

**press review****A GRAVE SITUATION FOR THE SPANISH YOUTH**

«ZËRI I RINISË» — organ of the CC of the LYUA

The ceaseless deepening of the general economic, political, and social crisis, which for many years now has the capitalist system of the world in its grip, cannot fail to have its impart also to the life of capitalist Spain. Decrease of production, many cases of bankruptcy, lowering of the real wages of the working people, rising prices, increased unemployment, etc are manifestations of this crisis.

In Valencia or Madrid, in Burgos or Guadalajara, everywhere there are thousands of jobless, most of whom young

people 18-25 years old. The Spanish officials themselves are compelled to admit that over 13 per cent of the active population of Spain is jobless, which means that in Spain today there are 1,700,000 unemployed. As regards the number of the unemployed in relation to the population, Spain ranks among the first, not to say that it tops the list, among the European countries. This large army of the unemployed, which tends to grow more and more every day, is an expression of the deep economic crisis under which ca-

pitalist Spain is labouring for many years now. For a long time this country knows no increase of industrial and agricultural production, and in many important branches of industry production is constantly falling.

The first to be laid off is the youth. In 1980, according to Spanish official data, 502,400 young people of the age of 18-25 years were jobless. This figure does not include those who enter the labour market for the first time, but only those who have been sacked from their jobs. According to

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statistics published by the Ministry of Labour, at the end of 1980 the number of young people unsuccessfully applying for jobs reached a total of 578,000.

The future of the Spanish youth is gloomy. The fascist regime of Franco did nothing for them, only prisons, persecution and police violence. Juan Carlos with his «moderate Francoism» is toeing the same line as his predecessor. Thousands upon thousands of Spanish youths are forced to leave their Homeland and emigration improves nothing.

The Spanish student youths are in no better conditions. The bourgeois educational system guarantees them no future jobs. This, of course, does not affect that section of the students who come from the «noble families». The newspaper «Vanguardia Obrera», the central organ of the Communist Party of Spain (M-L), in one of its recent issues writes about the high unemployment in the ranks of those graduating from schools or universities. Twenty per cent of those graduating from se-

condary vocational schools fail to find jobs of any kind, let alone jobs according to their training.

The same fate await the university graduates. The Spanish bourgeois newspaper «Diario de Barcelona» writes that every year 11 per cent of the Spanish graduates cannot be accommodated in working places. This explains the fact that the number of students enrolled in the Spanish universities shows a continuous decrease every year. The phenomenon of the emigration of higher specialists, a phenomenon which the bourgeois press puts under the heading of «brain drain», is characteristic both for Spain and for many other capitalist countries. This «drain» costs Spain about 8,000 graduates a year.

An important factor which makes its influence felt in the increase of unemployment in the ranks of the youth is the large-scale and ever increasing depopulation of the Spanish countryside. Thousands of young people abandon the countryside for the cities. The capitalist countryside is not

in a position to secure them a livelihood, therefore they flock into the cities in the hope that they can find something better there; but they are soon disillusioned.

The «surplus» labour power is especially great in the Spanish cities. According to official data, about 68 per cent of the youths coming from the countryside into the cities do not find jobs. The Spanish officials are compelled to admit that in 1982 things will not improve, either. To a total of 1,1 million jobless youths at least another 180,000 will be added.

The progressive youth of Spain is more and more taking the road of the struggle as the only way out. United around its organization — the Communist Youth Union of Spain (M-L), under the leadership of the Communist Party of Spain (M-L), it will fight together with the proletariat and the other working masses against the bourgeoisie in power, against the capitalist system, until this system is destroyed, because only in this manner can it achieve victory, can it realize its aspirations.