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THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA HAS STRESSED THAT «ONLY SOCIALISM IS IN A POSITION TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE EMANCIPATION OF MAN AND HAS DONE SO.» THIS IS NO UTOPIA. OUR REVOLUTIONARY PRACTICE HAS PROVED THIS THOROUGHLY, MANY CENTURIES AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE GONE BY SINCE CLASS SOCIETIES EMERGED AND HISTORY HAS ALWAYS SHOWN THAT THEY ARE DIVIDED INTO OPPRESSORS AND OPPRESSED, THE RICH WHO ENJOY ALL THE BLESSINGS CREATED BY NATURE AND THE WORK OF MAN ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE POOR WHO ARE DEPRIVED OF ALL JOY, IF NOT OF THEIR LIVELIHOOD, ON THE OTHER. NO ONE ALTOGETHER CAN DENY THIS TRUTH. IF WE READ THE WORKS OF GREAT SOCIAL STUDENTS, THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE BULLETINS OF NEWS AGENCIES WHICH VOICE THE OPINIONS AND POLICIES OF THE STATES THEY DEPEND ON, AND OTHER MATERIALS ON THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF PEOPLE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, AS WELL AS THE INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UNO AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, WE SHALL SEE THAT EVERYTHING INDICATES THE POLARIZATION OF SOCIETY IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, APART FROM ALBANIA.

Describing the general crisis which has swept the whole capitalist, revisionist and feudal-capitalist world, they are unable to cover up unemployment, inflation, rising costs of living and, as their consequence, the misery of those who have nothing but their hands to earn a living. In this situation it is a paradox to talk about emancipation, to talk about human rights and democracy, as the leaders of and the spokesmen for the bourgeois and revisionist societies do every day at parliamentary meetings, bilateral, regional and international conferences. The falseness of their demagogy is so glaring that even the most naive cannot fail to express their revolt when they see them-

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selves jobless, homeless, struggling with skyrocketing prices and terrorized by police violence.

The contrary occurs in socialist Albania, in which such phenomena of the capitalist and revisionist world as crises, unemployment, inflation, rising costs of living, etc are alien. Albania is known all over the world for its stability and steadily rising political, economic and cultural level. In Albania there is remarkable unity of thought and action between the people and the Party of Labour of Albania, the principles of which shape the whole life of the country. The motto, «The Party does what the people want and the people do what the Party says», is a reality here.

Here everybody holds dear the Homeland, the Party and socialism and defends them with fanaticism. But to be able to defend them you must be aware of their indispensability, speak out courageously against all those who threaten them politically, ideologically, economically or militarily and be prepared to fight them. These characteristics guarantee that Albanian reality which is sanctioned in the Constitution of the PSR of Albania, according to which state power stems from the people and belongs to the people. The Albanian people are the masters of their state. Herein lies the secret of socialism which creates all the conditions and possibilities for the emancipation of all people; hence derives the directive of the 8th Congress of the PLA: «**The women of Albania and their organization, the Women's Union of Albania, must fight to uphold and further develop the spirit of emancipation amongst the mass of women themselves and in society as a whole.**»

Albania has entered the 38th year of its complete liberation. On the eve of Liberation, in November 1944, the leader of the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, stressed at the 1st Congress of the WUA: «The Albanian anti-fascist woman will always have the support of the government and state in her march towards progress, just as the government and state will have the valuable assistance of the Albanian anti-fascist woman.»

These statements, which implied the creative implementation of Marxism-Leninism in the concrete conditions of our country, were not mere words and did not remain

ON OF WOMAN - ON LE SOCIETY *by VITO KAPO*

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a dead letter. They expressed the need for the development of the whole society. And this development was never considered one-sidedly. It called for an appropriate material-technical base, and for men capable of utilizing this base, of organizing it and ensuring its further development, enrichment and strengthening. In a state in which private property no longer exists, and only the social ownership of the means of production exists, in which not a handful of families, but the whole working class with the Party at its head, determine the future of the nation, there is no spontaneity in the development of this or that branch of the economy; only the economic laws of socialism are recognized and implemented there. Everything is done in conformity with the plans of the economic and cultural development of the country, keeping due proportions of development among the different branches of the economy, as well as within these branches themselves, defining work productivity, the distribution of material blessings, and combining the general interest with the personal interests and sticking to the principle: each according to his ability, to each according to his work.

In these conditions, socialism which struggles to achieve economic growth and cultural development and a constant improvement of well-being for the masses, which sees competition as an alien phenomenon, is interested in drawing all the able-bodied population into social productive labour and, in this respect, cannot fail to take account of the forces of women. In all circumstances, even in the most difficult situations of wartime, women have shown themselves to be up to and do their tasks competently, as well as to lead, organize and create.

The participation of the woman in productive labour, as a requirement of society, that is a duty, is at the same time her major right, a fundamental right which, after the proclamation of national independence and liberation from capitalist exploitation, guarantees her the economic, political, ideological and social independence. The independence of the woman enriches the country with new energies which lay dormant and were unutilized in the past, strengthens the socialist economy, enlivens political

and cultural life, frees men and women from stale concepts, inherited from the class society, on the role and place of woman, makes her an equal citizen to man at work, in society and the family.

The PLA calls on women today to uphold and further develop the spirit of emancipation amongst the mass of women themselves, and links it with the emancipation of society as a whole. The women and their organization — the WUA have faithfully followed the road mapped out by the PLA. They took part in the National Liberation War both on the front and in the back area, making an outstanding contribution to the liberation of the country. They participated in mass volunteer actions for the reconstruction of the Homeland, were outstanding in social activities for the implementation of major economic reforms and, later, diligent workers and cooperativists in our planned economy. Women constitute today 46 per cent of the working people in the PSR of Albania. On a whole, their participation in social productive work is considered a solved problem. The 4 per cent difference in the degree of occupation of men and women results from the composition of the population, as well as from the fact that men, although they begin work at the same age as women, go on a pension 5 years later.

We say that social productive work is a major factor for the all-round emancipation of women, as it calls for ability, experience, knowledge of and attachment to one's job, all-round mobilization of the physical and mental abilities to turn out the required amount of production according to indices of planned productivity, assortment and quality, and at the lowest cost possible. Making work a duty and a right for women, opened the door for them to enjoy all the other rights.

However, if in the past man worked outdoors (whenever he could find a job), the woman had no such opportunity. It has to accustom herself to social productive work. Therefore, the state took all the measures to achieve this by opening courses and schools, beginning with courses against illiteracy (in 1938, 94 per cent of women were illiterate), organizing courses for professions of the lower

categories, expanding the network of primary, middle and higher vocational schools. Today the ratio of boys and girls at school has been overthrown. Since 1952, 8-year schooling has been made compulsory for boys and girls. Girls account for 52 per cent of students in full-time secondary schools and 50 per cent in the University.

Work, technical-professional and political education have raised the authority of women; men and women have been freed from conservative concepts which made the woman an inferior being, good only to be a mother, a housewife and, at most, to carry out some traditional tasks of her sphere. This work emancipated the women, emancipated the men, and raised the emancipation of all the society to a higher degree. A broad system of educational institutions served to raise the general cultural level of the people, to create the conviction among them that they cannot go to socialism without knowledge. In the past explanatory work had to be done among the parents in order to convince them to allow their daughters to attend 8-year and secondary schools on state bursaries. Today 8-year schools are attended by everybody, boys and girls, middle schools by everyone who wishes to do so and girls compete with boys for good marks in order to win the right to attend higher school. The trend is towards the elimination of all distinctions between boys and girls, men and women, in the preparation of cadres and in the training of specialists and people with a sound culture.

The social productive labour and the education of women concur in strengthening socialist property, endowing our new man with new features. With the emancipation of the Albanian woman, the society was also emancipated and developed. But all the social productive activity, the general educational, cultural and technical-professional uplift and the grouping of people in the mass organizations — the Trade Unions, the Labour Youth Union of Albania, the Women's Union of Albania, besides their membership in the great organization of the Democratic Front of Albania, enlivened social life, enabled woman, just as man, to use her political rights — the right of speech, of vote, of assembly and the press more fully. Women now state their own opinions and talk competently about the development of the economy and culture at meetings of workers' collectives and political organizations, taking a lively part in the debate and discussion. Their word is listened to with great attention on all problems. From all debates and discussions, men and women reach joint conclusions about a better organization and management of production, a broader development of culture, work out methods which practice has proved to be more efficient to meet the demands of the present stage of development of the economy, culture, etc.

Frequently in the capitalist and revisionist world women's political opinions are disregarded altogether. Women

are supposed to hold opinions identical with those of their menfolk. This indicates that the working woman is considered incapable of having an opinion of her own on problems of vital importance for the defence of her and her husband's interests, as well as the interests of her social class as a whole, which the ruling cliques trample under foot. What occurs in our socialist country?

There are people who say that our approach to the different problems is always the same, that even at elections there is a 99.99 per cent conformity. And this, according to these people, expresses a lack of democracy. But we tell them that precisely in this unanimity our people find their strength, that it expresses the truly popular character of state power in our country. We are fully justified to say that with us exists the broadest democracy, because the policy of the PLA expresses the interests of the working people, of the working class and the Homeland to such an extent that no opportunity is left for anybody else to rise in defence of them. Opposition in this case would only be prejudicing the interests of the people, would represent only the oppressors and all those who want to sap the foundations of the sovereign and independent People's Socialist Republic of Albania. This opposition would have nothing in common with democracy, with the people, and would have much in common with their opponents against whom the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is a democracy for the broad masses and a dictatorship for those who betray the interests of the people and the Homeland, operates.

The achievements in the socio-political life emancipated woman, emancipated the society as a whole. There are many women activists working on a voluntary basis at people's councils, in the organizations of the Democratic Front, of the trade-unions, the youth and women. Many of them occupy leading posts. Today women account for 33 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly, 30.8 per cent of the members of the High Court of Justice, and 41 per cent of those elected to the leading organs of the mass organizations. Women make up about 30 per cent of the membership of the PLA, the leading staff of the country.

But while talking about women's achievements in productive labour and in socio-political life we never lose sight of the fact that woman is a mother, a regulating factor in family life and an educator of the new generation. How are these problems, which somebody represents as contradictions which influence the treatment of women and put them in a condition of inferiority, resolved and combined? In our country they are tackled through the harmonization of interests, that is the combination of the personal interest with the general interest, giving priority to the latter. Herein lies the distinction between our socialist system and the capitalist and revisionist system, a distinction which is based on the relations of pro-

duction, on the ownership of the means of production, on the system of distribution, as well as the whole superstructure that is built on this base.

The health and education of children are a major problem concerning society as a whole. Today we have over 2,499 crèches, of which 2,093 in the countryside, over 2,667 kindergartens, of which 2,001 in the countryside, and 725 maternity homes. Every village has its midwife and nurse and there is one doctor per 700 inhabitants. Prophylactic medicine has already made great progress.

The problems of family life are more and more becoming the responsibility of society as a whole. The question is about a better division of work among the members of the family which until yesterday came up against petty-bourgeois concepts of shying chores. Today society has a new approach to the solution of such problems. Of great importance is the fact that all the sectors which bear on the improvement of services for the family, according to the instruction of the 8th Congress of the PLA, combine to assist the family and the working women better and more quickly.

These successes clearly speak of the emancipation of woman and society as a whole. Woman, just as all the other working people, takes an equal part in the construction, strengthening and flourishing of socialist Albania, which creates the conditions and takes concrete measures for her complete emancipation. Here lies the difference between socialism, the society which is built according to the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, and the other societies, whatever their name, in which not the will of the masses, but that of the ruling minority is held to account. This proves that the character of the social system determines both the position of worker, peasant and intellectual and that of woman. Paradoxically enough, the representatives of various states meet at international forums, even at the United Nations Organization to decide on the implementation of some plans for the emancipation of women, of human rights and other such problems at a time when they do well know that nothing will be done for the emancipation of women and the alleviation of the misery of the people's masses as they themselves are not in the least interested in taking any step in this direction. The only thing they do is to vote some hand-outs. But the emancipation of women is not a question that can be solved by means of a few hand-outs, or through the «chivalrous» feelings of the «strong sex» towards the «weak sex», says Comrade Enver Hoxha, the leader of the Albanian people. Like the emancipation of the whole of mankind, it must become an indispensability if society as a whole is to be emancipated and develop. This is the road of socialist Albania.

With emancipated women, you have emancipated men, emancipated and well-educated children, sound families based only on the relations of love, mutual respect and

assistance of the couple, which is reflected in all the generations of the family. This ensures unity in the family and society as a whole.

This is the road on which the complete emancipation of woman and society as a whole is ensured in Albania. However, we are aware that the complete emancipation of woman, just as the economic and cultural development of our country, is achieved through a fierce class struggle for the elimination of all leftovers, traditions and customs emerging from the depth of centuries, in which woman is seen as an inferior being. This presupposes constant efforts to make women conscious of the need to combat all manifestations of atavistic feelings of submission to men in themselves, as well as all manifestations of atavistic feelings of domination in men. The struggle for the emancipation of woman goes through the struggle against the penetration, through various channels, of the bourgeois ideology into our country which is an island encircled by the capitalist and revisionist world; it goes through the struggle and efforts of the new woman to adapt herself to the situations and requirements of the new stage reached by our country, socialist Albania.

The 8th Congress of the PLA once more emphasized that **«The Party has fought and will go on fighting consistently for the implementation of its program for the complete emancipation of the Albanian woman, without whom socialism cannot be conceived or its construction carried forward.»**

To fulfil this program, the Party and the socialist state have worked out and approved the 7th Five-year Plan of the development of the economy and culture which envisages the all-round development of the productive forces and the relations of production. Its fulfilment presupposes a higher degree of emancipation of the Albanian women, as well as men. The 7th Five-year Plan calls on women and their organization to enhance their active role as builders of socialism. Keeping in mind the fundamental task of the 7th Five-year Plan, «...to guarantee and gradually raise the material well-being and the cultural level of the masses of the working people and to further strengthen the socialist order and the defence capacity of the Homeland,» every woman, like all the other working people, must be clear that the plan is built on scientific grounds, that it relies on a material-technical base and on people capable of fulfilling it, basing themselves fully on their own forces and possibilities. Therefore, while raising the efficiency of the economy and developing the technical-scientific revolution, we must deepen the socialist industrialization of the country, strengthen and intensify agriculture. All this calls for the constant raising of the consciousness of women, their total mobilization to get acquainted with the targets of the plan and carry it out in time, quantity, quality and cost. For this purpose women must be educated so as to be able not only to fulfil plans,

but also to lead, to organize production and culture and engage, side by side with men, more broadly in the technical-scientific revolution.

Socialist Albania is not a backward country based on extensive development, as some people try to make out. Quite the contrary, an intensive development is envisaged almost everywhere, of course without neglecting extensive development where there are possibilities for it. The fact that total industrial production in 1985, against 1980, will grow 36-38 per cent and agricultural production will increase 30-32 per cent, and that this increase will not be achieved only through new plants and factories that will be built or reconstructed in the years of the five-year plan, but also and especially through a rational utilization of the productive capacities (productivity growth accounts for 60 per cent of the increase of industrial production and 90 per cent of the increase of agricultural production), speaks of the intensive economic development which will ensure the progress of our country as a country with an advanced industry and agriculture. Raising productivity, efficiency and quality calls for more knowledge. The 8th Congress of the PLA drew the attention of society as a whole, and especially of women and their organization, that continuous efforts must be made to achieve complete equality of women with men as regards educational, cultural and technical-professional level, because even to this day there is a certain inequality between men and women in the field of education and culture.

The forms and methods of education, the concrete organizational and administrative measures taken so far and other measures that will be taken, according to the needs, by all the levers of the Party and the state organs in collaboration with the organizations of the masses, will create more free time for women and enable them to utilize it better for their education by attending schools and courses organized specially for them. Here important tasks devolve on all the state organs, all family members and, last not least, the women themselves.

A woman who marches in step with time, who lives with the internal and external situation and knows how to cope with the tasks deriving from them is in a better position to play her role as a mother and as a wife in the strengthening of the socialist family and the complexity of family relations, becomes ever more aware of the importance of her role, as the 8th Congress of the PLA stresses, «as an active builder of socialism, a staunch defender of the Homeland, a careful mother and educator of the younger generation».

Socialist society in new Albania tempers this type of woman. And this is achieved neither by mere decrees or plans, nor only by educational work and partial claims. Woman is emancipated when the struggle for her emancipation, despite its specific nature, is combined with the revolutionary struggle of the whole people united under the leadership and inspiration of the Marxist-Leninist party.