

THE CHAUVINIST OF THE ALBANIA IN KOSOVA CONT

The Great-Serbs continue to follow the course of oppression and persecutions of the Albanians, trying even to raise

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AGAINST THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE OF KOSOVA, WHAT OPPRESSIVE AND DISCRIMINATING MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THE ALBANIAN YOUTH AND POPULATION WHICH ARE BEING CALLED «IRREDENTISTS» AND «NATIONALISTS» IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE BOTH IN YUGOSLAVIA AND IN THE WORLD. NOBODY KNOWS FOR CERTAIN HOW MANY ALBANIANS WERE KILLED IN THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF 1981 AND AFTER THEM. ACCORDING TO THE YUGOSLAV PRESS, 2 884 KOSOVARS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DIFFERENT TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT, MANY OF THEM UP TO 15 YEARS, OVER THE TWO RECENT YEARS. THE SEGREGATION OF THE ALBANIANS, WHICH IN YUGOSLAVIA IS CALLED «DIFFERENTIATION», GOES ON. ALBANIAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE ARE UNDER CONSTANT ATTACK. THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE ALBANIANS CONTINUE TO BE CURTAILED AND DENIED TO THEM.

As is publicly known, through the demonstrations of the spring 1981 and other manifestations following them, the Albanians called for the creation of a republic within the borders of the Federation and the present Yugoslav political system. The constitutional, historical and moral base of this demand has been emphasized many a time by world opinion and the press of many countries.

The Yugoslav newspaper «NIN» itself has recently been forced to admit the fact that the Albanians of Kosova demand only the setting up of a republic within the framework of the Constitution of the Yugoslav Federation. In an article published on January 15 this year, two imprisoned Albanians, Bajrush Xhemali and Ramadan Veliu, declared to the «NIN» correspondents:

«ZËRI I POPULLIT» — organ of the CC of the PLA. Article dated February 11, 1984

«By the slogan 'Kosova-Republic' we mean the equality of the Albanian nation with the other nations and nationalities of Yugoslavia.» «By proclaiming Kosova a republic our country would lose nothing of its integrity. We do not attack the existing system, nor do we want to destroy it. We want only to have equal rights, because without economic equality there is no national equality. The granting of the republic status within the framework of the Yugoslav Federation to Kosova will not give rise to tendencies threatening the rights of the other nations and nationalities.» «The creation of an ethnically pure Kosova or a Greater Albania is only a reactionary and fascist concept which some people often identify with the Republic of Kosova.»

These declarations express in a clear and concise manner the stand of the Albanians of Kosova, a stand which they have maintained from the begin-

OPPRESSION N PEOPLE INUES «ZËRI I POPULLIT»

*Oppression and mass
this course to the level of an official policy*

ning and still adhere to. «NIN» is surprised that, despite all the measures taken, although the youth have been imprisoned and the whole of Kosova has been transformed into a camp surrounded by barbed wire, the Albanians «insist on their demands and do not admit that they are not right.»

The Belgrade magazine is surprised because it has not the courage to say that the Yugoslav leadership continues to display a lamentable lack of political wisdom and has not the necessary cool-headedness to solve such complex problems as those of Kosova and the Albanians living in Yugoslavia. It expresses its surprise only because it has not got the courage to admit the failure of violence in Kosova.

The Great-Serbs continue to follow the course of oppression and mass persecutions of the Albanians, trying even to raise this course to the level of an official policy.

This policy, however, has gone so far that it has already begun to worry not only some individual people, but even some organs and forums in Yugoslavia. An open rebuff to it has come from the leadership of the province of Vojvodina which sees that by making Kosova «a Turk's head» the Serb nationalists want to establish their «rule» in the whole of Yugoslavia. Thus, in an official information for the coming plenum of the provincial committee of the League of Communists of Vojvodina, which is reported by the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG

on February 7 this year, it is said:

«The Serb nationalists blame everything on the system of socialist self-administration and point out that the events in Kosova are the result 'of the incorrect solution of the international relations in our country', that Kosova 'is lost for Yugoslavia' and that 'all the members of the Albanian nationality are nationalists and irredentists.' They condemn the measures for the regulation and normalization of the situation in Kosova, call for sterner measures against the Albanians, condemn the socio-political leadership there, claiming that 'it only manoeuvres', say that 'Kosova is lost for Serbia', that the counter-revolutionary events in Kosova are a 'shame' for the Serb people and the Orthodoxy... They say that 'the main aim of the Great-Serb chauvinism is to replace the struggle against irredentism in Kosova with the struggle against the Albanian nationality as a whole.»

The Great-Serb chauvinism has shown and continues to show, more and more with each passing day, its aggressiveness towards not only the Albanians, but also the other peoples of Yugoslavia. This has been admitted in many speeches, articles and even statements by personalities of some Yugoslav republics and their press, but only in general terms. Nobody has explicitly condemned the Serb chauvinists, nowhere have their actions been publicly condemned, nowhere have they been put on trial or im-

prisoned, as has been done with the so-called Albanian nationalists. This was apparent also at the recent meeting of the leadership of the Socialist Republic of Serbia which was held on February 6.

The subject of the meeting was the struggle against nationalism. However, neither the report, the contributions to the discussion nor the long communique released by the TANJUG on this meeting mentioned the Serb nationalism and chauvinism. Nationalism was mentioned only in general terms. It was clear to everybody that «nationalism» here was attributed only to the Albanians.

The policy of national oppression has been tested other times, too, in Kosova, but it has always failed. The monarchist Serb bourgeoisie applied this policy before the war and Ranković and his consorts after the war.

We have stated several times our opinion that the problem of Kosova cannot be resolved by means of terror and violence. By so doing whether the Great-Serb chauvinists want it or not, the stability of the Yugoslav Federation, about which the Yugoslav leaders pretend to be so worried, is weakened. The only road to the solution of this problem is putting an end to national oppression and having a calm talk with the people of Kosova in order to find the most appropriate solution which would conform to the interests of both the Albanians living in Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav Federation.