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THE 9th CONGRESS OF THE WOMEN'S UNION OF ALBANIA 1983



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OF THE WOMEN'S UNION
OF ALBANIA**

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Comrade Enver Hoxha on the tribune of the 9th Congress of the WUA

From June 1 to 3, 1983, following the historical decisions of the 8th Congress of the PLA, the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania held its proceedings in the city of Durrës. One thousand five hundred delegates and many other guests took part in the Congress.

Present at the Congress were the beloved leader of our Party and people, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Ramiz Alia, the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Adil Çarçani, as well as Comrades Hajredin Çeliku, Hekuran Isai, Lenka Çuko, Manush Myftiu, Muho Asllani, Pali Miska, Rita Marko, Simon Stefani, Besnik Bekteshi, Foto Çami, Llambi Gegprifti, Prokop Murra, Qirjako Mihali, the secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Vangjel Çërrava and others.

The Congress was declared open by the member of the Presidium of the General Council of the WUA, Comrade Vito Kapo.

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Party and on behalf of Comrade Enver Hoxha

personally, the Congress was greeted by the member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party, Comrade Pali Miska.

Comrade Lumturi Rexha, President of the General Council of the WUA delivered the report, «Under the leadership of the Party we must fight to uphold and further develop the spirit of emancipation amongst the mass of women themselves and in society as a whole».

The Congress held its proceedings in plenary sessions and sections at which 81 delegates made their contributions. The Congress endorsed the report and the resolution of the Congress.

The 9th Congress of the WUA unanimously elected the General Council of the WUA, comprised of 167 comrades. At its first meeting this Council elected its presidency comprised of 27 comrades, and the secretariat comprised of 5 comrades. Comrade Lumturi Rexha was elected President of the General Council of the Women's Union of Albania.

The President of the General Council of the WUA, Comrade Lumturi Rexha, delivered the closing speech of the Congress.



Congress of the WUA

**OPENING SPEECH TO THE 9th CONGRESS OF
THE WUA DELIVERED BY COMRADE
VITO KAPO**

Dear comrade delegates,

Comrades and friends who honour our Congress,

The great joy and enthusiasm which have erupted today in this hall where we are opening the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania are proof of the happy, joyful and optimistic life which our Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head have secured for the entire Albanian people and especially the Albanian women.

It is not accidental that along with the women, our entire people at work centres and agricultural cooperatives, wherever they work and live, are reporting on achievements scored in the realization of the magnificent program set by the 8th Congress of the Party, to celebrate this great political event, the 9th Congress of the women.

This speaks of a great truth, a reality, which only the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, have brought about. The cause of the women is the cause of

the entire society. Socialism creates the conditions for the emancipation of the women, the emancipation of the women, in turn, drives socialism forward. The directive of the 8th Congress of the Party, which will be analysed at our Congress, «The women and the Women's Union of Albania must fight for their emancipation and that of the entire society», derives from this unity which has been achieved in socialist Albania.

The care of the Party to gradually solve the problem of the women through the socialist revolution can be seen in all the directives which it has given about the women in every stage of the construction of socialism. This care can be seen also, in the participation in the work of our Congress of the leaders of the Party and state with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. We greet them and thank them from our hearts.

Our Congress will be an expression of the level of development achieved by the women and the entire people thanks to the line of the Party. It will also show that through their work and knowledge, side by side with the men, the women will preserve and increase the vitality and superiority of our socialist system for our country to advance at relatively high rates on the road of the technical-scientific revolution, relying on our own forces, for the solution of all the economic and cultural problems, so that the Albanian people will never experience the evils of the bourgeois-revisionist world. The girls and women of socialist Albania will guard as the apple of their eye the unity of thought and action, the Party-people unity against which all the external and internal enemies will bash their heads, just

as happened with the multiple agent Mehmet Shehu, his bosses and followers.

In struggle for the preservation and enrichment of these characteristics of the socialist system, the work of the WUA will be better organized and the women and the entire society will be further emancipated.

Dear comrades,

Forty years have gone by since the Party, through Comrade Enver Hoxha's speech, launched the directive for the formation of the Anti-fascist Women's Union of Albania, today the Women's Union of Albania. We have the right to say that the most profound revolution in these four decades has been carried out in the life of the Albanian women. For this, through centuries, generation after generation they will always express their boundless gratitude to the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The women of the district of Durrës are proud that for the second time our voice of great importance for the fate of the Homeland and socialism, full of love for the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, which is increasing from one Congress to the other, is heard here in their ancient city full of patriotic and cultural traditions. We thank them and the leaders of the Party and state organs of the district of Durrës for the warm welcome and the enthusiastic atmosphere they have created for the participants in this Congress.

Expressing our feelings of international sol-

idity, allow me to greet and thank the friends from Vietnam, the Pan-African Organization, Palestine, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Azania, Brasil, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Britain, Germany, Sweden, Equador, Peru, France and the representatives of the Albanian women living in the USA, who honour the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania.

I declare the Congress open.



Comrade Pali Miska greeting the 9th Congress of the WUA on behalf of the CC of the PLA

**COMRADE PALI MISKA GREETES THE 9th
CONGRESS OF THE WUA ON BEHALF OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PLA**

Dear comrade delegates,

The Party and the whole people are closely following the proceedings of your 9th Congress which is an important event not only for the women of Albania and their militant organization, the Women's Union of Albania, but for the whole political life of the country.

Allow me on this occasion to convey to you and all our heroic women the ardent greetings of the Central Committee of the Party and of our beloved leader Comrade Enver Hoxha personally. Allow me also on their behalf to wish you success in your work and to express the belief that the proceedings of this Congress, the decisions which it will take, and the tasks which it will lay down will arouse fresh, even greater energies in the broad masses of the women to put into practice the decisions of the historic 8th Congress of the Party and its directives for the further progress of women.

Our socialist society is vitally interested in the emancipation of women, because the higher

the level of this emancipation the more rapidly the country progresses and the stronger their homeland becomes.

With their participation in the war for the liberation of the Homeland and in the work for the construction of socialism the women increased the army of the revolution, adding to it great progressive energies and their moral, spiritual purity. The Albanian women have made their outstanding contribution to every success and every victory which our people and country have achieved.

In Albania socialism has given a proof of its mighty transforming force, raising the progress of women, their equality and dignity in society to a higher level. Like all the historic victories of our people, this progress is closely linked with the Party, with its correct line and with the special care and contribution of Comrade Enver Hoxha to the elaboration of the program for the emancipation of the Albanian women and the ways for its application. This is why the women everywhere in our country are linked so closely with socialism, nurture a boundless love for the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, listen to their teachings and apply them with complete conviction.

The emancipation of women in our country becomes even more outstanding when we compare it with the position of women in the capitalist revisionist countries. There the resounding words «emancipation, civilization, freedom, education and culture» are combined with savage laws which humiliate and insult women, make them anxious about the insecurity of life for their families, their children, compel them to suffer the

consequences of the discriminatory norms of bourgeois morality and bear on their backs the heavy weight of the economic social crisis.

Comrade delegates,

Our country as a genuine socialist country is distinguished for its stable economy which is developing at high rates without crises and inflation, is distinguished for its great possibilities for the extension of production, raising the well-being of the people and strengthening the defence of the Homeland. All these things it achieves relying entirely on its own forces without begging aid from anyone.

The major proportions which industry and agriculture, education and culture, technique and science have assumed in their development dictate the need for the enhancement of the all-round activity of women workers, cooperativists and intellectuals as creators and leaders in all fields of life.

Our Party is confident that as always the women of our country will work with lofty socialist consciousness, productivity, quality and a sense of frugality for the successful accomplishment of all the tasks of the 7th Five-year Plan, will take part actively in political and social life, having their say on all questions which have to do with strengthening the economy, culture and the defence of the country and will struggle to enhance their educational and technical-professional level.

Socialism is being built in our country in the

conditions of the savage imperialist-revisionist encirclement and the continuous exacerbation of the international situations. Recognizing and appreciating these situations properly, we must also understand and carry out better the tasks which the Party puts before us in the present stage of socialist construction. Therefore all of us must work together ceaselessly for the further steeling of the unity of the people around the Party, for the strengthening of the people's state power and the defence of the country, to raise the revolutionary vigilance against internal and external enemies, and the struggle against any alien remnant or manifestation, to a higher level. Therefore comrades, wherever you are, at work, in the family and in society, you must work to implement the socialist principles and norms and our proletarian ideology and morality, always keeping ablaze the spirit of attack and action.

Our Party and country have pursued a principled foreign policy which responds to the supreme interests of the Homeland and the socialist victories, a policy which contributes to the universal cause of the national and social liberation of the peoples.

Socialist Albania has been and will always be irreconcilable with American imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism and the other forces of reaction, will always be a resolute fighter against their aggressive, hegemonic policy. At the same time it has been and is for normal relations and collaboration on the basis of equality, non-interference and mutual interest, with all those states which do not take a hostile stand towards our country.

With our neighbours we want to live in peace and friendship, to have normal relations and collaboration in all those fields in which there is mutual benefit. At the same time our people are not going to give up defending the rights of our Albanian brothers, as in the case of Kosova, for the sake of this good neighbourliness. We have condemned the Great-Serb chauvinist violence against the Albanians of Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro and we have said that their demands are just and must be fulfilled.

Dear Comrades,

Women as mothers have a special, noble mission in the perpetuation of new generations. The education of new generations with lofty revolutionary and patriotic virtues is a vital problem for the present and future of Albania, a task of great importance which the Party is fully convinced that the women and their organization, the Women's Union of Albania, will fulfil with honour as they have always done. They will fight with determination to safeguard the Albanian family as the base which will always raise true revolutionaries who will serve the Homeland and socialism wherever they are needed, a base in which all the relations between the members will develop in complete harmony with those of the entire society.

Besides the all-round conditions which they have created for all the working people, the Party and our socialist state have taken many special measures to protect the health of mother and

child. The Central Committee of the Party is confident that the Women's Union of Albania will be continuously concerned about the defence and application of the laws and decisions which have to do with the health of mother and child, will work to ensure that the many possibilities which socialist society has created and the various funds and institutions are put more effectively in the service of women. The Party demands that the organizations of the Party and those of the masses, state and economic organs, all our institutions and all the working people will work to ensure better accomplishment of their tasks in order to carry the emancipation of the Albanian women even further forward and it is convinced that they will do so.

In these 40 years of the revolution and socialist construction the Women's Union of Albania has functioned as a militant organization under the leadership of the Party and has fought for its revolutionary, Marxist-Leninist line with determination and loyalty. In the future too, it will be a powerful auxiliary of the Party for the education of women with proletarian ideology and the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, for the mobilization of women in the construction and defence of socialism, will step up all its activity for the ceaseless strengthening of the links of the broad masses of the women with the Party and will become a real tribune of the progressive opinion of the Albanian women.

Therefore, comrades, with the ideas of the Party in your minds and hearts, throw yourselves with fresh vigour and inspiration into all the

fields of the construction and defence of our Homeland. Let the ideas and determination of the women burst out powerfully to make our socialist Albania more beautiful, stronger and happier.

Long live the heroic women of Albania!

Long live the militant organization, the Women's Union of Albania!

Glory to the Party of Labour of Albania!

Long live the beloved leader of the Party and the Albanian people, Comrade Enver Hoxha!

June 1, 1983



**Comrade Lumturi Rexha delivering the report of the
General Council of the WUA**

**«UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY
WE MUST FIGHT TO UPHOLD AND FURTHER
DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF EMANCIPATION
AMONGST THE MASS OF WOMEN
THEMSELVES AND IN SOCIETY AS A
WHOLE»**

**Report of the general council of the WUA
delivered by comrade Lumturi Rexha,
president of the general council
of the WUA**

Dear comrade delegates,

Comrades who honour our Congress,

The women of socialist Albania and their militant organization come to this Congress full of pride and joy, because the balance of the work between the two congresses is rich with successes and achievements. The Albanian women who have been working and living in socialism for nearly 40 years will always come to the congresses proud of the tasks they have carried out, bold and courageous, determined to realize the tasks which await them, as the new women of the glorious epoch of the Party of Labour of Albania.

Through work and efforts to carry out the

directives of the Party and the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha, during these five years the role of the women and the Women's Union of Albania in the entire life of the country has been greatly enhanced. The process of emancipation has headed towards its further deepening. New outbursts which have occurred are characterized by a higher political and ideological development and by a qualitative increase in the forces of women as producers, directors and creators. Their ever greater engagement in the all-round progress, their active influence in the development of the entire society, is a distinctive feature of this period.

The new women of our society are the reflection of socialist Albania. Their place and ever more dignified role, the all-round achievements in all fields of life, prove the correctness of Marx's saying that «The level of emancipation of the women reflects the natural measure of general emancipation».

Everything that has been achieved in the life of the Albanian women, freedom, equality, the dignified position, have been achieved thanks to the Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Therefore, they always express their profound gratitude and boundless loyalty to the cause of the Party and socialism, their determination and spirit of sacrifice to cope with difficulties, their keen vigilance and readiness to stand as a body in the invincible fortress of the Party-people unity.

Dear comrades,

The 8th Congress of the Party set the mass of women and our organization the task to **uphold and further develop the spirit of emancipation amongst the mass of women themselves and the society as a whole**. This is our main problem at this Congress. Working on the basis of a program of work with clear objectives for the present and the future, the Women's Union of Albania has raised to a higher level the engagement of the entire mass of women in the implementation of these directives. **With lofty readiness they make use of all their physical and mental abilities to realize the economic plans**, to cope with and successfully overcome all the difficulties of growth as well as those created by the internal and external capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist enemies. In the future too, our organization will raise its work to a higher level with the aim of further increasing the role of the women as active builders of socialism, as staunch soldiers, as mothers and educators of our children, and thus reach new heights in the emancipation of the Albanian women and influence the emancipation of the entire society with our work and struggle.

Our revolutionary practice has fully proved the Marxist-Leninist conclusion that only socialism creates the conditions for a broad, active and fruitful participation of women in the entire life of the country, for their political, economic and social emancipation. An important factor for the progress of the entire society is the lining up of women alongside men in all fields of activity.

Important steps have been taken from one

five-year period to the other in the enhancement of the role of women as active builders of socialism. At the 8th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania the stability created in the participation of women in work was stressed as an important victory, and tasks were set to maintain this stability, highlighting especially on the qualitative side of the problem. During these five years new successes have been achieved. Not only have nearly all new forces been engaged in work, but the women have also fulfilled the increasing demands of our intensive economy with a higher level of their work. They make up 46 percent of the working people, a thing that testifies to the progress of the Albanian women in conformity with the high rates of development of our entire society. In some special aspects, such as the rates of the increase of the total number of the working class, the women have higher rates than men. There is a perceptible increase of the participation of women especially in the engineering, chemical and electric industry etc., and not only in second hand processes, but in sectors and specialties of utmost importance and of a high level of mechanization and automation.

Another phenomenon fills us with joy. During the five-year period the number of women workers and cooperativists with secondary schooling doubled. This and a series of other factors have made the women more capable to take part in work processes with new up-to-date technology, to express their opinion not only on problems of the plan, cost and quality, but also on problems of the organization and direction of work, to carry out with responsibility important state and party

tasks, to affirm themselves more and more as workers, organizers and directors. This phenomenon, a concrete expression of the continuing emancipation of our women, finds ever better support and approval by our social opinion, which now accepts the women everywhere, on every work front, alongside men working at the lathes and machinery, apparatuses and in the scientific laboratories, at the university chairs and in important scientific activities, in all spheres of our political, economic and cultural life.

An entirely opposite reality exists in the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist countries. In most of the European countries only 20-30 per cent of the women have the right to work. The capitalist puts the women to do unqualified work which is very tiring, and pays them 30-40 per cent less than men, even when they do equal work with them. When tens of thousands of workers are thrown out into the street, the women are the first victims. This discriminating stand against women supported and encouraged by the bourgeois and revisionist ideologists with all sorts of reactionary pseudo-theories. Considering women as capable only for housework, for bearing and bringing up children, they aim at estranging them from productive and social activities, from the class struggle of the proletariat, from the revolution.

We have done away with such a world once and for all. The women in our country are happy about the present and look at the future with optimism. Like the entire Albanian people, their road is illuminated by the sun of the Party, the sun of socialism.

The 8th Congress of the Party made it clear that our economy has now reached an advanced stage in which the intensive factors of its development are emerging ever more to the fore. This means that better work should be done today to raise productivity and improve quality, to increase profit and efficiency in the utilization of all the human, technical, material, organizational and scientific potential which has been created and is being strengthened. These qualitative demands of the Party which were analysed in detail by the National Scientific Conference on Problems of the Development of the Economy, make the enhancement of the role of the women in the strengthening of our socialist economy indispensable and raise the need for the process of their emancipation to be further deepened on this road.

The Women's Union of Albania has defined that one of the main directions of its educational work is the further elevation of the political consciousness of the broad mass of the women about their role in the economy, too. The aim is that the women must become completely more aware of the fact that our five-year plans, the ever increasing tasks are demands of the objective economic laws of socialism. In collaboration with the other levers of the Party, our organization strives to mobilize and raise the women to the level of these demands for the fulfilment of the complex tasks of the plan, a thing that is accompanied with the increase of the efficiency of the economy. This spirit pervades not only the production centres such as in the textile works, the clothing and knitwear industry, the artistic handi-

crafts enterprises or many agricultural cooperatives, where women have a long experience of work, but also in the institutes of studies and science which serve production, at projects with high technology, such as the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine at Elbasan, the «Enver Hoxha» automobile and tractor combine in Tirana and in many sectors where 10 years ago the number of women was very small.

The Women's Union of Albania, with its ceaseless educational activity has striven to implant in the masses of the women workers and cooperativists correct concepts and an ever more revolutionary psychology of work and socialist property, which as Comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out, are «two great pillars on which the development of the economy, the entire life of the country, its present and future, are based».¹ In collaboration with the other organizations of the masses we have aimed at creating the conviction that work and the socialist property can be protected and may flourish only if there are conscientious people who love socialism with all their heart, who work with proletarian and scientific discipline, who fight to master knowledge and take part as a mass in the technical-scientific revolution, who continuously increase productivity, improve the quality of all productive and scientific work, who save in all fields. Such people place the general interest above everything, combat every petty bourgeois feeling that gives rise to petty interests of sectors and persons. It is this

¹ Enver Hoxha. Report delivered to the 8th Congress of the PLA p. 130, Eng. ed.

broad and correct understanding of work and property which makes the working women of our country fight with mobilization and lofty revolutionary spirit for the socialist construction of the country, give their contribution to the further development of the productive forces and the further perfection of the relations of production.

The entire country is engulfed in the work for the realization of the 7th Five-year Plan. This atmosphere becomes ever more inspiring by the fact that the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party has given clear orientations that the study and drafting of the plan for the 8th Five-year Plan period should begin from now. The women of our country as direct participants in production and in the scientific-research institutions are engaged in and will make their contribution to such important problems, will further enhance their role in the development of the creative thinking in the field of technique and technology, in financial and organizational problems.

However, this role in this marvellous reality must be understood more broadly. Being conscious of the fact that the perspective plans of our development envisage and demand the presence of women in all fields of productive activity, all over the Homeland, that now the creative, innovative thinking of the women is demanded everywhere, the women must strive more vigorously for their further qualification, so that they respond everywhere at all times and at the proper level to the perspective demands of our plans. Therefore, the demand of the 8th Congress of the Party for **learned people with high technical and**

scientific qualification always remains an imminent task of the Women's Union of Albania.

The professional raising of the broad mass of the women faces us with continual tasks and opens up a broad field of activity. In collaboration with the Trade Union Organization good work has been done for the narrowing of the distinctions between the relatively low level of the qualification of the women and the relatively high level of the technique and technology which is used in their jobs. A characteristic of the current five-year period is that the entire mass of the working people have grasped better the need for further qualification, a thing that has also drawn a great number of girls and women into different qualification courses. Compared with 1980, 2.5 times more women took their degree of atestation in 1982, in Tirana alone, where women make up 50.3 per cent of the working class of the district.

The efforts for qualification and for penetrating the secrets of technology have given direct results in production. This can be seen in the achievements of the working people of the clothing industry who have turned out products of a good quality, which satisfy the consumers and fulfill their increasing demands. Praiseworthy are also the successes of the working people of the textile industry of our country, who have introduced synthetic fibre combed with cotton and wool, using the existing machinery. The realization of this task, which is connected with profound technical and technological changes in the process of production, also speaks of the raising of the technological level of the working people of this industry, especially the women who make

up 75 per cent of them. Despite this, new demands have been made on us, which are on the way to being solved and through which contemporary technology will be introduced in the textile industry, too. The objectives for this will be attained by mastering with a will and determination the technique and technology to which we have been entrusted.

The women workers in many enterprises of our country feel that what has been done up till now does not fulfil the increasing demands of production, where technical and technological progress is made at rapid rates, where the technical-scientific revolution is extended and deepened. With inadequate educational, cultural and technical level the new technologies implemented in some production lines of the food industry which are being used, cannot be carried out properly, therefore the indispensable need arises that efforts are intensified to elevate the entire broad mass of women wherever they work to the level of the tasks of the day.

The Party has made great demands for the intensification of agricultural production at rapid rates in order to take in during this five-year plan more than 48 quintals of maize per hectare for the entire area of the country and more than 75 quintals of maize and 45 quintals of wheat per hectare for the zone of priority intensification. Such great tasks can be realized with the harmonization, on a scientific basis, of all the factors of agricultural production and with the implementation of advanced technology everywhere. This technology in agriculture and livestock raising will be implemented by the working people

of the countryside, where the women occupy an important place, standing for 58.6 per cent of the total number of women workers. Their work in such sectors as livestock raising, services to industrial crops and vegetables, is decisive. The broad participation of the women in agriculture expresses another marvellous reality of our life. At a time when in the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist world the countryside is being abandoned en masse, our Party with its correct policy has made the countryside flourish at levels admired by the entire world and, together with it, the whole of Albania, the lowlands and mountains, are developed and peopled, our socialist economy is strengthened.

The countryside is an important sector of the activity of the Women's Union of Albania. A more organized and qualified educational work should be carried out to make the mass of the women conscious that the putting of agriculture more thoroughly on scientific bases, the concentration and specialization of agricultural production, require that every woman co-operativist should raise her general qualification but also her specialization, require profound mastering of knowledge and its linking up with production.

Advanced experience is an inexhaustible source of qualification. In our country today there are entire districts such as Korça, Kruja, Saranda etc., where the women comprise an important force for taking in high yields in bread grain.

Whereas before we have spoken of some brigades which took in 85 quintals of maize per hectare

tare, today we have entire outstanding economies such as that of Plasa, Maliq, Dajç, Vrina, Lapardha, the livestock raising complex of Kamza, which take in record yields in agricultural and livestock production. Ten years ago the milk-maids who got 3000 litres of milk from each cow were proclaimed distinguished workers. Today the honoured names of the milk-maids Selvie Hoxha, Liri Tota, Marta Nini, and tens and hundreds of others remind us of such high results as 5000 to 7000 litres of milk from each cow, figures which seemed unattainable a few years ago.

All these advanced economies and women workers who distinguish themselves for raising of yields and productivity, are a valuable school of experience which, if followed by the mass of women, will raise their level of qualification and will open a new perspective to the development of the whole of agriculture.

Technical and technological progress require the further raising of the educational and professional level not only of the women workers and cooperativists, but also of those who have graduated from secondary or higher schools.

With the correct educational policy pursued by the Party, the process of the education of women, as that of the entire mass of the working people, has proceeded at very rapid rates. At a time when during the last 10-15 years the population with schooling has increased 46 per cent, the women comrades make up 51 per cent of those who have graduated from schools. The discrepancies in the level of education between men and women have gradually narrowed, and among

those under 25 years of age disproportions have nearly disappeared. In all categories of schools girls and women make up 47 per cent of the number of pupils and students.

Here we mentioned only a few figures, but how significant they are for us! We will not make comparisons with the pre-liberation period because in fact there is nothing to compare, in the time when the women, enslaved from every point of view, were plunged in Mediaeval ignorance and obscurantism. However, we can make comparisons within our epoch, with the years of the first decade when we had to knock on every door asking the girls and women to go to school, and we had to wage a real struggle in many families against conservatism and patriarchalism which, as remnants of an old world, continued to hinder the education of the girls. Whereas today the girls make up 50 per cent of the number of students. These achievements, which speak of a correct understanding of the necessity of education in our socialist society, are a living proof of the continuous care of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha to make the Albanian women a force equal with men in all fields of life.

The opposite occurs in the capitalist-revisionist countries where education and culture are the property of the privileged classes, where millions of working people, most of whom are women, live in obscurity and ignorance, where out of every three illiterate people two are women. Even in the most developed capitalist countries women represent only 10 per cent of the graduates.

The achievements the Albanian women have

made hitherto in raising their educational level are a sound basis to forge further ahead. Our organization has a rich experience on problems of education. Work is being done now for a more correct understanding by all women of the need to learn and to thoroughly master knowledge. The struggle for high quality in the schools remains an important task of our organization for the present and the future. This is directly connected with the realization of the demand of the Party for the raising of the efficiency of the productive, creative and directing work of the women. In collaboration with the other levers of the Party those girls and women who distinguish themselves in schools and universities must be assisted and encouraged so as to hasten the training of ever more women comrades capable and competent for production and all the problems of the country.

In the present conditions, when an entire army of higher and secondary specialists have been engaged in the technical-scientific revolution, the women specialists too, who now are counted by the thousands all over our country, are continuously increasing their interest to master scientific knowledge and apply it wherever material goods are produced. The women innovator specialists of the textile combine at Berat, tripled the productivity of the process of dyeing the thread by using a new technological method. The collective of the brigade of scientific experiments at the Institute of Maize and Rice in Shkodra, where the women make up the majority, advanced the production of maize seeds of high productivity. The role of the women com-

rades of the Designing Institute Number 1 in Tirana, where the women designing engineers make up 70 per cent of the collective, is significant in the construction of many beautiful projects and buildings in Tirana.

Such praiseworthy examples can be found in all sectors of the economy. They speak clearly of the creative force of our marvellous women specialists, testify to the increase of the personality of the emancipated women. However we must admit that in the field of mastering science we still have a great deal to do. It is the duty of the organizations of the Women's Union of Albania, in collaboration with other organs and organisms, to make their contribution to raising still higher the level of the engagement of women specialists in scientific-research work, in the technical-scientific revolution, making them more capable in tackling the problems of the process of planning and the realization of the tasks for the future five-year plan.

Greater attention must be paid to the uninterrupted specialization of women after graduating from the higher schools through organized forms, such as post-university courses of specialization, and the achievement of first and second degrees of qualification. In this field our women specialists have achieved during the last decade a significant success by increasing the number of those who earned scientific degrees eight fold. This is a great step forward in our active participation in the technical-scientific revolution, which must serve as an encouragement for new ever greater successes. The experience of the women comrades of the light industry and edu-

cation who represent 66 per cent and 40 per cent of the participants in the post-university qualification courses, respectively, should be made known and spread. All possibilities exist to proceed at more rapid rates in other sectors, too, especially in the technical and agricultural sciences. For this it is necessary to fight more intensively against the withdrawal of the women in face of some difficulties which study and scientific-research work presents, as well as against the manifestations of lack of confidence which exist among some others. These concepts and difficulties could be overcome easily if we learn how to imbue the women with love and passion for science and study, if we convince them that they have inexhaustible strength invaluable for society in this direction, if we arouse in them the imagination and creative spirit to forge ahead courageously and en masse on the beautiful road of science.

To raise the level of the active participation of the women in every sector of the socio-economic life of the country, to further enhance the spirit of emancipation, the Women's Union has paid attention to the utilization of all the possibilities and conditions the Party and the people's power have created and will create in the future, too, for the women. The continual measures taken in the field of services, health service and trade, permit the women to work more calmly and with higher productivity. The work of the women's organizations in this field has also been effective especially in the districts of Përmet, Fier and Saranda where, in collaboration with the other levers of the Party, they

have solved several problems which hindered the proper functioning of the mother and child institutions and have convinced the mothers of the use of attending these institutions. In the future, too, we must raise the attention of our organization towards the intensification and qualification of the educational work with the women and the families as a whole so as to do away with the disproportion which exists between the increasing amount of measures which society takes to facilitate the work of women and the little care shown by some women and families to use them properly. The overcoming of this disproportion demands better work with the working people of the mother and child institutions to raise the level of services in them.

The women's organization and councils in town and countryside must take up these problems continually and, according to the tradition created, must enliven the social controls in order to raise the level of services not only in the mother and child institutions, but also in other sectors of services, such as in those of the health service, trade, communal services.

Our socialist society, alongside the strengthening of the economy, continually creates conditions to relieve women of some heavy jobs. The activists of our organization, in collaboration with the Trade-Unions organization where they militate must combat the cases of bureaucratic stands, delays and leniency, underestimation and carelessness which are noticed in the work of some directors of production, who do not create, to the proper amount, the necessary and suitable working and living conditions for the working people,

which are provided for in our laws. The women comrades of the countryside should not reconcile themselves to the cases which are noticed in some regions of our country such as in Martanesh and some villages of the districts of Librazhd and Tepelena, where because the means for the transport of products are not secured at the proper time, women are used for that purpose. In face of such negative phenomena our organization must make the women conscious that as the Party teaches us that the masses are those who can solve these problems, that they must not allow bureaucratic stands and actions which are in opposition to all the efforts for the setting up of child institutions especially in the countryside, or those that lower our personality and dignity, which the Party has raised with so much love.

The revolutionary initiative of the cooperativist peasantry to form collective herds of the personal livestock and reduce the cooperativists' private plots has special importance in raising the level of the socialization of work, which helps lighten the burden of the women and increase their participation in the social production of the countryside. It is the task of our organization to continue to work with the cooperativist women so that each of them understands and implements this revolutionary measure as an important step towards strengthening the common socialist property and further improving the way of living in the cooperativist families. We will continue to make our contribution to the implementation and consolidation of this revolutionizing process on the basis of the criteria defined by the Party.

The triumphant ideology of the proletariat

has been and remains for the women of our country an inexhaustible source of strength for struggle and work, which has always inspired and armed them on the road of the revolution. Our organization, with its educational work, has always spoken to the heart and mind of the women with the ardent inspiring language of this immortal theory which Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin created and which has been further developed by our glorious Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. Comrade Enver Hoxha's major works have played an especially important role in the communist education of the women, in the continuous raising of their ideo-political consciousness; with their profound theoretical-scientific analyses, the truthfulness and unquestionable arguments they have strengthened the conviction of the mass of the women in the correctness of the general line followed by the Party in the revolution and the socialist construction of the country. These convictions are the basic factors which have impelled the women, like the entire people, to participate ever more vigorously in the whole life of the country and in the struggle for the emancipation of themselves and the entire society, which give them strength and courage to cope with all difficulties, which make them determined fighters for the cause of the Party.

Educated with the revolutionary spirit, tempered on the anvil of the class struggle, our women in their entire practical activity, especially in important moments of the life of the country have powerfully supported the political line of the Party and have fought to implement it consistently in every step in life, maintaining a

class stand for every problem and further enhancing their militant spirit. In this revolutionary process they close their ranks in steel unity around the Party. The women of Albania will continually strengthen this unity, will guard it like the apple of their eye, because in it they see an ever more happy future, for themselves, for their children and the entire society, they see the invincible strength of the socialist Homeland. In face of this granite-like unity all the efforts, interventions and plots of the internal and external enemies have been foiled, just as the criminal activity of the arch-agent Mehmet Shehu and the other enemies was smashed to smithereens. This will be the fate of every enemy who will try to threaten our happy life, because it is guarded by a united, brave and vigilant people. That is why our socialist bastion is invincible and impregnable.

Our irresistible march has always required uncompromising struggle against imperialism and revisionism, against any alien manifestation and remnant. With the work it has done and continues to do, the Party and the organisations of the masses, under its leadership have overcome many difficulties and obstacles, have combated many conservative and patriarchal concepts and prejudices. The broad mass discussions organized by the Women's Union on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of Comrade Enver Hoxha's historic speech of February the 6th, capitalized on the great qualitative leap which has been realized during this period in the emancipation of the women and the entire society. The former fighters for the new, the 300 sparks from the highlands

who 15 years ago were set ablaze by the word of the Party have multiplied and have become thousands. These courageous fighters set forth many arguments for the abolishment of many backward customs and the affirmation of many new norms in our life, in the family, in work and in society. On the basis of the achievements made until today as well as the concrete conditions, on the basis of studies organized in every district, the Women's Union has intensified its educational work to make the women conscious that the struggle against remnants in the psychology and consciousness of the people, as an aspect of the class struggle is long, difficult and continuous.

In many aspects of life, in the family and social relations, alien manifestations, petty-bourgeois mentalities and psychology crop up. These phenomena, an expression of the pressure which the old world and the present bourgeois-revisionist ideology continue to exert, must be combated firmly and consistently in their two aspects: conservatism and liberalism. The women's organization must always remain on the offensive and must strengthen the conviction in the women that this struggle is waged more effectively if they themselves take part actively in this struggle, when they become barricades to the stands which breach the sacred law of the Party on the equality of women, when they do not comply with conservative, liberal or sectarian manifestations and do not allow the revival of any form of remnants of the past.

Keeping in mind the rising level of the women we must develop and further deepen that

great experience of our organization in differentiated work with each individual which is carried out in the city quarters and the villages on social problems. This is the viewpoint from which we must assess and improve the work for the preparation and use of the magazine «The New Albanian Woman» organ of the Women's Union of Albania, which for 40 years has played an important role in analysing the directives of the Party, especially for the problems of the emancipation of the Albanian women.

Life in our country, at every step, shows that the more socialism is strengthened, the more the democratic rights of the women are deepened along with their direct participation in the political, economic and social life. They have their say with courage and competence more and more on important problems of socialism and they take an active part in solving these problems.

A significant expression of our democracy is the place which women take in the high forums of the Party, the people's power and in the social organizations. Although the constitutions of the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist countries formally give some rights to the women, with each passing day the women experience at their expense all the social evils which are inevitable for an order where the exploiting classes rule, where there is no genuine democracy for the broad masses of the working people. The bourgeois and revisionist ideologists make a great noise about some women, these too from the bourgeois class, who occupy some leading position in parliament, forgetting the millions of others who are scorned, discriminated and who are sub-

mitted to all the consequences of the bourgeois dictatorship.

In our country today women comprise 30 per cent of the party membership and 30.6 per cent of all those elected to its forums, without mentioning here hundreds and thousands of activists who militate in the organizations of the masses. Women play an important role as representatives of the people in the People's Assembly and the people's councils and courts, in every state and social organ and organism. They comprise 30 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly, 40.7 per cent of the members of the people's councils of all levels and 30 per cent of the members of the Supreme Court. The qualitative uplift of these women comrades, the fulfilment of the important tasks which have been assigned to them with devotion and competence are distinctive characteristics of this five-year period.

These significant facts are a source of joy not only for the women, but also for the entire Party and people, who are proud of the colossal achievements of the Albanian women of the epoch of the Party. They show what socialism can do for the people, for the women. These facts constitute an important objective and subjective factor which encourages our organization to further increase the activity of the women in the socio-political life. The organization has about 600.000 members, it has thousands of women comrades with a good, political, ideological and educational preparation, elected to its forums at the base and in the districts, it has a militant force ready to carry out every task which is assigned to it. Our organization must draw these thousands of social activ-

ists into the governing of the country and the solution of different problems, must make them fighters in the forefront of the struggle for the emancipation of the women and society, so that the norms of communist morality, the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha triumph everywhere in our socialist life, at work, in society and in the families.

Relying on this sound basis the women's organization, under the leadership of the Party and in collaboration with the other levers must make its contribution to raising not only the political, ideological, educational and cultural level, but also the culture of working and living in the family and the social environments, must enrich the spiritual world of the women with sound Marxist-Leninist tastes on what is beautiful, progressive and simple in life, art and ethics. Socialism, the conditions created by the Party, the traditions of our people have made the women today a great cultural force which powerfully influences the development and progress of the nation as a whole.

It is a beautiful reality that in socialist Albania today in all genres of art, alongside the signatures of the men writers, artists, sculptors and musicians, many women comrades have made their successful debut. Today women can be found alongside men as instrumentists and art directors, in opera theatres and houses of culture, on the stages of the theatres and the artistic performances, interpreting with talent and revolutionary pathos. Even in the remotest regions in Kalis and Çajë, in Zall-Dardha and Vurg, in Zall-Bastar and Polican, in Rashbull and Derjan,

throughout our entire country, the girls and women give vigour and beauty to the mass movement of amateur arts. This is a new outburst of the art-loving spirit, of the wealth of feeling and talent, of the sincere joy of the women in our socialist reality. Our women, who in the past were cursed by religious bigots and the clergy and banned from the stage, today amaze the foreign spectators with the power of their talent.

Keeping in mind the teaching of Comrade Enver Hoxha at the 8th Congress of the Party that «a genuine socialist country must become more and more outstanding for the high cultural level of its people and their rich spiritual world, sound aesthetic tastes and way of life»¹, our organization fights to increase the demands of the women in all these fields, by securing their greater participation in massive cultural activities and movements, to introduce much more values in our art of socialist realism, to consolidate the achievements and to carry them further forward.

It is a known fact that this activity is mainly carried out in cultural institutions, whereas the women pass most of their spare time at home, where alongside their family duties and work they try to further raise their level. But we must admit that in connection with organizing the spare time for the women there are still problems which hinder their allround cultural development. Life has shown that during the school process this development advances at equal rates, both for girls and boys, whereas later, after marriage a disproportion is noticed. This also comes about

¹ Enver Hoxha, Report to the 8th Congress of the PLA, p. 152 Eng. ed.

because of the tendencies which some women have who, wanting to free their husbands and children from family duties, carry the whole burden of housework themselves. There are also women who, as soon as they graduate from school and are faced with new problems of the newly created family, and with the difficulties of their jobs, do not manage to organize their spare time properly. The organization of the Women's Union must struggle so that the women utilise all the conditions and possibilities created to secure spare time for themselves and use it properly. In collaboration with the other levers of the Party, especially with the organization of the Front and the Youth, they must fight with greater determination to maintain social opinion alive so as to treat these problems in the spirit the Party teaches us.

In our country a radical transformation has been made in the way of life, which reflects both the high cultural-educational level achieved, as well as the raising of the general well-being of the people. However, as the Party stresses, today all possibilities exist to further improve the way of life in the family. It is the duty of the Women's Union to help create a cultured environment for simple, beautiful and practical clothing according to the tastes of Marxist-Leninist aesthetics, for the improvement of the structure of the food. More work must be done with the women to convince them that the way of life should be built in conformity with the income of the family. For these problems we must base ourselves on the fine tradition of our organization, that is on the acquaintance with and the exchange of ex-

perience within the zone, district or between different regions. The activists of the organization and the women comrades of the intelligentsia, especially in the countryside, should set the example in supporting and actively spreading the new, maintaining a principled stand towards every alien manifestation and remnant which hinders progress in the way of life.

From one Congress to the other we have reported important transformations which have been made in our family, which have brought about its further economic, ideological and cultural strengthening. We now speak of a new stage, new quantitative and qualitative changes. While at one time there were a considerable number of households including many couples, the situation has now changed. Today families consisting of only one or two couples comprise 96 per cent of the total. The social class structure of the family has also greatly changed. Now 45 per cent of them are worker families. The family has greater spiritual and moral strength, more unity of thought and action. More sincere relations have been created on the basis of love, respect, equality and understanding. The role of the women, the mothers, the girls is felt more powerfully. A great role in these questions plays the new marriage on the basis of acquaintance and love which is guided by sound motives which have now become predominant in our country. The typical phenomena of the bourgeois-revisionist world of free cohabitation, of marriages for interest, conflicts between the generations, degeneration which leads to the destruction of the family, are not only unacceptable, but inconceiv-

able for our young people. The Albanian family grows full of vitality and has a powerful influence on the road of the progress and development of our entire society.

However, the changes in the social life are not reflected immediately in every family and do not spread uniformly. Therefore, the 8th Congress of the Party instructs the women's organization to pay special attention **to the strengthening of the family and the complexity of family relations.** Our organization has drawn important tasks regarding these problems, proceeding from the concrete situation of the districts, zones or different social groups. In collaboration with the other organizations of the masses, under the leadership of the Party, conservative and liberal concepts which still hinder the sound marriage ties in some places, are combated. Our society cannot agree to hurried marriages which have not been thought out well and which often lead to the dissolution of the marriage, therefore, the sound social opinion must be raised against these phenomena, no matter how small the proportions. The Women's Union must work continuously with the mothers so that their role is increased in preparing their children for the future conjugal life.

Under the ceaseless care of the Party, in socialist Albania a new generation of learned and educated people imbued with the lofty ideals of communism is being brought up. The interests of our family in the education of the younger generation are in conformity with the interests of socialism. Today the family has become an important centre of sound, patriotic, revolutionary class education. The parents, especially our hon-

oured mothers, play an important role in imbuing the children with correct concepts on the socialist life. The Women's Union of Albania must fight in the future, too, to continually enhance the role of the mothers as educators of the younger generation, in conformity with the demands of development. A concrete and differentiated work must be carried out to block the way to sentimental stands of some mothers who always consider their children to be delicate babies and do not prepare them properly for life. Collaboration with the schools and the youth organization should be strengthened for a more qualified educational work with the younger generation, who enter life with a higher educational and cultural level and with broader interests, which are dictated by the work for the construction of socialism and the improvement of the material and spiritual conditions. In the work full of love and responsibility with our children, with the youth, we must keep in mind the valuable teaching of our Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha that we should instil in their hearts the ardent love for the Homeland and patriotism, readiness to respond to the Party at any time when called on as its soldiers, wherever socialist construction needs them. For us mothers, too, it is a great task and joy to raise children who will honour us with their future work.

A distinguishing feature of our country are the rapid rates of the increase of the population. They are over four times as high as those of the other countries of Europe. The average life expectancy has reached 69-70 years, and 37 per cent of the population is under 15 years of age.

It is the great and continuing care of the Party for the people that has led to these achievements. It is the demographic policy of our socialist country which has always aimed at raising a young population, healthy and active, at increasing the birth-rate, lowering the death-rate in general and infant mortality especially. During recent years all over our country a tendency to the lowering of the infant mortality has been noticed. There are districts such as Saranda, Gjirokastra, etc. which have reached figures lower than the average of the Republic. There are also villages such as those of the «Misto Mame» cooperative in Gjirokastra and as Malind in Skrapar, Grava in Saranda, Shikaj in Kukës, etc, where for years on end infant mortality fell to zero! These figures will be more optimistic in the future. The application of the law on the lengthening of the maternity leave, which is another testimony of the care of the Party for the life of the mother and child, very soon gave its results. Whereas during 1978-1980 the number of births was averagely 71.4 per thousand, in 1981 it reached 77.3 per thousand, or nearly 6 more births per thousand. We have the right to be proud of these achievements. The Albanian people, among the most ancient peoples of the world, are at the same time one of the youngest regarding the average age of the population. This is a surprising fact for the world and a very significant comparison with the bourgeois-revisionist countries where the aging of the population has become a seriously disturbing problem.

From the tribune of this Congress allow me, dear comrades, to express from the hearts of the

Albanian mothers the most ardent gratitude to our glorious Party and our beloved leader Comrade Enver Hoxha for everything they have done for the health of mother and child, and promise them that we will raise many healthy, brave and loyal children, devoted fighters for the great cause of the Party, the revolution and socialism.

The emancipation of the women in our country, this magnificent deed of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha which is a rich and original experience of socialist Albania, speaks of what the revolution can do for the women and what the women can do for the revolution when it is guided by the Marxist-Leninist science and implemented in a creative manner in the conditions of a country. Since November 1944, when the flames of the war had still not been extinguished, Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed that «the Albanian women with their inexhaustible forces, with their lofty feelings, will become one of the powerful pillars of new Albania». Today when the women, free, equal and respected, take up a dignified position in society as active participants in all fields of life, all possibilities exist to forge ahead at rapid rates, to successfully solve all the tasks set by the Party to carry the struggle for the emancipation of the Albanian women further forward.

Comrade delegates.

The women of Albania attentively follow the development of international situations, the crisis which has the capitalist and revisionist countries

in its grip, the dangers which threaten humanity as a result of the policy of war of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, the struggle of the proletariat and the peoples for national and social liberation, the struggle of the women for their emancipation and rights. In the foreign policy of our Party and state the women see the principled policy which defends the lofty interests of the Homeland and the revolutionary and freedom-loving peoples of the world. Together with the Party and the entire people, the women of Albania are irreconcilable with and oppose to the end the aggressive course of American imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism, the efforts of the great capitalist powers to establish their neo-colonialist domination everywhere and to exploit the peoples.

On the other hand, educated by the Party, they nurture profound proletarian internationalist feelings. The Albanian women hail the growth and strengthening of the progressive, democratic and revolutionary organizations of the women, they follow with sympathy and hail their struggle for freedom against discrimination and oppression.

We stand by the fraternal Palestinian people who have been evicted from their Homeland by the Israeli zionists. We know the sufferings and sacrifices of this martyred people, therefore we share the sufferings of the mothers who bear and raise their children in refugee camps, far from their Homeland, and express our support for their just heroic struggle. We whole-heartedly support the anti-colonialist struggles of the Azanian and Namibian peoples and women against the hated

racist regimes. We attentively follow the struggle of the brave Afghan people against the Soviet invaders and we greet the women of that freedom-loving and proud people.

We follow with sympathy the mounting of revolt in the European countries against NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, against the transformation of this continent into a nuclear missile base of Washington and Moscow, against the American and Soviet bases and troops in the European countries. We support the struggles and efforts of the peoples and women of Africa, Latin America and Asia to prevent the wealth they produce with their toil going to fatten the bourgeoisie of the imperialist metropolises. The noise raised about how they allegedly help combat hunger and misery in the world is great. However, their plundering and warmongering practice betrays the cynicism and hypocrisy of this «charity». At a time when one billion people in the world are suffering from lack of food and famine, when starving mothers watch their babies die from lack of milk, the American and Soviet bourgeoisie, together with the other imperialist powers, use every day about 2 billion dollars for war preparations. The women of Albania forcefully condemn American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, which are the greatest enemies of mankind, freedom, peace and the sovereignty of the peoples, as well as the entire enslaving practice of world imperialism.

A grave crisis has gripped the countries where oppression and exploitation of man by man reign. The plants and factories are closed down, the millions of unemployed have surpassed any previous record, the prices of prime neces-

sities are raised. In a series of revisionist countries food rationing has been re-established. Taxes take nearly half the wages of the working people. House rents cannot be coped with. The morrow becomes even more insecure. The women are among the first to be thrown into the street. The situation is getting worse, the preoccupation of the women and mothers increases because there are no jobs for the bread winners either, no chance for their sons and daughters to earn a living for themselves and the families they are to create. All these are evils which the bourgeois revisionist order not only cannot do away with, but on the contrary encourages and aggravates, by spreading in these conditions immorality, drug addiction and terrorism, etc.

The problem of the women has become extremely acute today. However, it cannot be solved by the demagogical noise of the bourgeois revisionist states and the women's organizations in those countries. It cannot be solved by national, regional or international conferences to allegedly sanction the equality of women, at a time when inequality and the discrimination of women have been deepened. The Women's International Democratic Federation plays a strike breaker's role with its reformist, structural and pacifist road. This organization which has now betrayed the interests of the mass of women, in all its practice and propaganda implements the revisionist policy of the Soviet Union and introduces into the women's movement its demagogy for «peace, disarmament and detente». However the women everywhere in the world are gaining their awareness. They are more powerfully link-

ing their economic demands with political demands, convinced that the struggle for their liberation and emancipation is indivisible from the struggle for national and social liberation. The women aspire to genuine freedom and security. They want the children they give birth to, raise and educate with so much effort and care, to have a secure future. However the war Washington and Moscow are hastily preparing for the world has further opened the eyes of the women to see that peace and security cannot come from those who prepare for war, but can be gained only when the peoples rise powerfully to their feet, and check the career and say halt to the imperialist and social-imperialist warmongers.

The women of our country and their organization, the Women's Union of Albania, have paid continual attention to the strengthening and extension of ties of friendship with the revolutionary and progressive women's organizations and with many friends and well-wishers from all continents. The participation at our Congress of delegations and representatives from different countries, the messages of greetings sent by the many women's organizations and friends, are an expression of the friendship, respect and prestige which the People's Socialist Republic of Albania enjoys in the world today. They are an encouragement in our struggle for the complete construction of the socialist society.

The Women's Union of Albania and all the women of our country fully support the correct and determined struggle of the Party and state in regard to the problem of Kosova and the events which have occurred there during the past

two years. With profound indignation we condemn the vicious chauvinist acts of the Yugoslav leadership against the Albanian population in Yugoslavia, the denigrating stand and the national oppression, and support the just demand of our brothers and sisters there for raising Kosova to the status of a Republic within the framework of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. The Albanians who live on their territory in Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro must be given the right to communicate freely in their mother tongue and to preserve and further develop their historical, cultural and spiritual traditions. We are proud of the bold stand of the brave sisters of Kosova, Dibra, Tetova, Ulqin etc., in face of the violence of the Great-Serb chauvinists, of their determination to nourish their sons and daughters with the lofty traditions of love for the homeland, the beautiful and pure language of their ancestors, and their centuries-old culture, their unwavering stand in face of all terror and oppression.

Dear comrades,

The turbulent situations of the world today make us consider our tasks deeply, fight and work to bar the way to any danger which may result from this situation. Our socialist society brings up and educates free women, equal with men, and at the same time brave women with an unwavering patriotic spirit, with the feeling of high responsibility, to defend and strengthen socialism in Albania. Precisely because socialism is

everything to them, the women, with all their hearts, words and deeds are active in all the vital fields of life and have placed themselves in the service of the people, the Party and the revolution. This factor is that marvellous, real and optimistic basis on which our organization will, in the future too, base its work with the women of the town and countryside, those of the plains and those at the borders, to arouse in them more and more the flames of revolutionary patriotism, militant readiness, in order to make them live and work with the motto «work and vigilance». Let this revolutionary call sound as a duty of honour for every woman and girl, let it keep us always on our feet, mobilized as a body around the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha in defence of our victories.

We delegates of the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania bring the solemn promise of our mothers, sisters and daughters, that we will always carry forward the struggle for the complete emancipation of the Albanian women, that we will march hand in hand with our men comrades, in harmony of lofty feelings, aims and ideals, in every battle to which socialism and the defence of the Homeland call us, in every battle that the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha call us.

Long live our glorious Party, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head!

Long live our heroic people!

Long live our 9th Congress!

Glory to Marxism-Leninism!

FROM THE MESSAGES OF GREETINGS OF THE FOREIGN DELEGATIONS

Nguyen Thi Nhung, member of the leading body of the Women's Union of Vietnam said among other things:

«First, I would like to sincerely thank you for your invitation for us to take part in this Congress. Allow us, comrade delegates, to convey to you and through you to the people and the brave industrious Albanian women the warmest greetings and the most cordial feelings of solidarity of the Vietnamese women.

«... Your Congress is being convened at a time when the people and women of Albania are working with vigour and enthusiasm to successfully realize the 7th Five-year Plan, endorsed by the 8th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

«We are delighted to see that the people and women of Albania have surmounted many difficulties through untiring and creative work, thus achieving great successes in the construction of socialism. Today Albania has been transformed into a country with a developed economy, with a science and technique which is progressing with each passing day, where the life of people is continually improved and which has a rich peo-

ple's culture. By means of a collectivized and intensified agriculture and a multi-branched industry, Albania has secured the necessary bread grain and the major part of the mass consumer goods locally.

«Alongside the all-round progress of the country the role and position of the Albanian woman has been greatly raised in the family, society and in the governing of the country. These successes have been achieved thanks to the selfless work and struggle of the women and the people of Albania, who under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with the respected Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, have marched with confident steps on the road of the construction of socialism. The women of Vietnam are proud of the all-round successes of the women of Albania and consider them their own. We wish you ever greater victories!

«Our women and people,» said the representative from Vietnam, «were deeply moved by the kind words Comrade Enver Hoxha said on May 5, 1983, where he once again confirmed the solidarity of the Albanian Party, government and fraternal people with the struggle of the Vietnamese people, condemning the military provocations of the Chinese social-imperialists against Vietnam and the hostile policy which they pursue in collaboration with all the arms traffickers, to enslave the peoples. The stern condemnation by Comrade Enver of the criminal band of Pol Pot, and his support for the regeneration of the Cambodian people under the leadership of a people's government are an important contribution to the cause of the just struggle of that people.

«On this occasion we express our sincere thanks to the Party, the government, the people and the women of Albania for the active support and invaluable aid given to our people in all struggles against the aggressors. We wish the people and the women of Albania more brilliant successes in the construction of socialism, thus making their contribution to the common struggle for peace, national independence and socialism.»

Samira Abu Ghazale, chairwoman of the Women's Union of Palestine, said among other things:

«We extend our greetings and deep respect for continuous efforts and fresh victories to the men and women fighters of this friendly country, comrades-in-arms of the same ideals, all those who carry out heroic acts and make sacrifices in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and the enemies of mankind.

«The Palestinian women appreciate these sacrifices because they are subjected to sufferings, to the plots of world imperialism to deny them their rights, their past and future, to deny them a secure and stable life. The Palestinian women support your progress in the construction work and hail your continual victories.

«The road traversed by the Palestinian women during their centuries-long history,» she continued, «is full of great sufferings. These sufferings have further matured them on the road of their liberation.

«Tens, hundreds and thousands of women took part in the revolution in the battlefield, the field of propaganda, culture and the organisms of military training.

«The great number of women fighters, who fell martyrs or were imprisoned in the gaols of Israel speak also of how greatly the Palestinian women have changed. Palestinian society considers mothers as the continuers of the human race.

«During the aggression against Lebanon where the revolution is putting up its greatest resistance, the first aim of the enemies was to smother the desire of the Palestinian people to live. Their aggression was aimed at wiping out the Palestinian race. The half a million missiles which were showered on Beirut from the air, sea and land, on the Palestinian emigrants and resistance, the slaughtering of thousands of children and women at the camps at Sabra, Shatila, Eijn Helua and elsewhere, were aimed at exterminating the Palestinians. However the sons of this people, the men, women and children, foiled these exterminating plans during 88 days, and the desire of the Palestinian people to live triumphed.

«In the occupied Arab territories all possible means are used against the Palestinian women in order to exterminate the Palestinians. This struggle is being carried out in different forms, as was the case with the school girls of the towns and villages who were dosed with drugs that prevent conception. Efforts are also made to force pregnant women to abort.

«The Palestinian fighters continue to bear their arms to liberate their lands themselves, and no matter how long this struggle continues, no matter how much pressure is put on them, the Palestinian people will triumph.

«The Women's Union of Palestine today greet

socialist Albania and its great leader Comrade Enver Hoxha, as well as the militant comrades of the Albanian people. We wish them continuous progress in all fields...»

Kate Kamba, General Secretary of the Women's Union of Tanzania, said among other things in her greeting:

«On behalf of the Women's Organization of Tanzania allow me to thank you for the invitation you sent to our organization. This speaks of the fraternal ties which exist between our two countries.

«Your numerous efforts to make sure we arrive in time to take part at the 9th Congress and the warm reception accorded to us, have won our high esteem.

«The warm reception in Albania is really marvellous.

«The problem of the development and emancipation of women is universal,» she stressed. «Within a short period of time Albania has achieved many successes with its clear Marxist-Leninist ideology and under the magnificent guidance of Comrade Enver Hoxha. The programs of the Party have freed the women in many directions, from the lightening of the work conditions to the introduction of mechanization and electrification in the countryside. Above all, the Albanian women have been transformed through educational and political work. Naturally, if you

liberate and educate the women, you educate the entire society.

«Such congresses help the majority of us to learn from you, from your successes. As a nation Tanzania has a great deal to learn from your successes and, above all, from the work for the emancipation of women. That is why I am happy to have been given the chance to learn from you.

«I congratulate the Albanian women on their achievements and I wish success to the 9th Congress and the decisions it will take.

«Long live the Marxist-Leninist ideology.

«Long live the correct leadership of the PLA, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.»

Toure Kani Sangare, Secretary of the National Council of the Women's Union of Mali, said:

«Allow me on behalf of the National Women's Union of Mali to extend the most sincere thanks to the Women's Union of Albania, the Party of Labour of Albania and the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for the invitation to our organization to take part in the proceedings of the 9th Congress of the women of Albania.

«At the same time, I express my gratitude to our Albanian sisters for the very warm and sisterly reception and for the special care which they are paying to us since our arrival in your beautiful country.

«The National Women's Union of Mali sends its militant greetings to the glorious Party of Albania and its great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

«Our participation in the proceedings of your Congress is a concrete manifestation of the friendly and fraternal feelings, the fruitful collaboration which exists between our two organizations and peoples. The women of Mali wish these ties of collaboration are further strengthened.

«The National Women's Union of Mali is the only organization of all the women of Mali with-

out distinction of race or religion. The National Women's Union of Mali struggles ceaselessly for the emancipation of the women of Mali, and works to prepare them to play their role as a dynamic factor of development.»

Safou Safouesse, head of the women's delegation of Congo, said among other things:

«The convening of the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania is for us, the delegation of the Revolutionary Women's Union of Congo, which I have the honour to represent, a very favourable occasion to convey to you the warm and friendly greetings of all the women of Congo...

«The Revolutionary Women's Union of Congo, considering this important international meeting, the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania, calls on all the women of the world to act more resolutely for the mobilization of all the progressive and anti-imperialist forces of the world. Let us further strengthen our solidarity in favour of the struggle for national independence against colonialism and neo-colonialism, racism, zionism and apartheid, fascist military dictatorship and against the imperialist interference in the internal affairs of other countries...

«Ending my contribution I thank the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Albanian Government, the Women's Union of Albania for the splendid organization of the proceedings of this Congress. I express my great

esteem for the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha, for the ceaseless attention he pays to the problem of the women.»

Getrude Mutase, representative of the women of Zimbabwe, said among other things:

«Greetings and congratulations to the 9th Congress of the WUA! I convey to you cordial greetings from our country, Zimbabwe, from all the women of Zimbabwe.

«We were greatly impressed,» she pointed out, «by the good organization, the sound collaboration between men, women and children, as well as by the presence of your beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha and the other leaders of the Party and state. This shows your leaders' genuine concern about the problems of the women.

«This shows wisdom, comrades, for a nation cannot develop if the women of that nation are not developed.

«Women must be given priority in all forms of development. They are the mothers of the future leaders, the future mothers, the future husbands and fathers. They are the roots of every nation.

«It is said that if the women are educated, the nation is educated, too. Therefore, it is not surprising that thanks to the attention of your great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, and the Gov-

ernment for the women of Albania your country has achieved so many successes.

«It is not accidental that today Zimbabwe is represented here in Albania. Our countries have a common history of struggle against foreign oppression and yoke, because here in Albania you have experienced the pains of foreign bondage, hence you understand our problems. You came to our aid at the most crucial moments in our struggle against colonialism. We won our independence in April 1980 and you hailed us for this success...»

Concluding she said: «We thank you for giving us the opportunity to see genuine socialism with our own eyes. We can see that socialism has given its results in Albania.»

Maphieri Masekela, representative of the Women's Section at the Pan-African Congress of Azania, said among other things:

«On behalf of the Pan-African Congress of Azania, the vanguard movement of the oppressed but militant people of Azania, I greet the Party of Labour of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, a Party which continues to correctly lead the working masses of Albania, the successes of which stand out clearly in every field of life in a world where man is exploited by man. I greet the people of Albania who have always stood on the side of our movement...»

«I greet the Women's Union of Albania which through its solidarity has shown that it supports us in the struggle against colonialism in our country — Azania — and we shall always rely on your support...»

«We express our conviction that the relations between us will continue and, thus, cement the good ties which exist between our organizations. This Congress enables us to learn from each other.»

«The decisions of the 8th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania serve,» she stressed, «as an important compass for Albania...»

«In June 1982 the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania surprised the world when it proclaimed the price reduction for various articles. And this happens at a time when in the capitalist world the prices are going up...»

«We have much to learn from those who have experience, such as the Albanian people, and we have a great deal to gain from the ideological and political clarity of Comrade Enver Hoxha and the Party of Labour of Albania...»

Further on she continued: «The Pan-African Congress of Azania has always been of the opinion that the struggle of the oppressed majority of Azania for national sovereignty and self-determination should be waged by men and women. It is for this reason that the broad participation of the Azanian women at all levels is actively encouraged.

«The colonialist armies aided by the imperialists grabbed the land off the African people by force.

«Our ancestors put up a great resistance to the plunderers for they clearly understood that the loss of the land, which is the main means of production, means the loss of independence, because the land represents the economic, social and political well-being of the country. However, the long history of colonialism and white invasion of our country has not deprived the Azanian people of the right to their land. The Azanian people are waging an anti-colonialist struggle...»

«The only road for the Pan-African Congress

of Azania is the seizure of the political power through armed struggle.

«The Azanian people who have been robbed of their land are those who have every right to change the socio-political and economic system in Azania and to build a socialist Azania...»

Maria de Soccoro, representative of the Women's Union of Sao Paolo (Brasil), said among other things:

«I convey the greetings, support and solidarity of the women of Brazil to the Congress of the Women's Union of Albania. The women of Brazil greatly admire the struggle of the Albanian women, both for the liberation of the country from the nazi-fascist occupiers and for the socialist construction, for their active participation on every front of revolutionary activity...

«In Brazil the women, especially the peasants and the workers, lead a difficult life. Apart from the other problems they face, like the men, they are subjected to double oppression and exploitation. They are unjustly considered beings inferior to men. Women do not have the right to give their opinion, they also endure 'house enslavement'. When the day ends their work is not appreciated. Apart from the difficulties of life the Brazilian woman is always paid less, she is the last to be taken on a job and the first to be sacked...»

Ending she said: «As a worker, I especially direct my words to the women workers of Albania, who, alongside the men, led by the Party

of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, to whom we express our great respect, are at the vanguard of the Albanian people, building a life with cultured work, social justice, a life of prosperity for all, women and men.»

Lene Larsen, member of the Secretariat of the Central Council of the Women's Front of Denmark, said among other things:

«I convey to you on behalf of the women of Denmark, on behalf of the members, activists and the General Council of the Women's Front of Denmark, our militant and revolutionary greetings and our best wishes of successful proceedings to this Congress. . .

«Under the leadership of the Party of Labour, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, organized in your organization — the Women's Union of Albania, the Albanian women have always marched forward from one victory to the other. shoulder to shoulder with the men, the workers and peasants, in the glorious struggle for national liberation, complete independence and the construction of socialism. At a time when the entire capitalist-revisionist world has been caught in the clutches of an all-round crisis which has aggravated the conditions of women workers, the families and children, socialist Albania marches confidently ahead. . .»

Further on she said: «The victories achieved in your National Liberation War through which the proletariat and the people took over the state

power, the continual progress in the construction of socialism, make the oppression and exploitation of the Albanian women something of the past. They have gained equality and emancipation, because these rights are not formal, but supported by the socialist state, the economic system. That is why we admire the heroic Albanian women who undertake great tasks alongside the men. We wish you from the bottom of our hearts every success in the carrying out of the important tasks set by the 8th Congress of the PLA and this Women's Congress. . .»

Concluding she said: «Every success you achieve is also a victory for us.»

Lucila Arago, chairwoman of the organization of the Union of the Democratic Women of Spain, said among other things:

«First accept the ardent and fraternal greetings from the organization of the Democratic Women led by the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist), from the revolutionary women who are fighting in our country against fascism, against imperialist domination and the threat of war, against the oppression and exploitation to which we the women workers are subjected by the present monarchic regime, a continuer of Francoism. Greetings Albanian Comrades! We hail your heroic struggle, your colossal efforts for the construction of socialism! It is a great pleasure for us to be present at this 9th Congress of the WUA to see for ourselves all your progress on the road of the emancipation of the Albanian women, in the framework of the socialist construction. . .

«In Spain the people and the working class suffer at this moment all the consequences of the crisis which the capitalist system is going through. In these conditions the working women have been the first to experience the burden of

the crisis, being the victims of lay-offs and condemned to unemployment.

«We are sure,» she concluded, «that the achievements which are being reported to your 9th Congress will be further increased with the putting into practice of the decisions which you are discussing now. The Albanian women proceed confidently on the road of their complete emancipation. This will be achieved through your determined struggle together with the entire Albanian people, for the construction of socialist Albania, regardless of the imperialist and revisionist encirclement, thanks to the determined and correct leadership of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha.»

Manuela Tovaes, head of the delegation of the Union of the Revolutionary Anti-fascist Women of Portugal, said among other things:

«... The example of the Albanian women, of your struggle for socialism as an integral part of the struggle of the heroic Albanian people, under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, is inspiring.

«Participation in your Congress, learning from your rich experience, is something which encourages us to continue our struggle, to overcome the difficulties and to take confident steps on the difficult road which the Portuguese women have to traverse to achieve a new society, genuine proletarian socialism, such as this which you are building where the emancipation of the women is a reality.

«In our country the situation of the women, especially the wage labourers and peasants, is deteriorating with each passing day. The efforts of the bourgeoisie to shift the burden of the capitalist crisis onto the backs of the working people are assuming a special form, especially in regard to the women. We are the first to be

sacked and we sign terminal labour contracts, whereas when we are pregnant the bosses refuse to renew the contracts and we are left unemployed...»

Ending she said, «We are sure that your 9th Congress will be a success and an important basis for the strengthening of socialism and the complete emancipation of the Albanian women.»

Marie Louise, member of the Central Council of the Union of the Democratic Women of Canada, said among other things:

«...From the tribune of this Congress we convey the greetings of the revolutionary militant Canadian women and girls to the heroic Albanian people for their magnificent realizations in the construction of socialism under the leadership of the glorious Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, relying on their own forces, and for your struggle full of sacrifices.

«You come to your 9th Congress proud of the magnificent victories achieved on all fronts of the struggle to make your beautiful socialist Homeland flourish and to defend it against any imperialist and revisionist enemy...

«Since our arrival in your beautiful country of the eagles we have met emancipated women everywhere, courageous builders of socialism, defenders of the Homeland, and at the same time careful mothers, educators of the new generation, the beautiful flowers of socialism. All these great realizations for the complete emancipation of the women and the entire society in Albania have been secured thanks to the leadership of the Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the

head. We are sure that you will achieve new victories in your struggle and that your Congress will further strengthen the role of your militant organization, the WUA, as a powerful lever of the Party, for the complete emancipation of the women and the entire society in socialist Albania.

«In Canada the bourgeoisie speaks of equality of women with men and their emancipation. However everyday life shows the opposite. With the deepening of the all-round crisis, which has the economic crisis at its base, with the increasing threat of fascism and imperialist war, the exploitation of the working women increases, the oppression of the family, desertion of children, the degeneration of the younger generation, etc., increase. The women make up more than 40 per cent of the work force in Canada. They bear the greatest part of the burden of the present economic crisis, being the first to be laid off. They are a colossal social force and a reserve of the proletariat. This year alone thousands upon thousands of working women took part in the strikes for wage increases...»

Linda James, General Secretary of the General Council of the Women's Union of Britain, said among other things:

«...The history of the Albanian women is glorious and heroic. The women of Albania have always been on the forefront of the struggle of their people, they have played a militant role and many of them have laid down their lives in the struggle for the liberation of the country. Today this glorious history is being continued and the women are in the front ranks of the socialist construction.

«Great changes have been made in the life of the Albanian women. Now they live in a society entirely freed from oppression and exploitation, without social ills, they are not under attack, therefore they live in a society without the evils of capitalism. What has been achieved for the women of Albania, as well as for the entire people during the 39 years since liberation shows the superiority of the socialist system...»

Further on she continued: «In Britain the general crisis of capitalism is being further deepened. In order to keep its profits and system intact the bourgeoisie has undertaken an offensive against the working class and the women, be-

cause it has no other solution for the crisis apart from making the people pay for it, and heading towards war and fascism.

«However, the oppressed working women are becoming ever more conscious, they are preparing and participating in democratic and revolutionary struggles and are showing that they are a powerful social force and a very important reserve of the proletariat...»

Cornelia Stockmann, head of the delegation of the Women of the Communist Party of Germany (Marxist-Leninist), said among other things:

«I convey to you, the delegates to this Congress and to all the women of Albania heart-felt greetings from the Communist Party of Germany and the women members of the Communist Party of Germany. We are glad to have been given the opportunity to take part at this Congress, to rejoice together with you on the great successes in the struggle for the emancipation of the Albanian women and to profit from the successes you have achieved in this struggle.

«We were especially impressed by the fact that your Congress is an important event not only for the women of Albania, but for the entire Albanian people. This would be inconceivable in the Federal Republic of Germany. In our country the problems of the women are interminably put off. The problems of the women are not treated as social problems which must be solved by society, but as private, personal problems of the women which they themselves should solve. In the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the opposite occurs. The struggle for equal rights, to free the women, has been treated from the start

by the PLA with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, as a struggle of the entire working class. Today we may say: the emancipation of the Albanian women is one of the greatest victories of the socialist revolution in Albania, it is one of the greatest victories of the Marxist-Leninist policy of the PLA...»

now when they don't need their labour as they used to. Public child-care is getting very expensive and very difficult to get at. The cuts in social welfare make a heavy burden for the women, cause increasing unemployment, since many women work in this sector...»

Christine Hagner, head of the delegation of the Women's section of the Communist Party of Sweden, said among other things:

«On behalf of my Party, the Communist Party of Sweden, and on behalf of all revolutionary and progressive women of Sweden, I have the great honour to bring the warmest revolutionary greetings to the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania and to the whole Albanian people.

«... To the Swedish women who live in the conditions of capitalist exploitation and oppression, the development and the emancipation of the Albanian women since Liberation, constitutes a brilliant example. It confirms the truth that the emancipation of women can be possible only within the framework of a socialist society...

«In Sweden the working women have conducted a long struggle for their rights...

«The capitalist crisis in Sweden put new burdens on the working class and this has affected the women most of all. Unemployment among the women is going up, although the capitalists try everything to hide this fact. They try to drive the women back to the kitchens,

Magali Rama Campi, head of the delegation of the Marxist-Leninist women of Equador, said among other things:

«Having the honour to represent the Communist Women (Marxist-Leninist) of Equador, I convey fraternal and revolutionary greetings from all the women communists of Equador.

«...In Equador imperialism is trying to shift the consequences of the crisis onto the working people and the entire population in general. Their local lackeys, the bourgeois parties, the reactionary Christian-Democratic government, the capitalists, the landowners, the big merchants and bankers act in the same manner.

«In face of this situation our Party has carried out and continues to carry out a broad struggle through its mass organizations. There has been no important struggle at which the Party has not been at the head as a leading force, raising the level of these struggles, denouncing in the heat of the war the revisionists, the trade-union bureaucrats and the other traitor opportunists. Throughout the entire country, we Marxist-Leninists are at the forefront of the people's struggle...»

Nilda Candiotti, head of the delegation of the Women's Popular Front of Peru, said among other things:

«Dear Comrades,

«On the occasion of the successful holding of your 9th Congress, allow me on behalf of the Women's Popular Front of Peru to convey to you with boundless revolutionary joy, the fraternal greetings of the women and the working masses of Peru.

«...The Women's Union of Albania represents and follows the glorious militant traditions of the Albanian women, is led by the wise and correct teachings of the PLA, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

«The heroic struggle of the Albanian women during history, to win their freedom and especially during the glorious struggle for the seizure of the state power and the construction of triumphant socialism, has proved the great principle of Lenin that without the participation of the women freedom cannot be won...»

«The Women's Popular Front of Peru,» she pointed out, «in the ranks of which daughters of the working people militate is conscious of its

historic mission, and led by the doctrine of the proletariat and its party, fights with determination against oppression and all-round exploitation exerted on the women, because enslavement within the house, oppression in the family and the backward customs and traditions are added to the imperialist, capitalist and feudal exploitation...

«Finally I express my ardent desire that the 9th Congress of the Women's Union of Albania, following the historic decisions of the 8th Congress of the PLA, will lead you triumphantly on the glorious road it has chosen.»

Annick Leroux, head of the delegation of the Revolutionary Women of France, said among other things:

«It is a great joy for us to be here today among you and to convey the fraternal greetings of the revolutionary women of France to the Women's Union of Albania and through it to all the Albanian women, the Party of Labour of Albania which leads your struggle, the entire Albanian people.

«...We are conscious that the struggle for the emancipation of the women cannot be carried out without the emancipation of the entire society. The struggle you wage for the organization and mobilization of the women in the construction of socialism in Albania is an example for us. The successes you achieve on this road strengthen our confidence and conviction that only through the total destruction of the capitalist and revisionist system can we achieve real emancipation, democracy, peace, social progress to which we aspire...»

Ending she said, «Under the leadership of the Workers' Communist Party of France we work to organize the revolutionary women of the country, conscious that in this manner we make our contribution to the emancipation of the women...»

Areti Viso, representative of the compatriots who live in the USA, said among other things:

«...I bring you the greetings and wishes from the 'Albanian Women' Association of Boston and 'Albanian Women' Association of Worcester and the 'Përparimi' Association of the Albanian women of New York who work with a revolutionary spirit for the benefit of socialist Albania led by Comrade Enver Hoxha.

«We left our motherland and our parents at a young age. Why? For our daily bread. But how could we be happy when our hearts and souls were in our motherland? We emigrants know what a difficult life away from one's homeland means. Born and brought up with patriotic feelings, we have made our contribution to the homeland, we have worked, organized and have raised our voice, we have shed tears when Albania has been threatened. However, we feel a great joy when we hear that Albania is progressing under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

«We rejoice that the women in our mother Albania have equal rights with men and take part in the social and political life. Today we see the women at a new organized level...»

CLOSING SPEECH DELIVERED BY COMRADE LUMTURI REXHA

Dear Comrades,

We thank you for the confidence you showed in us by electing us to this high forum of our organization. I assure you on behalf of the General Council which was elected, that we shall mobilize all our forces to apply the directives of the 8th Congress of the Party and carry out the tasks our Congress set us.

The participation of our beloved leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, and the other comrades of the Party and the state in this assembly of the Albanian women gave it more enthusiasm and magnificence.

We cannot express in words the great love of our women, the Albanian mothers and daughters for the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha who have the merit for all our victories, our happy life, the happy life of our children, therefore let the voice of the Albanian women once again be heard in this hall saying: Party-Enver we are always ready!

The high assessment made of the Women's Union of Albania in the message of greetings of

the Central Committee of the Party multiplies our forces, further encourages us and mobilizes us for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland. We shall show ever better that we are loyal daughters of the Party who will spare nothing for socialism, for mother Albania.

Our Congress was honoured by the participation of representatives of revolutionary and progressive women's organizations from many countries of the world, friends and well-wishers of Albania. The Congress received messages of greetings from women's organizations and friends from all continents. We thank them for the warm and friendly greetings and we promise them that the women of socialist Albania will always be in solidarity with the progressive women of the world.

On behalf of the delegates of the Congress we thank the party organization and the state organs and the entire population of the Durrës district for the excellent conditions they created for the proceedings of the Congress. The festive atmosphere, the joy and happiness which engulfed the ancient and new city of Durrës will remain unforgettable for all of us.

Our Congress is ending its proceedings with complete success. Once again we assure the Party that we will fight even more for the indomitable cause of the revolution, socialism and communism and will be irreconcilable with any external or internal enemy. Our motto is: Work, vigilance, forever loyal to the Party.

Comrades, we must take part with optimism and new vigour, in the great work awaiting us

for the realization of the tasks of 1983 and the entire 7th Five-year Plan. As always, we shall march in full force on the road to which the glorious Party of Labour with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head lead us.

Long live the Party of Labour of Albania, its Central Committee with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head!

Long live the heroic women of socialist Albania and their organization of the Women's Union of Albania!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Glory to Marxism-Leninism!



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