

S-E-C-R-E-T

ALBANIA

Nexhmije HOXHA

Member, Central Committee, Albanian Workers' Party

Madame Hoxha, one of the most outstanding women in the present Albanian regime and a Party activist of long standing, has been a member of the Albanian Workers' Party (AWP) since its founding in 1941 and of its Central Committee since 1948. Active in underground work during the war years in Albania, since 1944 she has concentrated her efforts on mass organization work and is currently Deputy Chairman of the Albanian Women's Union, the Albanian Red Cross and the Albanian-Soviet Friendship Society. A deputy to the People's Assembly since 1948, she served on the Assembly's Presidium from 1950 to 1954 and has been a member of the Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee since 1954. Although some of her prominence undoubtedly reflects the stature of her husband, Enver Hoxha, AWP First Secretary and the acknowledged leader of Albania, Madame Hoxha is a personality in her own right and during her rise to power has been noted for her hard work and excellent organizational abilities.



Born Nexhmije Xhuglini in 1921 at Diber, Madame Hoxha was the daughter of middle-class Moslems. After completing elementary school in Diber, she attended the normal school in Tirana on a government scholarship. While still a student, she engaged in revolutionary activities against the regime of King Zog and later (about 1939) was involved in demonstrations against the Italian occupation of Albania. After graduating from the normal school in 1941, she taught school until early 1942 when she was forced to go underground because of her pro-Communist agitation. She was later sentenced in absentia to 12 years imprisonment by the Italian occupation forces.

Throughout the war years, Madame Hoxha was active in organizational work for both the Communist underground movement and the Communist Youth of Albania, then a junior adjunct of the AWP. She joined the Communist Youth during its founding meeting in November 1941 and served on its first Central Committee. She became a member of the Tirana regional committee of the AWP in 1941 or 1942 with primary responsibility for the mobilization and Communist orientation of women in that area. She took part in several major Communist meetings organized during the occupation and, at the Labinot Conference of July 1943, was elected a member of the National Liberation Council, the executive body of the Communist-oriented National Liberation Movement (LNC), which later suppressed all anti-Communist factions and led to the establishment of the Communist dictatorship. In 1944 she was entrusted with organizing youth groups and women in central Albania.

During the immediate postwar period, Madame Hoxha became increasingly prominent in Communist Party front organizations. She was elected to the

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- (2)(A) Privacy
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Nexhmije HOXHA (cont.)

Secretariat of the Union of Anti-Fascist Women of Albania in 1944, and in 1945 was elected President of the newly-formed Union of Albania Women, a position she retained until 1955. In 1947 she was elected chief of the Union's Section of Mobilization and Organization, the major duty of which was to aid Greek Communist guerillas. Although Madame Hoxha has attended congresses of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) since 1948, she was not elected to the Federation's General Council until 1959. A member of the General Council of the Democratic Front since 1945, she has also been active in the Society for Aid to the Army and for Defense, the Association for Albanian-USSR Cultural Relations and the Committee for the Defense of Peace.

Throughout the past decade Madame Hoxha has been an active propagandist for the Albanian regime. Her activities in this area are undoubtedly related to her work as head of the AWP Central Committee's Directorate of Agitation and Propaganda, a post with which she has been identified sporadically since 1952. However, in 1961 she was reported to be head of the AWP Directorate of Education and Culture. Whatever her assignment, she is usually in the front ranks of cultural, educational, youth and feminist meetings, serving either as a keynote speaker or as a member of the meeting's presidium. She has recently been quite outspoken in the Albanian campaign against the "revisionism" of both Tito and Khrushchev. In 1954 it was reported that, although her associates within the higher Party echelons disliked her arrogance and pretentiousness, they respected her ability as an administrator and activist. There have been some indications of jealousy between Madame Hoxha and the other feminist leaders in Albania, Fiqrete Shehu, Vito Kapo and Eleni Terezi, who are apparently envious of Madame Hoxha's position.

Although Madame Hoxha has traveled quite frequently as a representative of Albanian women's groups, she has made only one trip outside Eastern Europe, in May 1957, as a member of an Albanian parliamentary delegation which visited the People's Republic of China. She has been married to Enver Hoxha since January 1945, and they have at least three children. A cultured person, she reportedly speaks French, Italian, Turkish and some English.

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