

# Curt - Hoxha on A difficulties

MUNICH, August 1 — / GEN. DESK - LRS / — In a recent tour of Southern Albania, Party Secretary Enver Hoxha, has attacked the United States, forcefully rejected Greek claims on Albanian territory, and called for greater efforts to fulfill agricultural production plans. (P/35)

"Certain people, exploiting our temporary difficulties, are criticizing us," the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers Party, Enver Hoxha said in a speech made at the agricultural cooperative at Geranxhi, Lower Dropull district. After noting that there still exist certain elements who attempt "to darken the destiny of the people," Hoxha said that some of these elements "have recently become aware of the absurdity of such attempts."

In this connection Hoxha added that "the funds allocated by the State Department of the United States for diversion, sabotage, and propaganda activity are directed against our country as well. However, the actions of American imperialists and their friends neither have nor ever will affect our people who will in the future as in the past frustrate these devilish plans. The stale stories uttered by traitor Pandelomon Kotoko and his lackeys in connection with the so-called Northern Epirus have not only become sour as ~~boza~~ / Note: Boza is a sort of drink very popular in the Balkan countries - LRS/ but also ridiculous. We ask these madmen to forget the story of Northern Epirus because it is an old one and they have lost their teeth to bite into it. /Note: The southern part of Albania bordering on Greece is called Northern Epirus by the Greeks and is officially claimed by them to be a Greek territory - LRS./

"Northern Epirus as they call it, we call Albania because it has been Albania and it will be as such for centuries to come. No force in the world will dare to violate our frontiers because they are protected.

"The men of good will who want to establish good neighborly relations with our country, as is our desire," Hoxha said, "must clear the road of these thorns and send Pandelomon Kotoko and his accomplices as abbots to an old monastery of Saint /Oretsi?/ because now they have become fossils and anachronisms.

The dollars of the State Department are also vainly trying to deceive the brothers of our /Greek/ minority who, because of the sufferings during the anti-people's regimes of the past, emigrated to the United States. Our brothers in the States are kept in the dark about the truth in our country. Our successes and progress are concealed from them... The United States is like a bad step-mother which torments and inflicts spiritual and physical sufferings upon them."

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Enver Hoxha then spoke about the continual efforts of the Albanian Government to live in good friendly relations with the "brotherly Greek people," as well as about the "imperialist attempts to keep up international tension". Hoxha said that these attempts are frustrated thanks to the peaceful policy of our socialist countries led by the Soviet Union and other countries which oppose war. (936)

GEN. DEB. COMMENT: Enver Hoxha is now touring the southern parts of Albania visiting agricultural cooperatives. In his speeches before the peasants in the regions bordering Greece the boss of the Albanian communist party has stressed several points: 1/ the necessity for peasants "to raise their technical skill and to improve production quality" / in Gjirokastra on July 27/; 2/ "to attract more private farmers to join cooperatives;" 3/ "the position of Albania in the international arena has been consolidated" and "the plans of the enemies of the Albanian people's republic frustrated" /in Gjirokastra on July 27 and in Gërani on July 29;/ 4/ "Albania is stronger than ever before and no one dares to touch it" /same/; 5/ "Albania has many friends and is a member of the great camp of peace and socialism led by the Soviet Union" /same/; 6/ Speaking in the regions inhabited by the Greek minority Hoxha said they were "equally faithful to the Party as are all the Albanian people." KOTOKO "and his lackeys" referred to by Hoxha cannot be positively identified here. Presumably they are Albanian refugees of Greek origin who support the Greek position on Northern Epirus.

The Albanian-Greek dispute over Northern Epirus is a long one and for decades was one of chief hindrances to rapprochement between Greece and Albania, even before the Communists took power in Albania.

In connection with Hoxha's urging of peasants to raise production, the two main Albanian newspapers, ZERI I POPULIT and BASHKIMI, have recently carried editorials calling for the fulfillment of the plan, adding that "there are districts ... which are lagging far behind in cultivation." ZERI I POPULIT of July 27 said in this connection that "Party and State organs must attach greater importance to cultivation of fields and uncover the reasons which cause shortcomings, negligence and slow work." It seems that Hoxha's tour of Southern Albania is aimed at urging peasants to work better and produce more.

An editorial in July 29th issue of ZERI I POPULIT admits that "certain /economic/ enterprises still lag in the quality of production... Even though the successes achieved in fulfilling the plan in all its indexes are quite notable, it should be admitted that shortcomings still exist in this connection. The party recommends that the plan should be fulfilled in all its indexes, and that means quality, quantity, assortment, and so forth. To achieve this

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+5 goal it is essential that workers raise their technical skill and organizational work be strengthened. It has always been pointed out that quality of production is far below the required standard simply because plan fulfillment is considered only from the aspect of quantity, with quality of production and state standards ignored."

Albanian radio and newspapers say that the farmers promised to follow Enver Hoxha's advice for raising production. Thus, for instance, Tirana Albanian Home Radio service of July 29 said that the farmers from MASHKULLERE village "promised Enver Hoxha to carry out farming work properly, to sell to the State over 90 per cent of their surplus grain, and to encourage 25 more families to join the cooperatives."

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