They are an entire pleiad of outstanding representatives of Albanian progressive thought and action, people with capacities for a perfect military, political, propaganda, ideological and diplomatic organization. When we delve into their thoughts, actions and writings, we see that huge creative potential for progress we have inherited from this brilliant pleiad of great men of the Albanian people.

These great men were inspired, above all, by the aspirations of our people for liberation, for national independence, for democracy, they were inspired by the burning desire to give our ancient culture its due prominence, to disseminate it in all the countries where Albanians lived, to develop and enrich this culture, to open schools to educate their compatriots. These great scholars, philosophers, thinkers and men of action, that is, revolutionary elements of our country, were enlightened men inspired by the classical bourgeois-democratic revolution of France, which they had studied, as their writings show clearly. The philosophers and thinkers who prepared the bourgeois revolution such as Diderot, D'Alembert, Voltaire, Rousseau and others were well known to these scholars and men of action of the Albanian people. The actions and the consequences of the actions of that revolution, its various stages from the peasant uprisings against feudalism to

1 These notes are taken from the political diary of Comrade Enver Hoxha and written on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Albanian League of Prizren, the political and military union created in Prizren in June 1878 by the delegates coming from all the Albanian regions who fought for self-government, national unity and in defence of the territorial integrity of Albania which was threatened by the chauvinist aims of the neighbouring states.
the culmination of the French bourgeois-democratic revolution, till Robespierre and Saint-Just were sent to the guillotine, after which the bourgeois counter-revolution began, were also well known to them.

Although they drew inspiration from that revolution and from the other revolutions which took place later, in 1848 all over Europe, and from their consequences in the international arena, especially among the Great Powers and among the peoples who suffered the greatest national, economic and political oppression from these bourgeois, capitalist and imperialist Great Powers, the great thinkers of the Albanian people were more advanced. This can be explained by the fact that time, the dialectical materialist development of history, enabled them to view the situation of the Albanian nation, their Homeland and the political activity of the Great Powers from a stand-point different from that of the French revolutionaries of the bourgeois-democratic revolution or the other revolutions of the year 1848 and later, which took place in many states of Europe.

Hence, our scholars examined and analysed with the greatest care the political, economic and diplomatic situation of the Sublime Porte, the wars it waged and were waged against it, the development of wars, and the diplomatic manoeuvres which were made to the detriment of the Albanian people.

The logical conclusion of the wars waged one after the other by the European Great Powers, the Tzarist Empire, the Austro-Hungarian and Prussian empires and the Sublime Porte in various coalitions, was the partitioning of those states, those small nations which formed their empires, one of which was the Albanian nation. In the treaties of the European imperialists Albania was considered a token to be bartered to satisfy the greed of one or other of the Great Powers or their satellites. The Sublime Porte paid the penalty for its defeat by sacrificing Albania.

The Eastern question was settled to the detriment of the Sublime Porte and, especially, at the expense of the Albanian nation, which had no defence except self-defence. History had charged it with the task of defending itself against the Great Powers and the satellites of these Great Powers, the neighbouring Serbian, Montenegrin and Greek chauvinists.

Hence, Albania, the Albanian people, the whole Albanian nation, waged a struggle on two fronts, on the front against the imperialists and the front against their satellites, the immediate neighbours of Albania who wanted to partition it. The majesty of the unity of the Albanian nation, formed in the course of centuries of battles, with all the characteristics of a cultured nation, a nation with its own cultivated language, a nation which had its own territory and had shed
its blood in order to live free, to be independent and unified, is apparent in its ability to cope with such a difficult and complicated situation. The Albanian nation was an advanced nation, which no other nation of the many that have invaded and partitioned its territories has been able to wipe out, to extinguish, to force into submission or to deprive of its culture. Many other peoples have been crushed by such violence, but not the Albanians. The invasion and partitioning of the country by different predatory powers never subdued the Albanian people. This shows the determination, the courage, the intelligence, the correct revolutionary concept of this people who stood unwavering and withstood every storm, as a highlander, said to Abdyl Frashëri at the Albanian League of Prizren: «Just as Gjalica cannot be pushed over with a stick, Albania does not yield in face of storms.» The ability and magnificence of our people and their democratic, revolutionary and illuminating leadership was demonstrated on this occasion, too. The Albanian illuminators who led the Albanian League of Prizren, that legendary epic, during the whole Eastern crisis, against all the intrigues hatched up by the enemies of our people, displayed great ability in their thinking and organization, displayed great determination in struggle, because the struggle they conceived was fierce and many-sided, with weapons, with propaganda, with knowledge, with the defence of our culture, with the opening of schools and convincing the Albanians that the unity of their territories and of the entire nation could be won only through arms.

«You have done your work, now our work begins,» Abdyl Frashëri told the participants in the Congress of Berlin. Could any thought be more revolutionary, any action more militant or any determination greater than this? Such were those men whom we are now placing on the pedestal, the history of whom, this great history of our people which the former regimes, the ignorant despot Ahmet Zog and the occupiers, not only their military men but also their ideologists and historians, have distorted. In order to partition Albania more easily the imperialist Great Powers and their friends and satellites, the neigh-

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1 One of the most distinguished ideologists of the Albanian National Renaissance (1839-1892). He was the outstanding leader, ideologist, organizer, diplomat and activist of the Albanian League of Prizren.

2 Mountain in Northeastern Albania.

3 It was convened in June 1878, with the participation of the six Great Powers of the time, for the revision of the St. Stephan peace treaty and the settlement of the situation in the Balkans. It trampled underfoot the principle of the peoples' self-determination and complied with the ambitions of the Great Powers by preserving the rotten Ottoman rule on part of the Balkans.

In this Congress the Great Powers totally negated the existence of the Albanian question, considering Albania merely a «geographical expression» and a token of barter.
bouring chauvinist monarchists, considered Albania a geographical notion, claimed they could not fight and defend people who lived in isolated cottages and in the remote mountains, and regarded the Albanian Moslems as Turks, the Christian Albanians as Greeks and the unity of the nation as reduced to tribal links.

However, the Albanian people and their leadership showed them that the links of the Albanian chain were not broken and scattered, but were bound to one another like steel. These links, their struggle, policy, diplomacy, school and culture were all developing despite enemies who sought to smash this steel chain to pieces.

The more deeply we delve into the writings of our ancestors, written in such difficult conditions as those of the Ottoman Empire and the intrigues of the foreign powers; the more their glory is enhanced, our gratitude to them is increased, and the ancient patriotism surges in our veins. It is for this reason that our long-suffering people have this capacity to think clearly, have this revolutionary impulse and courage to forge ahead, to defeat every enemy, to disperse the fog, to eliminate the darkness and emerge into light.

The entire history of the Albanian people is a brilliant never-ending epic, but the Party, which is guided by Marxism-Leninism and has a proper understanding of the development of history from the stand-point of dialectical materialism, has become the heir to all this mighty activity which it publicizes, so that it becomes the nutrient of the broad masses of the people, who must be imbued with ardent patriotism and understand these situations, because this activity is that flint rock from which this fortress called the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania has been built, the fortress which the people have built through unrelenting struggle which continues to this day, a struggle with arms, with the pen, economic struggle, political struggle and diplomatic struggle. This mighty, never-ending progressive and revolutionary activity of popular thinking flows in our veins and those of the coming generations.

Our illuminators were men of the people, they were linked with the people, felt their pulse and the beating of their hearts, knew where their virtues and their defects lay, fought to enhance and multiply their virtues and strove with all their might to eliminate their defects.

This is the heritage of the nation which is soundly imbued with the Marxist-Leninist theory which guides our Party. As a consequence we see these marvellous results which socialist Albania has achieved under the leadership of the Party. Today we see our country flourishing, we see the new man with learning and education, honest, patriotic, see him learning and learning with great passion in order to put his knowledge at the service of the people to make our Republic
ever stronger and more prosperous. We see this socialist Albania which emerged from the flames of the war, from the barrel of the partisan rifle, and is the outcome of the heroic struggles of our forefathers. We see that through this heroic struggle it can cope with the many storms of our time, the savage storms, the terrible hurricanes of the American imperialists, the Soviet social-imperialists, world capitalism and our chauvinist neighbours.

When we compare the thoughts, the decisions, the progressive actions of the men of our Renaissance, the outstanding leaders of the Albanian League of Prizren, of the uprisings of 1848, we see that the Khrushchevite bandits and the Chinese revisionists, such as Zhou Enlai and company, are 150 years behind the revolutionary thinking of that great pleiad of the Albanian League of Prizren. These revisionists of every hue are linked with imperialists more ferocious than the former ones and together with them are striving to keep the peoples in thrall, in slavery. They are trying to denigrate socialist Albania which radiates light, which shows the peoples of the world that even a small people can live free and sovereign although surrounded by wolves, and can withstand those wolves, and can and should be taken as an example and be defended by the progressive peoples of the entire world.

Today we see that not only the imperialists but also the Soviet revisionists, the new tzars, are keeping peoples in bondage. Apart from the peoples of the Soviet Union, which they have turned into a prison of the nations, the Soviet revisionists have enslaved the peoples of Eastern Europe and are seeking to extend their empire still further.

We see American imperialism which keeps the peoples who demand freedom under its heel by means of its capital, its weapons, and the threat of atomic bombs.

Likewise, we see revisionist China today proceeding on the course of an imperialist power, an imperialist power with an allegedly socialist mask, which is trying to damage the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

Finally, we see the Great-Serb Titoites, the Macedonian chauvinists and others who oppress our brothers of Kosova, of Macedonia and Montenegro, and accuse us of being chauvinists and irredentists. They claim they have the right to oppress our compatriots, while we have no right to speak the truth and write our history as it really was. But they are unable to intimidate us, and no reactionary force in the world will ever intimidate us.

The Party must disseminate this great heritage of the people with rare mastery, perfect organization and clarity of thought among the people, make these things the flesh and blood of the people, and ensure that
the Albanian communists absorb and master these great lessons from our people in the light of our Marxist-Leninist ideology, because only this ideology clarifies and strengthens the progressive, militant and patriotic aspects of these great actions of our people.

In other countries there are immature communists who do not understand this great problem of the progressive and revolutionary past of our people. When a certain communist, a party leader from another country visited Kruja and saw the magnificent monument to Skanderbeg he said: «After all he was a prince, a king of Albania and communists should not praise kings and the monarchy in this way.» Obviously, he was not a mature communist, or was not at all a good communist but only had that mask. Of course, we communists are against the monarchy and against kings. Yes, Skanderbeg was a prince and a king, but a prince and a king of the people, a liberator prince, a prince linked closely with his people like flesh to bone and his history was epoch-making, because he fought against the most powerful empire of that time which threatened the whole of Europe. Together with the Albanian people, he resisted the barbarous attacks of the Ottomans and defeated them for 22 years on end. How could the Albanian communists fail to give prominence to this man who emerged from the people, who fought for the people, who became an example of struggle for freedom, an example of heroism and determination for all the peoples of the world? The same can be said of the revolutionary democrats of our people of every epoch, who have fought for this land, for this freedom, for this democracy, for this culture, for this alphabet, who have been burned to death by the enemies and chauvinists, who have been shot, or have languished and died in prisons.

This is the history of the people, that is why it cannot be wiped out or distorted, on the contrary, it must be publicized properly and become a great inspiration for our people generation after generation. Let this great, profound scientific campaign of the 100th anniversary of the Albanian League of Prizren, also, serve this aim. This should be done with all the periods of the glorious history of our people. The heroic National Liberation War led by the Party, which finally realized the dreams of all generations of our people, of all fighters, thinkers and swordsmen of the Albanian people, should be raised to the pedestal in this way every day.

Thanks to the Party, Albania has now realized the dream of our forefathers. The duty devolves on us to further temper and strengthen our socialist Albania, to make it more beautiful, to make the life of the people happier, more joyful, to advance towards progress, science, prosperity, to carry the revolution ever further forward, to extend and develop it and become its banner bearers. We are not conceited, but
On the men of the Renaissance...

are marching on the true course of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and that enables us to say that we are participants in the great world revolution. We will never betray this revolution, because he who betrays this revolution and Marxism-Leninism has betrayed his own people, his homeland. For us, Albanian communists, the three things dearest and most valuable in life are the Homeland, the people and Marxism-Leninism.

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