

SUCSESSES OF ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. Enver Hodja, General Secretary, Albanian Party of Labour

The People's Republic of Albania owes its existence to the glorious Soviet Union and its army, which, by its legendary victory over Hitlerite fascism has, for all time, liberated the people of Albania from the arduous age-long slavery forced upon them by different imperialist countries and sanguinary feudalists; from subjugation by German nazism and Italian fascism. Without the Soviet Union, without its historic struggle, the people of Albania would not only have not been free, but the establishment in our country of the people's democratic system would have been out of question.

We, Albanians—a small nation in the Balkan peninsula—are one of the most ancient peoples in Europe and one of those which have suffered the greatest misery. For five centuries, our people groaned under the yoke of the Istanbul sultans. The people of Albania never laid down their arms in the struggle against this sanguinary invader. In the fifteenth century they fought heroically for twenty-five years under the leadership of Skanderberg, routing in turn all the armies of the sultans. They became the stumbling-block to the Ottoman invasion of Europe.

After the death of our national hero Skanderberg, the Ottoman Empire established its fierce domination over our country. But exploitation and oppression did not break our peasantry. In the Himara, Mirdita and Dukagjin areas, peasant uprisings occurred against the

feudalists and the Turks in 1500, 1538 and in 1580. In the following centuries the peasants in the South of Albania rose against the Turks and their lackeys. At the close of the nineteenth and in the beginning of the twentieth century the poor peasants again rose against the feudalists in Diber, Kossovo, Durres, Tirana and Elbasan. They fought against the German puppet, Wied; against the feudalists Esat Pacha, Toptani, Sheiqet Bey Verlaci and others.

The people of Albania took an active part in the Balkan wars. They joined other Balkan peoples fighting for liberation from the Turkish yoke, helped these peoples, shed their blood, sustained losses in manpower and had their houses burned. But the Albanian people failed to win their freedom. The German, French, British and American imperialists not only refused to acknowledge any of the rights of the Albanian people, but dismembered Albania.

The misfortunes of our country continued also during and after World War I. Albania again fell victim to the invasions of the Austrians, Italians, French, the Greater-Serbian and the Greater-Greek invaders. The people of Albania had to fight against all these imperialist plunderers, who used Albania as small change. They fought against the Italians in Vlora in 1920 and drove them into the sea. The Albanian people expelled the Greek Army which tried to seize the southern part of the country. They fought against the French who tried to retain Korea, they escaped the clutches of the Karageorgevitches and the intrigues of Austria-Hungary. But the so-called "Independent Albanian State" could not escape the intrigues of the imperialists. The imperialists placed the reins of power in the hands of

Ahmet Zogou—the feudalist and hangman of the Albanian people—who proclaimed himself King of Albania and who, for fifteen years, cruelly oppressed the people of Albania in the interests of the British and American imperialists and later, in the interests of his new boss, Mussolini, to whom Zogou sold Albania, completely paving the way for the invasion of April 7, 1939 which was the most barbarous in the history of our country.

The sanguinary regime of Ahmel Zogou was that of unconditional surrender to foreign intervention; a regime of feudal-bourgeois oppressors of the people by the faithful servants of imperialism. Under this brutal regime, Albania was an arena for the intrigues of different imperialists who were attracted by its favourable geographical position on the shores of the Adriatic and the Strait of Otranto and also by the wealth of the country and its soil.

Under the Zogou regime the monopoly for the exploitation of Albania's oil was sold to the British, particularly to the "Anglo-Iranian Oil Company". Robert Hodge-son, British Ambassador in Albania, ruled the country as he would his own home. High British officers were leaders and organisers of the gendarmerie and thus held the whip, the prison and the gallows by means of which they oppressed the people of Albania.

The regime of Ahmet Zogou also opened the door for the Americans who received unrestricted freedom of action in Albania. Ahmet Zogou sold the wealth of our country to U.S. companies, including 51,000 hectares of land which he sold to the New York "Standard Oil Company" for 30,000 dollars.

Zogou opened the way for the penetration of

American intelligence agents who began to arrive in Albania under the guise of missionaries like Kennedy, as philanthropists and educational workers—like Ericson and Harry Fultz, the latter a prominent agent of the U.S. intelligence service and a bitter enemy of the Albanian people, and many others who, until recently, played a fatal role in the struggle of the Albanian people for independence and freedom. Later Ahmet Zogou became Mussolini's vassal and agent. By means of economic and financial agreements and by different treaties of alliance, fascist Italy soon laid hands on the wealth of our country, on all key strategic positions, on all leading posts in the State, the army and the police. Trade, livestock breeding, crops, forests, mines, finance, postal service, means of communication, ports and aerodromes—all became the property of the Italian fascists who flooded our country with Italian settlers and who, on April 7, 1939, occupied it.

Under the Zagou regime there prevailed feudal relations in agriculture. The land belonged not to the tiller but to the beys, the agas and big landlords. The tiller was, in every respect, a serf as in the Middle Ages. He and his family were completely in the power of the landlord. The hut he occupied did not belong to him. The draught animals, like the fruits of his labour, were the property of the bey. The tiller groaned under a tax burden. He suffered from hunger and disease. Schools were closed to him and he lived in profound ignorance. The Albanian workers were cruelly exploited by Italian employers and concession holders. There was practically no industry. Oil extraction and the few existing mines and pits in Albania were run by Italians. Albanian workers toiled like slaves sixteen hours a day and more,

receiving daily such low pay as was inadequate for bare subsistence. The workers' families suffered from hunger and tuberculosis, The impoverishment of our people reached its climax in the period of the occupation of the country by Italian fascism.

Heroism of the Albanian People in Battle and Labour

The fate of our people was also being resolved in the course of the Second World War. Therefore, it was essential to organise the struggle properly and this was taken up by our heroic Communist Party, created in the flames of war on the basis of the teaching of the great leaders of the proletariat Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. It was precisely the Albanian Communist Party, the vanguard of the working class and the poor peasantry of our country which, guided by the teaching of Lenin-Stalin, rallied the whole of the people for the struggle and brought it to final victory over the Italian and German fascists and quislings who had united around themselves the dominating classes in the country in the reactionary organisations of "Balli Kombetar", "Legaliteti" (Zogou's organisation) and so on.

The glorious victories of the Soviet Army gave wide scope to the national liberation movement in our country. Our national liberation army, created in the flames of war, composed entirely of the sons of workers and toiling peasants and led and commanded by them, became, under the leadership of the Communist Party, a mighty force which delivered incessant blows against

the armies of the occupationists and quislings, successfully withstood their consecutive attacks and emerged victorious from every sanguinary battle.

Having liberated entire regions, the people's army eventually drove the enemy also from the towns where it tried to entrench itself. Albania was liberated on November 29, 1944 when the Soviet Army assumed the offensive against the Germans in the Balkans. The Soviet Army brought victory to our people.

Only now have freedom, independence and justice become possible for the small Albanian people. The new people's democratic Albania—the nurseling of Lenin and Stalin—and our people, owe their existence and all they have to them. The Soviet Union is the creator of the new Albania and the glorious Soviet Army is its liberator. The Soviet Union and Stalin are the reliable defenders of our people, building the foundations of Socialism in our country and confidently and quickly marching along the bright path of happiness and prosperity.

The foundations of the people's power were laid during the struggle for national liberation in the form of People's Councils, elected by the population of the liberated and occupied regions on a democratic basis. These Councils' later developed into organs of authority and helped in the struggle for national liberation. They replaced the old administration which was completely uprooted, first in the liberated areas and then throughout Albania. Immediately following the full liberation of Albania, People's Councils were created in both town and countryside and became the leading organs of the people's government.

The war for national liberation brought great

suffering and required heavy sacrifices from the Albanian people. It brought terrible devastation, but freedom was achieved. The people took power into their hands and established a regime of people's democracy. United in the Front of National Liberation, the Albanian people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, and because of the Soviet Union and its glorious Soviet Army, and as a result of their heroic struggle, defeated the occupationists and internal reaction.

Guided by the experience of the glorious Bolshevik Party and by the teaching of Lenin-Stalin, the Communist Party of Albania was always on the alert for the manoeuvres and intrigues of internal reaction and the Anglo-American imperialists, who, when our people were shedding their blood and their best sons were sacrificing their lives on the fields of action, were already weaving intrigues and organising internal reaction with a view to wresting from the hands of the Albanian people the victories they had already won.

Under the guise of "allies", the British and American Military Missions tried to strangle the popular revolution, to destroy the People's Army and seize the country under the pretext of co-operation against the Germans. They joined forces with the quislings, supplied them with battle equipment, hurled them against the People's Army, incited them to assassinate the men who sprang from the people and to commit sabotage. Having finally suffered utter failure, the British and U.S. Missions on the eve of Albania's liberation, established contact with the German occupationists, gave their protection to every out-and-out war criminal and transferred them to Italy with a

view to using them as a weapon against the Albanian People's Republic when the opportunity arose.

The Communist Party and the Albanian people frustrated all these heinous plans of the U. S. and British imperialists. But despite the defeat sustained by them in Albania during the war, the American and British imperialists did not lay down their arms but eventually organised a series of conspiracies aimed at overthrowing the people's government in Albania. But all these conspiracies and acts of terror failed disgracefully under the blows of the people's administration.

After the liberation of Albania our Communist Party and the people's administration were faced with great and complex problems which were successfully solved because of the enthusiasm of our working class and all the working masses in our country. Considerable economic, cultural and social reforms were carried out in the first few months after Albania's liberation. Central and local organs of popular government were created and strengthened; remnants of fascism and reaction were radically purged. War criminals were duly punished. All the property of the quisling traitors was confiscated and nationalised. Large fortunes of merchant-speculators were likewise confiscated. They were made to pay a tax on profits acquired during the war. All the enterprises of the merchants and industrialist-speculators were nationalised. The beys and agas, who for ages had oppressed the toiling peasants, were driven from the land. The people's government nationalised all the mines and enterprises which belonged to Italian and other foreign concession holders. Thus there was created the State sector of

national economy which was to serve as a base for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the national economy of the country.

During the war, entire regions were levelled to the ground by fire and the inhabitants rendered homeless; they had no shelter, no clothes, food was scarce; agriculture was in a state of ruin, the bridges and roads were blown up and means of communication did not exist. Under the leadership of the Party and the government, everything devastated during hostilities was restored at very short notice. All the people bent all their efforts to the restoration of the country and labored with unprecedented heroism. Our working class, the heroic Albanian youth, the toiling peasantry, the broad mass of women and patriotic intellectuals, were in the vanguard of the struggle for the prosperous, development of the country.

One of the first jobs of the popular government was that of agrarian reform, which was of extreme significance for the toiling peasantry. The feudal and bourgeois class was overthrown in the course of the struggle. The war was still on when the Party clearly declared that the period of domination by the landlords—the beys and agas—was at an end; that they must no longer be regarded as the owners of the land; that all debts and taxes paid to them were abolished.

As a result of agrarian reform, 70,211 poor and landless peasant families receive land. Three hundred and twenty thousand hectares of land were distributed in the agrarian reform; The agrarian reform was carried out in record time; a matter which astonished and shook the enemies who tried to sabotage this great undertaking of the people's government. Agrarian

reform brought about the abolition of feudalism and created the conditions for the transition from small individual to co-operative farming, for the development and modernisation of agriculture which is an essential condition for the development of the entire national economy.

Fraternal Aid for the Soviet Union—the Basis for our Successes

Since the liberation of our country and up to the present time, the People's Republic of Albania has been marching speedily and confidently along the path of building a Socialist economy. This has become possible because of the assistance the Albanian people has received and continues to receive from the great Soviet Union. Lacking this assistance our country could never have restored its economy and achieved such prosperity in so short a time. This vast, generous and many-sided aid—economic, moral and political—not only enabled our people to restore and consolidate their economy and to raise considerably the standard of living, but has also brought about the strengthening of the people's power in the country; enabled them steadily to strengthen the defence capacity of our country and invariably to save it from the conspiracies of the Anglo-American imperialists and their puppets—the Greek monarcho-fascists, the Titoite bandits from Belgrade and the Rome neo-fascists. Th people of Albania received aid from the Soviet Union in the first years after liberation when, apart from the calamities

resulting from the war, there was added a severe drought, which inflicted considerable damage to the grain crops, a serious shortage of which would have threatened our people with terrible hunger.

A few figures quoted below clearly show the significant successes achieved by the Albanian people in the conditions of a people's democratic system in all important spheres in the life of the country. Industry, inherited from the feudal-bourgeois system in the period of occupation, was represented by several tobacco factories, 13 small power stations and by several other insignificant enterprises with a very low output capacity. Italy under Mussolini, both during the rule of its vassal, Ahmet Zogou, and during the period of occupation, hampered the development of industry in our country—which Mussolini regarded as the agrarian appendage of Italy; as a colony which must serve as a market for Italian goods. The fascist regime rapaciously exploited the mines for it was in dire need of raw materials for preparing the Second World War.

As a result of the establishment of a people's democratic system in the country—and thanks to the valuable assistance of the Soviet Union—the popular government created 46 State enterprises of national significance and 13 of local significance. It enlarged industrial enterprises, improved the equipment of factories and extended them by considerable capital investments. As a result, the output of the textile industry increased in 1949 by 732.4 per cent compared with 1945; the leather and footwear industry by 1,725.4 per cent; cement, by 522.2 per cent; food, 177.3 per cent; chemicals, 359.4 per cent; tobacco, 318.9 per cent; woodworking, 318.9 per cent; while the output of

electric power rose by 307.8 percent.

Industry in our Republic is being extended and soon, large-scale modern enterprises will be erected. Machinery for these enterprises is coming from the Soviet Union. Such enterprises include a big textile mill, named after Comrade Stalin, which is now under construction and will come into operation in the second half of next year. This textile mill, with 21,000 spindles and a capacity to produce over 20 million metres of fabric annually, will provide an abundant supply of fabrics for our country. At the same time, a working class settlement with modern houses, clubs and gardens is being built near the mill. The population of the town will exceed 5,000.

The construction of another large-scale factory is being finished in Maliq; a factory which will produce 10,000 tons of sugar a year. The Maliq region is becoming a vital industrial and agricultural centre. This centre is developing in a place where, three years ago, the Maliqui Lake was drained on the initiative of the people's government. It should be pointed out that the Americans sought to undermine this drainage work with the help of Fultz, head of the U.S. Mission in Tirana, who was the direct organiser and leader of the U.S. agents in Albania.

Thanks to the technical and economic assistance of the Soviet Union, a large-scale "Selita" hydro-electric power station is being built near Tirana, which will supply the entire industry of Tirana with electricity and also provide water and electric power for the capital of the Republic. With the help of the Soviet Union, a new woollen mill in Tirana, a new cement factory, meat, fish and tinned fruit factories, ceramic workshops, a

paper mill and others are being built.

All this is positive proof that industry; which was practically non-existent in our country prior to the establishment of people's democracy, is now moving towards an unprecedented upsurge, and that Albania, which was formerly compelled to import all industrial goods from abroad, is producing them itself.

The development of industry is accompanied by a large-scale development of co-operative handicraft production. Handicraft production in our country, which, in the past, was squeezed out by Italian dumping now flourishing, is now being consolidated and is giving effective assistance to our light industry.

Pits and mines which were almost completely destroyed during the war, have been restored by the people's government and are now working at full capacity. They have been extended and equipped with modern machinery received from the Soviet Union and the fraternal People's Democracies. Compared with 1945, the output of our mining industry showed the following increase in 1949: refined bitumen, 1,174 per cent; oil, 400.8 per cent; coal, 557 per cent. The output of chrome rose 290.8 per cent compared with 1948; copper, up, to 475 per cent compared with 1946. Relying on the enormous aid of the Soviet Union, the people's government has begun work to extend the mines, supply them with modern machinery and to begin a search for new natural resources,

Our working class, which heroically fought and led the struggle for the liberation of the country, is now working with unprecedented enthusiasm. Although not very numerous in the past, our working class is growing, together with the development of industry in the

country. The working class is gaining in strength, is being tempered, is acquiring knowledge and is learning to utilise the experience of the working class of the Soviet Union. It applies Soviet methods of work and follows the glorious example of the Soviet Stakhanovites. The Soviet Union is rendering exceptionally great assistance to our working class in mastering the glorious experience of the Soviet people. The Soviet Union has provided us with every possibility to do this. In two or three years, hundreds of sons of Albanian workers and peasants will return from their studies in the universities of the Soviet Union. Engineers, constructors, agronomists; veterinaries, doctors, people who have trained at higher art and philosophical schools of the Soviet Union, will place the advanced Soviet science at the service of their people.

Together with industry, our agriculture is developing and is being modernised. Extremely backward and war-devastated in the past, it has taken the path of development under the people's system. Today our peasants are the masters of the land. They fulfil and overfulfill their targets and are mastering new agrotechnical methods of work. They possess new tools of production and year after year extend their plots of land, received under the agrarian reform, by ploughing new areas to cereal crops. Peasants have begun to grow new industrial crops, such as cotton, sugar beet, sunflowers, etc. They are developing cattle-breeding by raising big and small cattle and by developing pedigree breeds.

The people's government has devoted much attention to the development of agriculture. It provides poor peasants with credits and it organises machine-

tractor stations equipped with modern tractors received from the Soviet Union—from the plants of heroic Stalingrad.

In rural centres the State has formed a number of experimental zoo-technical stations and many farms for raising pedigree cattle. The State supplies peasants with special seeds received from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. Many State farms have been set up, which are becoming models for our working peasantry. Producer agricultural co-operatives, formed by the working peasantry, are developing and are being consolidated daily.

Life in the Albanian countryside has completely changed. Where poverty, disease, ignorance, the whip of a bey and of an aga once reigned, prosperity now is on the upgrade, tractors work, and schools have been opened. Joy and fruitful labour are reigning there and a happy life is being built. Below are a few figures which provide vivid testimony to the development of our countryside. Compared with 1945, the volume of reclamation work increased by 168 per cent. The cultivated area is 148.7 per cent compared with 1948, and the area of the co-operative sector amounts to 254.9 per cent compared with 1947. The area under industrial crops has increased to 941 per cent and the area cultivated by machine-tractor stations to 519.6 per cent.

As a result of the development of industry and agriculture the living standard of the people has improved considerably. In 1949. the State reduced the prices of a number of industrial goods. Agricultural products are available in great amounts and at low prices on the co-operative, State and, private markets.

The alliance between the working class and the peasantry is consolidating and is being tempered daily, playing an increasingly important role in the sharpening class struggle, both in town and countryside.

Means of communication have considerably improved in the country. All roads and bridges have been restored and new roads built. A railway line connects the sea port of Durres with Tirana, Peguin and Rrogozhina. At present the construction of a railway line to connect Durres and Elbasan is being completed. New means of sea transportation, to serve all ports along our coast, have been constructed or are under construction.

The people's government attaches great importance to the protection of the health of the people who suffered extremely from appalling diseases and epidemics under previous systems. The number of doctors was quite insufficient. There were practically no assistant doctors or nurses in the country. Only the propertied classes enjoyed the services of doctors. There were very few hospitals and their capacity was extremely small. Only the rich obtained service in these hospitals. The establishment of people's democracy also brought about great successes in this sphere. At present there are large State hospitals in all vital centres, dispensaries and polyclinics in towns, and rural hospitals for the villages. In 1949, the capacity of the State hospitals increased up to 142 per cent compared with 1945. Medical aid for the home improved considerably. Creches for workers' children have been organised, and gynaecological hospitals, maternity homes and consultation centres have been opened which have served over 137,400 women and children. A large-scale struggle is being waged against various diseases, as for

example, tuberculosis, malaria and rheumatism which had been a real scourge for our people. In 1949, the number of those suffering from malaria dropped to 21.7 per cent of the total population, compared with 60 per cent in 1938.

Particularly great successes—in comparison with the past—have been achieved in our country, with regard to education and culture. Under former regimes the overwhelming majority of our people were illiterate. Hundreds or thousands of children of workers and peasants had not the opportunity even to receive elementary education. Only the sons of the rich received secondary education.

The people's system has made education and culture accessible to the masses. Even during the war, masses of the people eagerly learned to read and write, following the liberation of Albania. The network of schools in towns, villages and working class centres was greatly extended. The number of secondary schools increased considerably. Educational reform was carried out on the basis of the experience of a similar reform in the Soviet Union. Thousands of sons and daughters of workers and peasants are now attending school. Elementary education is obligatory and is 100 per cent effective. In 1948-49 alone, the total number of schools rose 205 per cent; the number of seven-grade schools by 1,123 per cent and of full secondary schools by 153.8 per cent. The number of students in these schools increased 264.2 per cent.

In Albania, where higher schools had not previously existed, a Higher Pedagogical Institute was opened in 1946. Financial and commercial schools were opened in various centres of Albania and schools to train assistant

doctors, nurses and technical specialists. Agricultural schools were also opened. Hundreds of young men and women are at finishing universities in the Soviet Union and in the People's Democracies. Hundreds more young men and women enter these universities every year. Hundreds of workers visit the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies in order to specialise in various trades and industries.

The Fascist Tito Clique—Worst Enemy of the Albanian People

The enemies of our people, of Socialism find peace—the U.S. and British imperialists, and the Belgrade and Athens fascists—have spared no efforts to prevent the successes of the Albanian People's Republic to enslave and to dismember it. They have systematically organised hostile activities in the country. During the war, the Americans and the British failed to achieve their aim to keep the quislings in power. Then their representatives in Tirana began directly to organise—from traitors—groups of saboteurs, wreckers and terrorists. But the Albanian People's Republic was guided by our Party which frustrated the evil designs of the U.S. and British imperialists. One after another all their conspiracies, as well as those of the Albanian traitors—hirelings of the imperialists—were eliminated.

For a number of years the puppets of the U.S.-British imperialists—the Athens monarcho-fascists—have been constantly organising armed provocations on our Southern frontier on the orders of their masters. These

endless provocations, organised with the aim at bringing forward charges against Albania on an international scale of supporting the slander, and blackmail of the Anglo-American imperialists in the international arena against our small and peaceful country, were, at the same time, directed at overthrowing our people's government, at seizing the Southern regions of our country and creating the conditions for the partition of Albania between Judas Tito and Tsaldaris, and at inciting internal reaction to organise disturbances and to support this diabolical plot of the imperialists and their puppets but the people of Albania have strong nerves, and nothing could ever shake their determination. They have successfully withstood these threats. The enemies of our people suffered failure.

However, the U.S. and British imperialists did not put down their arms. They still had one card which they did not show until a certain time and which they then used in a camouflaged form. This card was the fascist Tito clique. Under the disguise of friendship and alliance between our people and the peoples of Yugoslavia, the fascist Tito clique sought to turn Albania into its colony, to enslave it economically and politically. The Belgrade fascists tried to eliminate the basis of our people's system, to make Albania a seventh republic of Yugoslavia.

With the help of their Albanian agents, headed by Koci Xoxe, Tito and his gang attacked, first of all our Party, seeking to make it a blind weapon of its policy. They began to organise sabotage everywhere: to sow lack of confidence and disorder in our economy; they formed assault detachments from Albanian trotskyites and all other foreign agents, kulaks and speculators for

future open activities. The sabotage organised on a wide scale by Tito and the Albanian fascists, was accompanied by increasingly fierce anti-Soviet propaganda, by means of which the Belgrade fascists sought to undermine the friendship with, and the boundless love of our people for, the Soviet Union; to isolate our people from the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies in order to facilitate the realisation of the main task—the abolition of the people's democratic system in Albania.

An extremely great danger threatened our Party, our People's Republic. But again our Party, our people and our People's Republic were saved from the tentacles of the imperialists and from Judas Tito, thanks to the Bolshevik Party and the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties who stripped the mask from Judas Tito, showing the real countenance of this dangerous gang of U.S. spies.

Yugoslavia, where the blood-thirsty fascist Tito clique is reigning, has become a hotbed U.S. espionage which serves the diabolical plans directed against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, particularly against our country. Tito bandits are constantly organising provocations on our Northern frontiers, forming espionage and sabotage groups to send them into our country to organise disorder; they are regrouping and organising Albanian war criminals. The Tito gang is closely linked with the Greek monarcho-fascists, and in co-operation with them and with the Rome neo-fascists, it commits foul, aggressive actions against our people.

Confidently and Boldly Marching Forward

The people of Albania who have learned well what the Yugoslav fascists are, and who know well the monarcho-fascists and the successors of Mussolini in Italy, are always on the alert and are vigilant, ready to foil, as always, any encroachments of the imperialists and their lackeys. The unity of the Albanian people is as firm as steel.

This unity of the Albanian people was once again demonstrated during the recent elections when the Democratic Front of Albania won a striking victory: 99.43 per cent of the population took part in the elections; of them 98.18 per cent voted for the Democratic Front.

The unity of the Albanian people finds striking expression also in the successes achieved by the Republic in all branches of economy and culture, in the successful struggle to fulfil the State Two-Year Plan. The people of Albania are rallied around their Party of Labour. They are heroically working and are marching forward boldly, fearlessly and with confidence in their future.

There are people who wonder how it is that such a small people as the Albanian people, who are surrounded on all sides by fascist plunderers, with the latter constantly attacking them in order to tear them into pieces and to strangle them, could heroically resist, fighting on all fronts and emerging victorious! The answer to this question is simple. Under the leadership of the Party, the Albanian people resisted,

fought and won and will always win victory over their foreign and internal enemies because there is the mighty and invincible Soviet Union and the great Stalin. For all their victories, our people are indebted to the Soviet Union. Our people have been reborn, are alive and will live, and are also fighting and gaining victories because their path is illumined by the Great October Socialist Revolution, by the ideas of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin; because our People's Republic came into being, due to the brilliant victories of the Soviet peoples over fascist and international reactionary plunderers. Our Republic lives, gains in strength and flourishes because it lives in the glorious Stalin epoch.