

RAMIZ ALIA

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WILL ALWAYS ADVANCE
ON THE ROAD OF SOCIALISM**

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ALBANIA WILL ALWAYS ADVANCE ON THE ROAD OF SOCIALISM

Address of Comrade Ramiz Alia, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, at the rally of the working people of Korça

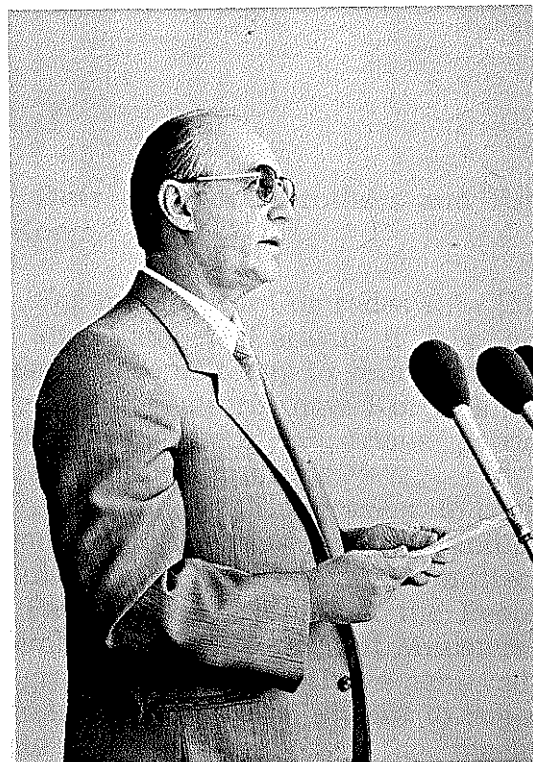
(August 26, 1985)

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GERÇEK LONDRA BÜROSÜ**

 **MAY 2011**

SOCIALIST TRUTH IN CYPRUS

**THE INSTITUTE OF MARXIST-LENINIST STUDIES
AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PARTY
OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA**



RAMIZ ALIA

**«3 NENTORI» PUBLISHING HOUSE
TIRANA 1985**

Dear comrades, brothers and sisters
of Korça,

For me and for Comrades Rita [Marko] and Vangjel [Çërava] it is a great pleasure to come today to your marvellous city, to our beautiful new Korça, and be among its cultured, industrious, patriotic and revolutionary people.

Allow me, on this occasion, to convey to you the most ardent greetings and congratulations of the Central Committee of the Party, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers on the great successes you have achieved in all fields. In particular, I want to congratulate the cooperativists, the machine operators, and all the working people of agriculture on their fulfilment of this year's plan for wheat and the high yields which many economies, sectors and brigades of the plains and the highlands have achieved. The Party is convinced that the

district of Korça will continue to forge ahead and achieve still higher levels in all fields, in industry, agriculture, education, culture and defence.

Korça has always been renowned for its valour and ardent patriotism. In this city, in the surrounding districts, outstanding fighters with the rifle and knowledge have fought with rare heroism. One such was the well-known writer, Naum Veqilharxhi, who planted the seed of the idea of the unity of all Albanians and produced the first Manifesto of the epoch of the Renaissance, others were the patriotic teachers Pandeli Sotiri and Sevasti Qiriazhi, who opened the first Albanian school in Korça, Thimi Mitko, who published «The Albanian Bee», which is so well known, Themistokli Gërmenji, Mihal Grameno, and many many other democrats who sacrificed their lives for the freedom and progress of Albania.

From the beginning of our century and even earlier, Korça became one of the cradles of the Albanian proletariat. Here the workers received their baptism in the first battles of the class struggle. Precisely this city became one of the most important centres of the Albanian Communist Movement. The names of such

comrades as Miha Lako, Pilo Peristeri, and others have gone down in the history of our Party as veteran communist militants.

Korça is dearly beloved to our people because it became a second birthplace for Enver Hoxha, for him who orientated the communists correctly, and united them in their glorious Party, for him who was the great leader of the National Liberation War and our people's revolution, the architect and inspirer of all the revolutionary transformations which have occurred in the new Albania. Comrade Enver had special love and admiration for Korça and its people. With great respect he recalled that amongst the workers of the smithies and small shops of Korça he received his first lessons on the revolution and as a revolutionary.

Precisely because of this special connection the Party did Korça a great honour when it decided that the monument dedicated to the brilliant figure of the legendary leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, should be erected here, and the state farm of Plasa should bear his name. The Central Committee of the Party is fully convinced that the people of Korça will respond to the great

honour done them with work and self-sacrifice, that they will march forward as always unwaveringly on the road of Enver Hoxha, and that they will always be inspired and guided by his immortal teachings.

Korça and its people were a powerful base of our National Liberation War. On the day when Comrade Enver Hoxha in Tirana proclaimed the formation of our heroic Party, here in Korça the great demonstration of November 8th took place. Koci Bako's name became a symbol of the patriotism of the Albanian communists. The towns and villages of Korça became inexhaustible sources of fighters who filled the ranks of the guerrilla units and the National Liberation Army. Hundreds of partisans like Midhi Kostani, Kiço Greço, Fuat Babani, Demir Progri, Raqi Qirinxhi, and many other heroes and martyrs sacrificed themselves on the altar of freedom. From the ranks of the people's fighters emerged such outstanding commanders as Teki Kolaneci, Riza Kodheli, Agush Gjergjevica, Asllan Gura, Hasan Moglica and others, who demonstrated not only their rare courage, but also their ability in the organization and leadership of partisan detachments.

The Party and people rejoice that in all the years of the glorious epoch of the Party Korça has been and is in the front ranks of the socialist construction and is developing and advancing at rapid rates.

The former Korça of great contrasts and class distinctions, of plains inundated by swamps, and mass emigration, today is a centre typical of all-round socialist development. Korça has a talented working class, with great revolutionary traditions and experience. In comparison with 1938, the number of workers here has increased 43.5 times over. With its powerful working class, with the material-technical base created, today Korça turns out considerable industrial production. It takes only four days to achieve the total industrial production of the year 1938. Today the «Hammer and Sickle» Knitwear Combine, alone, produces 1.3 times more than all the industry of the country produced and 11 times more than that of the district in the year 1938.

A true revolution has been carried out, especially in agriculture. In agricultural production the district of Korça occupies second place in the whole Republic. We need only say that with the wheat taken in this year, the state farm of Ma-

liq, alone, ensures the bread for the whole year for five towns, Pogradec, Librazhd, Përmet, Erseka and Gramsh, taken together.

In the field of culture, the advances made, the great successes scored go beyond the most daring dreams of democrats and patriots. Today Korça has about ten times more workers with higher education than the whole country had in 1938, and sixty times more than it had itself at that time.

The great transformations in the economic and cultural fields have been accompanied with incomparable transformations in the social field and the field of the well-being. The position of women, the position of the peasants, the new man whom the Party has educated, liberated from everything outdated and backward, confident of his present and of his future, are beyond any comparison with the past.

Dear comrades,

In these 40 years of our free life the whole of Albania has changed, just as Korça has changed. This period is a historic testimony of great value. It shows what a people free, independent and sov-

ereign in their own country can do, what giant strides they can take in quite a short time. It shows also that it was no fault of the people that Albania had remained an example of poverty in Europe, but the fault of past regimes which plundered the toil of the people, and put their assets up for auction. It shows that the Albanians did not lack the abilities and possibilities for advance and civilization, but lacked the political leading force capable of guiding them wisely and with foresight. It shows that the Albanian people had lofty aspirations, ardent desires, had great vitality and energy in their work, but did not have conditions to apply them in practice.

Under the leadership of the Party, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, socialist Albania carried out and consolidated the great idea of Marxism-Leninism, the elimination of any exploitation of man. The Party and our new state power gave the people the possibility to become masters of what belonged to them, masters of their own toil and sweat, masters of themselves and of the fate of the country. They put an end once and for all to exploitation by and dependence on foreigners, gave the people the possibility

to ensure the genuine freedom and independence of the Homeland once and for all.

These victories which are fruits of the National Liberation War and the socialist construction, which have been achieved with the blood and sweat of the people, cannot be overshadowed and taken from us by any force in the world. We will always defend them courageously and will work to consolidate them and carry them steadily ahead.

Our socialist Homeland is stronger than ever. We have a developed complex economy, an advanced culture and education, we have a government of the people and an impregnable defence. Our country enjoys a fine reputation and has an honoured and respected international position. Never before in all the thousands of years of its history has Albania been so advanced and prosperous.

A new multi-branched industry which is developing and advancing, relying on the local raw materials, on the products of the soil and the underground assets of Albania, on the work and the creative abilities of our people, has been built in our country. It ensures fulfilment of the main needs of the people for industrial

goods, and to a considerable extent, also ensures the means necessary for its own renewal and extension. It represents a powerful base for the development of all other sectors of the economy and the strengthening of the defence of the Homeland.

Our people are proud of the development of our heavy and light industry, proud of such great projects as the metallurgical combine or the giant hydro-power stations, the chemical plants or the textile combines, all those factories and other works, which are the results of the Marxist-Leninist policy of our Party for the socialist industrialization of our country. In particular, today we can appreciate even more the wisdom and foresight of the policy of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha for the priority development of the energy industry, whether by investing in the sector of oil and gas and the development of coal mines, or by undertaking the construction of a whole series of hydro-power stations. Without a powerful energy base, independent of others, the policy of self-reliance could not have been put into practice.

At the present stage of the development of our economy, in industry, in

general, and in such sectors as mining, oil-extracting, the light and food-stuffs industry, construction, transport, etc., increased economic effectiveness, improvement in the quality of production, and the establishment of a strict regime of savings, assume first-rate importance. These are major tasks which are placed before the Party and all our working people. To this end, efforts must be made and more rational ways found for a more efficient introduction of modern technique and technology, just as the organization and the management of work must be improved.

A radical transformation is occurring in our country in the agrarian field and in the field of agricultural production. Our land, formerly inundated by swamps, and covered by worthless shrub, impoverished and abandoned, today feeds not just the 1 million people there were before Liberation, but 3 million, and also ensures the raw material for the light and food-stuffs industry.

By wisely applying its agrarian policy, within a short time our Party fulfilled the age-old dream of our patriotic and militant peasant for land, for bread, for knowledge and progress. Our socialist

agriculture has been strengthened in every direction, it has set out resolutely on the road of intensification and high yields. This radical change is the result of the collectivization of land and the means of labour, of the large investments which the state has made, especially, for flood protection and drainage of the plains, for the creation of a complex irrigation system, for mechanization, and ensuring chemical fertilizers, is the result of the education and the general uplift of the countryside, of the application of the scientific knowledge, and above all, of the conscientious and persistent work of the working people of agriculture.

The level and strength of our socialist agriculture were brought out very clearly in the campaign for the production of wheat which has just ended. Although conditions were not the best, the highest yields and total production ever achieved in our country were attained. This success and the results achieved in agriculture generally hitherto, encourage us to demand more and convince us that we can rise to new higher levels. The needs of the people and the country for agricultural and livestock products are great. Therefore, the Party must continue to

devote special attention to agriculture, to work for the intensification of the agricultural production, and to ensure the fulfilment and overfulfilment of the plan in every direction. While devoting special attention, as always, to bread grain, we must further increase our efforts to increase the numbers of livestock and its productivity, to increase the yields of industrial crops and vegetables, and to further extend fruit-growing so that we fulfil the needs of the people and industry ever better.

In agriculture, as in all other sectors of the economy, the organization and scientific management of production require improvement. There are very good examples in the district of Korça, especially on the plain, which are evidence of truly scientific, up-to-date organization and management. But it must be said that, while the technico-economic factors of the experience of those economies, especially of Plasa, are better known, almost nothing is being done to disseminate knowledge of the advanced experience, of the major and minor factors of the organization of the work, and especially, of management and check-up. This defect

must be corrected, because it constitutes a large unexploited reserve.

The economic progress has proceeded parallel with the cultural and social development of the country and they have exerted a powerful influence on one another. When Albania was liberated, Comrade Enver pointed out that our people need more bread and more culture. And in drafting the program of the socialist construction, the Party bore in mind this age-old aspiration of the people, this necessity for the construction of the new life, and achieved it in practice.

When we compare our time with the past, when we see how our people today build factories and plants, construct hydro-power stations and railways, run clinics and laboratories, we understand how courageously the Party has worked for the development of culture, science and technique, for the professional qualification and the political-ideological education of our people. The revolution which has been carried out in these fields, in education and culture, in the training of the cadres and the education of the masses, is truly a radical one. It has secured for the country people with knowledge and dedication, dauntless fighters for the

cause of socialism. In the future, too, the Party will continue to devote special attention to the education of the people, the development of culture and science, and the revolutionary education of the masses, especially the youth.

Today our country has not only a consolidated economy and a culture with sound content, but also an impregnable defence. Our borders are inviolable. Albania has not linked and never will link its defence with the so-called «security» which the superpowers give the vassal countries, nor with international military blocs or treaties. Our Party has based the defence of the socialist Homeland on the strength of the armed people and the people's army, which it has equipped with the means it must have to perform its mission. The enemies will never find our Albania off guard. The vigilance of the people and their armed forces is of a high level.

Everything we have built in our country is the result of the toil and wisdom of our working people. The great economic and social, political and cultural victories are not a gift from anyone, but we have achieved them through sacrifice and self-denial, we have achieved

them in struggle with internal and external class enemies, in struggle against many obstacles. With the pick and the shovel we set to work and drained the swamps, with the sledge hammer and the crowbar we began to open up mines, with great efforts we set up the factories and the workshops, with the strength of our arms we built the first hydro-power stations. The difficulties were enormous, but we triumphed. We triumphed because we had a Party tested in war, a Party which has always had a correct political line, which has always remained loyal to Marxism-Leninism, and which has consistently applied the principle of self-reliance.

We shall continue to advance on this course in the future, too. We have never held out a begging hand to anyone for any thing, and will not do so in the future. We will never accept credits and never enter into debts to anyone. As Comrade Enver Hoxha says, our Party will never place such a chain around the neck of our people. For the development, progress and modernization of our country we shall cut our coat according to our cloth, relying only on the assets of our country, using our great resources to the maximum effectiveness.

Our internal situation is very healthy. The people are united more than ever with the Party. Their mutual trust has been strengthened. The unity of the people has been steeled and tempered in every direction. An expression of this excellent situation, of this great unity, was that high-level of political and ideological maturity which our people displayed during those grave days when we lost our legendary leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, is that determination and heroism which the workers and peasants, the cadres and specialists, the women and the youth, are displaying in the south and the north of the country in order to fulfil and overfulfil the targets and earn the right to call themselves banner-bearers in the application of the teachings of Enver.

We must ceaselessly safeguard and strengthen this sound moral-political situation, this great unity of the Party and people, this trust of the working masses in the line of the Party, this revolutionary optimism and inspiration which characterize our people, because these things constitute a solid guarantee of new victories. Relying on this unity, we must strengthen the people's state power in all its links by further extending and intensifying its ties

with the masses of the people, must keep the revolutionary spirit and socialist patriotism always in a high level, and enhance our vigilance against the enemies of socialism.

Dear comrades,

The present that we have built is fine, but the future will be even better. The Party is completing the draft of the next five-year plan. The whole people took part in drafting it. This is a normal practice amongst us, an expression of our broad democracy in action, it is a necessity in order to draft a realistic and mobilizing plan. No accounting system, no planning organ, no means of programming, can replace the participation of the people.

As always, the new five-year plan is based on the correct Marxist-Leninist line and policy of the Party, on our revolutionary practice, on the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha; it is based on the creative work of our people, on the material possibilities, on the organizational and scientific capacities that have been created. The accomplishment of the plan guarantees the continuation of our progress on the socialist road.

The new five-year plan opens up new very much better prospects. It will carry the whole economic and social development of the country further ahead, in a harmonious way, will strengthen the foundations of our economic and political independence, and will raise the standard of living and culture of our working masses higher.

With our own forces and resources, a bigger program of investments, of capital construction in all sectors will be carried out. With the increase in oil production, the building of other hydro-power stations and the production of coal, the energy base of the country will be further extended in the coming five-year plan, the range of the raw materials will be extended through the opening of new mines and the enrichment of larger quantities of ore. Metallurgy as a whole, and especially the iron and steel industry, will be given powerful support in order to expand their perspectives. Industry will respond better to the development of the country through the extension of the engineering industry and improvement of the quality of its products, through the strengthening of the chemical industry, and through the construction and reconstruction of many pro-

jects of the light and food-stuffs industry. There will be an appreciable increase in mass consumer goods and their quality and range will be further improved.

In the next five-year plan, the development of agriculture in all the zones of the country, in order to increase the production of bread grain and animal products, to increase the yields of industrial crops, and further develop fruit-growing, occupies a very important place. The state and cooperatives will make many new investments in agriculture with the aim of raising the level of mechanization, increasing the area under irrigation, extending the arable land and improving the existing land, and introducing the new developments of science and advanced achievements on a more extensive scale.

There will be new developments in communications, in services to the people, and the construction of housing. The real income per head of population will be further increased. New jobs will be opened up to respond to the increase in new active forces of the population. Education, culture and our new science will be raised to higher levels and will cope with greater and more complex tasks.

The best preparation for the new five-

year plan is the accomplishment now of production plans in every sector of the economy, in each enterprise and cooperative. As the 12th Plenum of the CC of the Party pointed out, work at high tempo, in a revolutionary spirit, and with a strict regime of savings, is required everywhere today. This is dictated not only by the needs which the country has to take further steps forward, but also to ensure that we always be able to cope with any situation that might arise.

Never for a moment must we forget that we are building socialism in the conditions of the savage imperialist and revisionist encirclement, of the pressure it exerts upon our country and people. Therefore, the ideological struggle must be kept ablaze against any alien influence, against everything which runs counter to our proletarian morality. In the forefront of the work and the struggle to fulfil these tasks, we must, as always, have the communists and the organizations of the Party, that inspire and mobilize the working masses through their example. More highly qualified work of organization and management, far removed from bureaucratic and backward practices is required

from the cadres at all levels, and from all the state and economic organs.

Comrades,

In recent years the international situation has been characterized by a series of events which have made it grave and complicated. Despite the efforts which the peoples and the progressive forces in the world make to improve the situation, various factors operate contrary to these efforts, to the interests of mankind, which require the strengthening of peace and general security.

Typical of the present international situation is the total mobilization of the political, economic and ideological potentials of the two superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, to establish their complete domination over all countries of all continents. In order to achieve this objective, each of the superpowers is trying to gain superiority over and get ahead of the other in all the fields of their rivalry, especially in the military field.

The intensification of the arms race has led, naturally, to an escalation of the

confrontation of the superpowers, creating new tensions over general and particular issues.

A new moment in this confrontation is that bilateral tensions have shifted from peripheries to the zones where the borders of the military blocs meet. Medium-range missiles have been deployed on both sides of Europe, the events in Poland erupted, interference and pressures on the Balkans were stepped up, Lebanon has been put to the torch, and so on. Likewise, the waters of the Mediterranean continue to be troubled and the winds of war have not died down.

Of course, the international situation is not characterized by the activity of the imperialist and reactionary forces alone. It is characterized also by an obvious mounting of the resistance of the peoples and their progressive forces, by the efforts of many medium-sized and small states to defend their national independence and sovereignty. This resistance and struggle prevent the aggressive forces from accomplishing their plans as and when they desire.

Not only the arms race, but also the aggressive economic policy of the big capitalist powers exacerbates the interna-

tional situation today and charges it with new dangers. They have rushed like ravening wolves to rob the poor and economically weak countries of their assets. By means of loans and credits, the whole existing international finance and economic system, they have created a monstrous machine for the subjugation and enslavement of peoples. Debts have existed in the past, but the proportion they have assumed in the last 10-15 years constitutes a completely new phenomenon. In fact, they represent a new strategy for the extension of the hegemony and domination of big wealthy countries, not by means of arms as in the past, but by means of dollars and rubles.

Many states are in extreme difficulties or on the verge of bankruptcy. Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and other countries in Latin America, Poland and Yugoslavia in Europe, most of the Asiatic countries, and almost the whole of Africa, are examples of this.

To this complicated international situation we must add that state of affairs created by the efforts of the big capitalist powers to keep in their own hands the technological monopoly of new industries, and scientific research in the

priority fields of material development, in order to usurp the world markets and to dictate monopoly prices, not only for machinery and equipment now, but also for raw materials.

It must be said about Europe that it is becoming an arena of brutal interference by the two superpowers, which behave like real overlords in their respective spheres of influence and are tightening the screws on their allies more and more. Even such a question as that of defence is no longer under the sovereignty of the European countries themselves. The Americans and Soviets talk in Geneva and no one knows what they might decide. But everyone knows that everything that is decided will have to do with Germany or Poland, with Britain or Czechoslovakia, and so on. The allies of the United States and the Soviet Union must do whatever their leaderships decide, and no one calls them to account.

In this complicated situation it is our duty to raise our revolutionary vigilance to a high level, so that we are always on the alert and ready to cope with any eventuality, to strengthen our people's defence even further, and to make the foun-

dations of our socialist system even more solid.

Our country has been and is a resolute opponent of the aggressive and expansionist policy of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, an irreconcilable opponent of reactionary, bourgeois and revisionist ideologies. Our stand towards them has been and will remain clear-cut. Albania has not had and will not have relations of any sort with the United States of America and the Soviet Union. This stand of ours is not a consequence of any capriciousness or fear. It is a consequence of our complete incompatibility with the imperialist policy which they pursue, with the aggressive actions which they carry out every day in the four corners of the earth, with their savage plunder of the peoples, with the degeneration of their culture and way of life which they spread in all parts of the globe. We cannot reconcile ourselves to and have relations with those who are to blame for all the sufferings and evils of mankind, we cannot be friends and associates with those who threaten the world with nuclear extermination.

Our solidarity and sympathy are with the peoples, with those who fight for na-

tional freedom and independence, with those who demand social justice and true democracy, who oppose fascism and reaction, who are for progress and the universal emancipation of mankind. All those who suffer from foreign occupation and bondage, all those who are oppressed and exploited by the bourgeoisie and the capital, who are persecuted for holding revolutionary and liberation ideas, all those who are for peace and against war, have a reliable friend and supporter in our people. Proletarian internationalism and solidarity with the progressive forces will always characterize our foreign policy.

Our country has been and is for good relations with other states, based on equality, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit. Evidence of this can be seen in the diplomatic relations which we have established with the overwhelming majority of states in the world, the trade relations which are extending wider and wider, and our increasing cultural contacts with other countries. There are few countries, only two or three in Europe, with which Albania still does not have diplomatic relations. With certain of these states we have some problems to resolve. With Bri-

tain, for example, we have the question of the Albanian gold stolen by the German nazis, which fell in the hands of the British at the end of the war. This gold must be returned to Albania because it is the property of the Albanian people. Our government has made continual efforts to this end. Indeed, recently, it has opened discussions with Britain. The British government has claims connected with the so-called Corfu Channel incident, for which Albania has not had and does not accept any responsibility.

The return to Albania of the gold which has been held unjustly in the banks of London for more than 40 years, a thing which has harmed our economy, will open the way both to the settlement of problems in dispute between the two parties, in conformity with their interests and mutual respect, and to the normalization of relations between the two countries.

The improvement of relations with the countries around us, the establishment of good neighbourliness with them, and the strengthening of friendship with their peoples, has been a continuous concern of our Party and state. In our relations with them we have been guided by the good desire to develop fruitful coopera-

tion, by the conviction that normal exchanges in various fields such as those of trade, communication, culture, technique, science, etc., serve the friendship and rapprochement between nations, understanding between peoples, peace and their common security. The assurance which Albania has given the neighbouring peoples that no evil will come to them from its territory, testifies to our good intentions towards them.

Relations between Albania and Greece are now proceeding on a good course. Obvious progress has been made in the fields of trade and cultural exchanges, communications and tourism. The prospects are good, also, for collaboration in other fields of mutual interest.

Our policy towards Greece has always been a policy of good neighbourliness. We have been and are two friendly peoples. These two peoples, the most ancient in the Balkans, have been brought together and made friends by their common historical fates. They have fought shoulder to shoulder in defence of their freedom, independence, culture and identity. They have been united against Roman legions, Slavonic invasions, the Ottoman Empire, Italian and German fascists, etc.

Comrade Enver Hoxha's book «Two Friendly Peoples» speaks clearly about that spirit of friendship, affection and respect which the Albanian people have had and still have for the Greek people. At the same time, it also clearly reflects the consistently well-intentioned policy of socialist Albania towards neighbouring Greece, and the efforts which our country has made to overcome difficulties and normalize relations through joint understanding. Comrade Enver's book presents vivid evidence of that correct, principled, Marxist-Leninist policy which has been pursued in Albania towards the Greek minority and which has guaranteed it a life of dignity and complete equality with its Albanian brothers in all fields, which has given it the possibilities to use and cultivate its mother tongue, develop its traditions and preserve its national identity. Our Party and state will continue to pursue this policy consistently in the future, too.

The book «Two Friendly Peoples» also shows with what sincere interest our people have followed the developments in Greece, and that they have always rejoiced at the victories of Greece in its struggle for freedom, democracy and progress.

We feel real satisfaction whenever

we see that the Greek people and the Greek leadership also respond to us with the same friendly feelings and respect.

Our relations with Turkey have developed harmoniously, in a friendly atmosphere. Relations of good neighbourliness are developing in similarly appropriate and promising conditions with Italy, too. Obvious progress has been made with these two countries in the fields of trade, cultural and technical-scientific exchanges, and other fields in which collaboration of mutual interest could be established, are being studied. All these things have served to bring our peoples closer together and enhance the friendship and trust between them.

We would have liked to have normal friendly relations based on the principles of good neighbourliness with Yugoslavia, also. Regrettably this has not been achieved. And not through the fault of Albania. Despite our efforts, the Yugoslav policy has always been firmly anti-Albanian. Those who have ruled in Yugoslavia, both before and after the war, have swum against the current of the development of world processes and with ominous stubbornness have refused to reconcile themselves to the realities of history

which can never be reversed, to the existence of the Albanian nation and its independent state. In their attitudes towards Albania and the Albanians, they have always been guided by nationalist passions, failing to see that the time has changed, that the world develops not according to their will, but according to universal laws.

In practice this stand has been expressed in Belgrade's efforts to turn the independent Albanian state into a Yugoslav colonial province and to denationalize the Albanians of Yugoslavia. From this chauvinist ideology and from this narrow nationalist policy have emerged those endless cases of interference on the part of the Yugoslav leaders, those efforts to overthrow the people's power in Albania, and to place their men like Koçi Xoxe and Co. at the head of affairs, those acts of diversion, provocation and ever-lasting insinuations, which are made by Yugoslavia even to this day.

From this ideology and policy stems all that chauvinist violence which has erupted in Kosova and other parts inhabited by Albanians, all that savage national oppression of Albanians which is very close to racism, all that poisonous spleen which the Great-Serbs vent against

the history and culture of the Albanian nation, against Albanian traditions and customs, and the national identity and personality of the Albanians.

Time has proved that the chauvinist ideology is short-sighted, and that the nationalist policy is without perspective. We hope that in Yugoslavia, too, whose peoples have paid more dearly than anyone else for that chauvinist policy, the time will come when they take a more objective view of their stand towards Albania and the Albanians. The establishment of good neighbourly relations with socialist Albania and the guaranteeing of national and democratic rights of the Albanians in Yugoslavia will not only assist to strengthen peace and security in the Balkans, but will also contribute greatly to the strengthening and stability of Yugoslavia, the strengthening of understanding and coexistence between the nations which comprise that country.

If those in Belgrade begin to think differently about Albania and the Albanians, they will always find in us partners ready to collaborate and advance in all those directions which serve the freedom and independence of our countries, their sovereignty and territorial integrity, good

neighbourliness and friendship between our peoples.

We have not interfered and do not interfere in the internal affairs of Yugoslavia. We do not meddle with its political, economic and national and other problems, which are up to it to solve. But just as no one can prevent us from defending our Homeland and our socialist system when they abuse and attack us from Belgrade or anywhere else, neither can anyone stop us speaking about the fate of our Albanian brothers in Yugoslavia, and defending them when they are oppressed, persecuted, humiliated or insulted, simply because they are Albanians.

Our policy towards our neighbours, as towards all the other states, is a consistent, principled policy. Those who dream about and expect changes in our line, who interpret the normal political and diplomatic activity of our independent and sovereign state as the «opening up» of Albania, as a «tendency» to rapprochement with one side or the other, do so in vain. Albania neither «opens up» nor «closes up». It will proceed on the course which it has followed hitherto, a course which has secured its freedom and independence, the defence of socialism, and its good name in the world.

The foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is the policy which Comrade Enver Hoxha worked out and applied and which has been proclaimed and endorsed in the Congresses of the Party. This policy responds to the interests of our people and socialism. It has the complete support of the Albanian people, therefore our Party will apply it resolutely and consistently.

Dear brothers and sisters of Korça,

The great achievements and clear prospects of our country fill the hearts of our people with joy, give them inspiration and strength to cope with the difficulties and to carry forward the immortal work of the Party and our great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, the cause of the socialist construction of the country.

Let us work with even greater mobilization, enthusiasm and determination to make our Albania still stronger and our people even happier.

Long live the patriotic and industrious people of the district of Korça!

Long live our heroic Party!

Eternal glory to the brilliant work of Comrade Enver Hoxha!