 37% for accumulation (growth of production facilities). Comparing these figures with the same figures for the 4th Five-Year Plan, we see that the Consumption Fund will increase by 55%, while the Accumulation Fund will go up 75%. This illustrates the priority given to industrial development and social consumption.

BETTER LIVING FOR THE WORKERS

Not all the Accumulation Fund is used to expand material production—only about 64% in this period, as against 58% in the 4th period. The balance is used to extend the base of the social-cultural sector, which directly raises the living conditions and cultural standards of the working people. This includes such things as the building of housing, schools, hospitals, parks, water lines, creches, telegraph service, etc.

A clear index of the increasing well-being of the people is the figure for real income per capita. This will grow in the 5th period by 17% over the 4th period, and retail goods turnover will grow by 39%.

MONEY IN THE BANK

Another indicator of the prosperity of the Albanian working people is the growth of savings accounts and deposits. An article in the ATA Bulletin of March 2 reports that one out of every 3.5 Albanians now has a bank account.

The number of depositors in 1972 was 20% more than 1970 (and 750% more than 1960). The total amount on deposit last year was 30% more than 1970.

It is interesting to note the distribution of the savings. While in 1950 workers accounted for only 16% of savings accounts, today they constitute 50% of the depositors. Also deposits by the peasantry have been growing sharply.

The article points out that these figures illustrate the security and well-being of the working people of Albania. There is no unemployment; prices are stable; they can never go up, only down; there is no income tax; rent is almost nothing; education and health care are free; old age is provided for; and nurseries, kindergartens, rest homes, etc.

are provided by the state and enterprises.

Statistics show that with the growing prosperity of the people, there is more money being put in the bank each year than the state was able to raise through its state loan bonds floated during the early post-liberation years for reconstruction.

During one three-month period of 1972, the increase in savings deposits was more than all the years of the 1st Five-Year Plan.

ALBANIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE INSTALLED

The Albanian Academy of Science held its first meeting in Tirana on Jan. 25 attended by Enver Hoxha and other leaders of the party and state.

Previously a group of 25 scientists had been selected by the Council of Ministers to make up the new academy—twenty full members and five corresponding members.

The first meeting of the Academy selected a presidium of nine, headed by Prof. Aleks Buda as Chairman of the Academy.

Prof. Egerem Cabej opened the first meeting as the oldest member of the academy.

Hysni Kapo, member of the political bureau of the PLA, in greeting the first meeting of the academy, stated that this was a great victory for Albania, which had to struggle against centuries of economic, social and cultural backwardness.

The presidium met on March 1st to work out concrete plans and tasks for the coming year.

Messages of greetings and congratulations were received from Kuo Mo-jo, President of the Chinese Academy of Science; as well as other academies, universities, and scientific groups in Rumania, Korea, Bulgaria, France, England, E. Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Kossova, Macedonia, and UNESCO.

SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST

** The popular Albanian novel, *The Wedding*, by Ismail Kadare, has been put out recently in Norwegian by a publishing house in Oslo.

** A new book has recently been published in Tirana about the life and work of the outstanding Albanian patriot and writer, Fan S. Noli (1882-1965). The author is Vehbi Bala.

** The 12th volume of Enver Hoxha's Works has just come off the press. It covers the period Sept. 1954 to June 1955.

... VIET NAM (cont.)

On the same day in Tirana, the ambassador of the PRG in Albania, Nguyen Xuan Long, held a press conference on the truce agreement in which he pointed out that U.S. imperialism and its tool, the Saigon regime, are still plotting and maneuvering to sabotage the revolution, to preserve neo-colonialism in South Vietnam, and to perpetuate the division of Viet Nam. The Ambassador said that the present victory is a preliminary victory, and that the struggle of the Vietnamese people is now in a new phase for the continuation and carrying forward of the (democratic) revolution.

VIETNAMESE LEADERS THANK ALBANIA

On Feb. 22, both the DRV and the PRG sent messages of thanks to Albania. The DRV message pointed out that the support and aid of the Albanian people was one of the factors contributing to the historic victory of the Vietnamese people over U.S. imperialism. The message indicated that a "severe and complicated struggle" lay ahead for the "serious and accurate realization of the Paris agreement."

The message from the PRG and NLF of South Viet Nam also thanked the Albanian people for their support and aid, and continuing solidarity in their struggle for the construction of a peaceful, independent, democratic, prosperous South Viet Nam, working toward eventual reunification of the country.

CRIMINAL ACTS OF THIEU REGIME

Zeri i Popullit on Feb. 22 carries an article condemning the thousands of violations of the agreement by the Saigon regime. Thieu is committing serious crimes against the Vietnamese people; he is attacking the liberated areas, he is launching a savage terror campaign against the people. All this is instigated, encouraged and supported by the U.S. imperialists.

The article concludes that the U.S. is consistent in its policy of aggression and expansion; it is trying to save the Thieu clique by every means; it remains the enemy of freedom and independence; it is determined to keep a neo-colonial grip over Viet Nam. But the Vietnamese people will know how to fight with arms in their hands for their complete freedom and national independence.

AGNEW'S VISITS TO ASIAN PUPPETS

Several articles at the time commented on Agnew's Asian tour, in which he visited Saigon, Thailand, Laos, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia and Malaysia. The Albanian press points out that this trip, coming right after the signing of the Paris agreement, was designed to reassure all the U.S. puppets in the areas that "the U.S.A. will never abandon them." In Saigon Agnew stressed strongly the all-out support of the Nixon administration for Thieu, emphasizing again that

SHORT ITEMS OF INTEREST

** During 1971-72 over 2.3 million new fruit trees were planted. This year Albania will plant another 2 million fruit trees, 300,000 olive trees, 60,000 citrus trees, and hundreds of hectares of vineyards.

** The 7th Congress of the Albanian Women's Union is scheduled to open in Shkodra on June 4th.

** The Central Committee of the PLA held its third meeting on Feb. 5 & 6, with Enver Hoxha presiding. The Plenum discussed some problems in running the economy.

** This year the professional theatre in Durres will produce, among others, an American play, *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller.

** There are Albania Friendship Associations in 21 countries around the world, including France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Rumania, Egypt, Ceylon, Japan, Nepal, Chile, and Peru.

** New archeological finds are being dug up in the village of Verdova, in the southern part of Pogradec district. The village of ancient Illyrian origin dates back to the 10th Century B.C.

Washington recognizes Thieu as the only legitimate government of South Viet Nam.

These articles pointed out the intensification of the U.S. bombing over Laos, and Kissinger's statement that the U.S. might send its aircraft back into Viet Nam. The newspapers again warn of the perfidious nature of U.S. imperialism, of its unchanging reactionary, aggressive and expansionist character.

NOBEL "PEACE" PRIZE FOR NIXON?

An Albanian press feature story on Feb. 18 reports the moves by some American politicians to propose Nixon for the Nobel peace prize. The White House is trying hard to picture Nixon as a man of peace—Nixon the war criminal, who bombed dikes and hospitals, invaded Cambodia, attacked Laos, perpetrated thousands of My Lais.

The article quotes "the fascist Goldwater" who praises Nixon for his "courage and wisdom." But Goldwater tries to cover up the fact that Nixon is pulling out troops because he is forced to; otherwise they would stay for 100 years.

The article closes with a report from the German magazine "*Spiegel*." Some days before a group of citizens of Augsburg, W. Germany, in a peace demonstration held a mock burial of Nixon. They put him in a grave alongside the graves of 120 notorious Nazi war criminals, with the inscription: "He has earned the right to lie alongside these men, because he and they had common aims."

** The 1973 opera season opened in Tirana with a premiere performance of a new opera "*Gjergj Kastriot Scanderbeg*" by the composer Preng Jakova and librettist Lazzar Siliqi.

** The 75th anniversary of Bertholt Brecht's birth was marked in Albania with an article in "*Drita*" the paper of the writers and artists union. The paper hails Brecht as one of the greatest revolutionary artists of the 20th century. A number of his works have been performed on the Albanian stage, including "*The Rifles*" and "*Arturo Ui*".

** This year Albania will participate in *trade fairs* in Bari (Italy), Salonica (Greece), Zagreb (Yugoslavia), Vienna, Leipzig (E. Germany), Brno (Czechoslovakia), Poznan (Poland), Paris, Santiago (Chile), and others.

** A Government delegation from North Korea, led by Korea's Minister of Education, arrived in Tirana on Feb. 15 for a visit and talks.

** An exhibition of contemporary Chinese painting was opened on Feb. 15 in Tirana. It has received widespread acclaim for its revolutionary content and technique.

** On Feb. 20 Albania and Costa Rica announced that they would establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level.

** The 300th anniversary of the death of the great French writer Moliere was noted in Albania, where his works are still popular.

** During the 28 years of People's Power, Albania has translated into Albanian and published 1000 foreign works of world literature. These include Anatole France, Mark Twain, G.B. Shaw, Thomas Hardy, Galsworthy, and Arabian Nights.

** National championship matches in skiing for men and women took place in early March in Voskopoja, Korca district. Winter sports, including mountain climbing, are becoming more popular.

** The 20th anniversary of the death of Stalin was observed throughout Albania with many meetings, articles, lectures, photo-exhibits, etc. Stalin was hailed as "a great revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist."

** During January new trade agreements for 1973 were signed between Albania and France, Korea, Cuba, and Poland.

(cont. on p.3)

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ALBANIA REPORT

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