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REVIEW OF ALBANIAN WORKERS PARTY JOURNAL, APRIL AND MAY 1956April IssueEditorial

The editorial (pages 3-11) in the April issue of Rruga e Partise, entitled "The Triumph of the Ideas of Leninism," written to celebrate Lenin's birthday, gives the following figures for the achievements of the present world socialist system. The system comprises 35 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of its territory, and accounts for 30 percent of its total industrial production. The article claims that Communist and workers parties have about 30 million members and guide the daily struggle of hundreds of millions of workers. It says that more than 1.2 billion people in India, Indonesia, Burma, etc. have been freed from the colonial yoke and are cooperating with the socialist camp.

After recounting the successes of Leninism, the editorial notes that the 20th Congress of the CPSU severely criticized weaknesses in party and state work since the 19th Congress, such as the cult of personality, especially of Stalin; the violation of collective leadership and socialist legality; arbitrary measures; the spread of bureaucracy; neglect of initiative in the masses; and failure to develop ideological work and the Marxist-Leninist theory.

The author points out that when Lenin came to the conclusion that war was unavoidable as long as imperialism and capitalism existed, there was no world system of socialism. whereas now a great group of states in Europe and Asia is against war and has the power to stop it. He says, however, that vigilance must not be relaxed and unity of action must be maintained between Communist and socialist workers parties.

The article praises the 20th Congress for adopting the idea that different countries may arrive at socialism in the way best suited to their individual conditions.

Artistic Activities as Aid in Mobilizing the Masses

Dashnor Mamaqi contributes an article (pages 45-53) on "Expanding and Raising the Amateur Artists' Movement to a Higher Level," which seems largely to mean using them more efficiently for propaganda purposes.

He states that 5,060 artistic collectives with about 60,000 participants performed in Albanian festivals in 1955, and that over 4,049 of these performances were given by artistic groups from houses of culture.

However, he makes the following criticisms:

Such artistic collectives exist mainly in cities; they are limited in number in the villages. The artistic level of these collectives is low in central and northern Albania; reading rooms and schools in these regions do not combat the "fanaticism" which prevents collectives from appearing on the stage of reading rooms. False excuses are given for this situation.

Artistic collectives lack stability. Many amateurs join them before a festival and leave immediately forward.

Insufficient time is allowed for amateurs to learn their parts.

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There is a great scarcity of musical instruments and stage props, and a tendency exists in some groups to feel that these should be furnished gratis by the state.

Repertoires are not always chosen to mobilize workers to do their duty on the economic front. For example, the Berat Rreth Party Committee formed an artistic brigade to aid collectivization, but no piece on collectivization was ever given. Moreover, plays which are too difficult for amateurs, such as those of Shakespeare, are staged, instead of plays of current interest.

Assistance in interpretation is insufficient and sporadic.

Mamaqi concludes that trade unions, educational and cultural sections in executive committees of rreth people's councils, and the Ministry of Education and Culture itself fail to show sufficient zeal in solving the problems of these groups and giving them sufficient guidance in aiding the masses to do the tasks set before them by the party and government.

Discovery and Utilization of Internal Resources in Mining and Industry

An article (pages 26-35) by Adil Carcani, Minister of Industry and Mining, reports that this is the second year of a movement to discover and utilize internal resources in Albania, and that the movement now includes all branches of industry and the national economy, as well as all workers. But Carcani admits that many such resources are still unutilized. For example, a repair shop left lying outside several tons of old iron and steel which could have been recovered. Enterprises which used their internal resources to exceed the 1955 production plan include the Krrabe Coal Mine, the Rubig Copper Mine, the Tirana Footwear Enterprise (NISH-kepuceve), and the Korce Food Enterprise (NISH-ushqimore).

Carcani makes the following criticisms: some directors and workers still do not know how to utilize internal resources; often discovery and utilization of these resources are not organized on a sound technical basis; records of improvements made by using these resources are not kept; and party primary organizations fail to evaluate such shortcomings.

Carcani calls full use of production capacity one of the main factors in increasing labor productivity. Today, he says, Albanian industry is equipped with new, modern machinery, which is not efficiently used. For example, the percentage of machinery use obtained in some enterprises is as follows: Enver Works, about 70; Stalin Town Repair Shop, 60; workshops of the Textile Combine and the Vlore and Cerrik cement factories, not even 50. Moreover, the Enver Works and other workshops could produce many spare parts, now imported at a cost of millions of leks. National and local carpentry shops, sawmills and brickyards are equally inefficient.

Another factor in improving labor productivity, according to the article, is increasing the planned coefficient of effective operation, which many enterprises fail to do for such reasons as work stoppages, scarcity of materials, breakdowns in machinery, etc.

Still another source of increased labor productivity given by Carcani is mechanization of production processes. Yet many enterprises, such as olive oil, soap, footwear, and rubber factories, still cling to primitive methods with low productivity.

Avoidance of loss in working time is called another great internal resource. Although 50 percent less time was lost in 1955 than in 1954, the record is far from satisfactory, the article says, since 87,928 workdays were lost without

Justification cause in 1955, representing a loss of 80,190,336 leks in industrial production at the statistical price. Carcani criticizes enterprise directors, party primary organizations, and the ministerial apparatus for failure to enforce discipline in such cases.

Carcani lists systematization of norms and wages as another great resource. He cites as an example the fact that revising and raising norms in the industrial and mining sectors saved millions of leks in 1955. He says, however, that the Central Committee of the party found many errors in 1955, in norms being fixed so low that they were too easily exceeded. He criticized enterprises which classified jobs incorrectly, so that wages were higher than the type of job merited.

He also considers inventions, rationalization, and dissemination of progressive experience as sources of increases in labor productivity. Yet, he says, directors of enterprises and mines and the Commission on Inventions and Rationalizations itself often let months go by without examining workers' suggestions or putting them into effect.

Internal resources are not sufficiently utilized, Carcani adds, to reduce production costs. For example, in 1955, while 29 enterprises reduced their production expenses by this means, 15 others raised theirs. The Durres Macaroni Factory (fabrike e makaronave) reduced its production costs by 228,000 leks, while a similar factory in Sarande increased its costs. The Kurabs Coal Mine reduced production costs 7.11 percent, but the Menaliaj Coal Mine did not reduce its costs. Other enterprises which increased their costs in 1955 are the Tirana Brickyard (NISH-tullave), 46.79 percent; the Bulqise Chromium Mine, 12.72 percent; Gjirokaaster Leather Factory (NISH-lekurave), 22.44 percent; and the Vlore Food Enterprise (NISH-ushqimore), 9.69 percent.

Other means of reducing production costs, according to this article, are reducing unproductive expenditures, such as expenditure on transportation and storage, and correcting the imbalance between production workers and the clerical or administrative force.

Carcani also censures lack of care in the protection of the people's property, which costs the government millions of leks.

He urges utilization of internal resources to increase the assortment and improve the quality of industrial products. Although there has been much improvement along these lines, he finds many shortcomings, especially in the food and clothing industries. These shortcomings he says are due partly to the scarcity of engineers and partly to directors who do not stimulate their engineers to plan the manufacture of more and better goods and to improve production means. This "resistance" to planning may be found even in the Ministry of Industry. Among enterprises which failed to improve their goods for this reason were the Korce Knitted Wear Factory (NISH-trikotazhi); the (Tirana) Footwear Enterprise; leather enterprises, especially the one in Gjirokaaster; and various sawmills. Carcani admits that in some cases of poor quality, the excuse of scarcity of raw materials, too frequently given by directors of enterprises, is justified; but he finds that more often the reason for poor quality is that party primary organizations and enterprise directors do not know how to discover the many available internal resources.

Moreover, he blames many directors of enterprises for being content to fulfill their production plans in quantity only, while permitting manufacture of substandard goods. The party primary organizations in these enterprises have failed to penalize such practices.

Casani confesses that proper standards have not been set up for all industrial articles and that existing standards are often violated. He points out that the establishment of correct standards and technological methods for each article would be another means of discovering internal resources. The government has instituted technical inspection offices and many enterprises have laboratories, he says, but they often not only fail to exert control over the quality of raw or semifinished (auxiliary) materials, but even accept substandard materials.

Furthermore, although he admits much has been done in establishing qualification courses for workers, especially for directors, engineers, and technicians, Casani finds many faults in teaching methods and materials and in attendance at courses. He blames these faults on insufficient control by directors of enterprises and mines, by party organizations, and by the apparatus of the ministry itself.

Development of State Farms

Miti Bozo, in his article (pages 36-46) on "The Strengthening and Development of State Farms," states that the area under crops at state farms was 2.4 times greater in 1955 than in 1950, while yields during this period increased by the following amounts (in percent): wheat, 430; vegetables and potatoes, 90; sugar beets, 400; and milk, 30. During the same period, livestock increased as follows (in percent): horses, 140; cattle, 110; and poultry, 350.

Although state farms occupied only 4.3 percent of the total area under cultivation in 1955, Bozo says, they produced 17.9 percent of the total compulsory deliveries of wheat to the state, 41.7 percent of the (total?) vegetable crop, and 29.5 percent of the milk procured by state and cooperative trade organizations; as well as 7.1 percent of the meat, 17.1 percent of the wool, 17.7 percent of the sugar beets, and the total amount of sugar beet seed and hempseed (probably of total compulsory deliveries).

Bozo also noted that there were, in 1953, 3.4 times more tractors than in 1950. There were also more seeders for bread grain, sugar beets, and cotton; more self-propelled combines; more electric milkers and shearers; and a better supply of large incubators and instruments for artificial insemination, etc.

The state, according to Bozo, has invested heavily in reclamation, irrigation, housing, road building, stabling, repair shops, clubs, and schools. Thus, at many state farms such as those in Maliq, Sukth, Kamze, Iushnje, and Fier, the state has built workers' housing centers. Yet the results obtained by state farms cannot be considered at all satisfactory, he says, since many of them fail to fulfill production plans, attain only low yields, and display great technical and organizational weaknesses.

Bozo reports that in June 1955, the State Farm Administration and its auxiliary branches set forth the national requirements for each enterprise, but that lack of coordination between the State Farm Administration and state farms had caused an imbalance between agricultural production for trade and for animal husbandry. In 1952, for example, wheat occupied only 20 percent of the total area under cultivation on state farms and decreased to 14.9 percent in 1953, while fodder crops were disproportionately large. Fodder crops, especially barley and oats, hold first place; next come perennial grasses; and lastly annual grasses. The average yield of fodder grains is only 75 percent of that of perennial grasses and 50 percent of that of annual grasses, while the production cost of a fodder unit from these grains is 2-3 times greater than from hay. Although he says some consideration has been given to this disproportion, Bozo feels that insufficient attention is paid to the fact that a large part of state farm land has not been improved. He points out that a much larger yield per

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unit of area could be obtained on unimproved land from annual grasses than from fodder grains, and at a much lower cost. He also finds fault with the ratio of annual fall and spring grasses. For example, in the fall, state farms plant only oats, and in the spring only corn and a very small sugar beet crop for fodder. He blames this system for the lack of fresh fodder during certain periods, when, by proper planning, fresh fodder could be available all year. Another criticism he makes is that fall annuals used for winter fodder are more expensive, since they require more manpower, while spring annuals can be planted on larger areas and, when ensiled, serve as a sufficient winter fodder.

Industrial crops also are too restricted in state farms, Bozo says, and insists that more space should be devoted to them.

He advises selecting auxiliary branches in state farms with care, taking into consideration the conditions and area of each farm. An unsuccessful case which he cites was the attempt of a farm to start an auxiliary branch for raising all types of livestock, with the result that only a few head of cattle were produced, at a high cost. On the other hand, he says, Kamze State Farm makes a success of pig raising because pigs can eat vegetable scrap which would not otherwise be used, and Fier State Farm makes a profit on poultry, which consumes grain waste that other animals cannot eat.

Bozo considers the proper ratio of different animals in a herd or flock an important factor in livestock raising. For example, Kamze State Farm, with 53 cows per 100 animals, obtained 26 percent more milk than Maliq State Farm with 42 cows per 100, Sheep-Raising Enterprise No 5 (ndermarje blegtorale Nr 5) produced 21 percent more milk and 22 percent more wool than Sheep-Raising Enterprise No 1, because No 5 had 81.6 bearing ewes per 100 head, while No 1 had only 67.1 per 100. These errors are being corrected, he says, but it will take 2-3 years to complete the job.

Bozo criticizes the General Directorate of State Farms for not enlisting party organizations and heads of farms in organizing work and production. He gives the following figures for time spent annually on various agricultural activities by state farm workers (in workdays per hectare): planting corn, 35-40; planting wheat, 14-20; and planting vegetables, 230-250. Workers' wages per metric quintal of olives amount to 51 percent, and of milk, to 31.6 percent, of the total annual production costs of these products. These figures show a low degree of mechanization, he says, and low labor productivity, which depends not only on mechanization but also on labor organization and technical methods, such as proper corn thinning and sugar beet planting.

In animal husbandry, Bozo reports, state farms are now milking cows and feeding pigs 3-4 times a day; pigs and poultry are fed prepared food to increase their weight; records are kept of the quantity of milk at each milking; hay is fed to cows instead of their being pastured; and pigs and poultry are fed concentrated food 2-3 times a day. He claims that there is an excessive ratio of nonproduction to production workers. For instance, every year state farms spend 1.5 million leks for 60-70 workers who carry drinking water to field workers. He points out that while workers must have drinking water, it could be supplied by more wells in the fields and more personal canteens. He estimates that three of every 17 workers do not take part in direct production, and that 30 workers on some farms could well be eliminated by reorganization of work.

Production could be greatly increased, Bozo contends, by using internal resources, such as meadows and uncultivated land, and by planting 2-3 crops a year on good soil. In 1955, state farms produced a satisfactory quantity of industrial crops and vegetables, but too small a yield of bread grains.

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Because of continuous fall rains, in the 1955 fall planting plan was fulfilled; hence over 6,000 hectares must be planted to corn in the spring of 1956, or about three times more than in 1955, to compensate for the deficiency. He urges all party organizations, Communists, and workers to put this plan into effect.

In animal husbandry, Bozo asserts, state farms have great internal resources; they have the best domestic breeds and, in general, are making great efforts to improve their stock and increase their productivity. Thus, in 1955, the Xhafzotaj State Farm obtained from its whole herd an average of 2,325 kilograms of milk per cow, and 3 kilograms of wool per sheep, while the Kamze State Farm obtained 2,157 kilograms of milk per cow and 2.6 kilograms of wool per sheep. Many state farms, including those in Lushnje, Goranxi, and Maliq, maintain inadequate fodder bases, thus reducing the productivity of their livestock. The Fier State Farm began with domestic cows of low productivity, but as a result of breeding them with Jersey bulls, milk production reached 1,839 kilograms per cow in 1955. If, Bozo argues, all party organizations and farm directors took measures to aid state farms, in 3-4 years there would be no more livestock of low productivity.

Bozo gives the following table to show the difference in productivity between Kamze Farm, which pays attention to fodder bases, and Lushnje State Farm, which is less attentive to this problem. The table shows animal produce in metric quintals per 100 hectares planted to fodder at the two state farms:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Kamze</u>	<u>Lushnje</u>
Milk	975	141
Meat	112	31
Wool	3	1.67
Butter	4.9	0.64

At the same time Kamze State Farm produced 24,1000 eggs and Lushnje State Farm 3,500 eggs.

The difference Bozo attributed to the fact that Kamze State Farm obtained 16,181 metric quintals of fodder from 735 hectares, or 22 metric quintals per hectare, while Lushnje obtained only 11,077 metric quintals from 1,380 hectares or 8 metric quintals per hectare.

A second table given by Bozo shows the effect of the quality of fodder on produce at the two state farms. The table shows produce in kilograms per 1,000 fodder units, unless otherwise noted.

<u>Product</u>	<u>Kamze</u>	<u>Lushnje</u>
Milk	423	177
Meat	51	38.5
Butter	2.2	.8
Wool	1.37	2.1
Eggs	166	47.6

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Bozo criticizes the General Directorate of State Farms in the Ministry of Agriculture for not paying more attention to the collection and quality of hay and to ensilage of green fodder. The directorate, party organizations, and state farm heads, he says, should do more patient, systematic work in educating cadres and workers, especially young workers and brigade leaders, in technological processes. He deplores the tendency of state farm directors -- for example, in Maliq and Sukth -- to look for "trained" cadres, instead of teaching young cadres, and says that this tendency should be rigorously censured by party organizations. The Ministry of Agriculture has opened one-year courses to qualify lower-grade cadres, but often those who have passed and are appointed to responsible jobs are not given the most elementary instructions about directing work. He cites the case of an appointee to a sector in Lushnje State Farm, who did not know for 2 months how production there was organized or what he should organize. Bozo criticizes the farm's director and party primary organization for permitting such a situation.

Although he admits that there have been great improvements in the technical training of simple workers to fit them to operate complicated machinery, such as milking machines, Bozo protests against existing shortcomings, especially irregular attendance at courses, and courses which are not intelligible to the listener.

State farms have a double duty, according to Bozo: to be an example to others and to obtain high yields themselves, but some state farms -- for instance, those at Sukth, Lushnje, Gorani, and Fier and Sheep-Raising Enterprise No 3 (NSH-blegtorale Nr 3) -- have done neither duty well. He calls upon park party organizations and local authorities to help eradicate errors by going to the farms personally, and begs them to restrict their work to "asking for a report" or "making an analysis." He concludes that there is every possibility of eradicating errors, but "the real problem is how the General Directorate of State Farms, party committees, and executive committees of park and rreth people's councils are to improve their manner of directing and to give more aid to state farms."

Agricultural Collectives

In an article (pages 54-61) entitled "Our Work for Agricultural Collectives," Rapo Dervishi, first secretary of Gjirokaster Park Party Committee, notes the wide gap between the progress of industry and the backwardness of agriculture. He points out that from the very beginning, immediately after the agrarian reform, the Workers Party saw that the only way to rescue agriculture from its primitive state was by the formation of collectives. Accordingly, he says, several collectives were formed in Gjirokaster at the end of 1952. (There were, however, other apparently already in existence.) The resolution of the December 1952 Plenum of the Central Committee of the party made it clear, says Dervishi, that, while observing the Leninist principle of persuasion and voluntary adhesion, the party must organize a great campaign to induce peasants to join collectives.

According to Dervishi, this work began by strengthening existing agricultural collectives economically and organizationally, and improving their conditions so that they might be an example to peasants and a basis for agitation and propaganda. Many collectives in Gjirokaster at this time were weak. Even in 1953, after a favorable year, yields were very low -- even lower than in 1952, and there was less grain to be divided among Gjirokaster collective members than the average in all other collectives in the country.

After they had analyzed the situation, Dervishi relate, the qark party committee and bureau sent 80 expert cadres from the city of Gjirokaster to aid the weak, new collectives.

Dervishi claims that 43 persons, instead of the 18 planned, and 50 tractor operators and mechanics, or 30 more than planned, attended the Tirana agricultural collective school from Gjirokaster Qark. As a result of these classes and other measures, the collectives completely fulfilled the 1954 spring and fall planting plans. He names a number of villages near collectives, where the peasants were inspired to form their own collectives, so that 56 new collectives and 45 agricultural and animal husbandry cooperatives of types I and II were formed in 1955.

Dervishi describes the methods used by his committee, of utilizing political schools and unlimited propaganda to make collectivism a matter of interest not only to a few leaders, but also to the masses and mass-organizations. He attributes many successes in this work to youth organizations. These methods developed initiative in the peasants themselves, who formed collectives without the need of visits from members of the party or of executive committees of people's councils. He lists several instances, in 1954, 1955, and 1956, in which applications were made by peasants, and permission was granted, to form collectives.

In mountainous regions, Dervishi insists, propaganda must be linked with the actual possibilities of uniting small holdings into large farms for animal husbandry or fruit growing, so that they may later become collectives.

Dervishi criticizes the special party organizations for collectivization for concentrating on propaganda for agricultural collectives in villages, and forgetting the simpler types of cooperatives. He calls attention to the April 1955 Plenum of the Delvine Rreth Party Committee, which censured the mistaken ideas of those who thought that forming simple cooperatives required more work than forming a collective, and which drew up plans for propaganda for simple cooperatives. Later, a delegation of peasants visited some of the simple cooperatives, talked to members of these cooperatives and of MFS, and to city workers who produced small agricultural implements. The party committee bureau, in compliance with the plenum's directives, studied the possibilities of preparing leadership squads through short specialized courses. The subsequent growth of class I and II cooperatives in Delvine Rreth may be ascribed to these measures, according to Dervishi.

By the end of 1955, Dervishi claims, there were 80 collectives and 40 agricultural and animal husbandry cooperatives in Gjirokaster Qark, and the overwhelming majority of those established in the spring of 1955 have obtained satisfactory results in agriculture and animal husbandry.

Dervishi cites the following average per-hectare yields in Gjirokaster Qark, obtained with the aid of state agrarian credits amounting to 23 million leks (figures in metric quintals): in the collective sector -- corn, 20; rice, 37.7; cotton, 8.1; and tobacco, 6.5; and in the private sector -- wheat, 8.4; corn, 14.6; rice, 35; cotton, 5.9; and tobacco, 6.1. Dervishi asserts that there are now many collectives, established in the spring of 1955, which have a good income. He names various collectives which give 5,308-6,677 kilograms of bread grain for a day's work -- a profit which has persuaded many peasants of the advantages of the collective system.

Dervishi states that existing collectives accepted over 320 new families with 714 workers in 1955. During the first 2 months of 1956, 30 other villages established new collectives, in addition to 200 families who joined existing collectives. Today, Gjirokaster Qark has 120 agricultural collectives, generally in fertile agricultural zones.

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Dervishi admits that, although his committee's work has both increased the number of collectives and improved their efficiency, there is still much to be done. His committee's successes include timely fulfillment of spring and fall planting plans, an increase in arable area amounting to more than 450 hectares by adding new land, and an increase in the number and productivity of livestock. However, he says, the 1955 annual reports on collectives show that many internal resources remain untapped, sufficient manure is not used, and mechanized means are not fully utilized. For example, in the fall of 1955, only 96 hectares were shallow-plowed and only 17 hectares were deep-plowed, seeders planted only 14 percent of the grain, and reapers were used to mow only 13 percent of the crops. He warns that the grain yield demanded by the party will never be obtained in this way.

As to animal husbandry, Dervishi feels that while some success has been achieved, little has been done to increase fodder bases or improve breeds. More over, pigs and poultry get little care, the ratio of cows to livestock, in general, is too low (only one percent), and there is an average of less than two fowls per family. Of 21,065 sheep in collectives, only 224 are purebred, and most of these have been raised by one collective, the Azim Zeneli. The Zervat Collective is selling piglets instead of fattened hogs, thus losing hundreds of metric quintals of meat and thousands of leks. Dervishi deplors the fact that alfalfa and clover are still not widely planted, and that only four silos were built in 1955.

He observes that only 880 of all able members of Gjirokaster Qark collectives completed the minimum number of workdays in 1950, while 141 members took no part at all in production work.

He points out that many collectives, such as those in Vurg, have oxen which could be used to transport rice and other produce from field to procurement centers, but there and elsewhere this work is done by women, with a loss in rice of 10-15 percent.

Dervishi cites other shortcomings, such as violations of the statute on collectives by some collectives, as well as non-support of collective assemblies, which are their highest organs, and of Resolution 251 of the Council of Ministers on the organization of agricultural collectives. Dervishi also complains of insufficient effort to organize a more cultured family life in collectives, and to create more cultural and artistic organization in general.

The source of these shortcomings, especially in new collectives, Dervishi finds in weaknesses in the activities of party organizations and their secretariats, which thus exert a negative influence on welfare in collectives.

Miscellaneous Articles

Under the title "An Event of Great Importance in the Ideological Life of Our Party and Country," Agim Popa reviews (pages 12-25) V. I. Lenin's book Materialism and Empiric Criticism, on the occasion of its publications in Albanian.

An unsigned article (pages 62-68) replying to a question by Anest Bexhani of Vlore, on conversion from capitalistic industry and trade in China, contrasts the old and new system of Chinese government.

An article (pages 69-88) on "The Historic World Importance of the Socialist Camp" is taken from Kommunist, No 3, February 1956.

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Chronicles of the Party

The following short articles appear in this regular feature of Rruga e Partise.

The first article (page 89), entitled "Against Backward Customs," reports that in the past peasants in Kukes Rreth laid great stress on religious feasts, weddings, and funerals, and spent large sums entertaining friends and were acquaintances. A typical case noted is that of the Ndue Martini family, who gave a yearly feast, at which 150 head of cattle, 48 kilograms of raki, dozens of kilograms of bread, etc. were consumed.

In 1954, the article states, the rreth party committee took steps to stop this practice, which was a serious burden on the people's economy. The committee, according to the article, enlisted front organizations which sent cadres to give talks in every village on the losses caused by such customs. Finally, the author recounts, the following resolutions were passed at a meeting of representatives from every village:

1. To celebrate religious feasts only with invited friends.
2. To celebrate religious feasts with only three meals with bread a day (referring to Ramazan, when Moslems fast all day and eat all night).
3. To cease having barbecues and eating meat at the "cheese festival."
4. Not to send for all relatives in case of death in the family.
5. Not to respect the aristocratic class.

The author claims that as a result of these measures in Ipalle and environs alone, savings up to April 1955 amounted to 780 head of cattle and dozens of kilograms of raki and bread, with a total value of 2.3 million leks. By the end of 1955, he states, 6,300 small cattle (sheep and goats), 900 large cattle, and hundreds of kilograms of raki and bread have been saved.

The second article (pages 89-90), "The Work of a Primary Organization in Forming an Agricultural Collective," tells how the primary organizations in two villages in Lesh Rreth persuaded recalcitrant peasants to join new collectives in these villages.

The third article (pages 90-91), "Penal Measures Instead of Persuasive and Explanatory Work," states that the Kruje Rreth Party Committee has increased the number of agricultural collectives from two at the end of 1955 to 12 at present. The article criticizes some committee members who tried to form collectives without enlisting the aid of Communists and party primary organizations. Instead of convincing Communists of the advantages of collectives and turning them into fighters and agitators for this cause in the villages, these committee members passed extreme penal measures against Communists who did not join. The author gives instances of Communists expelled from the party for not being in favor of forming a collective. Such actions are called contrary to the party principle of persuasion.

May IssueEditorial

The editorial in the May issue of Rruga e Partise, on "The Albanian Workers Party--the Inspiration and Organizer of Our People's Victories," lauds the work and leadership of the party in liberating Albania and converting it into an industrial-agricultural country, and in building socialism. The author makes the following claims for the party:

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Over-all production in 1955 was 179 percent greater than in 1950, and 10.5 times greater than in 1938, with an annual increase of 22.8 percent. During the period of the First Five-Year Plan, production of the means of production grew 156 percent, with an annual increase of 20.7 percent, while consumer goods production increased 197 percent, with an annual increase of 24.3 percent.

The arable area in 1955 was 13 percent larger than in 1950 and 70 percent larger than in 1938; bread grain production in 1955 was 53 percent greater than in 1950 and 67 percent larger than in 1938; the work done by MRS has increased 370 percent and the irrigated area has increased 110 percent since 1950.

During the same 5 years, goods turnover has increased 105 percent; the national income, 70 percent; real wages, 20 percent; and peasants' income, 35 percent.

In the educational field, six higher institutes and numerous preschool institutions have been founded. The number of Albanian students in Albania and abroad has grown from 175,500 in 1950 to 191,000 today. Illiteracy has been eradicated among Albanians under 40 years old.

The author attributes all these successes to the party, aided by the USSR and the People's Democracies. The party, he declares, has "no other interest than the interests of the people," and its "lofty purpose is the struggle to obtain a rich life" for Albanians. He says that the party is well aware of the difficulties in raising the material and cultural level of life and of eradicating the results of past exploitation and imperialism, but it will teach the people how to overcome these difficulties.

He points with pride to recent price reductions, the derationing of certain goods, and the great development program in the Second Five-Year Plan. He says that the development of the mining industry is the basis for the development of all other branches of the national economy and the main task set by this Five-Year Plan. The editorial quotes some production increases expected by 1960.

The writer demands that bureaucracy in state and party organs be stopped. He accuses management of too many written and telephone orders and too many reports and meetings, and insist upon more practical, on-the-spot aid of better trained party workers.

The article quotes from the amended Party Statute on the duty of party members to protect "the unity and purity of party ranks." It says that class and party enemies are using every weapon against the party and its Marxist-Leninist leadership; hence, there must be no weakening in vigilance, and no complacency. The party has waged a bitter battle against its enemies and those of the people, according to the author; and through this fight, the party has "carved its steel-like unity and the monolithic compactness of its ranks, which are the chief characteristics of our party's inner life." He runs the gamut of Communist terminology: Leninist leadership, democratic centralism, wide democratization, iron discipline, initiative in the masses, and the right of every Communist to discuss problems "freely in the party spirit, and his duty rigorously to put into effect party resolutions." He brings up those disturbing elements which tried to "sow confusion" in the Tirana party conference, and urges more criticism and self-criticism, especially criticism from below "to eliminate anything which weakens inner-party democracy." He calls for collective leadership and the bonds between the party and the masses to be strengthened and personal contacts with the people to be increased. "To obtain a lively participation of the masses" in performing the duty of socialist construction, "it is essential to wage a bitter fight against anything which obstructs the development and activity of its creators. A decisive battle must be fought against bureaucracy and any arbitrary acts which violate socialist legality and citizens' rights."

In conclusion, the author asks for more ideological work among cadres and all Communists to enable them to direct industry, agriculture, and all other economic sectors in an expert manner, and to fulfill the great program which the Third Congress is to approve.

Role of the Masses in Building Socialism

In his article (pages 11-19), Thanas Leci explains the Marxist-Leninist theory of the people as creators of history. He attributes the gains in the national economy to the efforts of the Albanian people, directed by the party, and aided by the USSR and the People's Democracies.

Socialist competition, according to Leci, has been introduced into 367 cooperatives in industry, mining, construction, trade, and handicraft. Collectivization is spreading, and there are now more than 600 agricultural collectives. A large number of valuable suggestions have been made by workers, which saved 25,518,000 leks in 1954, but too little encouragement is given to the initiative of the worker. Like the editorial in the April issue, this article points out the derationing of certain industrial articles and recent price reductions through which the people gained about 1.5 million leks.

In the political field, he explains the participation of the working masses as follows: The working masses have the right of participation in directing government affairs through their representatives, elected to people's councils, beginning with village and municipal ward councils, up to the People's Assembly. As a further aid in solving economic, cultural, and economic problems, the people's councils then appoint permanent and temporary commissions.

The active participation of the masses in directing government affairs and building socialism, Leci contends, is demonstrated by the widespread discussion of the Second Five-Year Plan draft in all factories and production centers. But with all the party successes in strengthening its bonds with the masses, he says, there are many instances of bureaucracy and inattention to the voice of the people in the state apparatus.

In the cultural field, he argues, only socialism raises the masses from ignorance and illiteracy and arms them with advanced education, culture, and science. As proof of this, he mentions the great number of artistic and amateur groups in cities and villages, the hundreds of new schools, and the establishment of higher institutes of agronomy, animal husbandry, engineering, and pedagogy.

Leci attributes such good results in part to the party's ideological viewpoint on the cult of personality. In July 1954 and April 1955, he notes, the Central Committee brought up the problem of combating this cult in whatever form and wherever it appeared, and called it one of the chief future duties of the party to strengthen the role of the masses and of Leninist principles in the national life. However, the fight against the personality cult, says Leci, has nothing to do with the true role of leaders, with their authority, or with the faith and collaboration due them. "Party and state leaders," he asserts, "are people who have come from the people, who have devoted all their energy and strength to the people's problems, and who, by tireless struggle and work for the interests of the people, have gained the people's faith, respect, and boundless love."

To obtain the needed participation of the masses, he urges more education "in the spirit of devotion to the party, the country, the people, the USSR, and the socialist camp."

Moreover, he insists that propagandists and agitators must learn that all political and ideological work is closely connected with economic problems, such as increasing production and labor productivity and reducing production costs. They must not conceal any shortcomings or difficulties in work, he says because only by telling the truth can they mobilize workers to fulfill their tasks.

He advises propagandists and members of all party, state, and social organizations against talking too much and indulging in idle bombast about competitions and initiative, instead of taking practical steps to mobilize the masses. Social organizations, such as people's councils, front organizations, trade unions, youth and women's unions, and cooperatives are a great factor in strengthening party bonds with the masses and educating them in socialist "awareness," according to Leci.

Functions of Party Conferences

An article (pages 39-48) on "What Party Conferences Show Through Rendering Accounts and Voting," by Marijka Isak, ascribes special importance to the party conferences in March and April 1956, because they came between the 20th Congress of the CPSU and the Third Albanian Party Congress. The latter, she feels, will consequently be "penetrated by the spirit of the resolutions of the 20th Congress."

She observes that great interest was shown at the March and April conferences in voting, and rendering accounts, as well as in discussions, in which 60 percent of those present took part.

Isak points out that party directives call for close bonds between party work and economic problems. She also notes various criticisms made in the conferences of Tepelene, Tirana, and Cerrik rreths and of Elbasan Qark. Among those criticized were members of party primary organizations or committees, which chose as delegates or instructors to be sent to mines, enterprises, or agricultural collectives persons who were ignorant of the economic problems of these organizations. These delegates often talked only to directors and not to workers in the establishments visited, and gave only general, superficial orders. There were similar occurrences, she claims, at the Cerrik Refinery, the Nako Spiru Lumber Combine (kombinat e drurit "Nako Spiru"), the Mborje-Drenove Coal Mine, and a collective in Lesh Rreth. Isak cites complaints from newly formed collectives that no practical aid was given them. She adds that secretaries of party committees were severely censured by delegates to conferences from Lesh, Koplik, and Gjirokaaster rreths for sending instructors instead of going among the people themselves and listening to their requests.

Isak stresses the importance of criticism, self-criticism, and criticism from below in developing initiative in the masses, since real progress can be made only if the workers, not simply the directors, are interested in eliminating shortcomings. She accuses many mass organizations, such as the Democratic Front, women's and youth unions, trade unions, and people's councils -- but especially women's organizations -- of formalism in mobilizing workers.

M. Isak claims that despite some successes, many party committees fail to prepare cadres to act as directors, accountants, and brigade leaders, particularly for agricultural collectives. For example, in Kukës Rreth, about 80 percent of the cadres of various sectors had only practical training; in the trade sector, only seven out of 130 persons had attended any courses. This statement seems somewhat contradictory to her following statement that during the past year 1,500 persons finished party school courses, and that many more are continuing their studies, while a large number are attending general schools.

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Isak claims that the composition of party committees is improving. For example, the party committee in Puke Rreth, which used to have seven members who were workers, now has 13, while the Mirdite Rreth party committee has ten instead of four. She says that in general, 16.7 percent instead of the earlier (date unspecified) 10.8 percent of party memberships are now held by workers.

In conclusion, Isak says that the work of party primary organization meetings and conferences has been an expression of the unity of party ranks around their Marxist-Leninist leadership, the party Central Committee. But she inveighs against some "sickly elements" in the party conference at Tirana "which with antiparty and hostile intent, while abusing inner-party democracy, attempted to use the right to criticize in order to make scandalous and antiparty statements to hit at the unity, political and economic line, and leadership of the party. By provocative, antiparty questions and statements, they were able to disorient the conference by denying the successes achieved by people and party under the leadership of its Central Committee. They sought a revision of the party economic policy and of the just resolutions taken by the Central Committee against various hostile and antiparty groups. But the Tirana conference gave them and their instigators the reply they deserved. . . . Inner-party democracy is broad and boundless as long as the correct party line and interests are not touched. . . . The disclosure and defeat of this hostile action against the party were a great victory for our party, which protected and strengthened party unity even more."

Duties of Party Primary Organizations

In an article (pages 49-60) on "The Duties of Party Primary Organizations in Strengthening New Agricultural Collectives," Nevruz Malindi reports that 358 collectives were added in the first 4 months of 1956 to the 318 established by the end of 1955. With the aid of party primary organizations he says most new collectives are so organized that they can serve as an example to individual farmers in the spring planting campaign. However, Malindi feels that if timely steps are not taken, certain shortcomings in new collectives may impair development and that of collectivization.

Among these shortcomings, he mentions retention of too much land for personal gardens, overvaluation of personally owned cattle, low work norms, too little mechanization of labor, and insufficient utilization of MTS. He says, moreover, that not all members of collectives, especially not women, are fit to work, proper discipline is not maintained, and not enough surplus crops are sold to the state.

Among the duties of party primary organizations, as defined by Malindi, are studying advanced methods of agriculture and animal husbandry and the mechanization of processes; solving practical problems, such as irrigation; and drawing up detailed plans for crops, fruit growing, and livestock. Party primary organizations, according to Malindi, must also organize competitions and meetings, and make good use of such meetings for political propaganda and mobilization to fulfill production and procurement plans.

Communist Attitude Toward Mankind

An article (pages 61-67) on educating people into a Communist attitude and manner of conduct toward mankind, by Hamit Beqja, argues that as a result of deep economic and social changes and of the political and educational work of the party, social organizations, and state institutes, a new man has been born with world knowledge, a new Marxist-Leninist view of life, and a new attitude toward work, state (socialist) ownership, and collectivism. Communist morality, he insists, must be expressed in the personal life of this new man by his love of his country, his people, and mankind and by his attitude toward members of his family, especially toward women and children.

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Beqja pays particular attention to the correct attitude toward women. Women must no longer be men's slaves or chattels, he says, or depend upon men economically, as in bourgeois countries. In a Communist society like Albania's, women have equal political, social, and economic rights with men. He criticizes men who keep their wives at home and who do not permit their wives to raise their cultural level by sharing in the life about them.

Beqja censures couples who seek divorce for any but the gravest reasons, and contends they should seek it only after a serious endeavor to make the marriage work. He especially disapproves of men who commit bigamy. Worst of all, he says, is the case of a man of 60, who divorced the wife who had lived with him until then, to marry a 20-year-old girl.

Beqja also censures fathers and mothers who are indifferent toward their children or thoughtless of them. Children allowed to play in the streets will become street Arabs and later even vagabonds.

As for the Communist man himself, says Beqja, he must be high-principled, modest, sincere, and honorable. He must eschew megalomania, arrogance, "sickly familiarity," quarrelsomeness, idle gossip, scandal, and servility. Courtesy is not merely a bourgeois trait, he says, and Albanians "are rather backward" in this quality.

Although Beqja claims that alcoholism is not widespread in Albania, he says that public opinion, schools, publications, and party organizations should be roused to combat this evil and others inherited from the past, and should mobilize Communists and nonparty members, especially in youth organizations and trade unions, to attain a Communist spirit of morality.

The Struggle for Peace

Shyquri Ballvora, in an article (pages 20-28) on "A Great Program in the Struggle for Peace," claims that socialism has emerged from the boundaries of a single country to become a world system with about a billion adherents and a strong industrial potential. Citing the same figures on the strength of socialism given in the editorial of the April 1956 issue of Fruga e Partise (see above), Ballvora contends that the camp of socialism not only has the desire for the establishment of peace; but also has the means needed to give "the merited reply to any aggressor who dares to touch countries in the socialist camp."

Miscellaneous

Hamdi Sollaku contributes a long article (pages 68-79) on the Egyptian Republic.

Hekuran Mara, in an article (pages 29-38) "On the Basic Economic Tasks of the Soviet Union," compares production, manpower, and wages in US and the USSR. He claims that the USSR will equal in the US in per-capita production in 1970 and surpass it in certain products.

This issue of Fruga e Partise publishes an article (pages 85-100) from Communist, No 5, April 1956, on "Measures, the Party, and Leaders in the Struggle for Communism," devoting a good deal of space to combating the cult of personality.

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Party Chronicles

A short unsigned article (page 101) on "Putting Into Effect Party Directives on Listening to the Voice of the People," gives the following account of the Peshkopi Rreth Party Committee meeting in April 1956:

Delegates to the meeting justly criticized the party committee bureau for its insufficient aid to party primary and mass organizations, and for violating the Central Committee's directives on placing cadres in jobs.

Problems brought up in this meeting were divided among responsible members according to sectors (organization, economics, and agit-prop). Two men were appointed to see to the security of offices which had secret party or state papers. Other members were appointed to aid newly formed party primary organization.

A second unsigned short article (pages 101-102), entitled "When Ideological Party Work Is Connected With Practical Work at Bases," calls such a connection a healthy weapon in the hands of the party and of every Communist.

The article gives examples of good results obtained in Pegin Rreth by party work. In certain villages, the party committee educated Communists to exceed the 1955 production plan. In another village, where some Communists used to observe Ramadan, the author boasts that the party committee educated these Communists to put science above religion, so that now no Communist in that village fasts or believes in religious teaching.

The third unsigned article (pages 102-103), entitled "Every Difficulty Can Be Overcome by Effort and Good Organization," tells about a new agricultural collective in Suc, Burrel Rreth, which waited for the MTS until cattle feed was scarce before going to work. Finally, the secretary of the party primary committee and the head of the collective, the author says, organized the work with good results.

The fourth chronicle (page 103) criticizes the Fier Rreth Party Committee Bureau for drawing up resolutions in regard to a letter of the party Central Committee without proper discussion and procedure. The author asks what profit there can be in drawing up such useless resolutions.

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