

Delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) Returns from Visit to Albania

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Recently a Central Committee delegation of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) returned from a visit to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, where it was hosted by the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania.

The delegation saw at first hand the great achievements of the Albanian people under the leadership of the great Party of Labor of Albania led by Comrade Enver Hoxha. The Party of Labor of Albania has distinguished itself by its persistent adherence to principle and its refusal to capitulate to any form of revisionism. It opposed the revisionism of Tito right from the outset. It opposed the revisionism of the Khrushchev clique and the Soviet revisionists as soon as it appeared. Today, the Party of Labor of Albania has taken a resolute stand against the new revisionists pushing the reactionary theory of three worlds. The Party of Labor of Albania has played an outstanding role in the struggle against revisionism of all kinds and has won the deepest respect of all genuine Marxist-Leninists and progressive people throughout the world.

The Albanian people achieved liberation in 1944 after five years of armed struggle against the Italian and later the German fascists. The Communist Party led from the beginning by Comrade Enver Hoxha rallied the people for the armed struggle, and the armed struggle hundreds of communists gave their lives as they constantly stood in the forefront of the struggle. In Albania it was a matter of pride that no patriot died from a bullet in the back, but always from a bullet in the chest.

Everywhere the delegation of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) went we saw places where martyrs had stood and fought and died. Everywhere we heard of the great bravery with which the people fought. The delegation learned of the decisive role of the Communist Party, now called the Party of Labor of Albania, and its constant example of leadership, which combined advanced and heroic stands with systematic and thorough work to unite the people on every level for struggle against the enemies of their country. The women of Albania played an outstanding role in the struggle, and this point was repeatedly explained and shown in concrete form.

During the entire period of national liberation no other political party in Albania fought the foreign invaders apart from the Communist Party. When it became clear that it was only a matter of time

before the German fascists would face the same fate as the Italian fascists, the major imperialist powers, and most significantly the British imperialists, began to conspire and interfere in the internal affairs of Albania. These reactionary forces wanted to ensure that political power was given to the bourgeoisie and tried in every way to foist traitors onto the people. But the Albanian people, led by the Communist Party of Albania, resolutely resisted these activities and led the people in establishing complete independence. All outside interference by the imperialists was blocked right from the beginning. The Albanian people began in 1944 a new glorious period in their history, the period of building socialism.

During the period of building Socialism the Albanian people have constantly had to resist attempts by reactionary forces to interfere. First of all Yugoslavia, backed by the imperialist powers, attempted to dismember their country and turn it into a province of Yugoslavia. Second the social-imperialists of the Soviet Union, who seized power after the death of Stalin, attempted to force Albania to become a capitalist country dependent on the Soviet Union. But both these attacks on the people have been defeated under the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania.

Albania is now the socialist camp in the world today, Albania is the only country in the world in which the dictatorship of the proletariat is in existence. It is a country in which the bourgeoisie has been destroyed. Socialist Albania is the firm and reliable ally of the working and oppressed people of the entire world in the struggle against imperialism, feudalism and all reaction. The socialist camp allied with the working and oppressed people of the world are one camp in the world. This camp is united in struggle against the only other major camp in the world, the camp of the imperialists and reactionaries of every country. Everywhere the delegation of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) went, the Albanian people expressed their resolute determination to support and assist the working and oppressed people of the entire world. Albania has never kow-towed to the reactionaries of the world. Albania has never put so-called "trade" and "diplomatic" interests before the interests of world revolution. The delegation learned from the Albanian Party of Labor about the struggle that it has waged to uphold this principled Leninist stand against every attempt by internal and external reactionaries to divert them.

Under the conditions of the dictatorship of the proletariat Albania has been transformed. Albania is the only country in the world where the working people enjoy complete freedom and democracy. The entire process of government of the country combines the advanced leadership of the proletariat through its Party, the Party of Labor of Albania with the most complete democracy. All the policies and programs of the government are decided after the full consultation with the people and have the complete support of the people. The delegation learned of the manner in which the dictatorship of the proletariat operated in many aspects of the society such as the factories, the agricultural cooperatives and on the question of national defense, the question of the administration of the communities and many other aspects.

Since independence the direct and indirect income of the people has risen constantly as the production of the society has increased. No prices have risen and many prices have come down.

In Albania, the wealth produced by the people is used to advance the general well-being of the people and not to fatten a class of rich parasites as in the capitalist countries. Because the basis of production is to supply the needs of the people and not to make maximum profit, there is no unemployment in Albania, there is no housing shortage, everybody is able to buy the food and clothing and other essentials that they need.

Albania has a medical service, which in terms of basic facilities, numbers of doctors, numbers of midwives, and the real concern for the people, far exceeds anything that exists in any capitalist country. And this service is provided free of charge to all the people.

Before liberation 85% of the people were illiterate. Now there is no illiteracy. Albania now has an advanced comprehensive education system. It has a national university based in Tirana, which each year produces six times more graduates than existed in the entire country before liberation.

Albania has made great advances in the struggle against the oppression of women. This is a question which the Party of Labor of Albania has shown great concern for throughout its entire history. In the national liberation war every effort was made to involve women and to oppose feudal attitudes. Before liberation there were only about 100 women with advanced education in the country, whereas today, nearly half the graduates from the university are women. The legal and political position of women is exactly equal to that of men. Every facility is provided to ensure that women are not discriminated against because of child bearing or any special roles that they have in the family. For instance, a complete system of kindergartens exists throughout the country which look after the young children according to whatever needs exist. A mother who is breast feeding her child is given time from work with pay to look after the child every four hours or whenever is necessary. If a child is ill, a mother, or father, if this is appropriate, is able to look after the child, or visit the child in the hospital without any loss of pay or loss of position at work. The Albanian women play an important role in every aspect of the life of the society and everywhere the delegation of the Party went we met and talked to women who had leading positions in factories, state farms, departments of the University and so on. The liberation of women in Albania has liberated a tremendous force for socialism.

The delegation visited many parts of the country and went to see every sort of institution. This included schools, kindergartens, factories, agricultural cooperatives of the higher and lower types, the University in Tirana, the Institute of Hygiene, the Agricultural Institute, many museums and places of historic interest, a music festival and many other places. Everywhere the delegation went we were greeted with great enthusiasm by everyone. Everywhere we went people expressed their support for the Irish people and for the struggle of our people against British imperialism. The people showed a great interest in Ireland and the struggle of the Irish people against British imperialism.

The delegation was deeply impressed by the happiness and enthusiasm of the people to build socialism and carry out their internationalist responsibilities. Albania is now self-sufficient in grain, and self-sufficient in most other basic commodities and raw materials. The entire country is supplied with electricity. All these things exist because of Marxism- Leninism and because of the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania which has been consistently faithful to Marxism-Leninism.

During the visit the delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) expressed firm support for the great People's Socialist Republic of Albania and praised the tremendous work of the Party of Labor of Albania. The delegation, on behalf of the entire working and oppressed people of Ireland, extended the warmest friendship to the heroic people of Albania. The representatives of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, expressed the firmest friendship for the Irish people and their support for the Irish revolution.

The visit of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) has been a historic visit which has cemented the ties between the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) and the Party of Labor of Albania, and between the Irish people and the Albanian people.