

NEW

ALBANIA

SOCIETY

BULLETIN



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This is the first issue of the New Albania Society Bulletin. The function of the Bulletin is to inform of and report on the activities of the Society, and to carry articles on Albania of particular interest to British people.

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A young British worker has just returned home after attending the Sixth Congress of the Albanian Youth Union. She writes:-

" Between 1939 and 1941 the youth of Albania were the first to join the battle for the liberation of the country. Since that period, they have never ceased to stand in the forefront of the struggle to accomplish the gigantic tasks, material and ideological, involved in the construction of socialism.

Their massive achievements can be seen throughout Albania; railways and highways; tunnels and bridges; textile combines and sugar refineries; vast agricultural projects involved in the terracing and reforestation of the mountain slopes, and the reclaiming of swamp land; dams and hydro-electric power stations; houses and the cultural palaces all testify not only to the vitality and the energy of the Albanian youth, but more importantly, to their discipline, their dedication, their integrity in the accomplishment of these awe-inspiring successes as voluntary contributions to their country. Through the medium of the 'Volunteers' project after project is tackled and completed months ahead of schedule, by young people - the age group from 16 to 30, dedicating one or two months a year of their time.

The proceedings of the 6th Congress of their organisation - the Albanian Labour Youth Union - have just taken place in Durrës. They provided a further manifestation of their material and economic contributions through the reports submitted by the grass roots organisations; but more than this,

they were a vivid and exciting testament to the vanguard role played by the youth of Albania as fighters in the struggle to create the 'new man' - socialist man.

1600 elected representatives of the grass roots organisations throughout the country, gathered together with the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania to take stock of the past four years, and project the problems to be tackled in the next four years. Before them worker after worker students, children, walked confidently to the microphone to express the battles they had fought and won, the battles they were still fighting, the criticisms launched against self and others, including the leadership of the country, in the struggle against all aspects of the remnants of bureaucracy, against the separation of the leadership from the mass, for the further emancipation of women, for the constant, active, intellectual and physical involvement of the masses of youth in the identity and destiny of the country. The majority of the delegates who spoke were women; a tractor driver, a worker from a collective farm, a student, a young teacher; many from remote and backward regions who told of constant struggle, increasingly successful against religion and the oppression of women. They, in particular, received the deafening applause of the congress, the concentrated attention of the leadership of the party, who could be seen throughout noting the criticisms and the successes with utmost seriousness.

The congress of the Albanian Labour Youth Union was a statement - a statement which is being made by all people of Albania, through their respective organisations and

in their respective ways. It was an expression of the results of the creative talents of the whole people, combining within each individual the physical and the mental powers to the full to build that country."

ALBANIAN MEETING

A meeting and slideshow on Albania was recently held at Swansea University. The size and liveliness of the audience showed the growing interest in Albania.

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WILL BRITAIN RECOGNISE ALBANIA NOW ?

The Financial Times of October 5th carried an article cheekily entitled "Albania moves to establish diplomatic ties with Britain". In fact, Albania has always been keen to establish friendly relations with Britain. The only obstacle has been the hostility of the British Governments towards Albania ever since the Albanian Communist Party began to successfully lead the struggle against the Italian and German fascists during the Second World War. After repeated and unsuccessful efforts at interference the British finally engineered the "Corfu Incident" when two of their destroyers patrolling Albanian waters were blown up by mines. The British assumed an attitude of "outrage" and have been outraged ever since. Only now is the British Government prepared to accept Albania as a fact. The people of the two countries will welcome the establishment of friendly relations.

A young British worker spent his summer holiday in Albania. He writes:

"While great strides are being made in industry and technology, the Albanians are not neglecting their archaeological history, realising that a study and understanding of the past can guide them today. In fact this mixture of the old and the new is a characteristic that one notices when travelling through Albania, both in the countryside and in the towns.

For example, in the centre of Durrës, Albania's largest seaport, a splendid amphitheatre has recently been discovered. It was built by the Illyrians in the Second Century A.D. and although only a small part has been unearthed so far it can well be compared with those built by the Romans.

Perhaps the most beautiful town in Albania is the museum city of Gjirokastra, the "City of a Thousand Stairs". Built on the slopes of the hillsides at the foot of the mountains it is commanded by a magnificent fortress, perched on a rocky peak high above the town. The fortress dates from the middle ages and today contains a museum of arms from Albania's past struggles for freedom and independence.

It is only since liberation that research into Albanian history has been conducted on any scale. In former times her culture and even language were suppressed by foreign invaders. Today however as a new Albania is being forged, ancient Albania is being rediscovered."

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INDUSTRIAL ADVANCES IN ALBANIA

Albania is a country rich in minerals, one reason why foreign powers have always coveted it. Now in control of their country, the Albanians plan to make full use of their mineral resources. At present work has begun on the Metallurgical Plant in Elbasan, a major industrial project of the five year plan.

Using ferro-nickel ore mined at Prenjas, coke from their coal mines, and limestone from Metaj mountain the furnaces are capable of smelting 800 million tons of minerals a year. The steel prepared by the Bessemer converter is then sent onto the various factories where it is turned into sheets and tubes, etc.

A machine-tool making plant will use the most up-to-date metal milling and cutting machines and lathes to turn out details and spare parts for the steel works.

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AGRICULTURE

Autumn in Albania is the time to begin sowing the wheat, firstly in the mountains and later in the lowlands. The area sown with wheat is continually being extended; this year the area is twice as large as that in 1960. The idea is to become self-sufficient in bread grains.

The following periodicals and books are available
from the :- BELLMAN BOOKSHOP,
155, FORTRESS RD,
TUFNELL PARK, N.W.5.

- NEW ALBANIA : illustrated magazine on building of
socialism in Albania. Bimonthly.
Price:- 10p
- ALBANIA TODAY : political journal which deals with the
tasks in Albania and the International
situation. Bimonthly. Price:- 25p
- HISTORY OF THE ALBANIAN PARTY OF LABOUR : covering the
period from 1929 to the present and dealing
with the struggle to found the Party, to
liberate the country, rebuild the country
and promote socialism, defeat revisionism
and further revolutionize the Party.
Tirana 1971. 691pp. Hard cover. £1
- STUDY MARXIST-LENINIST THEORY linking it closely with
Revolutionary Practice.
Tirana 1971. 59pp. Paper. 5p
- AN HISTORIC VICTORY of Marxism-Leninism over Revisionism.
An analysis of the 1960 Moscow Conference
of communist parties and its aftermath.
Tirana 1971. 59pp. Paper. 5p
- CONGRESS OF THE CAPITALIST RESTORATION and Social Imperialism.
An analysis of the 24th congress of the
Revisionist Party of the Soviet Union, 1971.
Tirana 1971. 33pp. Paper. 5p

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL DAY Friday, 24th November.

7:30pm. at Central Collegiate Theatre,
15, Gordon St, W.C.1.
(off Euston Square)

SPEAKER just returned from Albanian Youth Conference.
FILM about childrens participation in the War of
Liberation.
Chairman Ted Roycraft, delegate to Albanian Trade
Union Congress.

Plus:-

1. "CHILDREN IN ALBANIA"

at 7:30pm. January 5th.

2. "FILM"

About the part played by children in the War of Liberation.

at 7:30pm. February 2cd.

3. "ALBANIAN CULTURE"

at 7:30pm. March 2cd.

These Friday meetings will be held at
Bellman Bookshop,
155 Fortess Rd,
London, N.W.5. Refreshments will be served.

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RADIO TIRANA

Broadcasts can be heard in English and last 1/2 hour
at these times (GMT) and on these wave lengths :-

11:00	on	25	and	31	metre	bands	
16:30	"	31	"	42	"	"	
18:30	"	31	"	42	"	"	
20:30	"	31	"	42	"	"	(215 medium wave)
22:00	"	31	"	42	"	"	
24:00	"	31	"	42	"	"	

I WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
THE NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY.

NAME
ADDRESS
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Please complete the above application and return to:-
The secretary, New Albania Society, Bellman Bookshop,
155, Fortess Rd,
LONDON, N.W.5.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: 50p.
Entitles you to 6 issues of
NEW ALBANIA bi-monthly magazine

All monies and Postal Orders/Cheque to
"The New Albania Society" (crossed)

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