

■ **Statement from the Central Committee of the Communist Party U S A /Marxist Leninist**

To Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, and Mehmet Shehu, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Haxhi Lleshi, President of the Presidium of the People's Council

On the historic 35th anniversary of the victory of the Anti Fascist National Liberation War, the establishment of people's state power and the beginning of the glorious era of socialism in Albania, the Central Committee of the CPUSA/ML extends its warm, comradely greetings and fondest congratulations to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania led by the Party of Labor of Albania and its First Secretary Comrade Enver Hoxha

Today, 35 years after liberation, all the progressive and democratic people of the world can see that socialist Albania has resolutely maintained the steady defense of Marxism Leninism and proletarian internationalism Albania forges ahead in resolute battle against imperialism and opportunism of every variety, for the destruction of world reaction and the creation of a new world order where the exploitation of man by man no longer exists

Many things in the world have changed in the last 35 years, but none more important to the world's proletariat than the advance of socialism in Albania Today imperialism and reaction seek their control and influence in virtually every country in the world But in socialist Albania, imperialism and reaction find no room There they find only rebuke and defeat

In Albania the dreams and ambitions of the working class are being realized There the road of the Paris Commune and the great October Socialist Revolution have found their continuation and development This powerful political and ideological victory inspires and educates the countless millions who suffer, toil and struggle in every corner of the world

The Jubilee Year of the 35th anniversary of the people's revolution in Albania marks significant advances for socialist Albania and the world proletariat on many fronts It is indicative of the irresistible revolutionary surge, and the steady, triumphant march of Marxism Leninism toward total victory

The power and glory of Marxism Leninism, the scientific doctrine of the world proletariat, is applied, defended and developed by the communists of Al

bania This is the source from which all the victories of the revolution in Albania have sprung

Today a new world is being born, and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania stands at its center the triumphant example of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the march toward communism

To all the Party committees and organizations, the institutions of the socialist State, to the economic, educational, cultural and other mass organizations, in the cities and towns of socialist Albania—the CC of the CPUSA/ML pledges its continued solidarity and determined struggle against our common enemies, a bond which is cemented by the proletarian content of internationalism and the compass of Marxism Leninism

Long Live the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Led by the Party of Labor of Albania!
Marxism-Leninism Will Triumph!

■ **Decisions of the CC of the PLA on the Celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland and the Triumph of the People's Revolution**

In April the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania called on the Party and people of Albania to organize broad activities to commemorate the celebration of the Jubilee Year, the 35th anniversary of the liberation and the triumph of the people's revolution As printed in Albania Today these activities were to include

1 Wide ranging ideological, political, cultural and educational work should be carried out among the masses of people in order to make known and propagate the road traversed for the liberation of the Homeland and the construction of socialism, in order to build up the confidence of the masses in the correctness of the line of the Party and the socialist road on which our country is advancing, and in order to inspire and mobilize our people for great undertakings in the construction of socialism and the defense of the Homeland

2 During this Jubilee Year, all the important national and local historic events, such as the founding of the Party, the 35th anniversary of the Congress of Permet and the Second Meeting of the Anti Fascist National Liberation Council in Berat, the First Congress of Youth and Women, and anniversaries of the founding

of the brigades and other partisan fighting units, the liberation of the districts and cities, and all the festivals of the period of the War and the post Liberation period, should be celebrated with grandeur

3 Conferences, lectures, and commemorative meetings devoted to the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland should be organized The press, publishers, Radio and TV and the "New Albania" Film Studio, all the literary and artistic centers of the country, should give wide publicity to this important event, reflecting the struggle of the masses for the liberation of the country and the construction of socialism

4 For the education of the masses in the patriotic and revolutionary traditions, all the museums, the "Albania Today" national exhibition and the regional exhibitions should be enriched and utilized, and the outstanding events of the National Liberation War, etc should be commemorated with memorial plates and monuments

5 The Academy of Sciences, in collaboration with the Institute of Marxist Leninist Studies, Tirana University and the "V I Lenin" Party School, should organize a national scientific conference devoted to the problems of the socialist construction of the country

6 The finals of the sports events and a great physical culture and sports display should be organized at the "Qemal Stafa" national stadium, a great exhibition of figurative arts devoted to the 35th anniversary of Liberation should be opened, and a military parade and demonstration of the working people of the capital should be organized on the 29th of November

7 The Party committees and organizations, the state and economic organs, the mass organizations and the cultural and educational institutions should take all measures for the organization and carrying out of broad political, educational and cultural activity especially during November, as well as for the propagation of the achievements of our country abroad

The Central Committee of the Party expresses its full conviction that the Albanian people, closely united around the Party, with the communists in the forefront, will turn the Jubilee Year of the 35th anniversary into a year of all-out assault, a year of new battles and victories on their revolutionary road of the construction of socialism and the defense of the Homeland

UNITE!



Special Supplement

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On the 35th Anniversary of Liberation and the Triumph of the People's Revolution



Albania - 35 Years on the Socialist Road

In Albania on November 29, 1944 a centuries-old dream was finally realized The future for which thousands had fought and died, finally arrived This nation, small in territory and population, but composed of militant class fighters with rich revolutionary traditions, at last achieved social liberation The Albanians, occupied and subjugated since the time of the Middle Ages, at last breathed the sweet air of freedom and independence

(Continued inside)

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ALBANIA:

35 YEARS ON THE SOCIALIST ROAD

(continued from front)

On November 29, 1944, the chains of fascism and the rule of the rich landlords, feudal chiefs, capitalists and traitors were smashed. The working class, the laboring peasantry, the patriots and revolutionary intellectuals, organized and led by the Communist Party of Albania* under the banner of Marxism Leninism, triumphed after five and a half years of bloody war and brutal repression.

As the storms of imperialist world war were subsiding, the Albanians braced for another battle - the struggle to construct socialism on the ruins of the old social order.

Victory of the People's Revolution

November 29, 1979 marked the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Albania and the triumph of the people's revolution. Under the leadership of a proletarian party, the Albanian people transformed an anti-fascist national liberation war against Italian and Nazi fascism into an anti-imperialist people's democratic revolution against the landlords, feudal chiefs and bourgeoisie. For the proletariat and revolutionary people of the world, it was an historic anniversary, for the victory of November 29, 1944 followed in the footsteps of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Russia led by Lenin and Stalin. It cleared the path for the construction of socialism, and was one more crushing blow to the world imperialist system.

This anniversary was celebrated around the world by the Marxist Leninist parties, workers and all the freedom loving and democratic peoples. The joy and enthusiasm which characterized these celebrations stemmed from an understanding of the significance of the Albanian revolution in the history of the class struggle worldwide.

But many events have transpired since 1944. It is in light of these events - from the vantage point of 1979 - that the significance of the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Albania and 35 years of socialist construction take on an even more profound character.

Betrayed by Modern Revisionism

Since 1944 the world has witnessed the betrayal of Marxism Leninism and the revolution in Yugoslavia, in the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe. Dancing to the tune of the Khrushchevite revisionists after the death of Stalin, once revolutionary parties in many of the major countries of the capitalist world also abandoned the difficult road of revolution and class struggle in favor of reformism and class collaboration.

Today our generation is witnessing a new assault on the re-

volution - the rise of Chinese revisionism and the forging of a reactionary Sino-US alliance. Among the broad masses these bitter events have caused confusion about socialism, and spread demoralization and confusion about the revolutionary struggle.

Today the bourgeoisie aggressively promotes the view that Marxism Leninism is a "dead" science. It boasts that Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin were wrong. It calls the socialist revolution a utopian fantasy and the dictatorship of the proletariat fascism. It declares the fate of the people is to be forever exploited and oppressed.

In this attack, the modern revisionists - from Tito to Khrushchev to Brezhnev to Hua Kuo-feng and Teng Hsiao-p'ing, and all their second lieutenants from Browder of the CPUSA to Carrillo of Spain - have been the bourgeoisie's most valued allies. They claim that Marxism Leninism has become "outmoded", that the world is at a "new stage" where the class struggle is dying out. Rather than the revolution, they call for "non-aligned movements", "third world unity", for "peaceful coexistence" and "peaceful transition".

The Trotskyites, who never recognized the existence of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Soviet Russia, calling it a "deformed workers' state", today point to the bitter experience in the Soviet Union and China as "proof" of their bankrupt theory.

Some actually go so far as to claim that the rise of modern revisionism and social imperialism represent a new historical stage of social development. Taking the current events in the Soviet Union and China as their starting point, these reactionaries who have always rejected the need for revolutionary leadership and the vanguard party of the proletariat, promote the view that the proletarian party will inevitably arise as a new class to exploit the broad masses.

Since 1944 the world revolution has proceeded on the basis of internal and external contradictions through zig-zags and ups and downs, advances and retreats, victories and defeats. To see only the setbacks, as the bourgeoisie and the revisionists so hope the proletariat will do, fails to recognize the brilliant victories and the overall trend of world development - the destruction of the old capitalist order in favor of a new social system, socialism.

In Defiance of Reactionary Claims

The dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania is one of the most brilliant victories of the world socialist revolution to date. Today Albania stands in bold defiance of the reactionary claims that socialism is a utopian fantasy, that Marxism Leninism is a "dead" science, that the proletariat is doomed to exploitation and oppression.

It is with this understanding that the 35th anniversary of the

liberation of Albania and the triumph of the people's revolution take on greater significance. For 35 years Albania has remained on the socialist road where others have failed. For 35 years the Party of Labor of Albania, with comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, has remained loyal to Marxism Leninism, where other parties have abandoned the revolution.

Many questions emerge. What lies behind the success of Albania? How has the PLA remained on the revolutionary road? What have been the principles applied to ensure the construction of socialism?

The victory of the Albanian revolution on all fronts since 1941 can be attributed to the faithful application of Marxism Leninism to the conditions of the class struggle. This is not as simple an answer as it seems.

It has to do with two factors and the dialectical relationship between them: the creativity, initiative and indomitable will of the Albanian people and the leadership of a proletarian party which has maintained its revolutionary integrity through all the twists and turns of history. This principle is expressed in Enver Hoxha's statement that "socialism is built by the masses, the Party makes them conscious".

The victory of the Albanian revolution came as a result of the struggle and sacrifice of the people who brought forth from their own ranks a political party capable of leading the fight to defeat the fascist occupation, destroy the old social order and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The Party Decisive Factor in the Revolution

One of the most fundamental tenets of Marxism Leninism is the decisive role of the proletarian party. Without the conscious and disciplined leadership of the Party, the broad working masses will not be united and mobilized, the revolution will not triumph and socialism will not be built.

A Marxist Leninist party is a party of the working class. It represents the interests of that class, is made up of the best sons and daughters of that class and works tirelessly to educate, organize, mobilize and lead that class and its allies in struggle against the bourgeoisie and reaction.

Albania, in the midst of a fascist occupation and war of resistance, gave birth to its proletarian party, the Communist Party of Albania. The history of Albania since 1941 is a history of the application of the science of Marxism Leninism to the conditions of a country in bondage in order to win liberation. Following the victory in 1944, the history of Albania is a history of the application of Marxism Leninism to the conditions of a backward, semi-feudal country in order to build socialism.

From the party's birth, without fail, the Albanian communists have applied several basic princi-

ples of scientific socialism, which is the revolutionary theory of the international working class. It is upon this basis that the Party has maintained its Marxist Leninist character and the construction of socialism has proceeded without interruption for 35 years.

The principle of the leading role of the proletariat in the revolution, even in a small, backward country, was never abandoned. All the revolutionary masses were rallied under the banner of the working class and linked their future to the proletariat and its Party.

In order to forge a vanguard capable of solving the many complicated tasks of the revolution, the PLA patiently educated the leading cadre and communists with the ideology of Marxism Leninism and loyalty to the cause of the people and the revolution.

The PLA placed proletarian politics in command for the solution of every problem. It looked at problems from a class position in regard to both the immediate and long term objectives. It never stooped to deals and arrangements with imperialism that might bring a temporary gain, but would in the long run damage the cause of socialism.

The PLA maintained its leading role by working out a revolutionary general line, a strategic and tactical line, which responded to the demands of the masses and to the fundamental interests of the people politically, economically and culturally. In working out this line it relied solely on Marxism Leninism, a specific analysis of the internal and external contradictions and the revolutionary experience of the Albanian people and the international communist movement.

This general line was applied in practice, and the victories were achieved, because it was embraced by the broad masses as their own. Both the masses and the communists worked with all their might to put it into practice. The Party won the Albanian people to its side by mobilizing them in struggle, convincing them of the correctness of its line through their own experience.

In working out its general line, the Party was guided by the principle that the class struggle is the main motive force for both the revolution and the construction of socialism, afterward. During the war the Party implemented the principle of armed struggle, and throughout the years of socialist construction applied the principle of the continuation of the class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Flowing from this understanding the PLA has fought for and maintained its monolithic ideological, political and organizational unity. It has never allowed the emergence of different lines within the Party or the growth of factions. The PLA did not allow itself to become bureaucratic, to be stifled by routine and sluggishness and as a result lose its

revolutionary proletarian spirit. The PLA viewed the struggle against bureaucracy as a decisive condition for avoiding the rise of a bourgeoisified strata which would be the source from which revisionism could emerge within the Party.

The PLA adhered to the Leninist understanding of a party of the new type, strictly applied the organizational norms of democratic centralism, and understood that organization plays the decisive role in putting the general line into practice.

In order to ensure unity and the correct application of organizational norms the PLA paid great attention to uniting the Party's leadership, recognizing that this is the first condition for ensuring the organizational and ideological unity of the Party as a whole.

And finally, the PLA worked and fought as a detachment of the international communist movement, upholding proletarian internationalism and learning from the rich experience of the international class struggle. It has never taken either an isolationist or superior stand towards the communists and revolutionaries of the world.

Working first and foremost to guarantee the Leninist character and integrity of the Party, maintaining steel links with the masses and recruiting into its ranks the most class conscious fighters, the Albanian communists ensured the necessary preconditions for the maintenance of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism.

Together with the proletarians and working masses, the PLA, through the people's state, worked out and applied a unified state plan for the construction of socialism in the economic, political and ideological fields. In this plan it incorporated such Marxist Leninist principles as the smashing of the old bureaucratic state apparatus and the creation of a new state power, the confiscation of the property of the capitalists and traitors, land reform and the collectivization of agriculture, the leading role of the development of heavy industry, self-reliance and the waging of the class struggle in the ideological realm carrying it through to the development of proletarian art, literature and culture and working to create a new man and woman imbued with socialist consciousness and morality.

Reactionaries Attack Albania

Today the attacks against Albania and the PLA come fast and furious. This should be expected. The enemies of the revolution harbor the most profound hatred for socialism. They despise the socialist homelands because it is there that the ideas of Marxism Leninism are a living reality. It is there that the alternative to the degenerate, decadent and reactionary capitalist system stands in plain view for all to see.

(continued on page 2)

*Now the Party of Labor of Albania

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The US imperialists have not backed off one inch from their slander campaign, depicting Albania as backward and isolated, as a strange aberration, a "throwback to Stalinism." The Khrushchevites have not backed off from their hostile stand, although their press pays more attention today to its revisionist competitor - China.

The long time enemy of Albania, Tito, hatches plots with the new enemies of Albania, the Chinese revisionists. Around the world the parties of Khrushchevite and Chinese revisionism mimic these attacks, twisting and turning, trying to fit Marxism Leninism into their own mold.

This chorus of renegades and reactionaries shouts itself hoarse. But above the din, a greater chorus can be heard. It is the voice of the genuine Marxist Leninist parties, the genuine revolutionaries and the world proletariat who on November 29 stood in unity and called out, "Long Live Socialist Albania!", "Long Live the Party of Labor of Albania!" and "Glory to Marxism Leninism!"

Today the strength and vitality

of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania is further reflection of the vitality of Marxism Leninism, that it is not a dead or outmoded science. The bitter experience of the Soviet Union and China do not disprove the correctness of Marxism Leninism. On the contrary, this experience proves what happens to a party and people when they deviate from the principles of Marxism Leninism. Today the genuine Marxist Leninist parties of the world, the PLA and socialist Albania are demonstrating through the faithful application of Marxism Leninism that the pitfalls and obstacles facing the revolution can be overcome.

This is the lesson which the US proletariat and its allies must come to understand if the socialist revolution is to proceed on the correct course. If political power is to be won, and the road of socialism and communism taken.

Today as we struggle to take this understanding to the people of our country, UNITE! hails the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Albania and the victory of the people's revolution!



These young people studying at the '7 Nentori' industrial school each day awake to a full life of study, collective work, and physical culture. Each day the whole Albanian people awake to a happy life characterized by genuine equality and proletarian democracy. Due to the Marxist Leninist leadership of the PLA and the steel like unity of the people around the Party, gigantic transformations have been made on the road of socialist construction. On this road the people work and live happy, free from crises, inflation and unemployment, free from degenerate culture, crime, drugs and alcoholism. In Albania there are no taxes. Health care is free to all. The goal of socialism is the steady improvement of the well being of the masses of people.

Books about Albania

Works of Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Party of Labor of Albania

- Selected Works Vol I and II hardbound in English and Spanish (8N) \$5 25 each
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From and About the Party of Labor of Albania

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NEW ALBANIA and ALBANIA TODAY

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Albania Today theoretical and political magazine published every other month. Subscriptions are \$5 50 a year \$1 00 per individual copy. In English and Spanish. Back issues (6, 1978 and 1 4, 1979 in English 6 1978 1 3 1979 in Spanish) available for \$1 00 per copy.

Publishers of Albanian materials are identified as follows (8N)-8 Nentori Tirana (NF)-Naim Frasher Tirana (Gamma)-Gamma Publishers New York (WVP)-World View Publications Chicago (UNITE!)-CPUSA/ML, Chicago

Short Story: The Boy and the Snake

by Gjergj Vlashi

This story was dedicated to the martyred painter Jordan Misja, one of the three Skhodra heroes Beseiged in a house on June 22, 1944, the three young men fought for hours against hundreds of Italian fascists His two comrades Perlat Rexhep and Branko Kadra fell fighting Jordan was captured, bleeding from his wounds and scorched by the flames of the burning house Later he was executed

What have you picked up?" shrieked the policeman behind Jordan

He straightened up, holding something fast in his right fist

"Tell me what you picked up!"

But the boy kept his mouth shut The policeman came up, grabbed his hand, and forced it open

"What do you think you're up to with this piece of charcoal? Or do you want to start a fire on this hot summer day?" the policeman said, grinning

The boy closed his fist again and started to walk in the prison yard His step was slow and heavy because his legs were weak He looked down at the hot stone paving the courtyard and saw his bare scorched feet Then he looked up at the small square of hazy sky stretching over his head He looked at the walls of the prison, the watchtower, and saw a silent machine gun nozzle and the yellow cartridges, like sharp teeth ready to bite at life

He walked to and fro, looked up and down, and clutched his charcoal

"Time is up now, get back to your cell - Quick, march!" the policeman ordered

The boy stopped, took a deep breath, raised his head and looked up at the square of sky, then turned and went in through the great doorway into the dark hallway Walking through it he heard the faint sound his bare feet made on the concrete, and the noise of the policeman's boots

The footsteps mingled, the two sounds overlapped, as they moved deeper and deeper into the long corridor

Suddenly a door opened and a voice was heard "Bring in the prisoner!"

Entering the director's room, the boy saw first Il Duce's bloated face and then a whip like a snake asleep on the table Finally, his eyes met the small cunning eyes of the director, who was looking at him scornfully

"We have an important piece of information here, the warrant for your execution" As he spoke he held the piece of paper in one hand and put the other on the whip

"Defendant Jordan Misja, tomorrow morning you will be hanged at Fusha Celes in the market place Have you anything to say?"

"Nothing!"

The director put down the paper He kept his other hand on the whip The boy looked out the window

"That's the end of you!"

"My death doesn't matter The ideal which my comrades and I fought for is more alive than ever"

"We will make short work of all of you!"

"That's a vain hope! All the people are with us, and you can't get rid of them They are immortal"

"Be quiet"

"You asked me if I had anything to say"

"Keep your mouth shut!"

There was silence in the room Jordan looked at the director's hands and a slight smile came over his face His eyes crinkled

"What are you looking at," the director asked

"At your hands, one resting on the verdict for my execution and the other on your whip"

"Get out!" the director yelled

"We will see each other tomorrow morning at the market place!"

The light steps of Jordan's bare feet and the heavy tread of the militiaman's boots were again heard in the corridor The foot steps alternated, the sounds overlapped, alternated, overlapped

The cell was light The setting sun's rays came through the little window The shadow cast by the thick bars covered Jordan from his head to his scorched feet He stood facing the wall to the right of the iron door of the cell He looked at the large drawing he had begun that morning Thanks to the piece of charcoal he had picked up in the courtyard, he could finish it that day He wanted to start work, but he felt exhausted and his feet could hardly support his body, weakened by hunger and torture He sat on the rough, unplanned board which was his bed He felt his feet burning but his mind was lucid and calm He looked straight ahead, and his gaze was clear and determined Putting his hands on the rough plank, he touched the piece of charcoal he had put there when he sat down Without looking, he picked it up and held it in his hand Then he turned to look at the drawing on the wall Although it was unfinished, he knew what he meant to show Both the big snake and the strong boy who had grasped its head and was forcing it down, were clear to him The only things missing were the boy's head and the snake's head Whenever he drew or painted a picture, he left the head till last He put in the other details, the background, the clothes, the hands and finally the head He wanted to concentrate on the most difficult part of a man, his face He worked on the other parts of the body with a certain ease, but when it came to the face, his hand moved more slowly and the lines were slow to appear on the white surface He had always worked this way, over the past year, when he had first begun drawing and painting He had put his whole heart into the pictures he had drawn of his parents, his sister, his little nephew and a few others

Remembering these things, he wondered where his work could be now Some pictures might still be in the houses of his friends and

relatives, but some had been lost forever, during the fighting in Firaj Street, that morning in June when he, Perlat and Branko had fought the fascist troops Firing from the window, he had seen a fascist's bullets hit his father's portrait, going through its right eye When the house had caught fire, he had vainly tried to put out the flames destroying his mother's portrait It had burned fast, and his eyes had lost sight of her hands, her hair, and finally her clear and beautiful eyes Then everything had become a holocaust of smoke and flame but the calm, sweet, shining eyes of his mother were always in his mind

"I had better start work now while there is still some light in the cell," he said to himself and got up holding the piece of charcoal tightly

As he raised his hand, and the piece of charcoal squeaked faintly on the plaster he noticed that his hand cast a shadow on the drawing

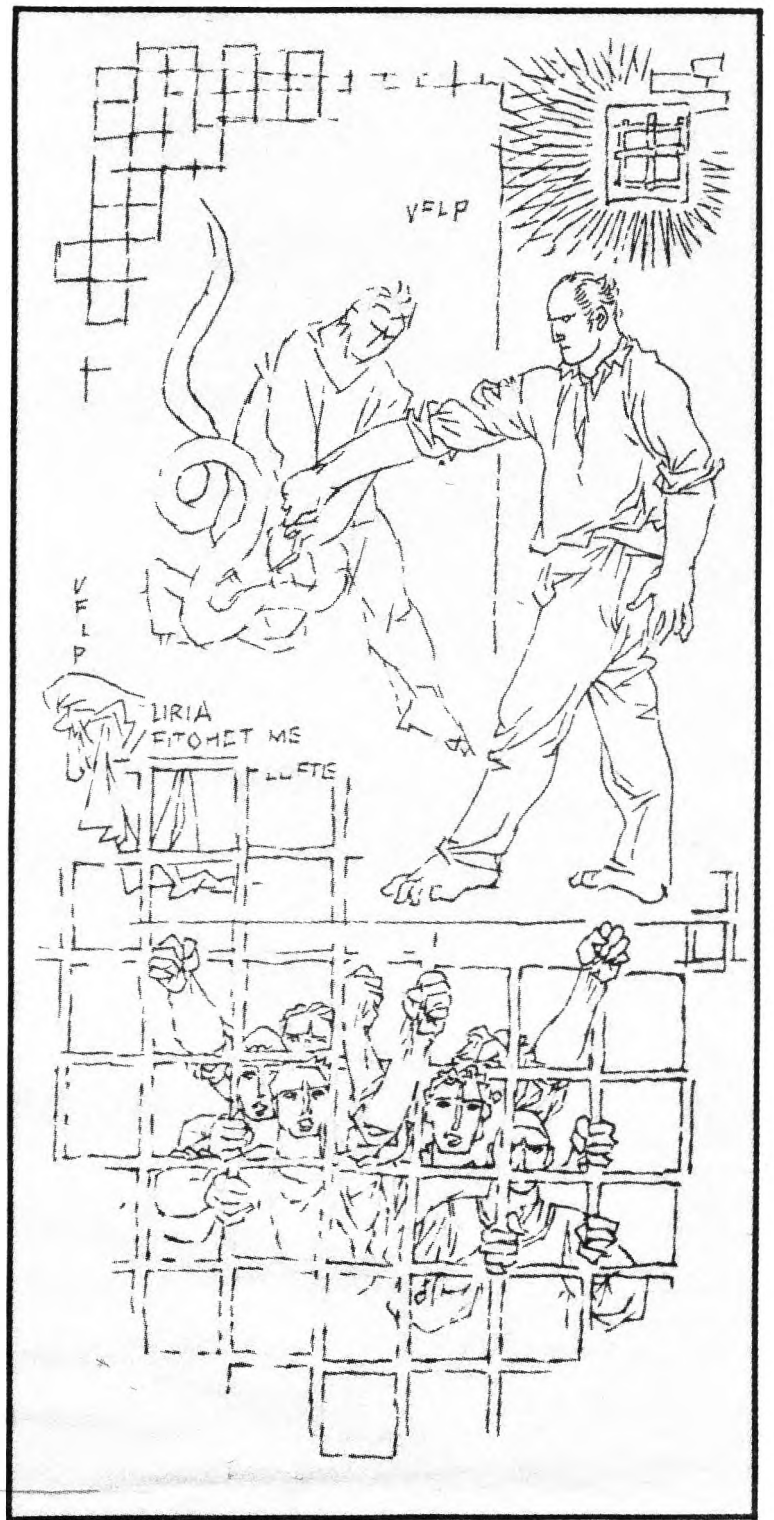
"Too bad!" he said to himself, smiling, "this isn't a studio after all"

He set to work with a vengeance The cell walls, his scorched feet, his weakness, the death sentence, all were forgotten They were far away or did not exist at all In those moments, only his beloved work was real, tangible and important The thick walls of the cell crumbled away and he breathed freely The heavy tread of the policeman's boots in the corridor gave way to music New, unknown melodies echoed in his ears His hand moved slowly on the wall, guided by his mind his ardent heart, his indomitable spirit

Drawing the snake's eyes he remembered the eyes of the prison director, small, wily, filled with the light of wickedness He reproduced them in the snake's head Of course the piece of charcoal could not show the nuances in the wicked eyes of this fascist Nevertheless, he drew them, small and wicked, and at the same time frightened and weak Drawing this variant of the story of Laocoon, Jordan treated it in his own way with a definite aim Instead of the old, frightened priest being killed with his two sons, by two sea serpents, Jordan had drawn a strong Albanian boy who had tightened his grip on the fascist snake and was smashing its head

Working with the imperative urge to make his final statement, he heard a sudden noise which dragged him from his work and brought him back to the cell Heavy footsteps were heard, people were running through the corridor and in the courtyard He left his work and listened not knowing what was happening

But a few minutes later he heard a great chorus of men's voices singing a partisan song His heart beat faster, it was his comrades singing outside The voices came from all parts of the prison In the cells, dozens of young men were singing behind the bars and their voice joined in a mighty chorus transcending walls and



fetters, guards and watchtowers, soaring up like a wind before a storm

Jordan went over to the little cell window The song became louder but the heavy steps of the guards and policemen could still be heard

"What's going on?" A voice could be heard under Jordan's window

"The prisoners have started singing The communists are causing trouble," was the reply

"Why?"

"They've heard that one of their comrades will be hanged tomorrow"

They went on talking in quieter voices, but their conversation was drowned by the loud chorus of the prisoners

Jordan grasped the bars His heart surged He did not feel miserable He had never felt lonely The news of the legendary struggle in Firaj Street had spread all over Albania and the whole people spoke of the three heroes

The prison resounded with the songs and cries of his comrades Jordan listened behind the bars, serene and smiling He held his head high, catching a glimpse of the first stars

Jordan shook himself and sprang to his feet He looked through the window In the east the sky had begun to change, and a streak of light had spread over

the whole horizon He took a deep breath He went up to the window and watched the new day beginning He watched the clear dawn light, the last he would see

When it was really light and the shadows had disappeared, Jordan left the window and took up his piece of charcoal which was down to half its length Then he went to the wall where his drawing was waiting to be finished He began to draw the face of the boy who was crushing the snake's head Working on his drawing he saw the faces of Perlat, Branko and his other comrades in arms He combined their different features on the manly face of the boy, wanting to make his drawing resemble them When he had finished, he sighed with relief and looked at it closely the face was like Perlat, like Branko, like the other comrades, who were crushing the head of the fascist snake with their powerful hands

The piece of charcoal had done its work He wiped the black dust from his fingers Just then the silence in the corridor was broken by the sound of footsteps

Jordan had turned his back to the door, and stood looking out the window watching the light grow

More steps were heard in the corridor a halt before the door of his cell

For other short stories from socialist Albania along with film reviews and reproductions of paintings and drawings which reflect the high level of socialist culture and the development of the art of socialist realism see UNITE' ALBANIA a bi-monthly pictorial magazine published by the Party of Labour of Albania

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