

«Through labour actions boys and girls not only build wonderful projects of economic importance, but above all, they go through a great school which tempers them and imbues them with revolutionary concepts about work and life, cultivating in them the spirit of collectivism and training them to overcome difficulties, implanting in them the feeling of love of the comrade, sentiments of pure friendship and revolutionary determination.»

ENVER HOXHA

LABOUR ACTIONS – SCHOOLS OF COMMUNIST EDUCATION OF THE ALBANIAN YOUTH

by ETEMIE ZENELI

SOCIALIST ALBANIA CAME INTO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA WITH COLOSSAL SUCCESSES IN ALL FIELDS OF LIFE. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY, WITH COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AT THE HEAD, THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE DROVE OUT OF THE COUNTRY THE FOREIGN OCCUPIERS AND THEIR LACKEYS, CARRIED OUT THEIR PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION AND ARE NOW SUCCESSFULLY BUILDING THE SOCIALIST SOCIETY. IN THESE FOUR DECADES, ALBANIA, FORMERLY THE MOST BACKWARD COUNTRY OF EUROPE, WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A COUNTRY WITH DEVELOPED INDUSTRY AND ADVANCED AGRICULTURE, WITH A HIGH LEVEL IN EDUCATION AND CULTURE, AND WITH THE MOST PROGRESSIVE SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

The young generations have played an important role in all these achievements. Both in the struggle for national liberation and social emancipation and in the efforts for the socialist construction of the country, they have fought in the forefront for the application of the teachings of the Party.

ETEMIE ZENELI — Secretary of the Central Committee of the LYUA

The youth in Albania have done immense work for the construction of socialism. There is literally no project built in the country in which they have not made their contribution with their sweat and toil.

Mass labour actions are one of the forms of the mobilization of the youth for the prosperity of the Homeland. In the course of these labour actions, the

young members of the Labour Youth Union of Albania take part in various voluntary actions on several projects of great importance for the economy of the country.

Mass labour actions have their origin in the very first days after the liberation of the country, at the time when 23,000 young men and women set about work for repairing houses, school buildings and bridges destroyed or burned down by the enemy, for maintaining national and regional roads, or building new projects. Unforgettable is the selfless work of our heroic youth in the construction of the Kukës-Peshkopia road in North Albania, which will be known generation after generation as the «Road of the Youth». In this important labour action most of work was carried out on very rugged moun-

tainous terrain. Another broad field of the revolutionary activity of the youth was railroad building, in the course of which they were tempered as revolutionaries.

The period March 1 — October 29, 1947 has gone down in history as the most important moment of the activity of the glorious organization of the Youth Union of Albania. Its members built the Durrës-Elbasan railway — the first in Albania. Taking part in this action were 30,000 young volunteers who laid a 43 kilometre long line, built 122 bridges, bored a 380 metre-long tunnel — the first in the country, and shifted thousands of cubic metres of earth. In this action, the Albanian youth learned how to build a railway road, and this marked the beginning of a major battle in which the revolutionary energy of the youth was tempered for more such actions in the future. In 1948, the Youth Union of Albania dispatched 29,000 of its members to the building of the Durrës-Tirana railway, connecting two of the main centres of the country — Tirana, the capital of Albania, with Durrës — its port; and then, came in succession the labour actions for the building of the railways Rrogozhina-Fier, Elbasan-Prrenjas, Prrenjas-Guri i Kuq, etc. Today the whistle of locomotives is heard almost all over the country, the whole territory of the country is criss-crossed by iron rails which add to the industrial scenery of our Homeland. In the recent months our people had another occasion for joy: the train reached a new point — the town of Lezha in North Albania, and this only to ride on to the city of Shkodra in the next few months.

The iron rails growing in length all over the Homeland every new day rumble with cars carrying happy people, loaded with iron and chrome, copper and other minerals extracted from the various mines of the country, bringing «bread» to the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical complex, chemical fertilizers to the fields, construction materials to towns and villages, the cons-

truction sites of new projects, participating in the all-round development of Albania.

Railway building is not the only activity of the Albanian youth. Our younger generation go from the site of one labour action to another chanting the slogan «Party, Enver we are always ready!» Besides building many kilometres of railroad, thousands of young men and women have taken part in other labour actions to bring new lands under plough. The banner of youth labour actions flies everywhere the youth make their contribution to the socialist construction of the country. The sinuous terraces out on the slopes of the Riviera of South Albania and many other projects are monuments to the tireless work of our youth. Conscious of the role and place they have in socialist society, making light of difficulties and hardships, the youth have left their indelible imprints in high dams and bridges, in railroads and many other major projects. The Party and the people are proud of our youth, the friends and well-wishers who come from all over the world to visit this land rejuvenated in the years of the Party congratulate them, the enemies see them and choke with impotent anger, the future generations will learn from them. Besides the great economic advantage of labour actions, this method of work is of incalculable value for the ideological, moral and spiritual education and tempering of the youth. In the course of actions the youth have extended the scope of their interests, built up their moral qualities and crystalized their revolutionary features. In the first place, labour actions have become schools of communist education for the thousands of boys and girls who take part in them.

«Labour actions,» Comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out, «conform to the nature of the youth whose life cannot be conceived without them. Through labour actions boys and girls not only build wonderful projects of economic importance, but above all,

they go through a great school which tempers them and imbues them with revolutionary concepts about work and life, cultivating in them the spirit of collectivism and training them to overcome difficulties, implanting in them the feeling of love of the comrade, sentiments of pure friendship and revolutionary determination.»

The labour actions of the youth serve to put into practice the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha on the education of the younger generation. In concrete terms, these actions bring the education of the youth into closer connection with the material conditions of life, with the experience of socialist work, the concrete situation. In the course of this revolutionary practice the youth develop their revolutionary habits, are imbued with new ideas about work and life which, on its part, facilitates the process of their political and ideological tempering. This is another proof of the vitality of socialism.

In labour actions, just as in everything else, working youth represents the backbone of the masses of youth. They are characterized by a lofty militant spirit in the fulfilment of tasks; but at the same time, the Party trains them into organizers and leaders, as part of the working class in power. In this aspect, too, mass actions have great importance. Thousands of young men and women carry on the functions of youth secretaries or commissars of volunteer brigades in labour actions. During the one-month period of labour action they learn how to lead the work for the fulfilment of tasks. The very dynamism of labour actions teaches them how to keep pace with the times, to assimilate and apply the teachings of the Party, strengthens them in their concepts and helps them affirm the revolutionary new; it teaches them to judge independently, encourages them to undertake leading work and strengthens their confidence in their own forces, this opens to them broad avenues for major tasks of responsibility in the future. It has been proved that many of those

who have participated in labour actions and directed work there, have turned out to be able and talented cadres in social organizations, good social activists.

The labour actions of the youth have always played a great role in the education of the peasant youth with a more correct concept of work and collective property, a more cultured way of life. Hence work in labour actions of the youth, which consists of unpaid labour, ie represents an element of communist attitude towards work and property, is one of the main directions in the work for the education of peasant youth. Just as the bulk of the youth, the peasant youth are ready to accept the new, to become ardent fighters for its defence and affirmation, thus promoting the policy of the Party, carrying the principles of the new socialist society to the countryside.

All the school youth of Albania have passed through the labour actions. Our people want the intelligentsia to be linked closely with and integrated into the workers and peasants so as to know all the difficulties and heroism of work and life. Therefore, the youth are trained from the school desks to struggle with difficulties, to toil and sweat, to create with their own minds and hands, to learn in the school of the working class, to get to know the vigour and capacity, the steel will and discipline of the working class. In the process of work with the working class and the cooperativist peasantry boys and girls, students and young workers learn proletarian modesty, the true meaning of the saying, «We must earn the bread with the sweat of our brow». The youth themselves are deeply conscious of this, therefore they are ready to go to work there where the Homeland needs them most. A former member of labour actions of the youth, who had taken part in building terraces on the coastal area, expressed the interests and aspirations of the school youth, their great spiritual world, saying, «The labour action became an

additional university..., a true revolutionary school for us... In Jonufër (where the students work to plant terraces with fruit trees) we got a second diploma.» Another volunteer, who had worked in the construction of the Laç-Shkodra railway, in a letter to the commander of the labour action brigade, had this to say: «One month of labour action was equal to one year of school for us. There were difficulties, of course, but we must be tempered in order to be strong enough to carry forward the torch of the revolution, to be an example to all the youth of the world, as the foreign delegation who came to see our work at the railway construction site told us.»

The school youth, working and living in the same conditions as the worker and peasant youth, get acquainted and become friends with them, learn and benefit from their experience, and vice-versa. In collective work and life communist concepts and morality are instilled, petty-bourgeois, patriarchal and intellectualist left-overs from the past discarded, and old artificial barriers raised by the ideology of the overthrown classes pulled down. The participation of the youth in various actions is of educative value as well, through them they become acquainted with the life of the people, with their successes, with their aspirations and their work for the socialist construction of the country. Going to different cities and villages, travelling through plains and highlands, visiting the wonderful sea-coast and the remote mountain grasslands, the young men and women feel the full impact of the beauty of their country as they work for its development, as they rest in the shade of its trees and drink from its fountains, as they talk with ordinary people, therefore they are inspired to work and struggle with all their forces in order to make Albania more beautiful and prosperous.

Many foreigners who have visited Albania have had the opportunity to see for themselves the Albanian youth

in labour actions. They are enthusiastic about the forms of organization of work, the work and life of our young men and women in labour actions. They have been especially impressed by the particular solicitude of the PLA and our entire socialist society for the education of the younger generation. But above all they are amazed by the spirit of voluntarism of the youth, their labour without remuneration in mass actions. Some of them have gone so far as to ask the volunteers about how much they are paid for participating in labour actions. It is beyond their grasp to understand that the Albanian youth do not take part in labour actions for pay, but because they want to contribute to the progress of the Homeland. The people's state power, the socialist order, guarantees all rights to and have created all the material conditions for the youth to enjoy these rights in practice. In Socialist Albania the youth attend studies free of charge for all categories of schools, from the primary school to the university. There is no unemployment which is the cause of much suffering for the youth of the capitalist and revisionist countries. Socialist democracy ensures the right to work for the youth according to their abilities and knowledge, as well as their active participation and unlimited creative part in all the fields of social life.

The Albanian younger generations see the future with confidence; all roads are open to them; this makes them unyielding revolutionaries and fighters for the cause of socialism.

The main concern of the Albanian young men and women, be they workers, farmers or students, is to serve the people better, in order to advance the cause of socialism in their country. They learn and work in order to help raise the economy of the country to a higher level, to make the fields more fertile, to build more plants and factories, to produce more material blessings for the entire society, to spread culture to the remotest corners of the Homeland, to make science the property of

the masses. The Albanian youth are the youth of lofty ideals, and so will they remain in the future.

In the bourgeois-revisionist countries the situation is quite different. The youth there are constantly struggling with ever increasing difficulties. Price rises, inflation, increased living costs, unemployment, all this makes life more and more difficult for the youth. The ideologists of the bourgeoisie make a great play with the supposed advantages of the «consumer society», but all their talk is sheer demagoguery. In fact, in the capitalist-revisionist society well-being exists, but not for the working masses, for the working class, for the worker and peasant youth, it exists only for the bourgeoisie for the exploiting classes. Millions of young men and women in the bourgeois and revisionist countries are jobless. The doors of plants and factories are shut to them. For days and months on end they queue up before work offices, to be eventually given the same answer everywhere: «We have got no job for you.» At present only in the countries of the EEC there are 7 million and 400 thousand jobless, 42 per cent of whom are young people. Millions of young people roam in search of work in the USA, the Soviet Union, China, etc. Amongst the jobless there are many high school graduates. Those working as waiters, construction workers, chimney-sweepers are the lucky ones. Faced with an untenable situation, millions of young people are compelled to emigrate, abandoning their families, relatives and loved ones. But even so they cannot yet see the end of the tunnel. In the countries where they emigrate they find the same picture of unemployment and the same crowds of the unemployed. So, after many years of doing odd jobs and back-breaking work, they are compelled to return to their home countries, with their youth gone, their health ruined, an additional burden to their families.

The youth all over the world have risen and are fighting against this sort

of life, taking part in the class struggle, in protest demonstrations and even in armed struggle. The bourgeoisie is afraid of precisely this struggle, therefore it makes every effort to bring about the degeneration of the youth in order to divert them from the revolutionary road. The moral-political degeneration of the youth is one of the aims of the bourgeoisie and the revisionists. The bourgeoisie thinks it can get a new lease of life for itself and the rotten capitalist system if it manages to turn the youth apolitical, amoral, it knows that this is the only way of stopping the youth from rising against the capitalist regime. To achieve this, the bourgeoisie in power uses all means: the mass media, religion, drugs, crime, etc.

«...In the capitalist and revisionist countries today.» writes Comrade Enver Hoxha in his work «Imperialism and the Revolution», «the majority of the youth expend their energies in wrong directions. They are misled by the bourgeoisie and revisionism and often turn to adventurism and anarchism, or fall into utopia and despair, because they have been disorientated and bemused and take a gloomy view of the future, the prospects for the fulfilment of their political, material and spiritual demands.»

In the capitalist and revisionist countries the means of propaganda, literature, the arts, cinematography, everything is used for the brainwashing of the youth. Gangsters and thugs, drugg-addicts and criminals are the heroes of books and films. As a result, crime with all its consequences has increased amongst the youth. Murder, theft, violence, kidnapping of people, are common phenomena there. So, in the Soviet Union, more than one third of the crimes are committed by people aged under 25 years. According to official statistics, in the city of New York alone there is one murder or assault every 2 hours and 25 minutes, and one hold up every 7 minutes. Alongside crime, drug addiction is widespread among a large

section of the youth in the bourgeois-revisionist world. It is not infrequent to see drugged young people lying about in the streets.

The apologists of the bourgeoisie and their venomous propaganda try to cover up the real causes of these heavy ulcers of the bourgeois society. They endeavour to present these phenomena as something which has nothing to do with the social base of this exploitative order which is distantly connected with the capitalist system. However, it is already a fact that all these ulcers are the result of the society with antagonistic classes, and they are fostered by the bourgeois-revisionist ideology everyday. Between these phenomena, on the one hand, and the capitalist society, on the other hand, there is an organic link, therefore all the evils should not be sought in the nature of the individual, as the ideologists of the bourgeoisie are doing, but in the nature of the capitalist order.

In socialist Albania these grave ulcers in the body of society are unknown. The active and conscious participation of the Albanian youth in labour actions all over the country is a powerful demonstration of the new qualities of our new man, brought up and educated by the Party with the genuine communist ideology and ethics. This is another victory which shows that the younger generation of Albania, united in their heroic organization — the LYU of Albania, stand unshakeable in their sound revolutionary positions, that they are worthy and capable of taking the torch of the revolution in their hands and carrying it further forward.

The revolutionary fighting spirit of the Albanian youth, their determination to march unwaveringly on the road of Marxism-Leninism, their readiness to put themselves unhesitatingly in the service of the people, on all fronts where the Party wants them, is one of the greatest gains of the socialist social system, and at the same time a guarantee for the brilliant future of socialist Albania.