

Albania: After 25 Years of Liberation

A W.R. Roundup

This year, the people of Albania are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their liberation and the victory of their people's revolution. 1969 is also being honored by the Albanians as the 8th anniversary of the 4th Congress of the Albanian Party of Labor (PLA), the historic congress that prepared the party and the nation for a general ideological offensive against modern revisionism.

Their example and their record of achievements over this 25-year span afford an inspiration to peoples of the world, especially those in colonial and semi-colonial countries. These are an eloquent refutation of the capitulators and defeatists who, like Castro, maintain that a small underdeveloped country must rely upon either the Soviet revisionists or the U.S. imperialists in order to exist. With an area of only 10,629 square miles compared with Cuba's 44,206, a population less than one-fourth as large and natural resources much less bountiful, Albania has refused to be intimidated by either the Soviet revisionists or the U.S. imperialists, their threats or their embargoes, but "with a gun in one hand and a pick in the other," as they put it, have unswervingly adhered to their Marxist-Leninist ideology as their most precious asset.

The 4th Congress of the PLA in 1961 was the first congress held by a Marxist-Leninist party after the international conference of the communist and workers parties in Moscow at which the Khrushchevian revisionists, following their earlier attacks at the Bucharest meeting, sought to compel the Albanian party to renounce its revolutionary Marxist-Leninist line. Refusing to knuckle under in the face of Khrushchev's economic, political and even military threats, the Congress firmly declared its determination to march forward on the road to socialism, affirmed its confidence in the central committee headed by Enver Hoxha and set about preparing the people for the difficulties ahead. Thus, the 4th Congress marks a red letter day not only in the history of Albania but also for the whole international movement in the struggle against revisionism.

In his report to the 4th Congress, Enver Hoxha warned against the phony, pro-imperialist ideas being offered by the Khrushchevites in the name of "creative Marxism," declaring:

The presentday revisionists deny the main contradictions of our times, behind which are standing definite classes and class forces. As a result, speculating via allegedly 'Marxist' phrases, the revisionists spread dangerous illusions on many important questions of our

epoch. Thus, for instance, when they speak of our epoch, they present it as an epoch of general tranquillity and harmony 'where the capitalist social system in its classical form belongs to the past,' where one can speak of a 'general integration' of the whole world, indeed of the capitalists themselves, in socialism where such problems as that of the struggle between the proletariat and bourgeoisie, between socialism and capitalism, between the forces of peace and those of war have completely disappeared. And if you think according to the revisionist logic, this is but natural because in their opinion, as a result of the correlation of forces in the international arena, capitalism and imperialism have undergone radical changes, being neither exploiters nor aggressive, nor a source of wars and aggression.

Infuriated by the refusal of the Albanians to strike their colors, the Khrushchevian revisionists organized a brutal economic, political and military blockade against socialist Albania, accompanying the blockade with hostile actions ranging from harassment to overt sabotage. Khrushchev openly boasted that it would be only a short while before Albania would be forced to bend her knees.

Many people ask now it was possible for such a comparatively young and small party to muster such strength in this critical period and yet steadfastly continue to lead the Albanian people on the road to socialism in spite of the joint blockades maintained by the Soviet revisionists and U.S. imperialists and in spite of the fact that its domestic economy was so weak and relatively undeveloped. In answer to this question, Enver Hoxha said at the 5th Congress of the PLA, "The strength and firmness of our Party reside in the strength and invincibility of Marxism-Leninism which it defends, in the revolutionary cause for which it is fighting, in the iron unity of its ranks which it has tempered in fierce class battles; it resides in its unbreakable ties with the people, ties which it has forged by its correct line; it resides in the great international proletarian solidarity."

From an agricultural-industrial country, Albania is now striving to transform itself into an industrial-agricultural country. Toward this end, it has scored a succession of record-breaking achievements such that, according to the News Bulletin of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency (ATA) of March 4, 1969, "Now in Albania the total industrial production of the year 1938 is realized within a week." During its third 5-year period 1961-65, Albania achieved a total industrial output that was larger than the combined total for both its first and sec-

OUR MOUNTAINS, TOO, ARE CHANGING THEIR ASPECT

"The country place is embellished by man and the mountains will be transformed by man's hand and mind".

ENVER HOXHA



The soldiers and officers defend their homeland and together they work to transform mountains into productive land.

Photo by Rr. Berisha

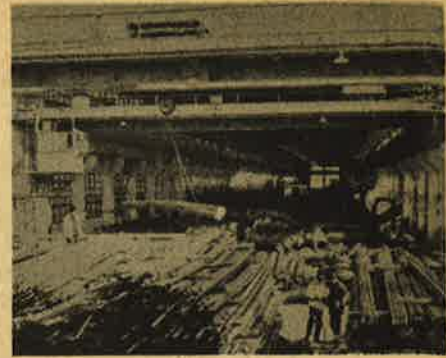


The fruit of the work of our soldiers. A view of the Biza (Tirana area) terraces. Photo by Rr. Berisha

Work is going on for the completion of the second stage of construction at the "Mao Tse-tung" textile combine in Berat.



At the Elbasan ferrous metallurgy plant work is going on with a revolutionary enthusiasm for its completion.



ond 5-year periods. Impressive as this result was, it has already been topped during the first three years (1966-68) of the current 5-year period which have shown an average annual rate of increase in industrial output double that of the previous 5-year period (1961-65). This is Albania's answer to the prophets of doom, the new Tsars in the Kremlin and their lackeys.

Here are some of the figures on major branches of industry indicating the gains made since 1960, notwithstanding the pressures exerted by the Soviet revisionists in withdrawing credits, tearing up agreements and imposing a blockade. Comparing the volume of industrial output in 1968 with 1960, the News Bulletin of the ATA (March 4) reports: oil, up 84%; coal 100%; chromium 34%; copper 1,260%; electric power 240%; chemicals 1,500%; machinery 3,600%; building materials 123%; light industry 94%; and food industry 61%.

In fulfilling their 1968 goal for total industrial production by 102.7%, the Albanian people registered a 19% gain over 1967. Since capitalist countries consider a 5% gain creditable, the achievement of the Albanian people in the face of all their difficulties is particularly impressive.

To step up its pace of industrialization, Albania has concentrated on the development of its power resources. A new thermal station of 100,000 kw., the Fieri, will be fully commissioned this year and the Mao Tse-tung hydroelectric station of 250,000 kw. in the Drini Valley will be in operation next year. Its largest power project, with a capacity of 400,000 kw., now under plan, will be the Fierza hydroelectric station, also in the Drini Valley, which is one of the 30 important projects to be built in Albania with the help of the People's Republic of China in accordance with an agreement recently made.

Albania has set itself the task of electrifying all of its villages by 1971. That she has every intention of fulfilling this target date is demonstrated by the fact that already Albania is producing in only five days as much electricity as she did in the whole year of 1938

and in nearly 3½ months of 1960.

As a result of the expansion of her power capacity and overall industrial output, Albania has recently begun to step up her output of chromium. After making geological surveys, five new mines have been opened up, whereas at the time of liberation only one existed. Already Albania holds sixth place in the world's extraction of chromium ore, which is an important item of export for Albania since it is sold to ten different countries. In the coming years, some of the ore will be processed locally as plans call for the construction of an iron-chromium plant and, for the concentration of the lower grade ores, a large factory, to both of which the People's Republic of China has promised internationalist aid.

In agriculture Albania also reported some significant gains. In 1968, 48,328 acres of new land were reclaimed and the area sown to field crops was 7½% larger than in 1967. Moreover, it afforested 22,848 acres of land, thereby achieving a 3-year total of 49,400 acres planted to new forest saplings, which is almost equal to the total for the whole of the third 5-year period and is greater than the combined total for the first and second 5-year periods. As a result of better organization and improved scientific techniques, agricultural production has become more stable, less dependent on climatic conditions, and thus, despite unfavorable weather, the output of bread grains in 1968 was 11% higher than in 1967, according to the Jan. 29th report of ATA.

For over 2,000 years Albania was overrun by foreign invaders and, though its craggy mountains provided the people with some protection against their enemies, the country's resources were never credited in foreign atlases and chronicles as very promising either for agriculture or for industry. Yet, during their 25 years of liberation, the people of Albania have demonstrated what miracles can be wrought when they work together to build socialism, firmly united in their adherence to a Marxist-Leninist ideology and courageously led by a resolute vanguard of the working class, the Labor Party of Albania.