### Increase Rates of Industrial Production

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average annual growth for the 1965-1975 period</th>
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<td>People's Socialist Republic of Albania</td>
<td>10.8</td>
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<td>German Democratic Republic</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>The Soviet Union</td>
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<td>Federal Republic of Germany</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>France</td>
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Aspects of the socialist construction in the PSR of Albania
Aspects of the socialist construction in the PSR of Albania and the crisis of capitalism

(A summary of articles)
Glory to the Party of Labour of Albania.
This booklet comprises several articles published in the press organs of our country. They treat themes which regard the questions of the revolution and the socialist construction in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania as well as the present crisis which has the capitalist revisionist world in its grip today.

The articles included in this booklet represent an effort at satisfying the demands of a large number of working people in different countries of the world, who, through their letters, have an interest in questions connected with the line and policy pursued by the Party of Labour of Albania in the revolution and the socialist construction of our country, as well as with different aspects of the work and life in socialist Albania, and so on.
RAPID AND STABLE RATES OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Policy of the PLA for the development of the economy has always had the aim of ensuring what is needed for extended socialist reproduction, of strengthening the independence of the country in all directions, of ceaselessly strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat and the defence capacity of the Homeland, of fulfilling the needs of the people ever better and raising their well-being, relying firmly on the forces and resources of the country.

1.

The economy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania has always been characterized by high and stable rates of development, by its vigour and wide-ranging activity in the discovery and rational use of the economic resources of the country. During the whole period of socialist construction (taking 1950 as the basic
year) the social product and the national income have increased at an average annual rate of 8-10 per cent. During this period, industrial production has increased at an average rate of 15 per cent and agricultural production at a rate of 5.9 per cent. Even after 1960, when the Khrushchevite revisionists organized the savage blockade against Socialist Albania, the economic and social development of the country on the road of socialism continued to advance at rapid rates. In 1975 as against 1960, the national income increased almost threefold, industrial production increased 3.9 times, agricultural production 2.3 times, the volume of fundamental investments 2.9 times, retail goods turnover 2.3 times, the number of higher cadres 6.4 times, etc.

On the basis of the directives of the 7th Congress of the PLA, in the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980) further vigorous development of the productive forces will be achieved and all branches and sectors of the people's economy will continue to develop at high rates, basing themselves more firmly on the internal factors of the development of production, on the material and financial resources of the country, as well as by achieving a better harmonization of the various aspects of the process of extended socialist reproduction. In this way, it will be possible to achieve higher rates of the increase of social production and national income during the 6th five-year plan than those of the fifth five-year plan (1971-1975).

The fact that the rate of increase of material production has been and is about 3 times higher than the rate of increase of the population, even at a time when the average rate of increase of the population in Albania is among the highest in Europe and the world, is a great success for the line of the PLA and a result of the selfless work of the broad masses of working people for the implementation of this line. A testimony to this success is the fact that the volume of production and accumulation achieved in each five-year plan has been much greater than that of the previous five-year plan. Thus, in the 6th five-year plan, the total value of industrial production will be greater than the value produced during the first four five-year plans taken together (from 1951 to 1970), agricultural production will be almost equal to the production achieved in the first, second and third five-year plans taken together, while the volume of fundamental investments is expected to be almost equal to the total volume of investments during the 20-year period from 1951 to 1970. From this it is clear that not only has the rate of development been maintained at a high percentage, but that every one per cent of increase corresponds to a very great and ever increasing volume of production and this has constituted the sound material-technical basis for setting out to achieve higher rates in each successive five-year plan.

It is clear that this high rate of development is founded first of all, on the superiority and vitality of the socialist economic-social order, which are determined by the existence and constant strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, by the existence and strengthening of the socialist social property, by the continuous perfection of the entire system of relations set up on the foundations of this property in a revolutionary way. These are objective factors, which, in their entirety, have created the objective conditions for the whole people's economy to function as a single organism on the basis of the unified state plan. But the historical experience of the socialist construction, the socialist mode of production in general, cannot display their superiority and vitality on their own, without the great, active role of the subjective factor.

The achievement and maintenance of high and stable rates of development of the economy have not been easy
and peaceful, without difficulties and obstacles, without toil and sacrifice, because, as comrade Enver Hoxha has stressed, the path followed by our people and the Party in building socialism has been no smooth, rose-strewn boulevard. It has been an arduous but glorious road which has demanded all the talents, all the courage and heroism, all the strength and determination of the people and the Party of Labour. The entire process of the great and rapid development of production on the road of socialism, and together with this, the revolutionary education of the working people, has always taken place through the recognition and solution of numerous contradictions of the most varied character. We have had and still have to face up to and overcome many difficulties in connection with the development of the productive forces, the fulfillment of the growing needs of the people and the economy, the level of ability and experience in the organization and management of the economy, the intensity of the class struggle for the revolutionary education of the working people in struggle against the «blemishes» from the old society, and especially the severity of the bitter fight against the hostile activity of sabotage and plots of internal and external enemies, and the savage imperialist-revisionist blockade organized against the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania.

But it is precisely against this background, that the grandeur of the ceaseless economic and social progress of our country, the power of the correct line of the Party and the revolutionary activity of the working class and the other working masses for the construction of socialist society and the defence of the victories achieved, stands out more boldly, and this becomes even clearer if we bear in mind what is happening in the capitalist-revisionist world today. While the economy of Albania is continuing its dynamic development at high and stable rates, the economy of the capitalist and revisionist countries is characterized by a deep-going crisis, lack of stability, further reduction of the already low rates of development, the mass phenomenon of the reduction of the volume of production in the main branches of the economy and the economy as a whole, which worsens the living conditions of the working class and the other working masses in those countries.

2.

The policy of the PLA for the development of the economy at high and stable rates has always had the aim of fulfilling a number of main objective requirements: to ensure what is needed for extended socialist reproduction, to strengthen the independence of the country in all directions, to ceaselessly strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat and the defence capacity of the Homeland, to fulfill the needs of the people even better and raise their well-being, relying firmly on the forces and resources of the country. All these objectives constitute a single entity and are inseparable from one another.

On this Marxist-Leninist course, in the interests of the broad working masses and the construction of socialism, step by step, a powerful base for the production of the means of production has been created, especially in the branches of energy, mineral raw materials, building materials, means of production for agriculture, the engineering industry, etc. It is an extraordinarily great success for Albania that today the home economy produces all the bread grain required, and over 4/5 of the mass consumption goods the people need. But the 7th Congress of the PLA set new tasks in order to strengthen the inde-
pendence of the country even more. Thus the acceleration of the rates of development of production of means of production, ensuring our bread grain requirements from home production every year, meeting 90 per cent of the needs of the country for spare parts from the local industry, increasing exports at higher rates than imports, covering the fund of accumulation to a greater extent than up till now from the national income produced within the country, the fulfillment of more than 90 per cent of the requirements of the population for mass consumption goods, etc., are very important tasks which will further increase the self-sufficiency of the economy.

The aim of all the political, economic and social development of the PSRA on the road of socialism has always been to serve the interests of the people, to make the lives of the people richer in content, more prosperous and happier. —Concern for the constant improvement of the living conditions and cultural level of the whole people has been and remains at the centre of attention of all the activity of the Party», said comrade Enver Hoxha at the 7th Congress of the PLA. Material production and every other social activity in Albania, are completely subordinate to this aim, which stems from the fundamental economic law of socialism.

On the basis of the continuous increase in social production, consumption by the people has been steadily increased and its structure improved. In our country the average rate of increase of the fund of consumption has been double that of the natural growth of the population. The resources of labour are being activated better and better, so that the average family now has 2-3 members at work. The Party has always worked for the best possible harmonization of the ways to increase the well-being, on the basis of maintaining correct proportions between the increase of production and the productivity of the social labour and the real incomes of the working people, the narrowing of differences between mental and physical work, and between town and countryside, and within them.

The 7th Congress of the PLA defined new tasks for the further improvement and raising of the well-being of the people. The 8th five-year plan envisages that the real income per head of the population will increase 11-14 per cent, giving greater priority to its increase in the countryside. Retail goods turnover will increase by 22-23 per cent, the number of people employed by the state and in the cooperatives will increase by 225 thousand people, 65 thousand new houses and flats will be built in town and countryside, 18 thousand students will graduate from the higher schools and 91 thousand others from the secondary schools, etc. Important measures are envisaged in improving the services for the people, aiming at a qualitative improvement of the work of all the working people of service sectors.

These things clearly show the falsity of the claims of bourgeois and revisionist theoreticians, who are striving in a thousand ways to «prove» that allegedly the «idea of high rates» alone, dominates the planned socialist economy, that allegedly, the «criterion of growth» is opposed to the «criterion of well-being», etc. Our living reality demonstrates the complete opposite of these claims, through which they try, on the one hand, to deprecate the advantages and possibilities which the socialist order creates for development at high rates, and on the other hand, to justify that catastrophic situation in the field of rates of development which exists in the capitalist and revisionist countries.

In fact, in the capitalist and revisionist countries, where the law of maximum profit through the savage exploitation of the working class and the other working masses by the capital operates with its full force, where
ruthless competition prevails, where the only law is the law of the value and the spontaneity of the market, high rates of development cannot be secured and maintained. There, deformation of and disproportion in the structure of the economy are inevitable characteristic phenomena. The aim of production in capitalism is nothing but the appropriation by the capitalist of the surplus product, the extraction of maximum profits. There, production is not directed in the service of the whole of society, nor even of the majority of the people, but only of a very small proportion of them. Production serves the working masses only indirectly, and only to that extend and in those ways which permit the increase of the exploitation of them by capital. Therefore, in the capitalist and revisionist countries production is divorced from the interests of the people, the working class and the other working masses, and in contradiction to the needs of their consumption. Countless facts, show that the so-called consumer society, landed to the skies by the servants of the bourgeoisie, is nothing but a society in decadence and decay, which is being ceaselessly eroded by many irreconcilable contradictions, and in which all the chronic ills of capitalist society are showing up more and more clearly. Day by day, life is proving with new facts that capitalism, as a social system which is being eroded by profound contradictions, is incapable of ensuring the maximum profits of the bourgeoisie and, at the same time, of preserving an internal social equilibrium and some sort of stability in the livelihood of the masses.

In the conditions of the rivalry of the two superpowers, the US imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists, the militarization of the economy and the frantic increases in military spending the increasing parasitism of the society and, in general, of the spending of a very large part of the national income for non-productive purposes, the fierce competition among the bourgeois and revisionist industrialized countries, the upheavals in the economy of the capitalist revisionist world are becoming deeper. To keep their profits intact, the bourgeoisie and the revisionists are striving in every way to find a way out through stepping up the exploitation of the broad working masses, stepping up the exploitation of the «allied», «fraternal» countries and the developing countries, through neo-colonialist methods, and trying to justify this with all kinds of doctrines.

The galloping inflation and the frenzied increase of prices, the increases in taxes, service charges and house rents, the flourishing of the black market, the unemployment in unprecedented proportions, the establishment of strict control over and freezing of the wages of the working people, the seeking of capitalist credits and putting the national assets up for auction, the unequal trade exchanges, the pressure through the monopoly of technology and political and economic expansion are some of the ways and means which the monopoly bourgeoisie, the revisionists, and all the exploiters are employing to saddle the working masses and the peoples with the burden of the crisis. In these conditions, the phenomenon of the polarization of bourgeois and revisionist society into rich and poor is deepening, the means of livelihood and consumption of the working class and the other working masses are being reduced, the contradiction between production and consumption in the capitalist and revisionist countries is becoming even more profound.
The extended reproduction of the social product in socialism, too, takes place on the basis of the economic doctrine of Marx, and especially of his well-known schemes for the realization of the process of reproduction. This is why the PLA is constantly concerned, and applies a correct policy to establish, harmonize, and maintain correct proportions and connections among the various aspects of extended socialist reproduction, among the factors for the development of material production and among the branches and sub-branches of the people’s economy. In the final analysis, this is the decisive field in which, the leading role of the Party in the economy, the scientific Marxist-Leninist character of the planned state management of the economy, and the class content of the process of the reproduction of social production itself, are expressed and concretized.

First, the aim of the economic policy of the PLA has always been to establish correct proportions in the division of the social product, and it has been able to achieve this. It has always maintained an organic and harmonious unity between the product for society and the product for the individual, the fund of accumulation with the fund of consumption, the production of means of production with the production of consumer commodities, while giving priority to fulfilling social interests and implementing the revolutionary principle of self-reliance.

In 1973 as against 1965, the product for society increased about 1.7 times faster than the product for the individual, at a time when the number of working people and their real income have been continuously increasing. The norm of accumulation has been increased gradually, from about 26-27 per cent in the period from 1951 to 1960, to 36 per cent in the fifth five-year plan (1971-1975).

In this process, the role and weight of the national income produced in the country in the entirety of the resources for development has increased. The experience of Albania shows that, it is entirely possible, on the basis of the rapid increase of the national income, as well as by implementing a correct policy in their use, to achieve simultaneously a continuous rise in the real income and the fund of consumption per head of the population, along with giving priority to increasing the fund of accumulation and maintaining a relatively high norm of this increase.

The PLA has devoted special attention to the use of the socialist accumulation with high economic-social effectiveness. Upholding the Marxist-Leninist theory of reproduction in general, and especially the law of extended reproduction on the priority increase of the means of production as compared with the increase of production of consumer commodities, it has given precedence to the productive use of accumulation, for the development and strengthening of the material technical base of production. Thus, in 1973 as against 1965, in the industrial production, the means of production (group A) increased 4.6 fold and consumer goods (group B) 3.1 fold. The implementation, in their complexity, of the proportions set by the 5th five-year plan between the sub-divisions of social production, constitutes the essential first requirement for maintaining high rates in the reproduction of the social product now and in the future, to meet the growing purchasing power of the people and to activate the economic resources of the country on a broader scale.

Second, the high rates of economic development have their basis in the policy of the Party to always maintain correct proportions between the branches of
our people's economy, having industry, which is the pivot of this policy, as the leading branch, and agriculture as the basic branch of the development of the economy, on the road of the gradual transformation of the country into an industrial-agricultural one, with advanced industry and agriculture. The consistent application of this line has increased the level of the utilization and appreciation of the value of the resources and riches of the country, has ensured the fulfillment of the growing needs of the economy and the people's, has strengthened the economic independence and the defence capacity of the country, has greatly invigorated all economic and social life and opened reliable prospects for continuous progress, by relying even more heavily on our own forces.

The 7th Congress of the PLA further deepened and enriched the economic policy of the Party for the harmonious and rapid development of all branches of the economy. It set very important targets for the further development of industry, based, first and foremost, on the local mineral resources and fuels and taking measures for their utilization, on increasing the electric power industry at higher rates as against the other branches of heavy processing industry, on vigorous development of the chemical and engineering industries and, further increases in the production of mass consumer goods. In this way, during the 6th five-year plan, industry will be able to provide new, greater possibilities for the rapid development of the other branches, especially for the development of agriculture, and will create new material and financial resources.

In the field of agriculture, the 7th Congress of the Party put forward the task that this branch of vital importance must be raised to a higher level in order to guarantee our bread and the necessary reserves with locally produced grain, to fulfill the needs of the people.

Albania was completely electrified on October 25, 1970.
Textile industry extended
In a plastics plant

Pig-iron of the Albanian trade-mark
A sector of the 'Enver Hoxha' Automobile and Tractor Combine.
The Albanian people can process the crude oil themselves now for foodstuffs, to supply industry with raw materials, and increase exports of agricultural products.

On the basis of these targets and the connections between the two main branches of the economy, as well as the targets for the development of other branches of material production, during the 6th five-year plan, the national income will increase at an average annual rate of 7 per cent, which represents a rate 3.2 times higher than the rate of the increase of the population.

Third, enlightened by the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and applying them in the concrete conditions of our country, the PLA has based the high rate of development on the increase of the number of working people in the sphere of material production, as well as on the increase of the productivity of social labour, on the most correct harmonization of them as two main factors for increasing social production and the national income.

The most important element in the process of reproduction is man. Therefore, the outcome of the reproduction of the social product is greatly dependent on the degree of activation of the able-bodied population in social labour in the sphere of material production, and within it, in most important branches and sectors. A distinguishing feature of the process of reproduction in Albania has been and is the full participation of the labour resources in work and the high rate of increase of workers engaged in the sphere of material production. In 1975 as against 1965 the number of workers in industry, agriculture, and the other branches of material production, had increased about 68 per cent. This factor will be at a high level in the 6th five-year plan, also, ensuring an important part of the increase of the social product.

Fourth, the rate of economic development depends to a large degree, also, on the connections and proportions between the sphere of material production and
the non-productive sphere. This is one of the problems of principle and practice, not only for the extended socialist reproduction, but also for the fate of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The proportional or non-proportional development of the branches of the economy, the rational use of the resources of labour and the material-technical base, in the most advantageous way, the level of the rates of development, as well as a series of questions of an ideological and social character, depend to a large degree on what part of resources of labour and materials are directed by society into the development of the two spheres of social activity.

The historical experience of Albania has proved that in the development of various productive and non-productive activities it is essential to be guided by the criterion that the number of working people engaged in material production must always comprise the biggest and main part of the total number of the working people, that the productive sphere must be given precedence in development over the non-productive sphere, that every step taken in the development of the non-productive sphere must be closely linked with the development of the productive sphere, supported by the appropriate material basis and covered by the increase of production and the productivity of labour. Implementing this line, in Albania more than 4/5 of the total number of working people are engaged in the productive sphere, and this constitutes one of the highest levels in the world. Another important fact is that from one five-year plan to another, the specific weight of the number of workers engaged in the branches of material production in relation to the population as a whole has kept increasing. In the structure of the use of the fund of accumulation, too, accumulation used for productive purposes takes the overwhelming bulk of it and its weight has steadily increased. The 5th five-year plan envisages such proportions in the distribution of the resources of labour and materials between the spheres of the social activity as to improve these proportions in favour of productive activity. The struggle to apply these proportions with determination and without concessions, just as the Party has stressed, is another guarantee to ensure the development of the extended socialist reproduction, on the correct course.
A DECISIVE CONDITION FOR THE TRIUMPH OF
THE REVOLUTION AND THE CONSTRUCTION
OF SOCIALISM

Today, the question of the stand towards the working class, towards its hegemonic role in the pro-
letarian revolution, in the revolutionary movement in general, and in the construction of socialist society, as well as the stand towards the undivided the same — the proletariat and the bourgeoisie: the his-
leading role of its Marxist-Leninist political party; the task that demands solution is the same — the over-
is one of the most acute ideological problems, anathema of the hated capitalist order and the construction
more than ever before, constitutes a line of demarcation of a new order, the socialist order; and the way in which
oration between the Marxist-Leninists and the revisionists and all opportunists, between revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries.

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More than a year has gone by since the 7th Congress of the Party, and the more you study the report Committed by Comrade Enver Hoxha held on behalf of the Central Com-mittee at that historic Congress, the more you reflect on the historic mission and the theses and ideals which are found in it, the more you understand the great value of this Marxist-Leninist document of major importance for the question of the revolution and socialism, the more clearly you see how similar is the fierce struggle which is being waged today between the Marxist-Leninists and the modern revisionists to the struggle waged by Lenin and Stalin against all traitors to the working class, against all renegades from Marxism-Leninism.

And this can be easily explained. First of all it can be explained by the fact that, regardless of the new phenomena which have occurred in the world today, as at that time, we are in the same historical epoch, the funda-
mental content of which is the transition from capitalism to socialism; the classes confronting each other are
ciety, as well as the stand towards the undivided the same — the proletariat and the bourgeoisie: the his-
leading role of its Marxist-Leninist political party; the task that demands solution is the same — the over-
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more than ever before, constitutes a line of demarcation of a new order, the socialist order; and the way in which
oration between the Marxist-Leninists and the revisionists and all opportunists, between revolutionaries and counter-revolutionaries.

Therefore, the struggle between the Marxist-Leninists, and the revisionists and all opportunists is being waged over the same problems, which are, in fact, the cardinal problems of Marxism-Leninism. One of these problems is the question of the historic mission and the theses and ideals which are found in it, the anegemonic role of the working class, and that of the lead-
ing role of the working class party in the revolution and the construction of the new, socialist society.

Nearly 130 years ago, the founders of the revolutionary theory of the working class, Marx and Engels, told the proletarians of all countries of their role, their task, their mission as the grave-diggers of capitalism; that they must be the first to throw themselves into the revolutionary struggle against capital, and unite all the toilers and exploited around themselves in this struggle. And Lenin has described this as the great historic merit of the two brilliant teachers of the proletariat.

But Marxism-Leninism teaches us that the proletariat can carry out its historic mission and play the hegemonic role that belongs to it only under the leadership of its conscious vanguard, the revolutionary communist party, and that only under the leadership of such a vanguard can it demonstrate all its revolutionary power and drive, and gain that determination which is not only an historical factor, but a factor for victory in the overthrow of capitalism and the construction of communism.

The experience of history has completely confirmed the correctness of these Marxist-Leninist teachings. It has confirmed that the direction and outcome of the revolutionary struggle depends on whether it is led by the Marxist-Leninist party or some other political force; that the fate of the new society — whether or not it advances to communism or turns back to capitalism, depends on whether the party of the working class remains in the leadership of the socialist society, whether it maintains or loses its leading role in the entire life of the country.

Thus, socialist Albania where the Party has always been in the vanguard role, and which, during the Anti-fascist National-Liberation War and the people’s revolution, or after the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of the foundations of socialism, has never dreamt of and never allowed its leading role to be shared with anyone at all nor permitted itself to be displaced from this leading role in the slightest, but, on the contrary, has crushed all the enemies who have tried to undermine this role, is a great and positive example of what the working class is able to do, regardless of how small and unconsolidated as a class it may be at the start, when it is led by its revolutionary party, which is enlightened in all its activity by the proletarian ideology. Indeed, all the colossal victories which have been achieved in our country — the triumph of the people’s revolution, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the carrying of socialism ever forward — are the result of the fact that over its entire 35-year long life our Party, as Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed it at the 7th Congress, «has abided with great loyalty and unflinching consistency by the great principle that the securing of the role of leadership of the Marxist-Leninist party constitutes the decisive condition for the carrying out of the revolution, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism», and has considered the leadership by the Party, which is the highest and the most concentrated form of the leading role of the working class, «as the number one subjective factor to carry its revolutionary program out into practice».

The example of the Soviet Union and other former socialist countries, where capitalism has been completely restored and the working class is savagely oppressed and exploited by the new, bureaucratic bourgeoisie, shows, on the other hand, what catastrophic consequences the working class suffers from the usurping of the leadership of the party and the dictatorship of the pro-
The working class is being betrayed by any clique of revisionist traitors which, camouflaged under the cloak of Marxism, works persistently for the degeneration of the whole party, and thus leaves the working class without its revolutionary leading staff.

The events of the last few decades, also, show how the revolutionary movements of the working class and other working people have ended up when they have not been developed and carried out under the hegemony of the proletariat and the leadership of its Marxist-Leninist party. In these instances, regardless of the deceptive and illusory “theories” which the revisionists spread about the non-capitalists road of development and the road of socialist orientation, which certain countries allegedly follow, in fact, in none of these countries, whether in Europe, Africa, or anywhere else, have we to do with a socialist order or a socialist orientation.

“If they lack a political party with a clear-cut program and scientifically based strategy and tactics, the struggle will either stop halfway or fail altogether. And the experience of the present-day revolutionary movement and numerous struggles of the peoples of various continents teach us this,” stressed Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 6th Congress of the Party, speaking about this problem, about the hegemony of the working class and the role of its party, which can and must lead “not only the struggle for socialism but also the struggle for democracy and national independence.”

Such is the historic reality, which cannot be denied or ignored by anyone who adopts a correct proletarian class stand. However, today as in the past, the revisionists and all the opportunists, without the slightest scruple, take a stand denying the hegemonic role of the proletariat and the leading role of its political party in the revolution and the construction of socialism. In the present situation, when, as Comrade Enver Hoxha put it at the 7th Congress of the PLA, “the world is at a stage when the question of the revolution and the national liberation of the peoples is not just an aspiration and a future prospect, but a problem put forward for solution”, denial of the hegemonic role of the proletariat and the leading role of its Marxist-Leninist Party is a great betrayal of the proletariat and all those who are suffering under the iron heel of capital and imperialist subjugation.

It is a recognized fact that the modern revisionists, as ardent defenders of the bourgeoisie, as guard dogs of the capitalist order and direct saboteurs of the revolutionary movement of the working class and the working people as a whole, with all kinds of “theories”, deny the historic mission and hegemonic role which devolves on the proletariat in present-day society. This is because they, like the bourgeoisie itself, are scared to death of the proletariat, because they are all terrified of the fact that the proletariat is the only class revolutionary to the end and, therefore, the only class which can play the hegemonic role in the socialist revolution which will overthrow the bourgeoisie.

All the revisionist and bourgeois alleged “theories”, whether those which openly the role of the proletariat in present-day society, and indeed its very existence, such as those which describe “the proletariat of Marx as a mythical entity,” and which claim that in the present conditions, “it is no longer possible to speak about the proletariat but only of the working class,” or those which spread such nonsense as, “all classes of society today are interested in socialism”, that other non-proletarian classes and forces, such as the national bourgeoisie, the petty-bourgeoisie, the patriotic and progressive intelligentsia, etc., can lead the struggle for socialism, all these so-called “theories” have the one objective — to turn the pro-
letarist away from the socialist revolution, to hinder the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat by means of which mankind will escape from all the suffering and misery that stems from the detested capitalist system. Hence, rejection of the idea of the hegemony of the proletariat in the present day revolutionary movement is, as Lenin said, the most vulgar form of reformism.

In our epoch, which is the epoch of the collapse of imperialism and the triumph of socialism, in the present conditions when the fundamental contradiction of capitalist society, that between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, and all the other contradictions of present-day society are coming to a head, all views and attitudes that do not treat the proletariat as the main, revolutionary motive force of society amount, in fact, to ignoring and denial of the hegemonic role of the world proletariat, denial of the right of the proletariat to carry out the proletarian revolution, hence to falling into the positions of opportunism.

In every one of their actions today, the Marxist-Leninists aim to serve the revolution, the cause of the freedom and independence of the peoples, the cause of the routing of imperialism and social-imperialism, and the international bourgeoisie. But the Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries never, in any situation, forget that their ultimate aim is to achieve the socialist social order and that this lofty objective can be attained, as our great teachers, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin tell us, only by means of the proletarian revolution, the main revolutionary force in which is the proletariat.

The international bourgeoisie and its revisionist minions have long understood that the strength of the working class stems from its powerful vanguard, the Marxist-Leninist party. That is why they aim their fiercest attacks against the revolutionary party of the working class, that is why the revisionists of all countries are drawing from the revisionist arsenal of the past or fabricating anew all sorts of theories which aim to leave the proletariat without its conscious vanguard in the revolution and the construction of socialism.

Some of them, the revisionists of capitalist countries, such as the Italian, French, and Spanish revisionists, are spreading the idea of a single big democratic party open to all, a party that will take the road of class collaboration; they worship bourgeois democracy and in the name of bourgeois democracy they reject the great doctrine of the dictatorship of the proletariat; they talk about historic compromise and political pluralism; hence, they offer the working class as its road to salvation not the road of struggle against the bourgeoisie, but the road of reforms, in this way becoming open propagandists of the idea of class conciliation and collaboration, the most zealous defenders of bourgeois reformism, precisely at a historic moment when bourgeois reformism has proved itself bankrupt throughout the world, and turning the former communist parties of these countries from parties «of the clenched fist» into parties «of the outstretched hand», that is, from parties of the revolution into parties of compromise, tools of capitalism.

The others, the revisionists who are in power, the Soviet, Yugoslav and other revisionists, with their theories about the «party of the whole people», about the reduction of the leading role of the party in the conditions of socialism to an ideological factor or a coordinating centre, etc., act as liquidators of the party of the working class and negators of the Marxist-Leninist doctrine about the necessity for the undivided leading role of the proletarian party in the revolution and the construction of socialism, as saboteurs of socialism and
liquidators, in theory and practice, of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

On the other hand, all the modern revisionists, whether in power or not, do everything in their power to deny the importance of the revolutionary theory, without which there can be no revolutionary movement, preach the «theory of spontaneity», which is, in fact, the basis of opportunism, talk about the need for «philosophic pluralism» and of fusion of the proletarian ideology with all sorts of bourgeois, petty-bourgeois, clerical, and other trends. And they do all these things to leave the working class without the weapon which is essential if the revolution is to be launched and carried through to the end.

However, in whatever form it is done and under whatever disguise, denial of the role of the party of the working class and its revolutionary ideology is the most serious blow that can be dealt to the working class, because it cannot carry out the mission in society which devolves upon it and achieve its revolutionary ideals, except under the leadership of one political party, its own revolutionary party, which is the conscious bearer of the Marxist-Leninist theory. Therefore, all their «theories» and practices aimed against the undivided leading role of the Marxist-Leninist party in the revolution and during the historic period of the dictatorship of the proletariat, or against the class character of the proletarian party, testify to the betrayal by the modern revisionists of the cause of the proletariat. This is because they are all intended to disarm the working class completely, ideologically and organizationally, in favour of the bourgeoisie, to leave it disarmed facing the savage attack of the enemy, who, very well organized and armed to the teeth, is waging a furious struggle against the revolution and socialism, against the working class and all the revolutionary peoples of the world.

Our Party as a revolutionary party, has always taken a strong stand, loyally upholding the positions of Marxism-Leninism, has always rejected with disgust and exposed all the «theories» of the revisionists and all the bourgeois ideologists who deny the undivided leading role of the proletarian party. It has ruthlessly exposed the opportunist, counter-revolutionary real content of the «theory» about «political pluralism», which, in instances when the working class is not in power, is intended to undermine the revolution and perpetuate the rule of the bourgeoisie, while in the countries where socialism has triumphed, is intended to lead to the restoration of capitalism.

Marxism-Leninism teaches us, and practice has constantly confirmed, that the revolutionary process of society always encounters the resistance of reactionary, retrogressive forces. In fact, in recent years, when a powerful upsurge of the struggle of the proletariat can be seen in all the bourgeois and revisionist capitalist countries, in order to preserve the positions which they have and to achieve their counter-revolutionary strategy, all the reactionary forces of present-day society — the imperialists, social-imperialists, revisionists, all the reactionary bourgeoisie, are skillfully using their two well-known methods — violence and deception, using the most savage political reaction as well as the most refined ideological reaction, and are making extensive use, also, of counter-revolutionary violence, and in the countries where they are in power, are persecuting, inferring, imprisoning, and barbarously torturing and killing Marxist-Leninist communists, outstanding revolutionary fighters.
In such conditions, when, in order to put down any revolutionary movement, the enemies of the proletariat and all the peoples are sharpening up all their ideological, organizational, and military weapons, the words of V.I. Lenin, a good many decades ago, that, "As a practical worker, as a politician, a Marxist must have made it clear that only traitors to socialism can now evade the task of elucidating the need for a proletarian revolution... of explaining the necessity of preparing for it", assume special importance, and the struggle to throw the proletariat into class battles is a primary duty for every true communist party.

Indeed, how similar is the present situation in the world with that when Lenin put before the party of the working class the task that «the proletariat must be shown how the revolution can be carried forward by concrete measures»! And at the present time such a revolutionary task can be carried out only by the Marxist-Leninist communist parties, which teach the masses of the proletariat to recognize their true political interests, to fight for the revolution and socialism, show the masses the urgent and essential need of breaking away from revisionism and opportunism, from the influence of all ideological trends and organizational forms which act under the direction and in favour of the bourgeoisie, and arouse the revolutionary spirit in the masses of the proletariat and its close allies.

Today, the Marxist-Leninist communist parties which are acting in the capitalist countries have undertaken and are carrying out this honourable task. Setting themselves the objective that they must make the proletariat capable of carrying out its great historic mission, they are working to introduce socialist consciousness into the proletariat, are leading all the forms of its class struggle, explaining to it the historic importance of the proletarian revolution, showing it who are its friends and who are its enemies, with whom it should unite and against whom it should fight, and working to prepare the armed uprising for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie.

The important political manifestations that have been held and the fierce class battles that have been waged recently by the proletariat and working masses in many capitalist countries, under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist parties, which are growing bigger and stronger, are a source of optimism and inspiration to the Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries of all countries. As Comrade Enver Hoxha said at the 7th Congress of the PLA, «this is living testimony that the proletariat has not lost its faith in Marxism-Leninism, that it sees it as its most powerful weapon in the struggle against the bourgeoisie and for the triumph of the revolution».

The great cause of communism requires that the unity of the Marxist-Leninist should be constantly strengthened on a national and an international level. The fragmentation of the Marxist-Leninist, their organization in different groups and detachments does not serve this aim. The Party of Labour of Albania upholds the view that in each country there can be only one genuine revolutionary party of the working class, because the interests of the working class in each country are the same and it has a single ideology, Marxism-Leninism. The only true party of the working class is that which consistently applies the revolutionary ideology of the proletariat, which resolutely confronts all bourgeois and revisionist parties, which follows a proletarian class policy, which courageously mobilizes the proletariat and leads it into class battles, which prepares it for the decisive battle, for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, which tries to draw all the strata of the exploited work-
ing population that associate themselves with the views of the proletariat into this struggle for salvation. Only such a party can be the revolutionary staff of the working class and lead it towards the achievement of its revolutionary ideals and aspirations.

There is no doubt that fierce and protracted battles still lie ahead for the world proletariat, but the Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries believe what the great teacher of the proletariat, V.I. Lenin, has told us, that, «And this battle is worth giving all one's strength to it; the difficulties are great, but so is the cause of the abolition of oppression and exploitation for which we are fighting». And the Marxist-Leninists have the clear perspective and the unshakable conviction that, regardless of the ups and downs of the revolution and its difficulties and temporary retreats, and however great the waves of the counter-revolution may be, the final victory will go to the proletariat, and the future of mankind is communism.
Industry in the service of agriculture

We are self-sufficient in bread grain.
THE GREAT ROLE AND FORCE OF THE PEASANTRY IN SOCIALIST SOCIETY

With the collectivization of agriculture, the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, under the leadership of the working class, is put on new economic-social foundations, reciprocal cooperation and assistance between these two classes, between industry and agriculture, becomes broader because it is entirely placed on socialist bases.

Loyal to the end to the interests of the working class and the masses of the other working people of our country, the Party of Labour of Albania has always had a proper appreciation of the place, role and the great strength of the peasantry in the socialist society. «Our peasantry» said Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 7th Congress of the Party, «deserves everything that has been and is being done for the progress and prosperity of the countrywide».

Precisely because it has always had proper understanding and correct assessment of the role and great
strength of the peasantry according to the immortal teachings of Marxism-Leninism, right from its founding, the PLA issued the directive about strengthening the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, under the leadership of the working class. Especially, in the concrete conditions of the development of Albania, where about 85 per cent of the population were peasants, it was natural and absolutely necessary that the working class should be linked in a close alliance with the peasantry. As early as the years of the glorious epic of the anti-fascist national liberation war, the PLA linked the peasantry closely with the working class and gave their alliance clear political objectives.

The role of the peasantry in the Anti-fascist National Liberation War, under the leadership of the working class and its Party, was great and irreplaceable. The countryside remained the main base of this struggle. The peasantry shed its blood and made great sacrifices in this war. Its closest possessions it put at the disposal of the Party and the war for liberation.

With the triumph of the people's revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the age-old aspirations of the peasantry became reality, because it won its freedom and the land, and such material and social conditions were created for it as to free it from the shackles of private property and to open the brilliant perspectives of the socialist development to the countryside.

In this way, the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, which is the social basis of the People's Power, of the unbreakable unity of the people, and the defence of the country, assumed a new development and became even stronger in the post-liberation years. The consistent implementation by the PLA and the socialist state of a broad program of all-round political and ideological, economic and social-cultural character, has led to profound revolutionary changes in the countryside and to the enrichment of the alliance of the working class and the peasantry, both, in content and in form.

With the land reform, which was carried out immediately following the Liberation under the leadership of the Party, the labouring peasantry saw its dream of having its own land, and shaking off for ever the heavy yoke of the oppression and exploitation by the by and aga, come true. 21,544 landless peasant families and 48,667 peasant families with little land benefited from the land reform. From a total of 172,659 hectares expropriated, about 90 per cent, or 155,000 hectares, were distributed to the peasants.

The People's Power gave the labouring peasantry great assistance for the development of agriculture and the continuous improvement of living conditions in the countryside. It made investments for mechanization, land improvement, irrigation and breaking in new land, to assist with chemical fertilizers, selected seeds, pedigree livestock, and qualified cadres, etc. For example, state investments in the sector of agriculture in 1975 were 14.8 times greater than in the year 1950. The use of chemical fertilizers (active substance) (in 1938 they were almost unknown in our country) was increased 397 times over in 1975 in comparison with 1950.

Education and culture were greatly extended. The number of pupils of full-time and part-time 8-year schools in the countryside in 1975, as against 1938, was 13 times greater. In 1975 the number of cadres of higher training in the agricultural cooperatives was increased 3.4 fold as against 1970, and the number of cadres with medium training 2.2 fold.

The labouring peasantry of our country, on its part, has always honourably carried out its tasks as
the sly of the working class in the struggle for the construction of the new socialist society. The whole life of the country is a clear testimony to the fact that after Liberation, too, the role of our patriotic peasantry and its contribution to the reconstruction and development of the country are very great. Without this role and contribution by our revolutionary peasantry, the loyal ally of the working class and the Party, the dictatorship of the proletariat could not have been consolidated and protected. Despite the poverty it had inherited from the past, the peasantry kept the country supplied with bread and other agricultural and livestock products, poured out its sweat for the reconstruction of roads, bridges, houses, and those few burnt-out factories. At first, the development of industry also required that the countryside should make its contribution in manpower, monetary and material means, agricultural raw material, etc. And, with a lofty revolutionary spirit and exemplary readiness, our peasantry accomplished its task for the industrialization of the country. As Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed at the 7th Congress of the Party, from the ranks of the peasantry, the new working class emerged. With the passage of time, when the industry had been set up and grown stronger, it became a great support for the development of agriculture and the countryside. Industry began to supply agriculture and the countryside with more industrial goods necessary for reproduction and mass consumption, for increasing agricultural products and raising the material well-being and cultural level of the peasantry.

But what was to mark another radical turning point in the life of the Albanian peasantry and countryside, was the setting of agriculture on the road of socialist development. The PLA showed great maturity in the solution of this problem. It worked patiently but persistently, to convince the labouring peasantry to take the road of collectivization voluntarily, to renounce private property, to take a road that was new and unknown to it. So the first agricultural cooperatives were set up. The first sparks of the cooperativist movement were the Upper Krutja cooperative and that of Sarava in the Lushnja District, the Dobraç cooperative in the Shkodra District, etc. Following their example, agricultural cooperatives were set up everywhere in our country. By its experience of life, by the great work of explanation by the Party, from the trust it had formed in the correct policy of the Party, by the results achieved by the first agricultural cooperatives, the peasantry was convinced of the benefits of collectivization, seeing it as the only road that could save it from any kind of exploitation and lead it towards the new socialist life.

With the collectivization of agriculture, the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, under the leadership of the working class, was put on new economic and social foundations. Now the collaboration and mutual assistance between these two classes, between industry and agriculture were broadened further, for they were established entirely on socialist foundations.

With the aim of the further development of the cooperativist order, of its continuous strengthening, of implanting the spirit of collectivism deeper and deeper among the peasantry, and strengthening the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, the Party, in accord with the free will of the peasants, took measures to turn the economically strong cooperatives of the plains into higher type cooperatives, which today occupy 23 per cent of the arable land of the country. These cooperatives have demonstrated a series of advantages: they have achieved a high level of productivity in agricultural and livestock products, have stepped up the rates of
increase of production, and the stability of these rates is being reinforced from one year to another.

The policy of the Party of Labour of Albania in regard to the countryside has always been correct, firmly based on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, and in conformity with the concrete conditions of the country and the socialist construction. The PLA has never allowed the countryside to be undervalued, industry to be developed at the expense of agriculture, the city to advance to the detriment of the village, and the countryside to become depopulated. Its aim has always been that industry and agriculture should develop together in harmony, that city and countryside should advance together, that the working class and the peasantry should raise the level of their well-being shoulder to shoulder with each other. In this matter the Party has been guided by the principle that "socialism cannot be built in city only, nor with the working class alone, but it is also built in the countryside, for the peasantry, too". While struggling for the development of agriculture on the plains, the PLA has never neglected the rapid development of agriculture in the mountainous and hilly areas. The implementation of this correct Marxist-Leninist policy on all these problems has had and still has great importance for the strengthening of the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, for the strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the defence potential of the country, in any situation our country may be confronted with by the savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade.

A totally different picture presents itself in the countries ruled by the renegade revisionist cliques. In the Soviet Union and the other former socialist countries, where the victories the peasantry had won have been totally liquidated, capitalist relations of a special type have been established and the development of the countryside has been left to the spontaneous operation of the laws of capitalism. With their notorious theories about the "complex mechanization of agriculture", the creation of "industrial society", etc. the modern revisionists try to justify the depopulation of the countryside and the savage exploitation to which it is subjected by the new revisionist bourgeoisie.

In Albania today, agriculture faces very important tasks for its rapid development on the road of intensification and modernization. The principal task of agriculture in the 5th five-year plan is to consolidate the great victory achieved in making the country totally self-sufficient in bread grain. This is a task of great political, economic, and strategic importance. The continuous securing of all the bread grain required from home production and the fulfillment of the other targets facing agriculture, largely determine also the fulfillment of targets in the other branches of the economy, the raising of the general well-being of the people, and the strengthening of the defence potential of the country. Therefore the PLA continues to carry out all-round work to make the cooperativist peasantry increasingly aware of the exceptional importance of the rapid development of agriculture. The struggle for the further intensification of agriculture is a struggle for the complete construction of socialism and the strengthening of the political and economic independence of the country, a struggle to smash the savage imperialist and revisionist encirclement and blockade. In this struggle, the cooperativist peasantry will have, as always, the unflinching assistance of its ally, the working class, and the socialist state, which will take all the measures necessary to fully implement the directive of the Party to deepen the great revolutionary movement, "Agriculture — the
Concern of All the People. The common efforts of the cooperativist peasantry and the working class for the development and further intensification of agriculture constitute the number one task today to make the militant alliance between them stronger and stronger.

One of the key problems that the PLA has always tried to solve correctly for the strengthening of the alliance of the working class with the peasantry has been and remains the narrowing of distinctions between city and countryside. On the basis of the decision of the Central Committee of the PLA and of the Council of Ministers a new step was made in the further reduction of these distinctions and the cooperativist peasantry gained more than 140 million Qela.

A meaningful index of the rise of well-being in the countryside is the considerable increase in the population there. In 1975 the rural population reached the level of 1,875,000, as against 880,000 in 1938. Along with the increase in population the per capita income of peasant population has also gone up. Many problems of a social and cultural character have found a solution through the use of social funds. Pensions for cooperativists have been raised, further narrowing their differences with those of the working people of the town. Childbirth leave and childbirth benefits for women cooperativists, too, are paid by the state.

The PLA has never regarded the differences in real per capita incomes, existing today between city and countryside as a privilege for the city, that must be preserved. On the contrary, it has seen these distinctions as a temporary phenomenon, caused by the objective conditions of the great economic and social backwardness that the Albanian countryside inherited from the past, as a phenomenon that is being overcome step by step within the possibilities created by the development of our economy. Furthermore, the PLA has never considered the narrowing of these distinctions as a «concession» that the city should make to the countryside, or a «sacrifice» that the working class should make for the benefit of the peasantry, but as a law of the complete construction of socialism, without damaging the standard of living of the townspeople. In order to further narrow the differences between city and countryside, the coming five-year plan envisages that the rate of increase in the real per capita income in the countryside will be three times higher than in the city.

Both the cooperativist peasantry and the working class face mutual tasks for the ceaseless strengthening of their alliance. By working with might and main, with revolutionary drive, to accomplish the great tasks on the agricultural front, for the production of bread grain in the first place, the peasantry makes its contribution to reinforcing the economic independence of the country, to the further strengthening of our socialist Homeland and its ability to defend itself.

The further strengthening of the alliance between the working class and the cooperativist peasantry also requires, as Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed at the 7th Congress of the PLA, that any manifestation of distrust of the city by the countryside must be combated, and that special care must be taken to draw the peasantry ever more actively into the class struggle, into all the political, economic, and social life of the country, to educate it politically and ideologically, to more and more consolidate cooperativism, rooting out all hangovers of the feeling of private property, of the petty-bourgeois psychology, of pursuing narrow personal interest, etc., which still have strong roots in the countryside.
The working class, for its part, makes its contribution to the continuous strengthening of the alliance with the peasantry, both by increasing its care and direct assistance for agriculture and the countryside, and, in general, by carrying out all its tasks, everywhere it works, in a revolutionary spirit, by producing more mineral, more steel, more power, more mass consumption goods, etc. In this way it unceasingly strengthens the material-technical base of socialism, for the ceaseless allround development of city and countryside, ever better fulfilling the material and cultural needs of the cooperativist peasantry and the whole people. In this process, the alliance of the working class with the peasantry becomes more steel-like, their mutual trust increases and grows stronger so that they march together, shoulder-to-shoulder, under the leadership of the Party, on the road of the complete construction of socialism.

To have a lofty concept and a thorough knowledge of the content of the alliance of the working class with the cooperativist peasantry means to consistently implement the line of the PLA for the strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for the complete construction of socialism in city and countryside, as well as for the defence of the country. Proceeding on this correct and proven road, under the wise and far-sighted leadership of the Party, the role and the great revolutionary strength of the peasantry in the socialist society will be further increased and its alliance with the working class will become more steel-like.

PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL VALUE FOR THE REVOLUTION AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM

As long as the complete victory of socialism has not been achieved on a world scale and the danger of turning back still exists, it is absolutely necessary that every socialist country, like every liberation and revolutionary movement should rely on its own strength to win, protect, and consolidate its national independence and the socialist victories, in order to cope with any possible aggression from abroad, and smash any attempt of internal enemies to overthrow the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Self-reliance is a law of the socialist construction and the defence of the Homeland, an imperative necessity in the conditions of Albania. The principle of self-reliance has been consistently implemented by the Party of Labour of Albania from its foundation. This principle stems from the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the
internal factor is determinant and decisive in the struggle for the triumph of the revolution and the seizure of state power by the working class, as well as in the struggle for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland.

However, in practice there are instances when this principle is not understood and dealt with correctly and in its full depth, being treated as relating only to the imperialist-revisionist encirclement. In this way, from a principle of universal value for the revolution, the construction of socialism and its defence, it is conceived as a requirement related only to given political, economic and social conditions and circumstances. Such a concept is not complete. It leads to the narrowing of the scope of this principle and the fields in which it finds, and should find, application, and weakens the struggle and efforts of the working masses for its consistent application in all fields of life.

Self-reliance arises directly from the Marxist-Leninist thesis about the decisive role of the people, the broad working masses, in the development of the society. At the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania Comrade Enver Hoxha said: «The principle of self-reliance requires, first of all, firm reliance on the creative mental and physical energies of the people guided by the Party. Socialism is the work of the masses, therefore, everything produced and created is the fruit of the work, of the sweat and brains of the people».

The role of the broad working masses in building socialism is constantly increasing, parallel with their ideological, political tempering, parallel with the rise of their educational and cultural level and the extent to which they are equipped with the necessary scientific professional knowledge. The Albanian working class, tempered politically and ideologically, with a high political and cultural level, the cooperativist peasantry, which is advancing resolutely, following the example of the working class, as well as the great army of the people’s intelligentsia, cadres and specialists of all branches of the economy and culture, under the leadership of the Party, constitute the fundamental factor which determines and guarantees the broad and allround reliance on our own strength for the solution of the great tasks which the socialist construction of the country and the defence of the Homeland place before us.

The experience of socialist Albania shows in the most convincing and clear way how correct and vital this Marxist-Leninist thesis is and has always been. The PLA did not wait for others to bring us freedom, but it raised the entire people in the National Liberation War, created the National Liberation Army and its cadres in the course of the fight, while it seized its weapons from the enemy. The people fed, clothed and gave shelter to the National Liberation Army. The Party created its own experience of the revolutionary struggle, by creatively applying the teachings of Marxism-Leninism in our conditions.

This principle has been applied consistently in Albania throughout the entire period of socialist construction, a period full of storms, threats, pressures and blockades. In regard to applying this principle in the construction of socialism, it has always been taken into account that ensuring political independence paves the way to economic independence, while ensuring economic independence strengthens and consolidates political independence. For this reason the PLA has always adhered unwaveringly to the course of relying firmly on the internal resources to build a self-supporting multi-branched economy, with heavy and light extracting and processing industry, with an advanced agriculture, in
the lowlands and the highlands, able to guarantee the endless advance of socialism, to develop a culture, education, science and art firmly based on the national background; to ensure a powerful defence, capable of coping with any possible aggression or attack by the imperialist and revisionist enemies.

The imperialists and the social imperialists make a great song about the "generous", "fraternal", "internationalist" aid they give other countries. But, as all historical experience has shown very clearly, with their "aid" and "credits", with the export of their capital and goods, these sworn enemies of the revolution and socialism have imperialist, neo-colonialist and protectionist aims and intentions. Their alleged aid and credits are not intended to develop the national economies of the countries which receive them, and do not guarantee the economic and political independence of those countries in any way. On the contrary, every offer of "aid" or credits from the capitalist countries, especially from the two superpowers, has only one aim — that of subjugation and neo-colonialist and colonialist enslavement, the loss of political and economic independence. With their propaganda, the imperialists and the revisionists want to undermine the confidence of the peoples in the possibility of a sovereign life, and in general, their existence as free nations and countries, and to sow and spread the psychosis that allegedly without the support of a big power there can be no development as a free nation. Therefore, the Soviet revisionists interpret the application of the principle of self-reliance sometimes as "slipping into the positions of narrow nationalism" and "departure from the positions of internationalism", and sometimes as "isolation and enclosure in the national shell" or "autarkic development". The US imperialists and the other imperialist powers do the same thing. In this way, all the imperialists and the social-imperialists together aim to prepare the most favourable possible terrain, and justify the spread of their tentacles of colonialist and neo-colonialist expansion and exploitation everywhere, and to weaken the resistance of the various peoples and countries towards this expansion and exploitation.

Remaining loyal to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the PLA has exposed and refuted these reactionary "theories" and all the neo-colonialist practices of the imperialists and the revisionists.

The imperialist and revisionist enemies accuse the PLA, clamouring that, with the course it is following, Albania has remained an isolated country. At the 7th Congress of the PLA Comrade Enver Hoxha said: "This is the capitalist-revisionist view of things. The imperialists and revisionists consider that country which has closed its doors to invasion, through enslaving credits, through tourists and spies, through the decadent culture and degeneration, as isolated. From this point of view we really are, and intend to remain, an isolated country." In fact, however, socialist Albania is not in the least isolated. On the contrary, she has many friends, an honoured name and high prestige throughout the world. The open and correct Marxist-Leninist policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is respected and valued by the revolutionary and progressive forces, just as they value and appreciate all the achievements and progress of our country in the years of the People's Power, and the art and culture of our people. Meanwhile Albania has extended her relations with the states which respect the well known principles of equality, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit. Today, Albania
maintains diplomatic and trade relations with 77 countries of the world.

As the 7th Congress of the PLA pointed out, far from excluding reciprocal collaboration and aid among the revolutionary forces and socialist countries, self-reliance presumes it. This is an important internationalist duty in the interests not only of the country which receives this aid, but also of the country which gives it. This is because the victories of socialism and the revolution in each country at the same time serve the victory of the revolution, its triumph over capitalism and revisionism in other countries.

However, historical experience provides many facts which prove that any deviation, in whatever form, from the principle of self-reliance, in the final account, leads to the undermining of the victories achieved, the shaking of the foundations of socialism and the restoration of capitalist relations. Therefore, as long as the complete victory of socialism has not been achieved on a world scale and the danger of turning back still exists, it is absolutely necessary that every socialist country, like every liberation and revolutionary movement, must rely on its own strength to win, protect, and consolidate its national independence and the socialist victories, in order to cope with any possible aggression from abroad, and smash any attempt of internal enemies to overthrow the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Basing himself on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and the revolutionary experience of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha reiterated at the 7th Congress of the PLA, «Our Party has always defended the viewpoint that self-reliance is not a temporary policy imposed by circumstances, but an objective necessity for every country, big or small, advanced or backward, a principle applying both in the liberation wars and the proletarian revolution, and in the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland.

The categorical stand of the PLA and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania on application of the principle of self-reliance has also been affirmed in the articles of the new Constitution which the People's Assembly approved last year. Article 14 reads: «Including socialism, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania relies mainly on its own strength». To preserve the independence of the Homeland in the political and economic fields, to protect the political, economic and social order from violation, the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania lays down that the stationing of foreign bases and troops on the territory of Socialist Albania is prohibited, along with the granting of concessions to, or the creation of foreign economic and financial companies and other institutions, or ones formed jointly with bourgeois and revisionist capitalist monopolies and states, as well as obtaining credits from them. The affirmation of these principles in the Constitution expresses clearly, without any equivocation the determination of the PLA and the Albanian people to defend and consolidate their political, economic and social sovereignty, to guarantee the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland.

Looking back over the 37-year course traversed by the Albanian people under the leadership of the Party, for their national and social liberation, the establishment and strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the construction of socialism and defence of the Homeland, everybody in Albania can see, as clear as the light of day, the correctness of the general line of the Party, hence the correctness of the consistent implementation of the principle of self-reliance.
By always keeping to the course of standing on both feet, on agriculture and industry, it has been made possible that today, Albania has a powerful industry and modern agriculture, and has long begun to be transformed into an industrial-agricultural country.

Despite the all-round blockades, the rates of the development of Albania are higher than in any other European country. In 1975 as against 1960, social production and the national income increased almost threefold, total industrial output increased 3.9 times over, total agricultural output 2.3 times, the volume of fundamental investments 2.9 times, retail goods turnover 2.3 times, the number of higher cadres 6.4 times, etc. It is a great success of the general line and the economic policy of the PLA that the rate of development of material production in Albania is several times higher than the rate of growth of the population. Thus, in the 5th five-year plan (1971-1975), the national income increased at a rate about three times higher than the rate of growth of the population, while in the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980), the rate of increase of the national income is expected to be 3.1 times higher than the rate of growth of the population. On the basis of the rates achieved in the past 10 years (1966-1975), social production in Albania doubles within 8-9 years, while the population doubles in about 25 years. An these proportions have been established in conditions of rapid growth of the population, with the highest average rate in Europe and among the highest in the world.

The large volume of investments with which the country's economy is able to cope from internal resources, speaks clearly of the high level of the development and strengthening of the country. The high rates of development will continue during the 6th five year plan, too. From 1976 to 1980, the socialist Albanian state will invest more than during the first four five year plans (1951-1970) taken together. Industrial output in this five-year period will be greater than the production realized in the 20 year period 1965-1975, while agricultural production will be equal to the production of 15 years (1951-1965) taken together.

Thanks to this development today Albania's economy is able to supply with its own resources about 85 per cent of the needs of the people for mass consumption goods. In 1975 other victories of very great political, economic and strategic importance were achieved: for the first time, all the needs of the people for bread grain were fulfilled from local production, and the first Albanian steel was produced. Today, Albanian industry fulfills about 85 per cent of the needs of the country for spare parts, without mentioning the great development of the energy base, which is able to set a very powerful and advanced material-technical base in motion. As a result of this development the «Enver Hoxha» Automobile and Tractor Plant in Tirana turned out the first tractor in 1978, and in 1980 it will produce 200 tractor engines of 75HP.

Applying the principle of self-reliance, important successes have been achieved in Albania in the field of education, science and culture, too. The revolutionization of the school on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary triangle, lessons, productive labour and physical and military training, is a great success we are achieving with our own forces. Our art and culture are permeated through and through by the Marxist-Leninist ideology and are basing themselves ever more thoroughly on the national character. The sciences are solving more and more problems which the construction of socialism is putting before them.
The defence capacity of the Homeland has become stronger. It is capable of coping with and smashing any aggressor or coalition of aggressors.

The stability and the dynamic development of the economy, the stable high rates of the development of all its branches, the stability of retail prices, the constant, steady, and assured rise in the well-being of the people, etc., are the direct results of the economic policy of the Party for the economic, political, cultural, and social development of the country on the basis of the principle of self-reliance.

Because of its universal character, the principle of self-reliance has a very wide scope. It finds application in all the sectors of life: in the economy, culture, science, art, international relations, the strengthening of the defence capacity of the Homeland, and everywhere.

The 7th Congress of the Party stressed that the main directions which ensure the more thorough application of this principle in the field of the economy are: the acceleration of the rates of production of the means of production, the vigorous increase of agricultural production, and the fulfillment of all food requirements from local production, the supply of about 95 per cent of the country’s needs for spare parts by our industry, the closing of the gap between exports and imports, the meeting, to a greater degree than until now, of the fund of accumulation, from internal resources, especially in fundamental productive investments, the fulfillment, from local sources, of 90 per cent of the needs of the people for mass consumption goods, etc.

In the field of the defence of the Homeland, the Party of Labour of Albania links the principle of self-reliance with the correct utilization of all the fighting capacities of the broad masses of the people and all the economic and material resources of the country. It has
A view of the Durres city

In the Alps of Albania
always based the defence of the Homeland not only on the standing army, but on the whole people, armed and organized militarily. To this end, it has issued the slogan, "The Homeland belongs to all the people, therefore it must be defended by all the people." The great work the PLA has done for the organization and military training of the entire people, so that they are in allround readiness in case of war, to develop such an economy which serves not only the construction of socialism, but the demands of the defence of the Homeland, at the same time, to sum up and enrich the positive experience in mastering the Military Art of People's War, has served to put this orientation into practice. The ideological-political preparation of the people, the mastering of the requirements of our people's Military Art, as well as knowledge of their duties by every Party organ and organization, every state and economic organ, every cadre and worker for defence in time of peace, to be thoroughly prepared for time of war, are the main requirements for understanding and application of the principle of self-reliance in the field of defence.

The principle of self-reliance must be more thoroughly understood and applied to a greater extent in the fields of education and culture, art and science, in all the social-cultural sectors in general. Education, culture, art, and the sciences are fields where the proletarian ideology and the development of the socialist revolution is very necessary. As such, they can be carried forward only by our people well armed and moulded with the Marxist-Leninist ideology. This becomes more urgent in the conditions of the revisionist betrayal on an international scale and the stand of the PLA and the Albanian people towards this betrayal. As well as this, the socialist development in Albania is at such a stage and has a number of original national character-
istics of tradition, psychology, territory, climate, etc., which dictate that the best and only solutions of the problems which life and the revolutionary development raise in the fields of education and culture, art and science, must be found within the country, in conformity with the conditions and the experience of the socialist construction, without expecting or seeking ready-made solutions from anybody else. Here it is important to thoroughly understand the question that the development of the creative spirit in education, science, culture, art, etc., based on proletarian partizanship and the national background, constitutes a very important aspect of the independence of the country.

The PLA and the Albanian people have always had to travel on uncharted paths. This has dictated the need for more independent work in the field of science, basing it more and more on the theoretical Marxist-Leninist thought of the Party and the Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha, which sum up the revolutionary experience of Albania from the positions of Marxism-Leninism and which are an unerring guide and a very rich source of material of the development of science, and the ideological base from which science interprets the material from life. The same thing can be said for the development of art and culture, too. Therefore the thorough study and assimilation of the Marxist-Leninist ideology, the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha assume special importance. This will lead to the further strengthening of the proletarian class and the national character in science, culture, art.

A very important requirement that the Party has always laid down in connection with the practical application of the principle of self-reliance in the fields of science and culture is that, without denying the achievements of the progressive world science, technology and culture, on which we have always drawn, the development of science and culture must have that value and content which responds to the construction of socialism in Albania, and the vigorous development of socialist life and activity. Science is not concerned with books alone, nor with the stereotyped application of their conclusions, especially when these conclusions do not respond to the demands of the socialist development or when they run counter to it. The PLA demands that the sciences must be developed in close connection with the tasks of socialist construction and the concrete conditions of the country, through a creative application of general laws in the concrete conditions, providing answers to many problems which sum up the experience of the socialist construction in Albania and which provide answers to problems which arise from the present and future development of the country.

The great successes achieved in all fields of social activity in Albania are the clearest testimony to the struggle and efforts being made for the correct understanding and application in practice of the principle of self-reliance. Nevertheless, in the process of the general development and progress, because of the difficulties of growth, the pressure of the bourgeois-revisionist ideology and the remnants of the past, all those objective and subjective possibilities that have existed and all the favourable conditions that have been created to put this principle into practice more extensively everywhere have not been utilized as well and as much as they should have been.

The possibilities for the more extensive application of this principle in all fields are even greater in the present stage of the development of Albania. At the 7th Congress of the PLA Comrade Enver Hoxha said:

"At the present stage, all the material-technical means
and human possibilities have been created to solve many complicated economic, idea-theoretical, cultural and technical-scientific problems which face us, with our own forces. It is therefore necessary to further strengthen the confidence of the cadres, specialists and working people in our own creative forces and capabilities, while at the same time getting to know, and applying, in conformity with our conditions, the achievements of world science and technology.

The PLA and the Albanian state have always applied the principle of self-reliance consistently also in the field of international relations and foreign policy, never allowing this policy and their stand in the field of international relations to be an appendage of the foreign policy of any other party, state or country. Guided by the Marxist-Leninist principles and taking into account the interests of the socialist Homeland, the people, peace and general security, the PLA and the Albanian state have made independent analyses and assessments of the development of situations and events in the world, for the problems which arise from these situations in general, and especially for the FSF of Albania, and have openly and courageously stated their independent, clear and principled opinion to everyone, without fear or servility. This is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the activity and international stand of the PLA and the Albanian people. Therefore, as Comrade Enver Hoxha pointed out at the 7th Congress of the PLA, the progressive freedom-loving peoples, the progressive revolutionary forces and the genuine Marxist-Leninists approve our views on foreign policy.

THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE SHARPENING OF THE GENERAL CRISIS OF CAPITALISM

From its very beginning, the general crisis of capitalism has been characterized by the unequal economic and political development of the capitalist countries. The present economic crisis and the efforts which U.S. imperialism, Soviet socialimperialism, and the other imperialist powers are making to emerge from it at others’ expense have made their unequal development more pronounced.

The present economic crisis, the gravest in the last forty years, is now in its fourth year. It has engulfed all the developed and the less developed countries of the capitalist-revisionist world. Despite all the smooth-tongued demagoguery of the spokesmen of capital and its state power, of social-democracy and the revisionists, who are trying to convince the working people that the
difficult situation brought about by the crisis will soon be over, if not today, tomorrow, the knots of the crisis are being pulled tighter and tighter. Neither can any rapid emergence from the crisis be expected from the profoundly anti-popular programs for spending cuts, for the stimulation of investments, production, exports, etc., which the bourgeois-revisionist governments are urgently drafting and implementing, one after another.

The economy of the capitalist-revisionist world remains sluggish. It is like a motor which, with wide-open throttle, splutters to a halt under the load it has been charged with. In the situation created, the bourgeois and revisionist apologists are busy inventing new arguments to explain the causes of the crisis, an economic-social phenomenon, which they had claimed, was a thing of the past in the «new, transformed capitalism».

It is true that the present economic crisis appears to be all-sided, because it has become entangled with the energy and monetary crises. Nevertheless, it is a periodic crisis of overproduction. A distinctive feature of this crisis is that it broke out and is developing in the conditions when the general crisis of capitalism, also has become very severe. Although these are two different types of crisis, they condition one another and, through their mutual interaction, are making all the contradictions of the bourgeois-revisionist order as a world system more acute.

Speaking about this question at the 7th Congress of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed that «the present crisis... is an economic crisis, but it is also a political and ideological, a military and cultural crisis, a crisis of the structures and superstructures of the bourgeois-revisionist system».

The Marxist-Leninist theory long ago provided accurate proof that the true causes of economic crises in capitalism are the irreconcilable contradictions between labour and capital. These contradictions pervade the bourgeois-revisionist order from top to bottom and penetrate its every cell. The striving of the bourgeoisie for maximum profits by stepping up its savage oppression and exploitation of the masses of the working people sharpens to the limit the contradiction between the social character of production and the private, capitalist appropriation of the product. This contradiction is the fundamental underlying cause leading directly to the outbreak of the economic crises. Hence, as long as capitalist and revisionist private property and exploitation exist, there must necessarily also be periodic economic crises as an unavoidable accompaniment of the bourgeois-revisionist order. And this is the case with the present economic crisis.

For a while, under the influence of certain temporary factors, the economy of the main capitalist countries experience the so-called boom years of its development (the boom years). The «theories» of a capitalism «without crises» were invented on this basis. However, the temporary boom intensified the process of the polarization between labour and capital. Because of increased up exploitation, of rising inflation and sky-rocketing prices, the masses of the working people were impoverished to the point where their buying power had fallen so greatly that they could no longer buy all the goods produced by capital.

From that moment the anarchy of production and the disproportion between production and consumption (sales), became so profound that a situation of relative overproduction was created. Suddenly social production
found itself before a closed door to which it had lost the key. As a result, the contradictions between labour and capital, that had lain deeply hidden, emerged more acute than ever and brought the gloomy year 1974, in which the industrial production of the capitalist-revisionist world suffered its greatest decline of the whole period since the Second World War. The fall in production and the rise of inflation marked the beginning of the very grave economic crisis that all the capitalist and revisionist countries are experiencing to this day.

With the depression drawn out for years, and with its international extension, the present economic crisis has made the general crisis of capitalism more serious in all directions. As Marxism-Leninism teaches us, the general crisis of capitalism is of a different nature and is a wider-ranging phenomenon than the economic crisis. It is a crisis of the base and the superstructure of the bourgeoisie-revisionist order as a world system. It represents a whole historical period which has as its fundamental feature the uninterrupted revolutionary process and the fierce class struggle on a national and international scale between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between socialism and capitalism, between the oppressed peoples and imperialism and social-imperialism. The general crisis of capitalism represents the period of the disintegration and collapse of imperialism, social-imperialism and capitalism, as a result of the creation of revolutionary situation, of the development and triumph of the proletarian revolution and the national liberation revolutions of the oppressed peoples.

The present economic crisis has further sharpened such specific and erosive phenomena of the general crisis of capitalism as the unequal economic and political development of the capitalist and revisionist countries, the extension of monopoly state capitalism in breadth and depth, the permanent under-utilization of productive capacities, permanent mass unemployment, inflation and the monetary crisis, the militarization of the economy and, together with this, the use of an ever greater part of the national wealth for non-productive purposes, etc. All these phenomena have greatly increased the instability of the capitalist-revisionist order and have accelerated the process of its decay. They are evidence that within the capitalist relations of production, the environment required by the forces of production for their normal and unhampered development can no longer be provided.

In the capitalist-revisionist world today more than 100 million workers have been thrown out of work. Unemployment and insecurity about finding or keeping a job have become a nightmare for the working people especially for the youth who have no guarantee of a livelihood, even for one day ahead. No less disturbing and threatening to the livelihood of the working people are the proportions which inflation and price increases have assumed. Things have gone so far that inflation has risen 30-50 per cent within one year. The same thing is occurring with prices too, especially those for mass consumer goods, which are going up not just year by year, but month by month and, even week by week. Both these phenomena are a heavy burden on the backs of the masses of the working people, increasing their exploitation and impoverishment. In order to ensure maximum profits, the capitalist monopolies do not hesitate to increase inflation or raise prices.

The militarization of their economies by the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and the other imperialist powers, the unprecedented
increase in military expenditure, the inflation of the state apparatus of coercion and oppression and the increase in subsidies in favour of the monopolies have burdened the state budgets of every bourgeois-revisionist country with huge chronic deficits. In order to cover these deficits, the issue of new banknotes and the increase of the taxes levied on the masses of the working people are resorted to on a large scale. In these conditions, inflation and great disturbances of the financial systems have become permanent phenomena of the capitalist-revisionist economy.

A general characteristic of the present stage of the general crisis of capitalism is the deepening of the gap, of the disproportion between the paper money in circulation and reserves of gold and the fund of goods, both in individual countries and in the entire capitalist-revisionist world. This circumstance is at the bottom of the financial and monetary crisis and the dumping and currency speculation that have upset the capitalist-revisionist world system today, that have dethroned the US dollar and the British pound from their privileged position, that have led to the collapse of the Bretton Woods agreement on the international monetary system and brought down the buying power of the bourgeois-revisionist currencies leading them to the brink of disastrous devaluation.

From its very beginning, the general crisis of capitalism has been characterized by the unequal economic and political development of the capitalist countries. The present economic crisis and the efforts which US imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism and the other imperialist powers are making to overcome it at others expense have made their unequal development more pronounced. On this basis the confrontations and the political and economic contradictions among the monopolies and imperialist powers have increased. On this basis, the United States and the revisionist Soviet Union, on the one side, which want to preserve their privileges in the world system of the capitalist-revisionist economy, and the Common Market, Japan, Canada, etc., on the other side, which are contesting these privileges, which are trying to infiltrate the sphere of influence of US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, have come out on the battlefield. These are contradictions and rivalries among imperialist wolves, each trying to draw the maximum profit from the blood and sweat of the people. Therefore, it is essential that demagogy and fraudulent tactics of the imperialists, such as the slogans of the Soviet imperialist about their «anti-imperialism», or the «anti-social-imperialism» publicized by the United States and the monopoly bourgeoisie of the West, etc., are exposed and rejected, that the people should not be allowed to fall victims to the enslaving manoeuvres of one or the other imperialist grouping. The facts prove that, irrespective of their rivalry and competition, when it is a matter of oppressing the proletariat and the working masses and plundering the peoples, when it is a matter of preserving the bourgeois-revisionist order and combatting the revolution and socialism, US imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism, and the other imperialist powers unite with one another as the class brothers they are and coordinate their plans.

The present economic crisis has also made another important feature of the general crisis of capitalism more acute: that is the disintegration of the colonial system and the winning of independence by many countries formerly under the colonialist yoke. The two superpowers and all the other imperialist powers are desper-
ately seeking a way out of the economic crisis by increasing their pillage of the assets and the exploitation of the peoples of the "allied" countries, as well as of the developing countries, by increasing their exports to, and investments in, these countries. For this purpose they have put in motion all their organisms and institutions, military, political, economic, etc., to keep neo-colonialism on its feet.

The efforts of imperialism, social-imperialism, and all international capital to shift the burden of the present economic crisis on to the developing countries have accelerated the process of economic decolonialization already started, the aim of which is to consolidate the political independence already won, with the achievement of economic independence. The struggle of the peoples of the developing countries to put their national assets and resources under national control, to strengthen their economic and political independence, and to attain equality and justice in international relations is aimed against world imperialism, and the two greatest international oppressors and plunderers, US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, in particular. But this struggle cannot fail to be aimed, also, against the anti-popular, fascist and pro-imperialist regimes in power in a series of countries such as Chile and Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Iran, India and Indonesia, Rhodesia and South Africa, etc. Consistently carried out under the leadership of the working class and the Marxist-Leninist party, in alliance with the broad strata of the peasantry and the other progressive forces, the anti-imperialist struggle of the peoples for national liberation constitutes a colossal force for the overthrow of world imperialism, is the powerful ally of the international working class and a reserve of the world proletarian revolution.

The general crises of capitalism and their deepening have always expressed themselves in the political field in the form of the open attack of big capital, monopoly bourgeoisie and reaction on the freedoms and democratic rights of the working class, with the aim of establishing savage fascist dictatorship. Against the onslaught of the bourgeoisie, the proletariat and the other masses of the working people have reacted and continue to react by stepping up their protest and revolutionary struggle. The tide of this struggle is steadily rising, proving that neither bourgeois-fascist violence, social-democratic demagoguery, nor modern revisionist disruption can prevent the outburst of the revolutionary energies of the working class, the decisive force for the overthrow of world capitalism. The development of a broad Marxist-Leninist movement is clear evidence that the working class in the capitalist-revisionist world is becoming increasingly conscious of its revolutionary role and mission.

The bourgeoisie has the political oppression and the economic exploitation of the proletariat in its blood. Imperialism and social-imperialism cannot exist without economic expansion, without political interference and military aggression, without oppressing and exploiting other peoples. The entire bourgeois-revisionist order and its world system have been built on these foundations and on them it exists. These foundations and the unchanging oppressive, rapacious and aggressive nature of imperialism and social-imperialism can neither be softened nor be reformed. They can only be eliminated, through the proletarian revolution and the struggle of the revolutionaries and peoples for national liberation and social emancipation, until the bourgeoisie-revisionist order and its entire world system is wiped from the face of the earth.
The present crisis that has gripped the capitalist-revisionist world and the further sharpening of the general crisis of capitalism, have created great class tensions and conflicts of a political, economic and social character, have made all the major contradictions of our time extremely acute. This is clear evidence of what the 7th Congress of the PLA stressed, that, «the world is at a stage when the question of the revolution and national liberation of the peoples is not just an aspiration and a perspective, but a problem put forward for solution».

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THE 8-th CONGRESS
OF THE WOMEN'S UNION
OF ALBANIA.

Dates: from 1-st to 4-th of June, 1978.
Comrade Enver Hoxha entering the hall of the 5th Congress of the Women’s Union of Albania.
MESSAGE OF GREETINGS OF COMRADE
ENVER HOXHA TO THE 8TH CONGRESS
OF THE WOMEN'S UNION OF ALBANIA.
ON BEHALF OF THE CC OF THE PARTY
OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

TO THE 8TH CONGRESS OF THE WOMEN'S UNION
OF ALBANIA

Dear comrade delegates,

The whole of Albania is following the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania, this important event in the life of the country, with great interest and joy. The banners of the victories with which you come to your Congress are the fruit of the efforts of all the women of Albania, of all our people, to realize the program of the Party for the complete emancipation of the women and our whole socialist society.

It is a special pleasure for me, on behalf of the Central Committee, the whole Party and on my own behalf, to greet you comrades, all the heroic women of socialist Albania and to wish you success in the work and the proceedings of the Congress. Let the voice of our woman and girl fighters burst forth.
at your Congress, let their opinion and their determination to carry forward the cause of our socialist revolution and socialist construction be expressed with full force.

Your Congress is a vivid testimony to the thorough-going and wide-ranging revolution which has taken place in the life of the Albanian woman. You, yourselves, who have come from the construction sites of new projects, from the flourishing plains, from the mountain areas or from the cities, reflect the magnificent reality of our country, the new woman liberated from oppression and exploitation, the woman worker and fighter, educated and cultured, who takes part not only in production, but also in running the state and the Party, you reflect that complete equality and lofty dignity which socialism has given the woman.

The Party feels a special joy when it sees that the women of Albania have achieved that high level of emancipation for which it has worked and fought since the very first days of its founding. In the women, the Party found that indomitable spirit of our people which, for centuries on end, resisted oppression and exploitation, it found those lofty virtues which would make them unflinching fighters in the war, in the women the Party found that force which the Homeland needed for the construction of new Albania. In countless deeds the women of our country have always displayed their great love and boundless devotion to the Party, because in the Party they saw the genuine leader which would make their great dream come true, which would make them free and equal, honoured and respected in society. Therefore, when the Party issued the call, the Albanian women rose courageously in the National Liberation War, in the struggle to destroy the old state power, to smash its laws and canons, to wage the class struggle consistently, to build socialist society and establish new norms and customs of proletarian morality.

The victories achieved in these struggles were cemented with the pure blood of the finest daughters of our people. To the Party, the people and our Homeland, the glorious heroines Mine Peza and Qeribë Derër, Bule Naipi and Persefoni Koleqëzima, Marta and Prenë Tera, and all the women and girls whom our history has ranked alongside the outstanding fighters of this country, will always remain beloved and unforgettable.

From the heights we have attained, the glorious road that the Albanian woman has traversed, can be seen clearly. It is the road of the struggle for the socialist revolution, without which there would have been no genuine liberation and emancipation of society, hence, of women, in our country. This road has been and remains a school of incalculable value for the women of socialist Albania today and for all generations to come. It shows what the proletarian revolution is capable of doing for the woman and what the woman herself is capable of doing for the revolution, when she is led by the Marxist-Leninist Party.

The emancipation of the Albanian women, one of the greatest victories of the socialist revolution and one of the most important achievements of our Party, assumes ever greater proportions when we see the situation of women in the capitalist and revisionist world. There, too, there is talk about the emancipation of women, but this is only a propa-
ganda slogan, because in reality, in that unjust and inhuman society, the woman, more than any one else, is used as a commodity and is subjected to merciless exploitation. The women are among the first victims of the serious consequences of the economic-financial crisis, they are thrown out on the street, they are the most oppressed and disregarded section of society.

The Party appreciates the great role which the militant organization of the Women's Union of Albania has played in the success achieved. During the 35 years of its existence, it has loyally carried out the tasks entrusted to it by the Party for the education and mobilization of the masses of women. Therefore, dear comrades, strengthen your broad organization even further, increase its role in order to defend and advance the victories already achieved, in order to consolidate and raise the emancipation of woman to a higher level.

Comrade delegates,

The 7th Congress of the Party laid down a great program of work and struggle for the all-round development of the country on the road of socialism, relying as always on our own forces. This program cannot be realized successfully without the active participation of women, without their revolutionary struggle. The Party calls on the woman to work, because without her production will be unable to advance, it calls on her to keep a firm hold of the rifle, because without her Homeland cannot be defended, it calls on her to raise her Marxist-Leninist, educational, cultural and technical-professional level.
because without this the personality of the woman cannot be raised, it calls on her to participate in the running of the country, because without this there can be no development of socialist democracy. The Party is firmly convinced that as always, the Albanian woman will fulfill her tasks, will be, always, in the front ranks of the struggle for socialism.

Our whole society, the worker and cooperative farmer, the engineer and technician, the officer and soldier, are interested in the problems you will discuss at your Congress and tasks you will undertake, because shoulder to shoulder with their women comrades, they are building their country and making it prosper, breaking the imperialist-revisionist enticement, overcoming the economic blockades and ideological pressure, carrying forward the socialist revolution.

Our society is also greatly interested in the noble mission of the woman as a mother, in the great role she plays in the raising and education of children. Our country has a wonderful younger generation, loyal to the Party and the people. This is also the great merit of the Albanian mothers, who bring up and educate their children to be like them as regards bravery, courage and patriotism, so that they outdo them as regards knowledge and the ever greater strides they will take on the brilliant road of socialism. The women of our country have implanted love for the Party and the socialist Homeland in the hearts of the youth, they fight to make the families nests where eagles are reared, where boys and girls are inspired to serve socialism in the lowlands and the mountains, in the factories and on the construction sites, at school and in laboratories, wherever the
Homeland needs them most. This is a vital question for the present and the future of socialist Albania.

The people and the Party are conscious that the whole society must make even greater efforts for the ceaseless emancipation of the woman, so that she is placed completely in the role which belongs to her as a great revolutionary force for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland, so that both in men and in women, all the old remnants, mentalities and prejudices are eradicated, so that the expressions of liberalism and conservatism and the bourgeois-revisionist influences, which sometimes hinder the woman from displaying all her values and abilities, are combated. The Party is certain that the Party organizations and the organizations of the masses, the state and economic organs, the educational and cultural institutions, the entire working people will all fight together to carry the emancipation of woman from victory to victory.

Dear comrade delegates,

The situation in the world today is turbulent and fraught with great dangers and threats to the freedom and independence of the peoples. The bourgeoisie, imperialism, especially US and Soviet imperialism, the revisionists and opportunists of all hues, are striving in every way to suppress the revolt of the masses and strangulate the revolution, to undermine the liberation struggle and enslave all countries. The superpowers and their followers are involved in a headlong arms race and are preparing to hurl mankind into a new war. They are inciting conflicts between different peoples and nations, brutally interfering in their internal affairs, hatching up plots against the freedom and sovereignty of the peoples.

These situations, which are developing in the world and which are changing continuously, must be followed with the greatest attention by all, so that we are always ready and prepared to cope with any danger that may threaten our Homeland. They make it essential that we raise our revolutionary vigilance higher, steel the unity of the people around the Party more and more, and ceaselessly strengthen the defence of the Homeland. All of us, men and women, must work tirelessly to develop and strengthen our socialist economy, to fulfill all the tasks of the 6th five-year plan to the letter, to make the life of our people and our children more beautiful, and more prosperous.

By fighting and working for the construction of socialism, the women of new Albania will uphold and develop the spirit of proletarian internationalism that characterizes them. In the tasks which the progressive women who are fighting for their emancipation and rights, and beside the peoples who are fighting for their national and social emancipation.

The beautiful city of Durres, where your Congress is being held, is a city renowned for its patriotic and revolutionary traditions. It has a talented working class, an ancient and developed culture. May these traditions and the enthusiastic atmosphere of the people of Durres be another source of inspiration for the successful proceedings of your Congress.

Under the leadership of the Party, with its ideals in mind and heart, throw yourselves, comrades, with fresh vigour into the battles to realize the
tasks of the 7th Congress of the Party, fight like resolute revolutionaries to raise the glory of the socialist Homeland even higher.
Long live the heroic women of Albania!
Long live the militant organization of the Women's Union of Albania!
Long live our glorious Party!
Glory to triumphant Marxism-Leninism!

ON BEHALF OF THE CC OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA
ENVER HOXHA

Tirana, June 1, 1978.

OPENING SPEECH TO THE 8TH CONGRESS OF THE WUA BY COMRADE LENKA CUKO, ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE CC OF THE PLA

Dear comrade delegates,

The 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania is opening today in the ardent revolutionary atmosphere the historic decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania have created in our country. Our Congress is being convened at a time when all our people, men and women, young and old have mustered up all their energies to fulfill the magnificent tasks of the 6th Five-year Plan, to strengthen the socialist economy, the defence potential of the Homeland, to further temper the unity of the people around our heroic Party and its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

Delegates from all over the country have come to this Congress to make the voice of the women of Albania heard, to discuss the major problems facing the country and undertake new tasks, which emerge from this stage of the socialist construction of the country. Allow me, dear comrades, to express, on your
behalf and on that of all the women of Albania from the tribune of this great assembly our gratitude to and boundless love for the Party of Labour of Albania, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, concerning everything they have done for the freedom and prosperity of our socialist Homeland, for the happiness of our people and, especially, for the women of Albania.

We thank from the bottom of our hearts the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, who honoured us with their presence at the proceedings of our 8th Congress and who make us especially happy and give us all the women of Albania great inspiration.

We are holding this Congress in the ancient city of Durrës, renowned for its patriotic and revolutionary traditions in wars for freedom and independence and in the work for the construction of socialism. Allow me to greet the people and women of Durrës from the tribune of this Congress and thank them for the warm welcome they have accorded the delegates and for the facilities they have created for the proceedings of our Congress.

Dear comrades,

Delegations and friends from various countries of the world have honoured our Congress with their participation in its proceedings. We warmly hail:

The delegation of the Women's Union of Vietnam, headed by Le Thi Kyen, vice-president of this Union.

The delegation of revolutionary women of Britain, headed by Diana Bunan.

The delegation of the Women’s Section of the Pan-African Congress of Azania, headed by Elisabeth Sibeiko.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Brasil, headed by Cecilia Costa.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Benin, headed by Filomena Sansuamu.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Greece, headed by Victoria Papadhopoulos.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Germany.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Iran.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Italy, headed by Elena de Rocco.

The delegation of the Democratic Women's Union of Japan, headed by Shigeko Morita, president of this Union.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Canada.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Chile, headed by Isabel Morina.

The delegation of the Women's National Union of Mali, headed by the secretary of administrative affairs of this Union Hawa Diallo.

The delegation of the revolutionary women of Mexico, headed by Leonora Velasquez.

The delegation of the Women's Union of Palestine, headed by Fatmaw Bernawi.

The delegation of the Revolutionary Anti-fascist...
Women's Union of Portugal, headed by Esther Muznic, member of the National Council of this Union.

The delegation of the People's Union of the Women of Spain, headed by Lucila Arazo Carrion.

The delegation of the Women's Union of Tanzania, headed by Hatidja Selimini.

The delegation of the Women's Section under the African National Union of Zimbabwe, headed by Turali Ropa, secretary for women's affairs.

The guest from Belgium Eliane Vogel Polski, teacher at the Free University of Brussels.

The guests from France, Annick Misquet, Director of Studies at the Institute of Social Affairs of Montrouge, Paris, and Paul Lejeune, teacher at the University of Rouen.

Our compatriotes Vangelia Theodhosi and Mai- pomeni Mertiri residing in the United States of America and France respectively.

In the name of all the delegates to the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania and the women of Albania, we welcome all the delegations and our friends, and thank them for the honour they are doing us.

Dear comrades,

Since all the delegates elected at the conferences of the district women's unions are present, allow me to declare the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania open.

On behalf of the Representation to the Congress allow me to propose that

1. The Political Bureau of the Central Committee
The residents of Diyarbakır enthusiastically receive Party and State leaders who have come to take part in the proceedings of the 8th Congress of the WPA.
REPORT

ON THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN IN THE
SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION AND ON
THE ACTIVITY OF THE WOMEN'S
UNION OF ALBANIA BETWEEN THE
TWO CONGRESSES: THE TASKS
EMERGING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECISIONS OF THE 7TH CONGRESS
OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

Submitted by Comrade Vito Kapo,
President of the General Council
of the Women's Union of Albania,
to the 8th Congress of the WUA
Dear comrade delegates to the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania,
Comrades and friends who are honouring our Congress.

The women of Albania, from all over the country and from their 8th Congress, as always, turn their eyes, minds and hearts towards the Party of Labour of Albania, which, with its Marxist-Leninist line and its unyielding struggle, has always inspired the masses and led them with farsightedness in the revolution and the construction of socialism, turning the wishes, demands and boldest aspirations of the whole people, including the Albanian women, into reality.

The 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania is taking place with the historic decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania and the further analysis of its important theses by the latest plenums of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and by Comrade Enver Hoxha personally, as its basis. These documents of great value for the present and the future of our country, have raised the revolutionary ardour and increased the mobilization, determination and drive of our whole people in the struggle for socialism. They open up new horizons to the entire people, including the
women of Albania, who see in them the vigorous militant program of their future work.

These materials are a deepening of the general line of the Party for the socialist development of the country, an enrichment and advancement of the theoretical Marxist-Leninist thinking of our Party to a new, higher level. They define the fundamental directions of the ceaseless development of our victorious revolution, for the continuous defense and strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for the further development of the economy and the strengthening of the defense of the socialist Homeland, for the revolutionary tempering of the working people and their imbuing with our Marxist-Leninist ideology, in conformity with the consistent implementation of the class struggle.

Educated with the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Albanian women express their unshakeable determination that, shoulder to shoulder with the entire people and under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, they will pour out all their energies to ensure the successful construction of socialism, the protection of the victories of the revolution, the defence of Marxism-Leninism, and face up courageously to all the waves and storms from whichever quarter they come, consistently implementing the principle of self-reliance and smashing the savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement. The Albanian women greet with enthusiasm and support with resolution the line of the Party of Labour of Albania in its foreign policy and its scientific analyses of the great international problems which concern all the revolutionary and progressive forces in the world.

Fully conscious of the great responsibilities and duties they have to the Homeland, convinced that, by consistently following the Marxist-Leninist line, socialist Albania will live on in the future just as it has done up to now, free, independent, without the shackles of economic and political enslavement to great powers or anybody else, from the tribune of this Congress the Albanian women pledge their word to the Party that they will be worthy fighters of the powerful army of victorious socialism. The people and women of Albania draw their strength from the Party, from the magnificent achievements already attained in our country, from the internationalist support of their numerous friends in the world.

The 7th Congress of the Party also defined the program of the struggle for the complete emancipation of the woman in the future, linking this closely with the emancipation of the entire society and the struggle to carry the socialist revolution further ahead. The reality of socialist Albania is a living testimony to the correct line laid down and followed by the Party for the emancipation of the woman, too. This reality shows to what unprecedented heights the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, for whom our hearts beat with unbounded love and gratitude, have raised the Albanian woman and what brilliant prospects they have opened to her further advance.

The 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania is meeting in Durrës, in this ancient city of glorious patriotic traditions, in this jubilee year of great events. It is meeting at a time when we are celebrating the centenary of the Albanian League of Frizren, which constitutes one of the most outstanding events in the history of the centuries-long
struggle of our people for freedom and independence; it is meeting in the year of the 35th anniversary of the founding of our glorious People's Army and the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Union of Albania. These jubilee celebrations will raise to new heights the revolutionary enthusiasm and drive which has swept our whole country in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, to march with determination, constantly forward, and to close our ranks more tightly around the Party, further tempering the powerful unity of our people.

This unity, as Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed once again during his visit in the district of Gjirokaster, is the key to all the victories achieved so far and the guarantee of even greater victories which await us in the future. Confronted with this unity, confronted with socialist patriotism and the keen revolutionary vigilance of the people, all the schemes and plots of the external and internal enemies of our country have been reduced to dust and ashes, and the enemy groups, headed by the traitors Fadil Paçarri and Todi Lubonja; Bеdrir Baluku, Petrít Durne and Hitro Cako; Abdyl Kellezi, Koço Theodhosi, Koço Nizala and others, have been uncovered and smashed.

The Albanian women will guard their unbreakable unity around the Party like the apple of their eye, standing as always shoulder to shoulder with their sons, husbands and brothers, on the same front, in the same trenches, undaunted in the face of any difficulty, loyal soldiers of the Party and the victorious revolution. The successes achieved make the Albanian women proud and optimistic. In the non-stop advance the women see their even more brilliant and happy future, towards which our heroic Marxist-Leninist Party, headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, with its consistent courage, wisdom and farsightedness, is leading them.

THE CORRECT MARXIST-LENINIST POLICY OF THE PARTY HAS LED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A GENUINE, PROFOUND AND VERY WIDE-RANGING REVOLUTION IN THE LIFE OF THE ALBANIAN WOMAN

From its content and importance, the emancipation of the Albanian woman is an inseparable part of all the radical political, ideological, economic and social transformations which have changed the appearance of our society and which give her unshakeable confidence in the present and the future. The great advance in the life of the woman is a practical proof of the superiority of the socialist order, of the transforming power of the life-giving ideas of Marxism-Leninism, and the correctness of the line of the Party.

It is the right and duty of the generation which went through the National Liberation War, to remind the younger generation of our country of the facts...
about how the Party started its work among women, what difficulties were overcome and what methods were employed to arrive at the present stage. For centuries on end, the societies with exploiting classes had steeped the Albanian woman in misery, had left her illiterate and shut within the four walls of her house. But the Party had faith in the strength and vitality of the Albanian woman, whose burning desire for freedom neither the centuries of oppression nor religious obscurantism and backward customs had killed. In the difficult conditions of the exploiting orders, she contributed, together with the whole people, to the struggle for freedom and independence, for the defence of the land, the language, the nation and the family. That is why the Party turned to the Albanian woman also, with full confidence in her worth and creative strength. It carried out a great deal of work among the masses of women to help them understand the need to link the struggle for national liberation with that for their own social liberation. The communists, both men and women, as well as the active patriotic women, carried on continuous, differentiated, individual work with every woman, making the mass of women conscious that their liberation, their dignity, the dignity of their husbands, sons and daughters, which had been trampled in the dirt by the exploiting orders and even more by fascist occupiers, demanded the overthrow of the old world of oppression and exploitation and the liberation of the people and the Homeland.

The Anti-fascist Women's Union of Albania carried out wide-ranging revolutionary activity to educate the woman and mobilize her in the war, to destroy the old, to sweep away the ruins and to build the new. The activity of this organization was successful because it was guided by the Party, which embodied the loftiest virtues of our people, their fiery love of freedom and independence. This patriotism had frequently made the people rise above the backward customs even on the question of the treatment of the woman, by admitting her to the forefront groups and units fighting for freedom and in some cases as their commander, or accepting her as participant on equal terms with man in assemblies and in the family, capable of having her mature say which carried weight everywhere. The entire process of the destruction of the old and the construction of the new on the road of the formation of our new woman was never for a moment separated from the major problems of the revolution. On the basis of the teachings of the Party and under its leadership, the Anti-fascist Women's Union of Albania and the other militant organizations of the masses, prepared the women for the National Liberation War and made them participants capable of acting both on the front and in the base area of this war, just as later, they prepared them and involved them in the struggle and work for the socialist construction of the country. Thus, the experience of the struggle for the emancipation of the Albanian woman is clear evidence that the rights and freedoms of the woman can be secured only under the leadership of a Party which is enlightened by the immortal Marxist-Leninist ideology and applies it consistently. Gradually, in the process of the revolution, as the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania emphasized, «the Albanian woman has come out into the arena of the struggle for socialism full of dignity,
and is outstanding for her lofty revolutionary spirit, her determination and patriotism, and distinguishes herself at work and in life.

Rapid rates of socialist construction are a distinguishing feature of our country. These rates have been even higher in our march towards the attainment of full equality between woman and man in all spheres of life, in production and social activities. Like the torrents which pour down from the mountains and make the plains fertile, the women and girls poured into factories and construction sites, into field brigades, fruit-growing and live-stock raising brigades, into local and national labour actions, into schools, courses and laboratories. Today, in Albania it is no longer a question of a handful of women, but of an entire army of emancipated women, politically and ideologically educated and professionally skilled, of a mass of women who multilate everywhere, the same as the men, in all the political and social activity of the country, in the affairs of the state and the economy, in educational life and creative scientific work, in the field of culture and art.

In our country, the participation of women in productive social work is, on the whole, considered as a problem solved. This is a great victory of our socialist system, which ensured their personality at work, in society and the family, their economic independence, their educational and professional uplift, and won recognition for the real worth of women. There has been an appreciable qualitative upsurge in the abilities of the woman and their contribution during this period. At the 7th Congress of the Party it was stressed, «Highly responsible positions in the Party and the state have been entrusted to her... The women comrades in leading posts have distinguished themselves for their loyalty to the line of the Party, their abilities as leaders and organizers, for their knowledge and culture.»

The road followed for the emancipation of the Albanian woman under the leadership of the Party, has confirmed the teaching of the great Lenin that, just as the woman needs the revolution in order to liberate herself, so the revolution needs the creative forces and the revolutionary energies of the woman in order to triumph and advance. Many indiscernible facts, the entire life of the Albanian woman and our society, have demonstrated the indispensibility of linking the struggle for socialism indissolubly with the struggle for the emancipation of the woman, they have shown that the more socialism gives the woman, the more the woman gives socialism in return. With their participation in the revolution and the construction of socialism, women increased the army of the revolution with the strength of half the population of the country, brought into its course colossal energies and forces which had remained suppressed, awaiting the day when they could burst out. And they did burst out with such great vigour and effect that today there is no success, no progress of our socialist society, in which the hand, the work, and the mind of the woman is not present.

In touching briefly, at our Congress, on the great achievements in the life of the Albanian woman, the profound revolution in her life, we also understand the great role played in this direction by the implementation to the letter of our first socialist Constitution, which for the first time, gave legal endorsement
to the struggle for the emancipation of woman. The new Constitution, our second socialist Constitution which sanctions the victories achieved so far and opened up even more brilliant prospects to the woman and our entire people, endorses the emancipation of woman on a more extensive scale and at a qualitatively higher level. The women of Albania, like the entire people, unanimously approved the new Constitution and pledged themselves to fight, as workers and soldiers, for the full implementation in practice of every single principle and article in it. They are extremely appreciative of the high assessment which the fundamental law of our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat makes of them – as a great force of the revolution – which takes an active part in the socialist construction of the country and the defence of the Homeland, and will always strive to make their contribution to ensure that socialism in Albania goes steadily forward.

Dear comrades,

The road of the emancipation of the Albanian woman is an original experience of historic value. It speaks of the outstanding contribution of the Party of Labour of Albania and of Comrade Enver Hoxha, personally, to the all-round theoretical elaboration and practical solution of this problem in the spirit of Marxism-Leninism. The emancipation of the Albanian woman is one of the most glorious deeds of our Party, which has always treated the problem of the woman as a major problem of the Party, as a problem of the entire society, as a problem which can be solved only when it is linked with the revolutionary struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation, when it is linked with the struggle of the proletariat and of the masses of working people under the leadership of the proletariat for the victory of the proletarian revolution and the construction of socialism.

The history of our country will record the revolution carried out in the life of the Albanian woman, the struggle for her emancipation, as one of the most outstanding deeds of new Albania, a deed which has been inspired, organized and led by the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at its head.

Evaluating the working woman as one of the most progressive and revolutionary forces of society, our Party argued that it was necessary to set up a special women’s organization, which ought to become its powerful lever, as it did in fact.

Implementing the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the women of socialist Albania and the organization of the Women's Union of Albania, together with all working people, have taken an active part and made an important contribution to the complex solution of the special problems of the woman step by step, problem after problem, within the context of the overall struggle of the people for the construction of socialism. The Party teaches us, however, that the role of the woman and the Women’s Union of Albania in our socialist society is constantly increasing, both in the struggle for the further emancipation of the woman and on all the other fronts of the socialist revolution. We understand both these tasks as they are, closely linked
with each other. The experience of the struggle for the emancipation of the woman in Albania and the great contribution the woman is making to the socialist revolution, refute the preachings of the Soviet revisionists and the opportunists of every hue that allegedly the revolution needs the forces and energies of women only in its initial steps, while later they should allegedly give up their organized struggle, stand aside from the fundamental problems of the development of social life, and return to the home. As a result of these preachings, the Women’s International Democratic Federation has turned into an instrument which hinders the development of the revolutionary movement of the masses of women.

From the experience of our country regarding the problem of the complete emancipation of the woman, on the basis of the teachings of the Party, the analyses and summing-up it has made, we think it necessary to stress here, at our Congress, some fundamental conclusions which have great theoretical and practical importance for raising the struggle of the Women’s Union of Albania and the contribution of the Albanian woman on all the fronts of socialist construction to a higher level.

First, in spite of the great achievements which have been made in our country, the struggle for the emancipation of the woman continues and will continue for a long time to come. The complete emancipation of the woman is a leap forward which takes place within the context of the socialist revolution and through the class struggle. The Women’s Union of Albania and the broad masses of women together with all the people, take and will continue to take a vigorous part in this struggle, through their Marxist-Leninist attitudes, coping with the all-round powerful pressure which the imperialist-revisionist encirclement exerts every day upon our country, both directly and by setting in motion the internal enemies, the remnants of the past, the alien customs and rites, in an effort to bring about the degeneration of our people and undermine the work of socialism in Albania. In this struggle we must sharpen our vigilance against any enemy and act on a united front, men and women, boys and girls, both against conservatism and against liberalism, both against the hangovers of the tendency of man to domination and the hangovers of the tendency of woman to subjugation.

The continuation of the struggle for the complete emancipation of the woman is connected also with the existence of certain distinctions and inequalities among women themselves, as well as between women and men. Marxism-Leninism teaches us that the elimination of all distinctions which exist in socialist society is a historical task which is solved during the whole period of the transition from capitalism to communism. An inseparable aspect of this problem is the elimination of the inequality of women and the ensuring of their complete emancipation. This task is being carried out gradually and successfully in our socialist society. Therefore, Comrade Enver Hoxha instructs us that “just as we are fighting to narrow the gap of the economic distinctions between town and countryside, in the same way we must also narrow the gap of distinctions in the relations between men and women, so as to ensure
their complete equality, not only in law, but also in reality. It is the duty of the whole society and of the Women's Union of Albania to fight for the further gradual reduction of the inequalities between men and women as well as among the various categories of women themselves until they are entirely eliminated, in those fields where they still exist.

Second, experience shows that in our socialist system the problem of the woman becomes the concern of the whole society. All the links of our system of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the levers of the Party can and must help the masses of women to prepare themselves ever better politically and ideologically for the fulfillment of their mission as citizens, working people, soldiers, mothers and regulators of family life. This educational work must also be carried out in every family, society, and school, so that each person individually, and all together, contribute to the struggle for the complete emancipation of the woman, respect her equality and rights, and apply the Marxist-Leninist teachings of our Party in this important social question. Under the leadership of the Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha emphasizes, «the active Organization of the Women's Union of Albania, the state and all the mass organizations, the school and society have the duty to educate women and men in the spirit of the struggle for the complete emancipation of all members of our socialist society, so that everybody, men and women, young and old, may march ahead triumphantly.»

Third, just as in the past, the Organization of the Women's Union of Albania, led by the Party, will work in the future as the lever of the Party for the training, education and mobilization of the masses of women in the struggle for the solution of all the problems of the revolution and the socialist construction of the country. It is understandable that in the initial stage of the revolution, the Party directed the Women's Union of Albania to devote special attention to the work among women on account of the grave situation in which the oppressive regimes had left them. Now that really great progress has been achieved in the emancipation of the woman, in carrying on the struggle in this direction, the Women's Union of Albania, along with the other organizations of the masses, must work even harder to increase the contribution of the woman in all the fields of socialist construction, in order to activate the masses of women more and more in the solution of the main problems which face the Party and our socialist society.

The Women's Union of Albania has its own responsibility in connection with the implementation of the line of the Party, to ensure that each of its directives is understood, analyzed, and put into practice. The problems of the Party are, at the same time, problems which concern the whole mass of the women. The Women's Union of Albania always bears in mind the teaching of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha that the specific questions of its work among women, too, are resolved in the context of the deepering of the socialist revolution and the further development of the struggle for the construction of socialism. The increase of the contribution of the Women's Union of Albania to this struggle is directly dependent on the coordination of its forces with those of the other organizations of the
masses under the leadership of the Party. The Women's Union of Albania must make the masses of women, at district and basic level, conscious that through joint efforts they are capable of solving all the problems preoccupying them.

It is now 34 years since our country embarked on the road of radical socialist transformations during which it has created and ceaselessly developed a new society, really free of any sort of political or economic, ideological or cultural, national or sexual oppression and subjugation. The magnificent successes which we have achieved in the construction of new socialist society assume special importance now that in the capitalist countries crises follow in succession and cause unparalleled misfortunes to the peoples, when in the revisionist countries socialism has suffered temporary set-back and the capitalist order has been re-established because of the betrayal of the revisionist cliques in power.

The socialist deed of our Party and people is a living example, a source of confidence and hope for all the peoples who are fighting for their freedom and progress, the revolution and socialism, in this historic struggle for the allround liberation of man, for the creation of new socialist society, the liberation of the woman, as Marx has explained, and the 7th Congress of the Party emphasized once again, represents a yardstick to measure the degree of the liberation of the entire society, serves as a natural gauge of the general emancipation. Therefore, from the tribune of this Congress we pledge our word to the Party that the shall commit ourselves with greater determination to the struggle for the complete emancipation of the woman, that we shall make new, even greater efforts to carry it steadily forward, under the leadership of the Party and with the word of Comrade Enver Hoxha in mind and heart, we, all together, men and women, young men and women, shall march triumphantly towards the complete construction of socialist society and communist society.

II

WE MUST KEEP UP WITH THE SITUATIONS AND RAISE THE STRUGGLE OF THE WOMAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM AND THE DEFENCE OF THE HOMELAND TO A HIGHER LEVEL

The period between the two Congresses of the Women's Union of Albania saw the further strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the raising of the defence potential of the country, as well as the rapid and dynamic development of our socialist economy and culture and the allround progress of industry and agriculture, science and technology. It has been a period of continuous improvement in the well-being of the broad masses of working people, of the further narrowing of the distinctions between town and countryside and the strengthening of the independence and stability of our socialist economy. This allround development of the country, which has been carried out in complete harmony
with the perfecting of the socialist relations of production in a revolutionary manner and by relying on our own forces, has been realized in the conditions of a sharp class confrontation, of the heroic struggle for the defence of Marxism-Leninism and the correct line of our Party in all fields of life, against internal and external enemies.

This period of struggle and victories is the best confirmation of the correctness of the Marxist-Leninist line of the Party of Labour of Albania and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha on the possibility of the construction of socialism, even in a small country encircled by enemies, such as Albania by relying on our own forces. It is clear testimony to the strength and vitality of our socialist order and its incontrovertible superiority over the bourgeois-revisionist order.

Marching with determination on the road indicated by the Party for the priority development of heavy industry, socialist Albania has created a whole complex of new branches of industry and now produces its own iron and steel. Relying on our own forces, a powerful energy base, which puts in motion new combines and factories, mines, production lines and whole plants, is developing steadily in our country. From a country with backward agriculture in the past, today Albania has a modern agriculture which fulfils all the needs of the country for bread grain and other agricultural and live-stock products, at a time when countries which were once renowned as exporters of grain and other products, now import them. Over 85 per cent of the mass consumer goods, that the people need, and nearly 90 per cent of the spare parts are produced within the country by the skilful hands and brilliant minds of our wonderful people.

Our country has achieved all these successes at a time when the capitalist-revisionist world has been caught in the grip of the most severe crisis of the period since the Second World War, when whole branches and sectors are being paralyzed or are shutting down, when more than 110 million workers are unemployed, when millions of people are starving, when millions of others are forced to emigrate, being subjected to savage capitalist discrimination and exploitation. In the capitalist-revisionist world, insecurity about the future is a nightmare which haunts every family. Crime has been raised to a system. While clamouring demagogically about "human rights", in fact, the governments of many of these countries are supporting the establishment of fascist dictatorships. Compare this situation with the security and spiritual ease which people in our country, enjoy, with no grievances worries, and with no taxes, compare this situation with our great victories. Here, work for all is guaranteed, pensions are guaranteed to the working people of both town and countryside, health services and education are free of charge. The ratio of the average wage of the workers to the highest salary of an official in our country is 1 to 2, whereas in the revisionist countries the differentials are 10 to 25 times greater. The Yugoslav "self-administration" system and the Khrushchevite economic reforms, which are zealously propagated by the capitalists and the revisionists, laud profits and material stimulus sky-high, and enable the new bourgeoisie to fatten itself on the increased exploitation of the working class and the labouring peasantry.
Comrade delegates,

Blended inseparably into all this process of the revolutionary development and transformation of our society, are the talent, toil, and efforts of the Albanian woman, who, shoulder to shoulder with man and inspired by the ideas of the Party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha, works, learns, creates, organizes and directs in all fields of our life, both in the country and in the city. Like all our people, the working class, the cooperativist peasantry, the people’s intelligentsia, our marvellous youth, the masses of women of our country, too, have hurled themselves with multiplied forces in the great battle for the successful fulfilment of the majestic tasks of the 5th five-year plan.

The 5th five-year plan is a magnificent program for the construction of socialism, and its realization is based firmly on our own forces. Our Party has applied the Marxist-Leninist principle of self-reliance since the time of the war for the liberation of the country, when it launched the slogan «freedom does not come as a gift but must be won». By consistently implementing this principle, the Albanian people, under the leadership of the Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, smashed the external and internal enemies, liberated the country and established their own state of the dictatorship of the proletariat. After Liberation, too, all these magnificent victories achieved in the socialist construction of the country, in defending the victories of the revolution and strengthening the defence potential of the Homeland, have been won by adhering to this principle. Today, in the conditions of the blockades and pressures of the imperialist-revisionist encirclement, the implementation of this principle assumes special importance. In this five-year plan, this principle has found an even broader sphere of action. It does not imply an autarchic and self-isolated development, as the revisionists preach, but it aims at, prepares for and realizes the reliable and most rapid progress of the most varied branches of the economy, by making efficient use of and mobilizing all the human forces and reserves of the country.

Today our socialist economy has its heavy and light industry and advanced agriculture, equipped with a powerful material-technical base, today it has our wonderful people who are masters of their professions and capable of utilizing our natural resources, energy and raw materials even better. «These things», said Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 4th Plenum of the CC of the Party, «create for us the great possibilities to overcome the situations which have arisen and to ensure the continuation of the construction and the defence of our socialist Homeland».

The uninterrupted development and strengthening of our economy, as well as the successful fulfillment of the 5th five-year plan, powerfully relying on our own forces, requires a greater, total mobilization of the forces and energies of the revolutionary Albanian woman, of her knowledge and creative spirit. The active participation of the woman in the socialist construction of the country has grown continuously. Women constitute more than 46 per cent of the total workers of the country. A distinguishing feature of the period, that divides us from the 7th Congress of our Organization, is the more rapid increase of the number of women at work in comparison
with the increase of the total number of the workers of the country. Thus, as against 1972, in 1977, the overall number of workers grew by 23 per cent, while the number of women workers grew by 28 per cent. This shows that not only those forces which result from the natural increase of the population, but also some of those women and girls, who on account of wrong concepts and pretensions about «choice» jobs stay at home, have been engaged in social production.

Today the Albanian woman has put her shoulder to the wheel in every kind of work, wherever the interests of socialism need her. Her participation has extended to almost all branches of the economy; now she is working with success in such important branches as metallurgy, the chemical industry, in oil processing and ore enrichment, in the engineering and electric industries, and many branches and sectors which, because of the high cultural and professional levels required there, were formerly considered as exclusively men's jobs. In the automated and mechanized departments and work processes, which require high precision, today women and girls make up 30 per cent of the total number of workers. The number of women employed in these branches has increased more than three-fold as against 1960. The total number of women in the agricultural cooperatives has increased, and in the state farms their number has almost doubled. The effectiveness of the work of women in the sector of agriculture has also increased appreciably.

In the 6th five-year plan the women of our country see the brilliant prospects which are opened up before our socialist Homeland, and they have mobilized all their strength to achieve the targets at all costs. Many revolutionary initiatives and movements have been launched by the worker and cooperator women all over the country for increased production and improvement of its quality, for inventions and rationalizations, for the strengthening of the scientific discipline at work, and the savings' regime, etc. Vanguard collectives in which almost all the working people are women and girls, such as that of the «Stalin» textile combine in Tirana, the carpet enterprise in Korça, the state farm at Maliq, the agricultural cooperatives of Këmisha of Lushnija district, Daj of Shkodra district and others, which have earned the high title of «Hero of Socialist Labour», are already well-known. Following in their footsteps are other vanguard collectives, in which, shoulder to shoulder with their work and life mates, thousands of women and girls are working selflessly, with sacrifice and heroism, such as those of the «Tractor» plant in Tirana, the textile combine in Berat, the clothing enterprise in Elbasan, the radio-producing plant and the chemical enterprise in Durrës, the electric bulbs factory in Vlora, the «Sickle and Hammer» combine in Korça, the electric wires and cables plant in Shkodra, the superphosphate plant in Laç, or those of the agricultural cooperatives of Verria of Tirana district, «Përparim» of Elbasan district, Grecali of Fier district, Shihtaev of Kukës district, Dovolen of Dibra district, Miras of Korça district, Qesarat of Tepelenë district, and many others, which have increased the yields of agricultural and live-stock products, which have created economic stability and possibilities to advance. In the lead of the emulation drive are the
working women of Tirana, who represent about 51 per cent of the total number of working people, and who together with men, have fulfilled their plans in all the economic enterprises of the capital.

All these and many other examples are evidence of the great force of women, of their real worth, which the Party cultivated with such care, are evidence also, of the profound understanding which our women comrades have about the situation in which our entire people are working and fighting. They are a splendid confirmation to that important conclusion of Lenin, who said that only under socialism are really broad possibilities created for the masses to demonstrate their spirit of initiative, to develop emulation and take bold initiatives.

Our socialist Homeland has been turned into a huge construction site. New labour forces are required everywhere. The organizations of the Women’s Union should devote special attention to their educational work among women and girls, so that they come to love any kind of work, especially the work in agriculture, this important sector which constitutes the basic branch of our socialist economy. During his visit in the districts of Gjirokastër and Saranda, Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed once again: «The whole Party, the Front, the other organizations of the masses, fathers, mothers, should teach their daughters and sons to be courageous, daring, with new concepts about socialist Albania... to be ready to go wherever the Homeland needs them». In response to this call, thousands of young people, among whom many young women and girls from the districts of Gjirokastër, Korça, Durrës, Fier, Tirana, Saranda, Kruja, Berat, Vlora and other districts, have gone to work in agriculture. It is the duty of our Organization to support, to encourage, and win general support for these revolutionary initiatives and to see to it, that hundreds and thousands of other young women and girls pour into the plains, the hills and the mountains, following this example.

Bearing in mind the demands of the major projects which are under construction outside the towns and cities and the requirements of agriculture, in which more men, boys and girls are needed, the Women’s Union of Albania should, at the same time, have a better knowledge of the studies made regarding jobs in the various branches of the economy in which women can replace men, interesting itself, also, in the schooling, age and the level of qualification required for these jobs. It is the duty of the Women’s Union to teach its members how to understand the situations and to prepare them to confront these situations. All of us know from history the bitter results with which the migration of our menfolk was coupled in the past. While today, all the conditions exist to work here, in our Albania, for ourselves and for the prosperity of our socialist Homeland. Women must conquer any manifestation of sentimentalism and any tendency to seek petty-bourgeois comfort, and encourage their husbands, sons and daughters to work on the work fronts where the needs are greatest and to put all their energies, talent and abilities in the service of the Homeland there. The wives of miners, fitters, oil workers and all the builders, have set a brilliant example in this direction.

Securing all the bread grain as well as the ne-
cessary reserves every year of the five-year period from home production, while giving increased attention to other agricultural and livestock products, constitute a great political and economic task. The successful accomplishment of this duty calls for a most correct understanding and implementation by all the masses of women of the slogan of the Party, “Agriculture, the concern of all the people.” The putting of this slogan into practice is directly linked with the fate of socialism in our country, with the struggle to break the savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade. Conscious of the great task the Party has set, women are making an invaluable contribution to the development of our socialist agriculture. In 1977 they put in 22.3 per cent more work days to norm than in 1973. There are many brilliant examples of brigades and sectors which have achieved high productivity figures in agricultural and livestock production. The example of the advanced brigades such as that directed by Marta Cupi in the agricultural cooperative of Kasnin of the Mitilta district, which has taken in 101.5 quintals of maize and 3 quintals of beans per hectare as a second crop, the brigade of Liri Rama in the agricultural cooperative of Shoshaj of the Mat district, which has taken in 51 quintals of wheat and 78 quintals of maize per hectare, Zade Kasmi in the agricultural cooperative of Çerma of the Lushnje district, which has taken in 19.7 quintals of cotton per hectare, Prenda Curri in the agricultural cooperative of Bregu i Matës of the Lezha district, which has taken in 32 quintals of sunflower seed per hectare, Dave Pashku in the cooperative of Kabash of the Puka district which has taken in 50 quintals of maize per hectare, as well as the example of many other brigades and sectors, which overfulfill the plans of production and are outstanding for high yields in agriculture, must inspire the working women of agriculture, just as they, in turn, must be inspired, also, by the example of the working people of the live-stock raising complex of the state farms of Kamza in Tirana and that of Berat, which take an average of over 4,000 litres of milk per cow. These examples speak of the managerial and organizational abilities, of the enthusiastic work based on scientific knowledge of our women comrades who are striving to discover the great reserves which exist everywhere; they bear convincing testimony everywhere of the results that can be attained when people work conscientiously and enthusiastically on the basis of sound knowledge, good organization and a high sense of duty.

Nevertheless, much still remains to be done in order to fulfil the target set by the 7th Congress of the Party that all the women should take part in work and that each of them should put in as many work days per year as possible. If all the women were to work regularly and follow the example of the advanced cooperativist women of the districts of Gjirokastër, Përmet, Saranda and Berat, who have put in an average of nearly 300 work days per year, then the extra volume of work carried out would be equal to all the work required for the cotton and sugar-beet crops planted in all our country. Therefore, it remains a permanent and important duty of the organizations of the Women’s Union of Albania in the countryside to draw all the able-bodied forces into the cooperativist production, in a permanent and systematic manner, while combating any
alien tendency to putting personal interest above the general interest, by disseminating and propagating everywhere the advanced example at work, by imbuing every woman with the conviction that her own interests and the interests of the Homeland require the constant strengthening and advance of the socialist system in agriculture.

Wherever they work, the women must know the problems of the people's economy, its requirements and needs. They must have their say boldly, about a more realistic and mobilizing plan and fight for a maximum utilization of the material and human possibilities, for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plans in every article and in all indices. It is the duty of all the organizations of the masses to further strengthen their work so that women, too, along with the menfolk, should know the principles of the economic policy of the Party and the economic laws of socialism and implement them correctly, to ensure that every woman understands that if shortcomings and defects are allowed in the fulfillment of the plans, if discrepancies and disproportions are created in different articles of production, in quality, cost etc., shortages are caused on the market, stocks of unsold goods which do not respond to the demands of the people build up, the exports are hindered, and the economy is damaged. In the light and food-processing industry, in which the overwhelming majority of the working people are women, along with the advanced enterprises we have also enterprises which have not fulfilled the plan in all indices, thus sometimes creating difficulties in internal consumption and at other times hindering exports. For example, the plan in footwear, various garments, and other articles, is fulfilled in value, but the consumer does not always find on the market all the kinds of clothing needed for children from 1 to 13 years of age. Therefore, it is also the duty of the councils of the Women's Union of Albania to teach the women to see themselves as both producers and consumers, so that, before they demand things from the state, they ask themselves first what they contribute to it, and as the Party teaches us, so that they are well acquainted with the destination of the product and its purpose.

The women must fight against the trend to hanker after quantity at the detriment of quality, they must fulfill and overfulfill their work norms, and, at the same time, develop the initiative for the improvement of the quality of the products, and become a barrier to anybody who disregards the requirements of the plan. There are great numbers of women workers who work very conscientiously, but there are also a few working women in town and countryside who, though they love the Party and socialism as the apple of their eye, are not conscious of all those factors which lead to the strengthening of the Party and socialism, and who do not respect the requirements and discipline of their work to the letter. The organizations of the Women's Union must arrange debates and discussions and, using the method of conviction, must involve all women in the struggle for full effectiveness of the utilization of work-time, against manifestations of self-satisfaction, etc.

A considerable number of absences from work occur because mothers have to look after sick children. During 1977, parallel with the necessary attention devoted to the health of children, temporary inability to work was reduced. The further lowering
of temporary inability to work, due to child-care, is greatly dependent on improvement of the work and raising the level of consciousness of the personnel of the child-care institutions, which is made up of women. But there are also cases of unjustified absenteeism caused by some old customs connected with marriage rites, staying with the parents, etc., which keep women and girls from the work of social production for weeks and months. The village women should be the first to embrace and support those forms of organization of work such as forming collective herds of domestic animals, which will not only ease their burden of work in the house and garden, but will also give them more spare time for themselves, for the family and the children, and enable them to take part without interruption in productive work for the further strengthening of the cooperativist property.

Because of the very great weight which the women carry in the service sectors, in which they are in daily contact with the people such as in trade, health, municipal services, together with the organization of the Trade Unions, the Organization of the Women's Union of Albania has devoted particular attention to educational work among the working women of these sectors in order to raise their consciousness and technical-professional abilities, so that they provide the people with timely, good quality services, administer the socialist property well and look after it like the apple of their eye. Despite the results achieved, it is the duty of the Women's Union of Albania to further strengthen its educational work in those sectors in order to raise the services to a higher cultural level and to respond to the demands of the people better.

The situation in which we are living requires a modest and unpretentious life, the strengthening of the savings' regime everywhere. The sense of frugality, care, their feeling for beauty and modesty have always been characteristic of women. Socialism has raised these virtues of women to a new higher stage. The Women's Union of Albania must also fight to implant the spirit of saving in every family, so that it uses its income and any product of mass consumption without waste.

The 7th Congress and the recent plenums of the Central Committee of the Party pointed out that a strong and stable economy is at the same time a powerful defence. The organizations of the Women's Union of Albania must prepare women even better so that they can assist in the fulfillment of the plans and be ready in any extraordinary situation to cope with the great tasks which pertain to them.

The successful fulfillment of the great tasks which were set at the 7th Congress of the Party requires the broad and active participation of working women in the development and deepening of the technical-scientific revolution.

We rejoice at the fact that today women and girls make up 30 per cent of the total number of the rationalizers and innovators of the country, as against 20 per cent in 1960. A large number of women have equipped themselves with profound scientific knowledge and have a high technical-professional level, which enables them to be active in the most varied sectors of the economy, science, and
culture, and to take part in studies of economic benefit and in their application.

The splendid results achieved by many women comrades and collectives are the result of the synthesis of their creative thinking, their advanced experience, their lofty communist consciousness, their mastery and practical application of scientific and technical knowledge, and of the perfect organization of production and its scientific management. It is the duty of the Women’s Union of Albania and the whole society to publicize the strength of women also as creators, which affirms their personality and overcomes the influence of erroneous views which underrate the ability of the woman to take part in creative activity. Our reality shows that wherever women are working, in education and industry, in science and in agriculture, they are performing an outstanding creative work just as men. They are creative in method, in organization, in composition, in design, in the treatment of the social problems, and other fields of activity. But a broader understanding about their capability must be created everywhere, so that confidence is built up in the strength of the broad masses of women who are developing production, perfecting the means of labour, making proper use of raw materials, lowering costs of production and fulfilling and overfulfilling the plans. This confidence will be further strengthened also by drawing women more extensively into skilled jobs in the scientific institutions or nuclei, into the technical councils, and scientific experimental work in enterprises and cooperatives.

Dear comrades delegates,

The development of our economy to the present stage and the deepening of the technical-scientific revolution make it essential to raise the educational, cultural and technical-scientific level of women, too, to a higher stage. The unprecedented revolution in the field of education and culture, which has been carried out in the glorious epoch of the Party in our socialist society, has had a very profound effect especially, on the life of the Albanian woman. The very broad participation of the woman in all the links of the educational system and in the whole cultural life of our socialist society, which will grow more and more in the future, constitutes one of the fundamental means for the all-round emancipation of the woman, for the enhancement of her personality and social dignity, for the increase of her knowledge and capabilities, for the continuous enrichment of her spiritual world, for the ceaseless increase of her contribution to all fronts of the construction and defence of our socialist Homeland.

Today, our whole country has been transformed into a great school. The ever greater participation of the masses in the people’s educational system at all levels has led to the colossal success that every day, over 500,000 pupils and students, 47 per cent of whom are women and girls, sit regularly at their school desks. In a country in which, only four decades ago, the woman was mercilessly oppressed by the savage laws of feudalism and capitalism, the church and Moslem Law, today, over 51 per cent of the students of the part-time secondary schools of the educational system are girls. This is a magnificent
achievement, a brilliant result of the Marxist-Leninist policy of our Party. We take pride in the fact that in our country 44.4 per cent of the students attending higher studies and 42.4 per cent of the working people with secondary and higher schooling are women.

Numerous examples bear testimony to the fact that amongst us, schooling is becoming a universal need, which our socialist state is satisfying ever better. Thus, whereas in the 1973-1974 school-year, the part-time agricultural secondary schools were attended by 3,800 women and girls, now more than 12,000 girls and women attend them. Today, it is nothing unusual, but is becoming normal phenomenon, that the young peasant women, the women working in the fields, in animal husbandry and fruit-growing, have completed secondary school, thus serving as a main support for the deepening of our technical-scientific revolution in agriculture.

In the recent years, a real revolution has taken place in raising the educational level of women in some regions which used to be amongst the most backward of the country. The women of Domgjon, one of the most oppressed villages in the past, pledged their word before Comrade Enver Hoxha that they would complete their 8-year schooling while carrying on with their jobs. And they kept their word. The spark of their revolutionary initiative spread throughout the district and, as a result, during these recent years, in the region of Kukës alone, 3,600 women have completed the part-time 8-year school.

In many of the regions, in which education was very backward in the past, the number of girls attending secondary schools, and especially higher schools, has grown rapidly. Thus, if in the 1973-1974 school-year there were only three girls from the region of Puka and only 16 from Tropoja attending higher schools, this school-year there are 32 girls from Puka and 113 from Tropoja.

The exchange of letters between Comrade Enver Hoxha and the cooperativist women of Këmishatë gave a new impulse to the revolutionary mass movement of women and girls to attend various categories of schools, especially the part-time agricultural secondary schools. Today, the Lushnje district alone has 1,200 women and girls who have completed secondary education and work directly in the fields. It is the duty of our Organization to keep this fire continuously ablaze everywhere and, in carrying out Comrade Enver Hoxha's instruction that even the simplest cooperativist woman should have agricultural schooling, we must fight to achieve absolutely regular attendance at school by women and girls and most systematic study on their part.

In achieving these brilliant results, in raising the educational level of women, the Women's Union of Albania, its forums and activists that have carried out extensive propaganda and organizational activity for the enrolment of girls and women in schools, have made their great contribution. But all these great achievements must not make us rest on our laurels. Our Organization faces important tasks for the consolidation of these victories, for their advancement, in order to utilize every reserve and possibility, to march boldly ahead towards the complete elimination of that slight difference which still exists between men and women at some levels of schooling and some categories of schools.
The fact that there are several thousand relatively young women up to 35 years of age, who have not completed their 8-year schooling, must attract our attention. The rapid development of our socialist economy, the technical-scientific revolution, demands the raising of the educational and technical-professional level of these women, too, the increase of their knowledge and abilities for work. Therefore, in supporting the revolutionary initiatives, like those of the women of the districts of Tirana, Kukës, Përmet, Durrës and Librazhd, the Women's Union of Albania must do more and better work to spread them widely among the ranks of women, so that these new and very valuable forces for the development and allround progress of the country are assisted and organized and gain qualification.

There are also some discrepancies existing between men and women in certain categories of education, in lower technical-vocational schooling, in some types of part-time vocational secondary and higher schooling, as well as among women themselves in various branches and professions. These disproportions, and the fact that in some branches of the economy, especially in the food-processing and the light industry, the personal grading of the majority of women does not coincide with the grading required for the job, face the Women's Union of Albania and all the organizations of the masses with the need to work with coordinated forces for the training of the masses of women to respond to the political and educational requirements of the grading system.

We consider the role of education and the school in the struggle for the further emancipation of the woman also from the angle of the Marxist-Leninist ideological formative influence and the allround communist development which the school exerts on women and girls. Especially, in the period of the further revolutionization of the school, many new and more powerful premises have been created for the increase of the communist personality of our school and student youth, the broad masses of young women, such as the ideological movements inside and outside school, their direction against the vestiges of inequality in considering and dealing with boys and girls, the participation of girls together with boys in the big labour actions, in the new projects of our socialist construction in the ranks of the workers and peasants, their military training along with boys etc. Still better use must be made of these premises so that, in their school life, our girls feel themselves equal with boys in every field, combating any remnant of a sense of inferiority or shyness, and educating the boys, too, in the spirit of equality and respect for their girl comrades.

The allround cultural development of girls and women is realized in unity with the continuous raising of their educational level. The ceaseless extension of the mass media, newspapers, books, radio and TV, which have penetrated deeply into almost every Albanian family, as well as the great network of thousands of cultural and artistic institutions, also serve this aim. Now, more than four books per person are published every year in our country. This index is two to three times higher than that in such developed capitalist countries as Britain, Italy etc. Last year alone, more than 10,700,000 books were distributed. This extension of means of mass media
is being realized in full conformity with the continuous instructions the Party has given about a broader concept of culture and the cultured person, proceeding from the socialist principle that the whole of our socialist life is and must be culture.

Such an impetuous cultural development has a powerful influence especially on the life of the Albanian women, who are not only gaining enrichment from the cultural values of our socialist society, but are also a great, active creative force in this society. We need only mention that in the amateur artistic movement of a profoundly massive character, alone, in which hundreds of thousands of people participate, about 55 per cent of the participants are girls and women. Today, the Albanian women and girls are courageously mounting the state and are making their debut in the fields of the literary, artistic, scientific and other creativeness. This is a very important indicator of the flowering of their communist personality.

But in this field, too, we must march forward ceaselessly, increasing the direct contribution of women to the whole complex of cultural values as well as their contribution to the creation of these values. It is a fact that after the age of 20-25, women read less and frequent the cultural and artistic institutions less. After they are married, some of the young women, especially in the countryside, tend to stand aside from the amateur artistic movement. Women members of the Writers' and Artists' League are still few. The woman must value her participation in the mass social cultural activities, just as she must make extensive use of all the means of mass propaganda and culture in the family. In all these fields of cultural development, the woman is still hindered to some degree by old considerations and backward customs about her, as well as by the remnants in her sense of inferiority and shyness. But she is still hindered, also, by the lack of sufficient spare time and failure to make the best use of what she has. It is the duty of every woman in our country that, while taking advantage of all the possibilities our socialist state has created, while working herself and suggesting to her comrades, they should ensure ever better conditions for lightening the burden of housework and child-rearing within our possibilities and plans, to fight to make the work of the family the work of all the members of it.

The successes achieved in the formation and tempering of the new Albanian woman have also led to her promotion to leading posts on a broad scale. Today, we have many women comrades performing top-level duties in the Party and state, at the centre and the base. There are women comrades who are members of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers, or first secretaries of the Party Committees in the districts and chairwomen of the executive committees, etc., managers of big economic enterprises, agricultural cooperatives and various educational and social cultural institutions, etc. Nevertheless, the Party lays down emphatically that there are possibilities and more must be done, to promote women to posts of responsibility, not only because the number of women who take an active part in productive social work is great, but also because with their political-ideological maturity, their experience at work, educational level, qualifica-
tion, etc., they have all the possibilities to carry any
duty of responsibility the Party entrusts to them.

It is the duty of the Organization of the Wo-
men's Union of Albania to further enhance the
struggle against the inhibiting concepts and under-
estimation existing in women themselves and in a
part of our social opinion in regard to their abilities
as leaders. The promotion of women to leading posts
in the most varied sectors, in production, in the cre-
ative and scientific fields, in all the political and
social life of the country, is a real demand, a neces-
sity, for the implementation of which our Party and
socialist social order have continually created all the
conditions to make this possible.

Dear comrades,

The raising of the political consciousness of
women must be seen in close connection with the
situations we are passing through, with the need for
the ceaseless strengthening of the unity of the people,
the increase of the activity and participation of wo-
men in running the country, in the socialist construc-
tion and the defence of the Homeland.

All that has been said earlier is the finest testi-
mony to the enhancement of the political and ide-
ological consciousness of women and the society as a
whole, to the place and great role of the woman in
the ceaseless development of the socialist revolution
in our country.

The raising of the political and ideological con-
sciousness of women to the level we see today has
not been easy. In the first place, it has been the

Party that has worked and mobilized itself for this.
It has always considered the formation of the new
man, hence, the new woman, as a premise and an
essential condition for the victory of our great ideal
of socialism and communism. All the social organi-
zations, all its levers, have worked and mobilized
themselves, under the leadership of the Party and
according to its directives, to this end.

In this struggle the Organization of the Women's
Union of Albania has played an important role to
implant sound ideological convictions in the masses
of women and to increase their class consciousness,
to ensure the most active possible participation in
the great struggle the Party is waging, at the head
of the people, for the construction of socialism and
the strengthening of the defence capacity of the Ho-
meland in the conditions of the savage imperialist-
revisionist encirclement. It has striven to put all
its political and ideological activity completely, and
as well as possible, in the service of the great pro-
blems which arise from the revolution, the stage
achieved in the construction of socialism, as well as
of the tasks laid down for the complete emancipa-
tion of women and the whole society.

The organizations of the Women's Union have
based their ideological and political work on the
Marxist-Leninist ideology, the materials of the Party
and the works of Comrade Enver Hoxha, which are
the ideological nourishment of our whole people.
They are our most valuable asset, by means of which
the consciousness of women is moulded, their per-
sonality is raised and they become capable of serving
the people and the Homeland ever better. The more
thoroughly the Marxist-Leninist ideology is mastered
and the directives of the Party are understood, the more stable will be the convictions of women, the more intensive their participation in the political and social life of the country, and the more powerfully and effectively the contribution which socialist society seeks from them will be felt.

In its ideological-political work, the Women's Union of Albania has aimed to make women know the political situations and the danger of the imperialist-revisionist encirclement, to ensure that they keep up with these situations and properly appreciate this all-round encirclement, and do not forget for a single moment that socialist Albania, which is a living example of the successful implementation of scientific socialism, was born and is living under siege, and at the same time that it has triumphed and will triumph over it. By recognizing and living with the situations properly, all the tasks are understood and carried out better to the letter.

In the intensive ideological-political work that the Women's Union of Albania has carried out, stress has been laid on certain key problems, and first of all, on the further strengthening of the marvellous unity of the people around the Party, seeing this as a unity of thought and action, which is based on the common fundamental interests of all the working people and is expressed in the complete readiness of the people to be always united firmly around the Party and stand ready to defend the dictatorship of the proletariat and the independence of the Homeland, to carry the victories achieved, the cause of socialism and communism in Albania constantly forward through the class struggle.

As the great teachers of the proletariat Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin have stressed, the dictatorship of the proletariat is the means which ensures the working people, with the working class at the head, hence, the mass of women, too, liberation from oppression and exploitation, the happy and prosperous life, the broad genuine democracy. Therefore, women consider the ever greater strengthening of our People's Power, the dictatorship of the proletariat, as their own important task.

The period between the two Congresses once more thoroughly confirmed the correctness of the policy of the Party that in socialism, too, the class struggle, as Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed at the 7th Congress of the Party, is an objective phenomenon, the main driving force that carries the revolution and the construction of socialism forward, that protects the Party, the state and the entire country from bourgeois-revisionist degeneration and the restoration of capitalism, that cleanses the consciousness of the working people and tempers them to be revolutionaries. Every measure of our Party for the strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, for the revolutionization of the entire life of the country, for narrowing the differences between the city and the country, between mental and physical labour, reducing the inequalities between men and women, the further democratization of all economic and social relations, is realized through a fierce class struggle.

The class struggle is going on in all its fierceness both against the internal enemies and against the external enemies, who surround our country and who are threatening the People's Socialist Republic of Albania with military aggression, economic blockades and, especially, with ideological diversion, on which
they are pinning their hopes for the degeneration of our new man, in order to create disorganization, damp the revolutionary drive, and lose confidence in our own forces. The Women's Union of Albania has worked to ensure that women know the international situations, the difficulties and the dangers deriving from them, and are able to cope with them, to tell who are our friends and who are our enemies, to draw concrete tasks so that they work with revolutionary inspiration, discipline and determination, with a spirit of sacrifice.

The Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha have taught us that we must always be in revolution, that we must make revolution in everything, at work, in life, in society. To be in revolution means to fight consistently against any conservative, liberal, bourgeois-revisionist stand, it means to wage a determined and irreconcilable class struggle to close «the paths from which the enemies may emerge and damage us».

Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us that «the class enemy tries to bamboozle the vigilance of the masses, it looks for periods of calm and lulls in the development of the class struggle in order to muster its forces and strike suddenly». Therefore, the Women's Union of Albania, as the lever of the Party, is fighting to increase the vigilance of the women day by day, not to allow the enemy a moment's respite, let alone to find favourable situations to attack us. To this end, it has intensified the struggle on the two flanks, against alien liberal-bourgeois attitudes and concepts, as well as against conservative-patriarchal ones. However, there are still women who manifest liberal tendencies, which are mostly evident in their sentimental attitudes towards their children and kin, who do not behave according to the norms of our morality. Living with all the problems of the country, as workers, activists, as mothers and wives, sometimes they notice wrong attitudes towards work, property, the comrade, wife, parent, or neighbour, they notice some shortcoming in the behaviour of children, they notice waste, nepotism, favouritism, but they do not always raise their voices against these acts, do not always treat them as aspects of the class struggle, in order to put the bearers of them on the anvil of revolutionary tempering. Such attitudes are irreconcilable with the norms of our socialist morality. They show that an active, revolutionary class stand is not always maintained by all women everywhere.

The Organization of the Women's Union of Albania must work better so that every woman thoroughly understands the danger threatened by indifference or the putting of personal interest above the general interest. This will increase the determination of women in the implementation of the line of the Party, will deepen their struggle against every alien manifestation and against anyone who is the bearer of alien concepts, or who acts in contravention of the principles and norms of our society.

The 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania pointed out that «alien patriarchal and conservative, bourgeois and liberal concepts are still a great barrier to the all-round affirmation of the personality of the woman». Despite the blows dealt to these concepts, they appear on various occasions. Conservative attitudes are often linked with a tendency of the man to domination and that of the woman to submission, which not only damage the
socialist democracy in the family, the engagement of all its members in the household tasks, but, as the Party teaches us, also damage the society. Therefore, occasionally, as a result of these hangovers, women are not allowed to take their proper place in productive or the socio-political work, either, while here and there the will of the father or the brother is still decisive in the betrothal of children, in the family, etc.

It is of very great importance that the organizations of the Women’s Union of Albania wage this class struggle in the ranks of the people correctly and with profound, political maturity. Our people, too, become bearers of such alien manifestations as rumour-mongering which destroys unity, failure to go always where the interests of the Homeland require, damage to socialist property, underestimation of the capacities of women, etc. But to fail to raise one’s voice against these manifestations, on the account that they are our people, would be dangerous liberalism, which hinders our advance, which creates a climate favourable to the seed of bourgeois-revisionist degeneration. At the same time, if the bearers of these manifestations are treated as enemies, this, too, is no less dangerous. As Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us, opportunism and sectarianism are equally dangerous and must be equally combated.

For the organization of the Women’s Union of Albania to wage the class struggle correctly, to wage it on all fronts against the external and internal enemies, as well as against their ideologies and the people in our ranks who degenerate, for every woman to maintain a class stand in every case and problem, it is indispensable to ensure the systematic education of women with the ideas of Marxism-Leninism and the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Every woman must gain an ever better understanding that the fate of socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat depends on the correct implementation of the line of the Party, which is Marxism-Leninism in action. That is why for the women, too, just as for all the working people, the great task of learning, always learning Marxism-Leninism, both through the organized forms of education of the working class and the working masses, as well as individually, is raised with great force, and they must apply it every day, every hour, in every attitude and action which they or their comrades take.

Bearing in mind the need for ever more intensive and effective political activity, the Women’s Union of Albania must fight against those forms of stereotyped, routine work which are observed on some occasions. The solution of this problem is fully possible in the conditions when the number of activists of the Women’s Union of Albania has increased, when its social content has been improved, when the number of the activists has been increased with young women who have all-round political, ideological, cultural and professional training, who have rich experience of life and who have attended the study groups and courses, and the «V.I. Lenin» Higher Party School. The summing-up of the experience of the very good educational, political and ideological work of many organizations of the Women’s Union of Albania in the suburbs of such cities as Tirana, Berat, Shkodra, Durrës, Lushnje, Vlore, Fier and Kruja, etc. would serve to enliven the educational
activity of our organizations and make it more effective, along with involving them in the struggle waged around all the important problems which concern the Party and the society. The work which the Houses of Women will carry out is very promising. Using many means and the most suitable ways, the organizations of the Women’s Union of Albania must develop their educational activity according to the level and psychology of the women, must do individual work with them. Only such work makes everybody eagerly embrace the line of the Party with revolutionary will and fervour, further tempers the unity of the people round the Party and makes Albania a fortress impregnable to any aggression of enemies of every hue, and strengthens the unwavering confidence that, under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, the banner of socialism will be raised ever higher in our country.

Today, when the new revisionist bourgeoisie, with all its allegedly socialist forms, as well as the reformist trade unions, are coming to the aid of the old bourgeoisie, it is the task of the Women’s Union of Albania, too, to work among its members wherever they are, as workers, citizens and soldiers, so that they fight to create the conviction in themselves and to propagate everywhere, that despite the temporary losses the revisionists inflicted to the revolution in the world, it will triumph, because the great and immortal doctrine of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin exists, and it is lighting the way for the international proletariat and is being faithfully applied in the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania.

Finding its place and tasks on the common front of the ideological work of the mass organizations, the Women’s Union of Albania has implanted in every woman the conviction that socialism is the deed of the masses. Along with the gradual rise in the ideological consciousness of women, their active participation in the political-social life of the country has also increased. The word of women is heard everywhere powerfully. They distinguish themselves in party work and in all fields of social life. Women and girls make up 27 per cent of the standing membership of the PLA and 28.4 per cent of all those elected to its various forums. In the representative organs of the People’s Power they constitute 33.3 per cent of the deputies to the People’s Assembly of the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania, and 34 per cent of the members of the people’s councils. Likewise, 41.2 per cent of those elected to the directing organs of the organizations of the masses and 30.7 per cent of the members of the Supreme Court of the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania are women and young women. Exercising along with men the rights sanctioned by law, the women have greatly extended their direct participation in running the country. They have distinguished themselves for their political maturity, revolutionary courage, professional ability and broad participation in the social controls. The revolutionary school of life has made them master the art of running the country better, while at the same time increasing their personality. But the Organization of the Women’s Union of Albania must fight to ensure that the broad participation of women in the social control groups, especially in those of the worker and peasant control, is better than it has been up to date, so that
as active participants in the whole life of the country they use their rights better in work and production centres, in city districts, and make an even greater contribution to the solution of various problems. They have all possibilities to raise suggestions and appeal to the organs of the state and the Party for the solution of many acute problems, the elimination of bureaucratic practices, to ensure more cultured social services, for the implementation of socialist norms in all fields of life, for the further democratization of the People's Power. They can and must do even more work, everywhere, and especially in the countryside.

In order to involve the masses of women more in the running of our country, the development of socialist democracy and strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat, the ideological-political work to know the directives of the Party is of great importance. The magazine «Shqiptarja e Re» (New Albanian Woman) has done laudable work in this direction. It has served as an important means of communication to carry the word and the directives of the Party to the masses of women and to seek their opinions.

We must fight to see that the directives of the Party do not remain the property of a limited number of activists, of a mass at a relatively higher level, of forums and apparatuses, but must get down to the base, to the remotest area, to the most insignificant link, to the humblest woman. The Women's Union of Albania must work for the correct solution of that problem which is causing concern in a work centre, village, or city district, at a given moment. This will extend the range of problems the Organization must deal with, and thus it will be better able to help eliminate indifference, take people from action to action, educate and make them able to maintain a consistent revolutionary class stand. This is the essence of the movement for the intensification of the political work of the mass organizations, under the leadership of the Party, which responds to the teaching of Comrade Enver Hoxha, that «the moulding of the socialist consciousness of the masses must not be confined simply to the propagation of a few norms and general principles of communist morality, but these must be linked organically with life everyday, with the time and place, when and where they are implemented, because in this way they will be transformed into people's inner convictions and be embodied in their attitudes and actions in practice».

Dear comrades,

In socialist Albania, a harmonious relationship has been established between the active participation of the woman in work and in social and political life and her role in the family.

The raising of the political consciousness of women to that level that they link all their duties, at work and in society, with the situations in which our country exists, has strengthened our socialist family, has increased the mothers' joy and the children's happiness.

The participation of the woman in production and political and social work, the raising of her political, ideological, educational and cultural level, along with all the political and social transformations
carried out in our country, have strengthened our family morally, have lightened household work, strengthened its function of raising children and of educating all its members.

Today, thanks to our socialist order, to the all-round progress of the country and the care for the life of mother and child, our Albania, which on the eve of liberation had only 1,040,000 inhabitants, now has 2,513,600 inhabitants. The average life expectancy has increased to 68.2 years as against 38 years in 1938. Albania has the highest rate of increase of the population and the lowest death rate in Europe. Of course, these are the result of the general line of our glorious Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, which has placed the care for the free man of our socialist society above everything. In many countries of the world there is talk about humanism, but at the same time, with unprecedented cynicism, they suppress and exploit the people and compel them to live in dire poverty, and all this they justify with the excessive increase of the population. There is true humanism in socialist Albania which demonstrates with facts that our land can feed many more people, just as the whole world has room and wealth enough for all the natural increase of the population.

The aim of the clamour of the bourgeois propaganda in the capitalist and revisionist world about the so-called "democratic freedom of abortion" is to divert the attention of women from the social contradictions and evils of the capitalist system, to conceal their real cause, the capitalist "law" of maximum profits which is the source of the destruction of the family, its degeneration and the degeneration of all other social relations.

How different it is in our country! We are fighting to ensure that every child is born and reared healthy, that the family is strong and happy. Today, from the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania, on behalf of the Albanian mothers, we thank the Party, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, and our socialist state, which have taken and are taking concrete measures, sanctioned also by the dispositions of the law, to protect the health of the mother by giving her suitable work and special treatment during her pregnancy and providing her and her child with free medical assistance. As a result of this care, today in our country, there are about 13,000 mothers with more than 7 children who have been decorated with medals, orders and even the title "Mother Heroine", because all the children to which they have given birth have been reared healthy and well educated.

Today 98 per cent of births in the countryside are assisted medically. Great solicitude is shown for the mother and child-care institutions, which have been broadly extended. Over our whole country there are 5,025 creches and kindergartens. We have one doctor for every 767 inhabitants and another health worker serving directly every 150 inhabitants.

The Albanian Women's Union has also given great assistance to preparing women to benefit from all these favourable conditions which socialism has created. Worthy of praise are the districts of Mir-dita, Permet, Burrel, Elbasan, Kruja, Korça, Sarandë where, thanks to the good educational work of the Women's Union of Albania, considerable improvement has been made in the healthy rearing of infants, as well as in the districts of Kolonja, Vlora,
Pogradec, Gramsh, Kukës, Tropojë, etc., which have fulfilled almost all the contingent of children in the respective institutions, according to forecasts, and have found other forms of work to care for them and their education collectively. But we cannot leave unmentioned the carelessness shown by some organizations of the Women's Union of Albania in districts and at the base which do not coordinate properly their activity with the state organs and the other organizations of the masses, and which do not fight as they should to make full use of all the possibilities which our society has created, all the funds and capacities of the respective institutions. Some other organizations do not come out to the proper extent in defence of the implementation of the laws and decisions which have to do with the health of mother and child.

The socialist transformations and the participation of women in production and political and social work have greatly increased the educational function of the family and have strengthened its socialist character.

With the liquidation of private property, the objective basis of the antagonism between the family and society has been eliminated. The family is no longer a centre of the accumulation and inheritance of wealth, no longer a breeding-ground for selfishness and individualism, as in the exploiting orders. The struggle of our Party and its levers has penetrated into the family, too, dealing a heavy blow at the hangovers of the old reactionary ideology, at the conservative, feudal, bourgeois, petty-bourgeois, liberal and revisionist influences. It has struck a blow at the aims towards frivolous luxury, and protection of selfish, anti-social interests, it has attacked the attempts evident here and there to secure undeserved advantages in crooked ways, to take more from society than one contributes, etc. The Marxist-Leninist education, the emancipation of the whole society, hence of the woman, would not be complete and consistent without its extension inside the family. It is known that the educational force of the family is great, because it is based on the sincere and powerful feelings of love between parents and children, of the mother, this natural educator of her child. Comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us that "the example of parents and the other adult members of the family plays a special role in the communist education of the youth, therefore they must not underrate this question...". While protecting the intimate and delicate character of the relations within the family, the mass organizations, hence the Women's Union of Albania, too, must train the people better not to play a double role ideologically and morally, but to maintain a revolutionary class stand in the party spirit both outside the family, at work, at school, in society, and within the family.

The bourgeoisie and the revisionists are exalting the role of the mother in the education of children in order to justify the withdrawal of women from social production work, which has now become a general phenomenon among them. But, thanks to their 34 years of experience, the working women of Albania declare from their Congress that production and political-social work has not hindered them, but, on the contrary, has helped them a great deal, to
perform their role as natural educators in the family and its influence has been such that the entire family performs its educational function better. By bringing into the family the matters of great concern to their work and society, the working cooperativist or intellectual women, have made it a real centre of education. Not only have these stands removed the woman from the sphere of idle gossip and rumours, from quarrels and conflicts which might arise in the family as a result of the foolishness of an empty life, they have largely overcome that sentimentality which leads to the fulfilment of every childish whim or desire, however unreasonable.

Yesterday, the Albanian mothers held their heads high when their sons or daughters took up the rifle and went to the mountains to fight for freedom. Today, the young mothers of Albania, educated with the teachings of the Party and as active participants in production work and political-social activity, consider it an honour when their sons or daughters go as volunteers to railway construction sites, the great projects, and the countryside. For all these things our mothers are proud, and the children, the younger generation of our country, who are carrying forward the banner of the revolution, are happy, because only in this way can our progress be guaranteed and our reliable and prosperous future be secured. It is this present and future which the skilful hands of our people are building, under the leadership of the Party, which has aroused a confidence and optimism that shines from the happy faces of our youth in schools, in actions, in the enterprises, and agricultural cooperatives and everywhere. Educated with the feelings of collectivism, solidarity and proletarian internationalism, sure of the happy future in store for them, our youth are being educated everywhere, at school and in the family, to be guided in life by great ideals, to contribute with all their inexhaustible energies to the defence, strengthening and prosperity of the socialist Homeland. That is why our youth, both in the society and in the family, are educated to despise any vanity, any tendency to an empty life. They have a broad field in which to display their creative energies, and they are keen and eager to spend their time doing this, that is why they are joyful and contented. In the capitalist and revisionist world it is the mother’s hopeless dream that the energies and capacities of her child will be directed into proper channels, but there the system itself leads the youth to an empty life, to smoking marihuana, to drug addiction, to suicide.

In the future, too, the Women’s Union of Albania will make its continuous contribution to ensure that the family becomes more and more a centre of the revolutionary class education of the younger generation and all its members. While aiming its educational work at strengthening the relations of equality, mutual assistance, love, trust and respect, and at strengthening socialist democracy in the family, the Women’s Union of Albania must help mothers fight down the feelings of sentimentality which are manifested here and there, and which hinder the training of the younger generation to keep up with the situations, to cope with every difficulty properly, to be worthy citizens, intrepid, determined, conscious and active fighters for the great cause of the Party and the socialist construction.

The new marriage bonds are a guarantee of the
fulfillment of the moral and educational tasks of our socialist family. Based more and more on lofty socialist motives, such as work for society, the stand towards socialism and the Homeland, as well as on the mutual acquaintance, on the pure love and understanding between the girl and the boy, they consolidate the foundations of marriage, and avoid all those manifestations which are a common occurrence in the capitalist and revisionist world, such as the antagonism between the generations, divorce, abortion, quarrels, matrimonial infidelity and degeneration, etc.

The Women's Union of Albania, which throughout all its activity has devoted special care to the problems of the family and which has played an important role in the deep-going, allround transformations which have taken place in it, in the future too, must make use of all the forms of educational work, from the work with each individual to the teams, and visits from one district to another, so that the family advances, alongside the society, in the establishment of its internal socialist relations.

The interest the mass organizations take in these problems must be continuous, because a number of old customs, from religion and the canon laws, not only exist but they are striving for revival. Consequently we must strengthen our cooperation with the other mass organizations more and more, so that those few negative manifestations observed in marriage relations, such as match-making, dowry, any case of interchange in marriage etc., are exposed to the merciless attack of sound social opinion, and our social norms triumph everywhere. Likewise, we must not for a moment be neglectful of, and exclude from, the systematic struggle such manifestations as rumours and feuds, as well as excessive expenditure on weddings are evident on some occasions, both in town and in village, and which damage the unity of our people on this sensitive point, the family.

Our socialist state has done a great deal to lighten the burden of household work not only by setting up institutions for the upbringing of children, but also other social institutions, such as dining halls, and sectors for many municipal services, as well as by securing a regular distribution of mass consumer goods, food stuffs, the necessary clothing for our modest and unpretentious life, without shortages and delays. But we are conscious that much of the work in the home, which should be done by all the members of the family, is still a burden which falls mainly on the women. It is a permanent duty of the Women's Union of Albania to work for an ever more correct understanding of this problem, to carry out effective educational work and check up, to avoid shortcomings and improve the services in all the institutions which help lighten the work in the household. The Women's Union of Albania is fully convinced that in implementing the decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania for the emancipation of the whole society, everybody, men and women, boys and girls, knows that every effort must be made to develop family life in full harmony with the life of the society, that its pulse must beat at one with that of the society, in order to carry forward the great cause of the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland.
Dear comrades,

For the Albanian woman, as for our entire people, the defence of the Homeland has always been a supreme and permanent duty. Now this duty has assumed a new, more profound content. We are defending free Albania and triumphant socialism, we are defending the Homeland we inherited from our ancestors, but we are also defending the socialist system, that system for which the great leaders of the proletariat, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin fought and worked, that system which the Party of Labour of Albania led by Comrade Enver Hoxha is consolidating in our Albania. If the enemies in the past had their greedy eyes on our strategic position and our assets, now the imperialists and the revisionists, all international reaction not only covet our strategic position, but also they consider us as a thorn in their flesh, because of the light of truth that Albania radiates, because of its deeds and words, which display to the best that the only road to the liberation of the peoples from class oppression is the road of the revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, that socialism can be won and defended. Marvellous is the reality of our socialist Homeland, even greater our duty to defend this marvellous historic reality, socialist Albania, the Albania of the free and independent people. Therefore, the words of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha who teach us that the defence of the Homeland has been and always remains a duty above all duties, a great cause of the entire people, has entered the life of the Albanian woman as an appeal which increases her confidence, arouses her pride and increases her vigilance.

Today, women participate in many formations of our armed forces, especially in the voluntary forces, where they constitute the overwhelming majority. The Women’s Organization has accumulated rich experience in increasing the military capability and readiness for defence. The decoration of many units with various orders by the Presidium of the People’s Assembly and the brilliant results in mastering our Military Art of our People’s War and in the shooting-ranges, are the best evidence of this. There is no district, agricultural cooperative and work centre without women who are distinguished marks-women, capable commanders, conscientious commissars and skilful fighters.

In this continuous training in defence of the Homeland, the woman has raised her personality and her further emancipation to a higher stage. Their leaving the home, just like men, to carry out the task of the soldier and defender of the Homeland, the military uniform, the rifle, have increased the authority and respect with which the women is regarded and have helped to create more correct concepts about her role everywhere.

The experience gained and the results achieved must be carried further. That lofty patriotic consciousness in the political and ideological understanding of the duty to defend the socialist Homeland, and the seriousness in performing it, must be accompanied by better organizational work in all directions.

The role of the woman in the great field of defence is twofold. She tempers herself, and she also tempers her children. The personal example of the parent is the best mirror for the child. Through the centuries, our children, together with their mother’s...
milk, have been nurtured with love for the Homeland and the people. Today, this patriotism has assumed a broader meaning. The education of the children with love for work, for the common property, for the countryside, the town, the mountains, and the plains, is love for the Party, the people and the socialist Homeland. The work of the woman in military training must also be considered from this angle and everything which serves this aim, such as visits and excursions to historic places, talks with veterans, Heroes of the People and Heroes of Socialist Labour must be used extensively by our Organization. In this way, we will always be ready, with the finger on the trigger and the eye on the target, all answering the one call, under one command, ready to stand in defence of the socialist Homeland, and to strike lethal blows at any enemy who may dare to attack it.

III


Dear comrades,

At the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha made a profound
scientific analysis of the international situation and the political and ideological problems preoccupying the world revolutionary and liberation movement today.

The women of Albania, like all the people, approve and fully support the consistent and principled foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. They are proud and very happy about the high prestige and fine reputation Albania enjoys in the world, about the continuous rise and strengthening of the international position of our country. The women of Albania support firmly the Marxist-Leninist assessments which the 7th Congress of the Party made of the processes of the present world development and the present international situation. The attitudes and orientations of the Party have mobilized them even more to fight with might and main in defence of the interests of our socialist Homeland, as well as in the interests of the revolution and the liberation of the peoples.

The events which are occurring today are proving the correctness of the analyses our Party has made of the international situation and the processes going on in the world. Despite the difficulties and obstacles which have been created by the revisionist traitors, the revolutionary movement of the proletariat and the liberation struggle of the peoples are on the upsurge.

It is a fact that in all the countries which are groaning under the savage capitalist exploitation, the struggle of the working people for their economic and political rights has extended. The workers participating in strikes today number millions, their
protest demonstrations and clashes with the repressive organs of the bourgeoise power are innumerable.

But the most striking feature in it is the rise in the political consciousness of the working masses, who are becoming more and more aware that they cannot get out of the miserable situation they are in without radical revolutionary changes, without overthrowing the odious system of capitalist exploitation.

The resistance of the peoples who are under foreign occupation or live under direct colonial and neo-colonial domination has greatly increased also. This struggle, which is going on in various forms up to armed resistance, has now swept over all those countries which have become objectives of the expansionist and hegemonic policy of imperialism, social-imperialism and the international bourgeoisie.

On the other hand, the all-round crisis which has the capitalist and revisionist world in its grip, has made all the characteristic social contradictions of this world even more acute. Both in the developed countries and in the underdeveloped ones, the standard of living of the working people has deteriorated even further. The bourgeoisie and big capital are trying to keep their maximum profits intact and to load the consequences of the crisis on to the working people.

The perspective for the exploiting capitalist order is bleak everywhere. The crisis of the capitalist economy is deepening: Stagnation, permanent inflation, the decline of investments and the narrowing of markets have turned into a grave chronic disease.

This situation has made new strata of the population unite with the most progressive revolutionary forces and take part in active struggle against oppression and exploitation. In many countries the revolutionary movement of the students is being reactivated, the peasants are demonstrating in the cities against the agrarian policy and the women are protesting against unemployment for themselves, for their husbands, brothers and sons.

The democratic movement against the establishment of fascism, which in many countries is becoming an ever more threatening danger, has also increased greatly. All these things prove the correctness of the conclusion which Comrade Enver Hoxha formulated at the 7th Congress of the Party, that today «the cause of the revolution and national liberation of the peoples is not just an aspiration and a future prospect, but a problem taken up for solution».

However, all the dark reactionary forces, and first and foremost the imperialist and social-imperialist superpowers, which are the greatest and most dangerous enemies of the peoples, are fiercely opposing this revolutionary process which is going on in the world.

The United States of America and the Soviet Union, which are two of the biggest, most aggressive and savage powers history has ever known, are arrogantly pursuing the policy of hegemonism and expansion, with great intensity, are perpetrating military aggressions, exerting political and economic blackmail, and fighting with every means to divide the zones of influence and to capture new markets. They are keeping the hotbeds of war and tension ablaze and trying to stir up new conflicts. The imperialists and the social-imperialists of every hue are carrying on a criminal activity against socialism and the free-
dom and independence of the peoples, are engaged in a headlong arms race, and preparing to hurl mankind into a new world war.

Today there is no country in the world which, to this or that extent, does not feel the interference, pressure, or threat from the superpowers. The superpowers are the main pillars of colonialism and neo-colonialism, the main defenders of reactionary cliques and regimes.

In these conditions, the resolute struggle against imperialism in general and the superpowers in particular, against revisionism and the bourgeoisie of every country and the defenders of colonialism and neo-colonialism, is a question of great principle and practical importance for all the revolutionary, liberation and progressive democratic forces. Without struggle these cannot be freedom and independence, or liberation of the working masses, including the liberation and emancipation of the women the world over. The present international reality fully rejects the diabolical bourgeois revisionist and opportunist preachings, which aim to bring about submission to and reconciliation with imperialism, the old colonialists and neo-colonialists, with the bourgeoisie and the reactionary cliques ruling the peoples, or with the trusts and the multinational companies that have whole nations and peoples in their clutches.

The women of Albania fully support the principled Marxist-Leninist conclusion of the Party of Labour of Albania that both superpowers alike, either separately or together, are equally dangerous and must be fought with all our strength and without any hesitation. They are convinced, also, that the struggle against the imperialist and social-imperialist superpowers cannot be complete and cannot be waged successfully if such reactionary, oppressive and enslaving organisms as NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, the Common Market and COMECON, etc., are not opposed and fought with the same determination. These organisms are the pillars of the domination, expansion, and aggression of the superpowers, the basic instruments of present-day colonialism and neo-colonialism. The struggle against and exposure of these political, economic and military organisms of the imperialists and the social-imperialists, is an essential condition for the triumph of the revolution, the defence of national independence and the liberation of the peoples.

The decay of the capitalist and revisionist order in Europe has aggravated the social-class contradictions and antagonisms in this area of the world, and has made the situation of the working masses and working women, who feel on their own backs the burden of oppression and exploitation by the old and new local bourgeoisie, by imperialism and social-imperialism, still more difficult. The dissatisfaction of the working women of Europe and their feeling of revolt against the system of capitalist enslavement, are becoming more powerful and bringing them more and more on the side of the proletariat and the revolutionary forces which are fighting resolutely for democratic rights, progress and socialism. The women of Albania are actively following the just struggle of the working women of Europe which they warmly welcome, and ensure them of their support, militant solidarity and friendship.

Imperialism, the big bourgeoisie and their lackeys, the opportunists of all shades and descriptions,
employing traitors and renegades from Marxism-Leninism, have put all sorts of different theories, theses and slogans into circulation, in order to confuse the peoples, to curb their revolutionary drive and compel them to accept the imperialist dictate and whip.

The Khrushchevite revisionists are working feverishly to disrupt the revolution, socialism and the liberation struggle of the peoples. Grossly distorting Marxism-Leninism and preaching all kinds of false theories disguised with allegedly “socialist” or “Leninist” phrases, they are trying to open the way to their imperialist expansion and to justify their superpower policy.

Working together with them in the fight against the revolution are also the Yugoslav revisionists, Euro-communists and others. Today they have become firemen zealously striving to extinguish the flames of the revolution, obedient lackeys of the big bourgeoisie to quell the revolutionary struggle of the working class and defend the exploiting capitalist order at all costs. While acting as scabs and saboteurs of the revolution inside their own countries, on the international plane, they have become open defenders of imperialism, neo-colonialism and the entire system of inequality, dictate and the exploitation of the peoples.

But today, along with the old modern revisionists, new opportunists have emerged, preaching the so-called “theory of three worlds”. With each passing day it is stowing itself as it is in reality, an anti-Marxist, counterrevolutionary theory. It not only constitutes an open deviation from Marxism-Leninism, but also represents an extremely dangerous strategy aimed at sabotaging the revolution and the peoples’ liberation. Deliberately misrepresenting the changes that have allegedly taken place in the world, the partisans of the “theory of three worlds” are calling for reconciliation and collaboration with US imperialism, with the bourgeoisie of other imperialist countries and with all kinds of reactionary cliques. The genuine Marxist-Leninists, the international proletariat, the freedom-loving peoples who are fighting against every kind of oppression and exploitation, contemptuously reject the appeals from the spokesmen for this infamous theory. They are more and more coming to understand that the “theory of three worlds” is in the service of imperialism and modern revisionism, which undermines the revolution and the peoples’ liberation struggle, which disrupts the Marxist-Leninist movement and the unity of the international proletariat. Therefore, the genuine revolutionaries are determined to fight against this theory and its zealous advocates.

Also of the same nature is the “theory of non-alignment”, which is intended to divert the peoples from the real struggle against US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism; and to propitiate the reactionary cliques and their chiefs, who are openly lackeys of imperialism and neo-colonialism, with “progressive” and “democratic” labels. For this reason, this “theory” is becoming more and more exposed and discredited before the peoples of the world.

The situation in the world today is disturbed and very complex, full of surprises and fraught with great dangers and threats to the freedom and independence of the peoples.

The situation in the Middle East remains a major
hotheaded of tension. With the direct support of US imperialists and the manoeuvres of the Soviet social-imperialists, the Israeli aggressors are maintaining their occupation of the Arab territories and waging a war of annihilation there, real genocide, against the valiant and freedom-loving Palestinian people.

The women of Albania, like the entire Albanian people, have consistently supported the just struggle of the Arab peoples, who have become the target of imperialist and Zionist aggression. They are in solidarity especially, with the liberation war of the martyred Palestinian people, who must be granted recognition of all their national rights and be allowed to live free and independent in the homeland which cannot be denied them. We are confident that the Arab peoples, cherishing no illusions about the sinister plans concocted by their imperialist and revisionist enemies, will strengthen their unity and fight with determination to liberate all the lands of which they have been robbed, to secure all the sovereign rights which are properly theirs.

The policy of aggression and expansion and the interference of the superpowers are being extended more widely on the African continent at present. The United States of America and the Soviet Union have caused great troubles and conflicts in this long-suffering continent. Always in solidarity with the protracted liberation struggle of the African peoples, the women of Albania demand that an end be put to the superpowers’ interference and acts of aggression, and that the peoples of this continent should be left free to build their own lives, according to their own aspirations and will. They hail and warmly support the women and peoples of Azania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, who are fighting with determination against imperialism, neo-colonialism and racism, for their national and social liberation.

Just as in the past, now, too, Asia continues to be another zone at which the imperialist greed is aimed. A result of this greed and of the expansionist policy of the superpowers is their all-out rivalry for domination of the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean and their shores. Together with all the Albanian people, the women of Albania were hearts and soul in solidarity with the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, in their heroic struggle against the US aggressors and their local puppets. We hailed the victory which was achieved in that war, as a major contribution to the common struggle of the peoples against imperialist aggression, as a victory for freedom and the right of all nations to live independent and sovereign in their own countries. Now, we hope that the long-suffering peoples of Vietnam and Cambodia, who have fought together as brothers on the same side of the barricade against the same enemy, will find the way to the solution of the conflict which has set them against each other, and re-establish their friendship and fraternal collaboration.

We have followed with attention the struggle of the peoples of Latin America against US imperialism and the fascist military junta which are ruling in most of the countries on this continent. Despite the many-sided efforts of US imperialism to keep Latin America under its absolute domination, in spite of the ferocious terror which has reached monstrous proportions, as in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru and other countries, the working class, the masses of the peasantry, the progressive intellectuals,
the genuine patriots including the masses of the women also, are fighting with determination for radical revolutionary transformations. In complete solidarity with this heroic struggle, the Albanian women are confident that the final victory will be on the side of the peoples who are fighting for freedom and independence.

Dear comrades delegates,

The problem of the liberation and emancipation of women remains an acute problem in the world today. The masses of women are growing ever more conscious that the struggle for their liberation and emancipation is inseparable from the struggle for national and social liberation.

By taking part in concrete actions to oppose the savage oppression and exploitation by the ruling classes; the broad masses of women and the peoples are awakening, seeking a way out and becoming more extensively involved in the battles of the class struggle. The struggle of working women for their rights, for work, equality and higher wages, against the domination of the superpowers, against monopoly and neo-colonialist capital, makes their democratic and revolutionary movements for emancipation even more powerful.

Women constitute that section of the working people, which suffers most under the capitalist system, which is subjected to savage discrimination within this system. Hidden behind a glossy façade of luxury, through the pages of magazines and on the cinema and television screens, in which film "stars-
per cent of all the women have only elementary schooling or none at all.

In the conditions when the capitalist and revisionist system is in deep crisis, in order to disguise the growth of unemployment which affects working women first of all, the old and new bourgeoisie is leading the regressive process of the return of women to the home, while its hack journalists try to present these processes as something which allegedly is in keeping with the “nature” of women, who are predisposed to bear children, to engage in kitchen work, and to go to church. The bourgeoisie welcomes the increase of the ranks of unemployed women as a way to step up the competition on the labour market, in order to lower the cost of labour power and increase the scale of the economic exploitation of the working people. The return of women to the home is advantageous to the bourgeoisie, also, because it isolates the women from the revolutionary and democratic social movements, and impedes the growth of their political and ideological consciousness, splits their forces and weakens their organization. Therefore, the women of the capitalist and revisionist countries themselves are expressing their opposition to these regressive processes, and protesting against unemployment and their increasing inequality.

Aware of the colossal reserves which the mass of working women constitute for the proletarian revolution, the ideologists of the bourgeoisie, revisionists and reformists alike, are spreading all sorts of reactionary concepts and theories, the aim of which is to alienate women from the correct road of the struggle for their liberation and emancipation, by trying in most refined ways to channel movement of women into directions which suit the interests of the ruling classes. All sorts of feminist and neo-feminist organizations, which are guided by reactionary bourgeois, revisionist, and clerical ideas, also serve the same aims. These ideas are intended to disrupt the women’s movement by putting into circulation slogans, which are as absurd as they are dangerous, about the “liberation of the female sex from the male sex”, the “emancipation of the woman from the burden of children and the family”, the “cultivation of femininity and sex”, and other such slogans. To shift the attention of women from the struggle against the bourgeois order, the ideologists of these organizations preach the destruction of the family, the abandonment of children, total disregard for every moral standard. They are trying to turn the struggle of women for equal rights with men, and in general, for their emancipation, into a struggle between the sexes, into a struggle within the bosom of the family.

Regardless of their demagogic about the “emancipation of the woman”, the Soviet revisionists, their satellites and other revisionists, also, are pursuing essentially the same aims as the reactionary bourgeois theoreticians. With the slogan of “reduced hours of work and reduced pay” for women, they are trying to disguise the growth of unemployment and the degree of exploitation, which are inevitable consequences of the restoration of capitalism in these countries. But the false propaganda of the revisionists, which justifies the policy of the driving of women out of employment, cannot hide the bitter reality of the strengthening of the economic dependence of the wife on her husband, of the liquidation of her rights, of her return to her former situation of domestic and social slavery.
The Khrushchevite revisionists are carrying out feverish propaganda and activity on an international scale also, to impose the slogans and spirit of bourgeois pacifism of "peaceful coexistence," of the "lowering of tension," of the "complete and general disarmament," and so on, on the women's movement, at a time when the superpowers are organizing bloody wars of aggression, developing the armaments race, and contesting for spheres of influence all over the world.

In order to mislead the masses of women and to alienate them from the democratic, anti-imperialist and revolutionary movements, the Soviet revisionists are making use of the Women's International Democratic Federation. In placing itself in the service of the Khrushchevite revisionists, this organization degenerated, violated the principles on which it was founded and is playing a reactionary, counterrevolutionary role. Following the line which the revisionists imposed on it, the Women's International Democratic Federation has made unprincipled compromises with the feminist organizations, government and non-government, national and international organizations, which inhibit and oppose the development of the movements of women for their emancipation. Their "cooperation" extends even to the Vatican, this centre of mediaeval obscurantism, this ferocious enemy of the emancipation of the woman.

We rejoice at the fact that an ever growing number of national organizations of women all over the world, as well as outstanding progressive activists, are carrying out activity independently of the Women's International Democratic Federation, which has placed itself under the orders of the modern revisionists, and are leading the struggle of the masses of women for their rights, against oppression and exploitation, against the policy of intervention and blackmail of the imperialist and socialimperialist superpowers.

In implementing the teachings of the Party of Labour of Albania and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Women's Union of Albania has devoted constant attention to the strengthening and the extension of the ties of friendship with the revolutionary and progressive organizations of women and with their outstanding activists all over the world. We have good relations of collaboration with many national and regional organizations, as well as with well-known activists of different countries. The Women's Union of socialist Albania is in favour of extending these ties.

The participation in our Congress of delegations from many countries of the world, as well as the many messages of greetings which we have received from the women's organizations of many other countries, are a powerful expression of these ties and the reciprocal support between the women of Albania and the women of these countries. They are a great encouragement for us in our further struggle for the complete construction of socialist society in our country. We greet our sisters fighting everywhere in the world and wish them ever greater successes in their activity, which has the genuine emancipation of the woman as its objective.

The women of Albania will always fight with determination against the common enemies, US imperialism and Soviet socialism, imperialism, the big bourgeoisie and reaction, modern revisionism, reformism,
opportunism, and will always stand on the side of the peoples who are fighting for freedom, democracy, progress and socialism.

Dear comrade delegates,

The 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania will set important tasks for the masses of women and will be a powerful impulse for them wherever they are, in work and production centres, in factories, agricultural cooperatives, schools, institutions, army units, city quarters and villages. It will raise higher the struggle and work of women for the implementation of the historic decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Marxist-Leninist teachings of our beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Socialist Albania is marching confidently on the road of the revolution, socialism and communism. And there is no force on earth which can divert our people and our glorious Party from this road, because they have the triumphant ideas of Marxism-Leninism as their unerring compass, because they rely on the wonderful moral-political unity which has been created and is being constantly tempered in our country, because they enjoy the internationalist aid and support of the international proletariat and the progressive peoples everywhere in the world. From the tribune of this Congress, the women of Albania once again express their determination that they, as a constituent part of our heroic people, with spare-nothing, not even their lives, for the triumph of our great cause, socialism and communism.

Long live the Party of Labour of Albania and its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head!
Long live our heroic people!
Long live the heroic women of the new socialist Albania!
Long live the international solidarity of the revolutionary women of the world!
Glory to Marxism-Leninism!
FROM THE GREETINGS OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO THE CONGRESS
LE THI XHYEN

Head of the Delegation of the women's union of Vietnam, vice-president of this union

We are very glad to have been given the opportunity to participate as delegates of the women of Vietnam in the proceedings of the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania; accept please the most ardent greetings of the women of Vietnam and convey them to the women of Albania.

Despite the great distances separating our two countries, Vietnam and Albania are always close to each other thanks to their peoples' traditions of relentless struggle against the foreign occupiers, for socialist and communist ideals. The people and the women of Vietnam have attentively followed every step forward of the Albanian revolution, even during the most difficult moments of our national resistance.

We warmly hail these brilliant victories of the Albanian people. It is our firm conviction that, under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the tasks laid down by the 7th Congress of the Party will be turned into reality very soon, giving a fresh impulse to the construction of socialism, making the life
of the Albanian people better and more prosperous with each passing day.

During our stay here we have noticed that the emancipation of woman in Albania is the deed of the Party of Labour of Albania and one of the great achievements of the Albanian people. We enthusiastically hail these admirable victories. The reports submitted to this Congress on the activity of the Albanian women constitute valuable lessons for the women of Vietnam in the current revolutionary period.

Allow me, on behalf of the women of Vietnam, to express our most sincere thanks for the valuable aid and support of the Party, Government, the people and women of Albania.

Immediately after the complete liberation of our country the women of Vietnam, together with the entire Vietnamese people, mustered all their energies to heal the wounds of the war, to carry out the socialist construction and transformation on a national scale. The 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam charged the women of Vietnam with the task of accelerating emulation in production, of building socialism through their tireless work and their sense of frugality, developing women’s capabilities in all social fields, managing the economy and culture, running state affairs, educating the new socialist woman and enhancing her contribution to educating the family in a new spirit.

In conclusion, allow us to wish the people and women of the People’s Socialist Republic of Albania ever greater successes in fulfilling the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980) in the light of the directives of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, which will give a powerful impulse to the construc-
DIANA BUNION

Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Britain

I am bringing you the greetings from the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). We wish the 8th Congress of the WUA success. I am very happy that I have been given the chance to take part in the proceedings of this Congress together with you.

Comrades,

Talking about the question of woman we must keep in mind that capitalism has 200 years since it tried to exploit both men and women in the world in order to make profit.

The question of the inequality of woman has always raised by capitalism only to smash the unity of the working class.

By paying the women less, by denying her the possibility to train herself, the capitalists hope to hurl her into struggle against men, to divert her from the struggle for work, for more pay and better working conditions, to undermine the struggle for socialism.

According to the feminist movements, women must fight against men in the first place. To accept this means to fall into the positions of social-democrats, means to accept the logic of capitalism that we are and must be divided and weak.

The women of Albania, she said in conclusion, have shown us the way. We are glad at and draw inspiration and learn from your major achievements.

The greatest contribution we can make in Britain, inspired from your example, is to carry out the revolution and destroy capitalism in our country for ever.

We wish your 8th Congress success!
ELISABETH SIBEKO

Head of the Delegation of the Women Section of the Pan-African Congress of Azania

Among other things she said:

For us who are still suffering under the yoke of colonialism and imperialism, but who are engaged in the struggle for the liberation of our Homeland, it is very inspiring to see socialist Albania surrounded by all sides from socialimperialists, imperialists and monopoly capitalists of Europe, fighting consistently to promote the ideology of Marxism-Leninism.

Albania is able to score one victory after another in the struggle against imperialism and socialimperialist monsters, because she is led by the pure ideology of Marxism-Leninism, for she applies the principle of self-reliance. The Albanian people with their Party of Labour are capable of defeating all aggressors and counterrevolutionaries who would dare to attack them.

The Azanian people are a militant people. We are prepared to meet reactionary violence with revolution. Our country is rich in mineral resources of all kinds which are greatly evaluated in the world market. The imperialists know this very well and will leave no stone unturned to ensure that they own our country. But the people of Azania are determined to wage a long and stern struggle until the sacred Homeland is liberated.

We in Azania and the Pan-African Congress do not go back on our words as regards the two superpowers. We are well aware that they represent two faces of the same coin. We say that they must be driven out of Azania.
PHILOMENE SANSOUAMOU

Head of the Delegation of the Women of the People's Republic of Benin

It is a great honour for our people, our country, our vanguard Party, the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, and especially for the women of Benin, to be represented here, in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and to have been given the possibility of establishing direct and live contact with the heroic people of Albania and the Albanian socialist revolution.

Our delegation avails itself of the opportunity to express its thanks to the organizers of this Congress and through this assembly to express to the valiant Albanian people, to the Party of Labour of Albania and the outstanding leader Comrade Enver Hoxha the ardent, militant and revolutionary greetings of the people of Benin, their vanguard Party, the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin.

The masses of the women of Benin, the entire people of Benin, show immense interest in and follow with great admiration the struggle the women of Albania are courageously waging for their complete emancipation, the struggle and the brilliant victories which have made them today a great force in the construction of the new society.

The revolutionary women of Benin, heartily greet the women of Albania on all the victories scored by them and consider them as their own victories, for the struggle they are waging on the socialist construction front and for the emancipation of all women, is identical.

This congress is being convened in an historic moment, when the people's consciousness along the line of the proletarian revolution, as the only road for them to win victory, national independence and human dignity, is constantly rising.

In Africa, the struggle for national liberation is growing. The victories scored by the former Portuguese colonies over the Portuguese fascist colonialism in these recent years have upset the ratio of forces to the advantage of the African progressive camp. Faced up with this situation, and in order to defend its interests which are being gravely threatened, and striving to regain its slipping positions, international imperialism has embarked now on the dangerous and criminal road of murders, plots and armed aggressions by mercenaries, with the fiendish aim of creating disorder, primarily, in the independent and progressive states of Africa, which are the most reliable allies of the national liberation movements engaged in armed struggle. Therefore, under the leadership of the Party of the People's Revolution in Benin, we have engaged ourselves more than anyone else in the struggle of the people for national liberation, for the people's democracy and socialism.
CECILIA COSTA

Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Brasil

The communist women of Brasil send their most ardent greetings to the 8th Congress of the women of Albania and wish them complete success. We are convinced that the decisions of this important congress will contribute to the greater mobilization of the women and the entire people to implement the major tasks of the construction of socialism and the onward march towards a bright future.

We are familiar with the fierce, difficult and glorious struggle of the Albanian women for their emancipation and the defense of the socialist revolution. Since the very first moments, during the Second World War and the occupation of the country by the foreign forces as well as today, the Albanian patriotic and revolutionary women have never lacked courage and determination to overcome difficulties and reach victory. They fought with self-sacrifice and with the entire people they smashed the foreign and local oppressors; together with the progressive people and under the leadership of the heroic Party of Labour of Albania with its outstanding leader Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, they are daily smashing the leftovers of the past. Today the Albanian women occupy an honourable place in factories, in plants, cooperatives, at university, in the fields of art and culture as well as in the political and social life.

The Brazilian woman, who admires and follows with great interest the struggle of the women of the world for liberation and for the construction of a new life, today is engaged in the sharp struggle against the military fascist dictatorship, a blood-thirsty and terrorist dictatorship, which is for 14 years now oppressing the people of Brasil. Hundreds of thousands of people have been jailed, nearly all of them being tortured. In this struggle the women have made great sacrifices. They have endured unimaginable tortures and ceaseless blows have been dealt at their dignity.

But the struggle has not ceased for a moment. The dictatorship is faced with growing insurmountable difficulties. The women are the first pioneers of the big national campaign which has engulfed the whole country for a broad and unlimited amnesty, for the immediate release of the political prisoners.

This Congress, she said in conclusion, dealing with the problems of women and of socialism, is an incentive to the struggle which has burst out throughout the world against oppression and exploitation, for the victory of progressive ideas. Although a small country, Albania is an example of loyalty to the great cause of the liberation of mankind, for a world which ensures bread and freedom for all. It is our desire that the land of eagles may achieve new successes and the Albanian women, as fighters of the early hours and of the first ranks, to score even greater successes in their road for emancipation.
VICTORIA PAPADOPOULOS

Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Greece

My joy and emotion at being here amidst you is running high beyond description. Here anyone can notice the high revolutionary and internationalist spirit of the Albanian women, tempered under the watchful eye of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, based firmly on the ideology and immortal teachings of Marxism-Leninism.

Your achievements and successes in all fields of socialist construction and in the general emancipation of the Albanian people led to the genuine emancipation of the Albanian woman, as well. You may be proud of the great successes which the working people have achieved in your country because they are your achievements, too, which have been attained with your blood and sweat. You must always be aware of their value. That is why, she continued, your determination to defend these achievements at all costs and, regardless of any sacrifice, while always relying on your people, is sacred.

We, the Greek women and our entire working people, rejoice at your achievements and feel proud of them, for the brilliant example you have set is so near to us for, as you know, in our country as in any other capitalist society, the woman’s position is utterly different: she is obliged to carry the heavy burden of oppression and exploitation along with the constant daily discrimination she is subjected to.

In our country women-workers make up one third of all the working people and they enjoy no rights, they are totally dependent on the capitalist or the boss. Despite all this, our struggle, the struggle of all the Greek working people is constantly rising along with the efforts of the working class for the elementary rights they are deprived of, which is in the people’s general interest, for national independence and social liberation.

The bourgeoisie, the reformists and the revisionists of every hue are trying to lay astray our just struggle, as well as the struggle of the working class and of the people. But we, tempered by the centuries-long heroic struggles of our people, are determined to carry our struggle on, firmly confident that, overcoming every obstacle, our people will triumph and the Greek working woman will see the happy days.

We are confident that, just as in the past, we will enjoy the support of the Albanian women and that of the entire fraternal heroic people of Albania.

I wish complete success to the proceedings of your Congress!
The Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Germany.

Allow me to bring to the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania, the revolutionary greetings and the warmest wishes of the working women of East and West Germany.

The road traversed by the Albanian woman from the gloomy oppression to the free life of socialism is a titanic achievement unprecedented in the world. It is clear that all these great successes are due to the revolutionary struggle of the Albanian working class and the entire people who, under the principled and Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, overcame all the enemies of the people and socialism in all fields, military, economic, political and ideological.

The word of the Albanian woman carries weight not only in Albania but in the whole world, among all the exploited and oppressed women, all the proletariat and the freedom-loving people, because they love the Albanians and look up on them as an example in the revolutionary struggle for freedom against the imperialists reactionaries, revisionists and opportunists of every hue. But if in the future someone would dare to attack Albania, the proletariat and the peoples of the world who, just as in Lenin and Stalin's time defended the Soviet Union as the homeland of the workers, will stand by the side of the Albanian people and will defend the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. As in the past, the women in Germany, both in the West and in the East, continue to be ruthlessly oppressed and exploited. The working woman in capitalist Germany has nothing to expect but exploitation, oppression, crisis, fascism and war. So, there is only one way out for the German women: the road of the movement of the proletarian women in the spirit of the great traditions of Klara Zetkin, to fight under the leadership of the working class and its Party, the German Communist Party (M-L), for a united, independent and socialist Germany.

Under these conditions, our hatred is directed not only against West-German imperialism and the new bourgeoisie of the German Democratic Republic, not only against the two superpowers, US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism and all world reaction, but also against the revisionists and opportunists of all hues.

The revisionist theory of the "three worlds", following in the footsteps of Khrushchevite revisionism, is aimed at putting out class struggle, sabotaging the revolution and undermining socialism; it is a counter-revolutionary theory, which the movement of German proletarian women will never accept, but on the contrary, will relentlessly combat. It is the historic merit of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of
Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, she said in conclusion, who opened fire at the revisionist betrayal, a fire which today is ablaze throughout the world and, one day, will totally annihilate it, together with the enemies of the revolution and socialism.

Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Iran

The women of socialist Albania, she said, are the only women in the world, who, with their struggle, under the leadership of their Party, have succeeded in affirming their existence as the other half of the society. Albania also is the only country in the world where women take part in the management of all the affairs of the society. The Albanian women are the only women in the world who enjoy the same rights with men. The glorious Party of Labour of Albania with the great Marxist-Leninist Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, regarded the question of women in society and her emancipation from old feudal customs, as a problem of paramount importance, calling for urgent solution and through the participation of women in various fields of production, it will further widen the scope of the women's struggle to win their freedom and equal rights with men. The success of the women of socialist Albania in the struggle to win equal rights with men, a success achieved through their active participation in production, has confirmed the truth that in a society where the proletariat is in
power, this liberation can be further carried out and deepened.

As you know, our people have long been languishing under the heel of world imperialism, with US imperialism at the head, which has laid its clutches on all fields of social activity: economic, political, military, and cultural. The Shah’s regime, a dependent fascist regime, was imposed by imperialism on our country. People go without bread. The illiterate make up more than 70 per cent of the population; the jails are overflowing with the heroic sons and daughters of the Iranian people (there are now more than 100,000 political prisoners in Iran). In more than 45 cities, bloody popular revolts have broken out against the Shah, in which more than 1,000 were killed, many wounded and arrested.

The fascist regime of the Shah enjoys the direct support of the two superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. The new opportunists, the advocates of the “three worlds” theory, support the fascist Shah openly and officially and go so far as to present him as anti-imperialist. The heroic working class of Iran, with the re-organization of its vanguard party, demonstrated that it is in a position, despite all the conditions imposed by fascism, to continue its organized struggle.

The living conditions of our women are still worse. Our women, who are under the heel of the imperialists, have to endure another kind of oppression, that of feudal customs. In our country, the woman is deprived of all social advantages. She is obliged to carry out the orders of her husband. The husband has even the right to kill his wife. Fortunately, we must say that our women have become aware of this and are taking an active part side by side with men in all the anti-imperialist battles. Today a great number of political detainees are women. The Communist Party of the Iranian Workers and Peasants knows full well that without the participation of women in the struggle and without their joining in the Party, it will never be able to carry its struggle to final victory.
ELENA DE ROCCO

Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Italy

The innumerable successes scored through efforts of the Albanian women under the leadership of the glorious Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head for the consolidation of socialism and for their complete emancipation, have been and continue to be a great lesson and aid to us.

The friendship between our peoples and our Parties is being strengthened more and more, therefore it is our task to strengthen every day the feelings of proletarian internationalism among the working class and the masses of the people, as well as the class unity which is essential to attain the ideal of Marxism-Leninism.

We are fighting against the dangers of the war stemming from the rivalry between the two super-powers, US imperialism and Soviet social imperialism, as well as against the opportunistic theory of the «three worlds» which negates class struggle and the leading role of the proletariat.

We are aware that genuine emancipation of women will be possible only when the working class seizes political power.

In present-day Italy, exploitation, oppression, efforts to drive a wedge between husband and wife are becoming ever more pronounced. The bourgeoisie, supported by the revisionist lackeys of the Italian Communist Party and the trade-union leaders are trying to saddle the working class and the masses of the people with the burden of the crisis, in particular, by oppressing and discriminating women most of all.

In these circumstances, particularly the Vatican is stepping up its obscurantist activity intended to keep the woman in her traditional role of the «angel of the family», of a means of producing children, the role assigned to her in the 20-year long period of Mussolini’s rule.

After speaking about the miserable economic conditions of the Italian women and their striking inequality in regard to men, she went on:

Backing up the policy of the bourgeoisie, the revisionist leaders of the UDI (Union of Italian Women), as well as the petty-bourgeois feminist movements, are carrying out a counter-revolutionary activity aimed at putting women in opposition to men, placing the interests of proletarian women on the same plane with those of the bourgeois women, focusing their attention on second-rate and super-structural objectives, as for instance, on the problems of sex, etc.

As the 3rd Congress of our Party stressed, she concluded, today, it is necessary and possible to build a strong women’s movement on sound class bases.
This is a complicated all-round activity touching upon all the aspects and fields of life and which should be based on the education and propaganda work for socialism, in order to give the Party its most tempered and conscientious women cadres.

SHIGEKO MORITA

Head of the Delegation of the Union of Democratic Women of Japan, Head of this Union

We hold in high esteem the Women's Union of Albania, which in close unity around the Party of Labour of Albania with its great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, plays an important role in the cause of the revolution and the construction of socialism in Albania, while showing the women of the entire world the road and the brilliant prospects of the struggle for genuine equality between man and woman and for the latter's emancipation.

Especially in the light of the report submitted to the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, which is a document of historic importance for the international communist movement, the Women's Union of Albania is courageously fighting to carry the revolution and the socialist construction forward to a higher stage, breaking through the blockade of imperialism and social-imperialism, the international monopoly bourgeoisie, and the reactionary forces, as well as the revisionism and opportunism of every hue.

The working women and the broad masses of
the working people of Japan have united themselves at the grassroots level. They are waging a frontal fight against the enemies in the ranks of the workers' movement as well as in other fields. The women's movement is growing into a powerful revolutionary and progressive current.

The Union of Democratic Women of Japan is militating in this situation; it was founded in March last year as an independent national organization under the auspices of the vanguard of the Japanese proletariat, the Communist Party of Japan (Laf). We face major tasks.

Comrade delegates,

For the women to be emancipated, it is necessary that, all over the world, they fight to overthrow the bourgeoisie, reaction and imperialism, with US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism at the head, and to do away with private ownership and the class society. We are aware that this requires that our efforts be linked with women's movement and with that of the proletarian vanguard, imbued with the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

The development of the struggle against the various international revisionist trends with the Khrushchevites of the head, which have emerged after the Second World War, and especially against the most modern international opportunist and revisionist trend represented by the theory of «three worlds», constitutes an important question. Spreading out the illusion that allegedly woman's emancipation from discrimination and oppression can be achieved through the philanthropy of the bourgeois state, the new opportunist trend collaborates and encourages in our country the revisionist clique of Mijamoto, the social-democrats and the strata of the worker aristocracy with a view to turning women into tools into the hands of imperialism and monopoly bourgeoisie.

The Union of the Democratic Women of Japan expresses its determination to fight against these manoeuvres which oppose the rising tide of the women's movement both in Japan and in the entire world.
Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Women of Canada.

We consider the holding of the 8th Congress of the WUA at such a time, for the purpose of taking further measures to implement the historic decisions of the 7th Congress of the glorious Party of Labour of Albania, and ensuring a greater participation of the Albanian woman in the construction of socialism, a great contribution to the struggle of the working and exploited people of all the countries for freedom and true independence, democracy, socialism, as well as an event of historic importance. The question of the liberation of women is a question of the proletarians of all countries.

In Canada, where due to the domination of US imperialism, the proletarians are suffering under a two-fold exploitation, the proletarian women, too, are doubly oppressed. The women are in the vanguard of the struggle against imperialism, revisionism and opportunism of every hue. When the modern revisionists, the followers of Khrushchev, betrayed the international movement of the workers and communists, they betrayed also, the women's movement. They changed the programme of women's movement and suggested to them the parliamentary and peaceful road to socialism, conciliation with imperialism and reaction, as the way to gain their rights. But the history of the 20th century has proved that the dictatorship of the proletariat is absolutely necessary.

The setting up of the Preparatory Committee for the creation of the Women's Progressive Association of Canada under the guidance of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) is an important step forward in the struggle for the emancipation of the Canadian woman.

We greatly appreciate the work of the WUA, she said in conclusion, and its contribution. In the first place, we hail the glorious Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, who has known how to lead the women of Albania with wisdom along the correct road.
ISABEL MORINO

Head of the Delegation of the Women’s Organization of the People’s Front of Chile

It is a great honour for us, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile, to attend the proceedings of the 8th Congress of the WUA and convey the warmest, fraternal revolutionary greetings of the women of Chile to the Albanian people, the Party of Labour of Albania, and the outstanding and beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Allow me to avail myself of the opportunity to hail, in particular, the Albanian women and wish them greater successes in fulfilling all the tasks this Congress will set them, as well as in the struggle for the complete construction of the socialist society.

Speaking of the struggle waged by the Chilean people against the fascist dictatorship, she also mentioned the active participation of the heroic working women of Chile in it. Based on their revolutionary traditions, they are taking part side by side with men in the struggle which is being waged in the streets, on barricades, in direct clashes with the fascist forces and in clandestine actions.

There are only two stands: either to stand in the vanguard of the popular masses and lead them along the road of the revolution or to betray them under all sorts of pretexts and put oneself in the service of imperialism and the bourgeoisie. There is no middle road in the world today. There are only two worlds: the world of revolution and the world of counter-revolution.

In the conditions of the upsurge of the struggle of the peoples, she said in conclusion, the unity of the peoples with the militant proletariat, with the aim of rallying their forces against the two greatest enemies of the present day: US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, assumes great importance. But this is not enough. In the arena of inter-imperialist contradictions there are emerging new forces of world reaction, towards which we must be vigilant and also fight, especially against some forces which pose before the peoples as anti-imperialist and even anti-socialist-imperialist. We have to do with a new manoeuvre of the enemies of socialism and world revolution, with an extraordinarily dangerous manoeuvre, in the face of which we must not lower our vigilance even for one moment. We rejoice when we see that these new reactionary forces and new opportunist trends are being fought with new energies by the genuine Marxist-Leninist Parties throughout the world. Thus the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile has given the lie to the pseudo-theory of the “three worlds” which tries to besmirch Marxism-Leninism.
HAWA DIALLO

Head of the Delegation of the National Union of the Women of Mali, Secretary of Administrative Affairs of this Union

Through you, I wish to extend the militant greetings to the women of Albania and to the whole of the brave Albanian people. Since the liberation from the fascist yoke, under the leadership of the Party with its leader Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, the Albanian people have consistently and persistently waged the anti-imperialist struggle in the course of which they have scored brilliant victories.

Today the Albanian people, due to their unwavering stand, with regard to the equality between big and small nations, to the affirmation of the right of each country to choose its own way, and for the support they give to the national-liberation movements and the safeguarding of peace, have won a high reputation throughout the world. The women of Mali, militating in the ranks of the National Union of the Women of Mali, participate in all fields of national construction.

The women have fought always side by side with their brothers and have played a decisive role in the proclamation of the country's independence. At the same time while continuing their efforts in the economic struggle on the internal plane, they have spared no efforts to give their constant support to the peoples of South Africa, victims of the hateful regime of Apartheid, to the people of Palestine, victims of Zionist aggression.
LEONORA VELASQUES
Head of the Delegation of the Revolutionary Woman of Mexico

You have had to fight a stern struggle to reach your complete emancipation; your path has been soaked with blood and filled with heroism, and no doubt it is linked with that of the proletarian revolution. Under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Albanian woman won her freedom, took part heroically in the National Liberation War and took an active part also in the ranks of the National Liberation Army and in the construction and consolidation of socialism.

In our country, the Mexican woman is taking an even greater part in the ranks of the class struggle and in all the revolutionary and progressive struggles. We understand that there is only one way to emancipation — the destruction of the capitalist system and the construction of socialism. For us there is no middle road. For woman to be free, the society she lives in should be free, too. Therefore we are fighting under the guidance of the Communist Party of Mexico(M-L) which has emerged after a protracted process of struggle to apply Marxism-Leninism in the concrete conditions of our country. The Party was born in the conditions of a fierce struggle against the overt and covert opportunists. The overt opportunists have become today ideological and military agents of the state. The covert opportunists who did everything they could to prevent the foundation of the Party, today pose as «Prussianists». They regard the strata of the big Mexican bourgeoisie as anti-imperialist revolutionaries, they want to substitute the Party of the proletariat with an elite of students who stand aloof of the class struggle and indulge in bourgeois life. The setting up of the Party is a significant event in the history of our people. We, Mexican women, are certain that our revolutionary struggle and our participation in it are part of the proletarian revolution in our own country and in the world at large.
FATMA BERNAWUI
Head of the Delegation of the Women's Union of Palestine

On behalf of the Palestinian women, wherever they are, in the battlefield, in the occupiers' prisons or on duty for the sake of the future, for the liberation of the homeland from imperialism, reaction and racist Zionism, I convey to the militant Albanian women our thanks and high consideration for the continuous support they render to the armed struggle of the Palestinian people, who are fighting against the forces of world imperialism with USA at the head, against colonialist Zionism and Arab reaction.

The Palestinian women have high consideration for the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and the militant leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, who gave new Albania the vitality of resistance in the face of the enemies' threats.

With full confidence in the gains of the Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian woman is continuing the struggle and efforts to return to a free Palestinian homeland through the people's armed struggle, to establish a democratic society on the whole of Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian woman is fully convinced that this revolution will win only through a protracted armed struggle by all the Palestinian armed forces.

The Palestinian woman has taken up arms together with her brothers, the Palestinian fighters, convinced that there can be no peace in that region without the liberation of Palestine.

The Palestinian woman who has been suffering and subject to tortures, overcomes the difficult conditions in which her people are living and embarked on the road of struggle. She is living and fighting on the trenches overcoming all plots.

We the Palestinians are following with attention all the progressive Marxist-Leninist activity of the Albanian people for the construction of socialism and the efforts of the Albanian woman in all fields.

We give our hearts to you, dear comrades, and to all the comrades in the world, our hearts which beat for the war for the liberation of the peoples from reactionary imperialist domination, with full confidence in the right of the peoples to live free and independent throughout the world, in continuous revolution up until complete victory and liberation.
ESTHER MUZNİK

Head of the Delegation of the Anti-fascist Revolutionary Women's Union of Portugal, member of the National Council of this Union

On behalf of the National Council of the Anti-fascist and Revolutionary Women's Union of Portugal, we warmly hail the Women's Union of Albania and, through it, all the women of socialist Albania, who have set a revolutionary example to all the women of the world.

Under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Albanian women, organized in the Women's Union of Albania, have overcome all difficulties and taken full part in the construction of socialist society.

The 7th Congress stressed the necessity of strengthening the leading role of the Party, of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of waging the class struggle in all directions, especially on the ideological plane, against modern revisionism and all opportunist theories. It clearly defined the anti-Marxist and counter-revolutionary nature of the theory of «the three worlds», which is aimed at diverting the peoples from the revolution, turning them into appendages of the reactionary bourgeoisie and at abolishing the hegemonic role of the proletariat.

In his important report, our beloved Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed that, without the participation of women, the socialist revolution cannot be successfully carried out, and that without the socialist revolution the complete emancipation of woman is impossible.

The Portuguese woman is still in a backward state. The Portuguese woman, however, displayed a fervent fighting spirit, especially during the revolutionary crisis the country went through from 1974 till 1976. They went on strikes, occupied factories, joined in the seizure of land, were the first to occupy houses and set up quarters' commissions, they were and are the main force in the struggle against the rising cost of living. At the present moment, she concluded, our organization has to play an important role: to lead the struggle of the Portuguese women against the rising cost of living, for the right of work, against the government sold out to fascism; to unite them in the general struggle of our people against the restoration of fascism, for the defence and consolidation of the April victories and all this without neglecting the further strengthening of the movement of the masses which will make possible a change in the political situation to the advantage of the workers, of the people and the anti-fascist forces; to oppose the influence of the revisionists, who, with their traitorous and reformist alternatives, striving to sabotage and paralyze the women's revolutionary movement, to spread the bourgeois ideology on the role of woman.
LUCILA ABAGON CARRION

Head of the Delegation of the People’s Union of the Women of Spain

This historic Congress is of significance not only to you, but to all the women fighting for their liberation, for it shows that it is only within the framework of the struggle for the construction of socialism that woman can win their emancipation.

In the woman of Albanian we see the embodiment of the prospect of a revolutionary organization of the woman fighting to attain her emancipation within the framework of proletarian revolution. Today, Albania has become a heroic banner leading us in the struggle for our emancipation. Socialist Albania is an impregnable revolutionary bastion. The Spanish revolutionaries have always defended and will always defend the Albanian revolutionaries.

In Spain women suffer from capitalist discrimination and super exploitation and are used as a reserve of cheap manpower. We women are the first to be sacked and to remain unemployed. Our woman is plunged into a continuous plight by the bosses, the woman is also oppressed by the backward customs, by the fascist and reactionary education. Hence, she is discriminated in every respect. Therefore, the only way out of this situation for her is the revolutionary struggle.

We are fighting also against the two superpowers (US imperialism and Soviet socialism) which separately or together, represent the main enemy to the freedom and independence of the peoples. We are fighting against the revisionists who, by attempting to profitize one or the other superpower are trying to undermine the camp of the revolution.
Now we have a single organization called the Women’s Union of Tanzania.

In conclusion she said: we wish you successes in the proceedings of this Congress. We also wish you to step ahead emancipation in your country and in the world.

HATIXHA SALEMINI

Head of the Delegation of the Women’s Union of Tanzania

I feel happy at the opportunity to bring to you the warm and friendly greetings from all the Tanzanian women.

In the capitalist world, where all the workers are exploited, the woman is subject to a two-fold exploitation and lives with the fear of unemployment.

We all know that it is only a liberated society which really seeks ways and means to ensure the woman’s participation in the construction of the country and the development of the economy. But this is not enough, the woman must have equal rights in all directions. We see this applied in Albania for had it been otherwise, we women should not have gathered here today. In a word, it is obvious that Albania is a country which fully recognizes the equal right between man and woman. Before concluding, I would like to tell you that in our country, in Tanzania, women are now taking part in elections.

After the TANU and ASF Parties were united, we set up also the Women’s Union of Tanzania.
years this struggle has assumed such proportions that whole decades would be needed to wipe it out.

Today the Zimbabwean woman is rendering her valuable contribution to the cause of freedom, national independence and self-determination. Gone are those days when the Zimbabwe women confined herself to doing some handiwork, cooking, mourning or lamenting those who had fallen. At present they are to be found in the heat of the battle, taking part in the fighting. Our brigade of women is taking part in every aspect of the revolutionary armed struggle.

TEURAI BOPA

Head of the Delegation of the women of the National African Union of Zimbabwe, secretary for the problems of women

It is a great pleasure for us to be in this small but very great country, great for the heroic struggle waged by its freedom-loving people to defend their independence won through so much sweat and sacrifices, and for the building of socialism.

Then she spoke of the role of women beside their men-folk in the National-Liberation War of Zimbabwe.

The exploitation of women by men in Zimbabwe has had deep roots in the patriarchal survivals according to which women are regarded inferior creatures, whereas men as superior ones. Colonialism in Zimbabwe brought about an increase in the exploitation of women from a quantitative and qualitative point of view.

Under colonialism women have suffered as much as men. They are arrested, persecuted, tortured, raped, imprisoned indefinitely and even hanged.

The armed revolutionary struggle has been of great benefit to the Zimbabwe woman. In a few
ELIANE VOGEL POLSKY

Professor at the Free University of Brussels

On behalf of the progressive students and intellectuals of the Free University of Brussels, I convey our feelings of sympathy and admiration for the wonderful successes the whole of the Albanian people have been achieving along the road of the construction of socialist society in the course of these 35 years, under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

Dear comrade delegates, dear sisters, I would like to tell you how impressive it is for a woman living in a capitalist country, in a so-called developed industrialized society, gravely affected by the economic crisis, to see the true emancipation and the position of the Albanian woman.

And here you are today, rallied in this hall coming from all parts of the country and all walks of life, villagers and citizens, workers and cooperativists; you testify to that powerful creative energy of women, the radical transformation which freed you from feudal and patriarchal oppression and exploitation and made you the most emancipated women of the present societies. You elate us with your presence and fill us with a great hope for the future.

Each of you is a living proof of the wonderful qualities of a woman as an active participant in the political and social life, as a producer, wife and mother, as a fighter for the defence of the Homeland. Each of you is witness of the full equality of woman with man in all fields of life in the socialist society.

Albania, her people, her Party and leaders teach the entire world a great lesson as to the courage required, they are an example of the unflinching loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism. Albania gives women too, a hope for the future.
ANNICK MISKE

Director of Studies in the Institute of Social Affairs in Montrouge, France.

Every time I speak in France and elsewhere about the Albanians, from the questions addressed to me, I understand that they are very much interested in the experience of your women. After I make them acquainted with the wonderful results of those whom, if allowed, I will call my sisters in Albania, questions begin pouring from all quarters. They are interested to know how you have attained this level of emancipation of women, which for me, is one of the most advanced in the world. Of course, there are emancipated women everywhere, but it is very rare to see all the women of a country engaged in this marvellous deed or the reviving of the most exploited among the exploited, to see the revival of women, of those who constitute half the population. It is due to this that the other women of the world, who have had the chance to get acquainted with your experience, are keenly following the proceedings of your Congress and the new tasks it will lay down.

In fact it is a rare example in the history of the peoples for the women of a country to have achieved such a stage of mass participation in all the echelons of state power, in the decision-making process and the ways of perceiving the society. And this I think leads to a considerable qualitative change in the overall emancipation of this society, in its advance towards the ideals of communism.

All the Albanian women I have asked to learn how they have managed to reach the present level, how they have overcome all obstacles which got on their way to this emancipation, all have given me this answer: We were born when the Party of Labour of Albania was born, adding very emotionally and affectionately: Comrade Enver Hoxha has always aided us in this struggle.
PAULE LEJEUNE

Professor at the University of Rouen

Your example is a brilliant confirmation of the fact that history moves on towards socialism. Every generation fights, wins and often sacrifices the life for the revolution. And the march continues triumphant. Yesterday it was the Paris Commune. For the first time, there, women were made politically conscious of the role they would have to play.

But unfortunately this society of equality, justice and full prosperity which the workers of Paris began to build during the days of the Commune, was short-lived, for the bourgeoisie suppressed it with its bombs and machine-gun fire. And the women of Paris, shoulder to shoulder with their worker comrades defended arms in hand, from barricade to barricade, this revolution which was an indispensable condition for their liberation, for their emancipation.

Thousands of women got killed by the bullets of the people’s enemies, the French bourgeoisie. Thousands were also the Albanian women, who gave their lives during the National Liberation War. But the founding of the Party, the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat created for the Al-
VANGJELIA THEODOS

Compatriot living in USA, greets the congress in the name of the compatriots living in USA and France.

I have had the happy chance of visiting Albania, my dear Homeland, many a times. And each time I have come here I have noticed great changes. Year by year Albania is being embellished, transformed and making progress. For you, sisters, women of Albania, the fact that you are working for the happiness of this country under the leadership of the Party with comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, is a cause of great delight. Today you enjoy culture, work industriously, live a tranquil life. You are happy and merry for you live to your hearts' content.

The Albania of our days was backward and illiterate. I am from Korça, then regarded as the most developed city. And why was it considered as such? Just because it had four doctors and one nurse, and no other things worth mentioning.

Today Albania has made great changes; she has a developed industry and agriculture. The subsoil of the Homeland is rich, while before her riches were not discovered as ignorance prevailed, today the learned countrymen have discovered all sorts of minerals, like copper, iron and many others.

Today no one is unemployed as was the case with us when we were forced to abandon the Homeland. What sadness and grief the valley of tears recalls us! Now there are no more such valleys, but only flourishing fields. Many are the schools, factories, hospitals, beautiful hotels and cultural centres in all the corners of our beloved Homeland! In the past inns served both for humans and animals, whereas today the village and town have made great progress and electric-light illuminates both town and countryside.

The visitors coming from abroad are astonished at what they see in Albania. Within a short time, with your golden hands you have changed the face of the country. You can not imagine, dear comrades, how much we, the Albanian emigrants rejoice over these achievements of our beloved Homeland. It was dire poverty that forced us to leave our country—the most sacred thing—and go in search of work. But you should know, dear sisters, that what we did was only hard work; we wandered from place to place to secure a morsel of bread. The land in foreign countries refuses to absorb even your bones, hence the longing for the Homeland of Scanderbeg and Naim Frashéri, for the plains, mountains, cities and villages, for every inch of this soil, is so sacred, so great!

You women of today's Albania are lucky enough to have occupied the place you deserve, thanks to the leadership of the Party and Government with
Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Your leadership is working and doing its best for the progress of this country. We are elated at and very proud of all this. History will speak of the splendid achievements attained in the course of these 35 years.

CLOSING SPEECH BY COMRADE VITO KAPO,
PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF
THE WOMEN’S UNION OF ALBANIA

Dear comrade delegates,

At its first session, the 8th Congress of the Women’s Union of Albania elected the General Council of its organization, which at its first meeting elected the Presidency and the Secretariat.

Allow me, comrade delegates, to thank you on behalf of the General Council and the Presidency for the trust you have placed on us, and to assure you that we will exert all our energies to honourably fulfil the important tasks laid down by this Congress. With the election of the leading organs of the Women’s Union of Albania, our Congress ends its proceedings.

It was a great honour to our 8th Congress that the beloved leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, took part in its proceedings and followed closely our discussions. Comrade Enver Hoxha’s presence is a cause of great joy and particular satisfaction for our Congress, it fulfilled our ardent desire to see and meet him. The presence of the comrades of the Political Bureau and the other leaders of the
Party and State at our Congress is also another cause of great joy and an honour to all our delegates.

The greeting comrade Enver Hoxha addressed to us on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party, the reiterated expressions of the high esteem the Party holds the Albanian woman and her organization, to increase our optimism and enthusiasm even more, give us fresh vigour and inspire us to march boldly on the great path the Party has opened for us. Allow me, comrades delegates, to pledge our word to the Party that we will make even greater efforts so the creative thinking of the Albanian woman and her drive at work for the cause of socialism and the revolution may burst forth powerfully, to make our life, the life of our children, of our entire people happier and more prosperous.

The proceedings of the Congress were a brilliant manifestation of the steel-like unity of the women of Albania around the Party and its Marxist-Leninist line, of their boundless love for our glorious Party and its beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, of their deep gratitude for everything they have done for our people. The Congress was a manifestation of the political and ideological maturity of the Albanian woman, of the new level she has reached in her revolutionary consciousness, of her concern about the major problems of the country; it proved that there are no loftier interests for the woman than the interests of the Homeland, the people and socialism. With their contributions to the discussion about oil and steel production, bread and the defence of the Homeland, on education, culture, science and the arts, on children's upbringing, our delegates had in mind the progress and the happiness of the socialist Homeland.

Our Congress manifested a high revolutionary spirit; it showed that the women of our country are living up to the situations and are well aware of them, that they are fighting with determination to break through the imperialist-revisionist blockade and encirclement and cope with its ideological aggression, to unfold the class struggle in a correct way on all fronts and in all fields.

Comrades delegates, here we spoke of the high degree of emancipation of our woman, of the true equality our socialist system has created for her.

It is a wonderful thing when one sees the great enthusiasm and joy the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania has brought about all over our country. This is an expression of the truth that the problems of the woman and her emancipation are becoming ever more the concern of the whole society. It is the Party which created this wonderful reality, that gives us wings and multiplies our forces for new battles.

People often ask: where do the Albanians, a small people, where do the Albanian women, formerly among the most oppressed by the society and the most down — hidden by the canon of unwritten laws and ignorance, find this force, this unflinching courage, this clarity to cope with any situation, to solve all the complicated problems, to courageously stand up to all enemies and air their independent opinions about the major international questions? They draw this force, courage and clarity from the life-giving ideas of Marxism-Leninism implemented with unswerving faithfulness and in a creative spirit by the
Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, from the granite-like unity of the people around the Party, which was also so vividly expressed here, at our 8th Congress. Therefore we will guard the loyalty towards Marxism-Leninism, towards the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, our strong unity around the Party like the apple of our eye.

The warm and friendly words our foreign friends and sisters addressed to our women, our Party and country, the numerous greetings sent to our Congress from various women's organizations and friends in many countries of the world are a great encouragement to us. On your behalf, I wish to thank and assure them that the Albanian women will always be in solidarity with the progressive and revolutionary women all over the world. We wish them from our hearts successes and victories in their struggle for national and social liberation, for democracy and progress.

For four days in succession, the people of Durres made us experience feelings of a special care and love. We thank the Party Committee, the Executive Committee, the mass organizations and all the working people, and especially the women of Durres for their hospitality, for the warm atmosphere and the favourable conditions they created for us to hold the proceedings of our 8th Congress successfully.

This Congress sets important tasks to our organization and to all the women of Albania. Their fulfilment will strengthen and enliven our organization even more, they will further enhance its role in the education and mobilization of the broad masses of women.

Comrades, let us set ourselves to work with fresh drive to implement the historic decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party, as Comrade Enver Hoxha instructs us in the greeting of the Central Committee!

— Long live the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania!
— Long live the heroic women of socialist Albania!
— Glory to our Party of Labour!
May Comrade Enver Hoxha live as long as our mountains!
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