NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FORMATION OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE, THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The National Conference on the Formation of the Albanian people, their language and culture, organized by the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania jointly with the University of Tirana and other institutes of higher education and scientific associations of the country, held its proceedings from July 2 to 5, 1982.

Students from other countries also attended the Conference.

The Conference was declared open by the director of the Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania, Prof. Stefanaq Pollo, who among other things said:

«This Conference will deal with one of the more important problems of our social sciences — that of the ethnogenesis of the Albanian people in its fundamental aspects: the Illyrian-Albanian continuation, the autochthony of the Albanians in their territories and the consolidation of the Albanian nationality with its language, culture and territory in the Middle Ages.»

Prof. Stefanaq Pollo thanked the foreign students for attending the Conference. He expressed his regret that, despite the invitation extended to them, the students from Kosova, who would have made an outstanding contribution with their valuable works to the treatment of the common problem of the ethnogenesis of the Albanian people, were not attending the Conference.

Prof. Aleksi Buda delivered the report «The Ethnogenesis of the Albanian People in the Light of History».

Prof. Mahir Domi delivered the report «The Formation of the Albanian Language — Problems and Tasks».

Senior Scientific Worker Skënder Anamali delivered the report «On the Problem of the Formation of the Albanian People in the Light of Archaeological Research».

Historians, linguists, archaeologists, ethnographers, teachers and workers of scientific associations of districts as well as foreign scientists read their papers and contributed to the discussion.

On behalf of the foreign scientists participating in the Conference, Prof. Hermann Olberg (Innsbruck) thanked the Conference for the warm hospitality and made a positive appraisal of the proceedings of the Conference that had dealt in an all-round and serious scientific manner with the complex problems of different disciplines, such as archaeology, history, language and folklore.

Then the President of the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania Prof. Aleksi Buda held the closing speech. He said among other things that our post-Liberation Albanological sciences are shedding new light on the truth about the centuries-long history of our people, as the direct successors of the Southern Illyrians, the formation of the Albanian nationality, the original language and culture of this nationality, their irresistible development through their struggles for freedom and social justice, and the creation of the Albanian nation which has become today an advanced socialist nation.

Prof. Aleksi Buda pointed out that the Conference reaffirmed the fundamental idea that the popular masses, as the main carriers of the local language and culture, were the decisive factor of the preservation, consolidation and development of the Illyrian ethnos and later the Arbrian ethnos. From the linguistic viewpoint, the Conference proved convincingly that the Albanian language, one of the most ancient languages of the Balkan Peninsula, is the direct continuation of the Illyrian and is formed as the language of a nation since the Early Middle Ages in the territories inhabited by the Albanians today, including the regions of ancient Dardania.