

SEPTEMBER 1985

ALBANIA REPORT

EDITED BY ALBANIAN AFFAIRS STUDY GROUP

FREE DISTRIBUTION

BULLETIN NO. 63

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOMED

ENVER HOXHA HIS WORK WILL LIVE FOREVER

On April 11, 1985, the leadership of the Government and the Party of Labour of Albania announced with deep sorrow that Enver Hoxha, the beloved leader of the Albanian people, had passed away.

A period of national mourning of eight days was proclaimed, from April 11 to the 18th. Everywhere, the flag was lowered to half mast. All theatre, cinema, concerts and other cultural and sports events were suspended.

At 9:00 a.m. the following day, April 12, the coffin with the body of Enver Hoxha was placed in the Hall of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, where Nexhmije Hoxha, Enver's wife and life-long collaborator, together with the other members of their family, stood guard and paid homage near the coffin. Then all the leading members of the Party and Government took their turn in standing guard of honor, paying their respects, saluting with raised fists, and expressing their condolences to Nexhmije Hoxha and the rest of the family.

Meanwhile, thousands upon thousands of people had gathered since early morning, filling the Scanderbeg Square and the boulevards around it, forming endless lines to pass by the coffin of their great leader, with tears in their eyes, and with a raised fist salute.

A Medical bulletin was issued stating that Enver Hoxha had suffered a cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation.

PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Shortly after the death of their leader, the members of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour held a special meeting (the 11th Plenum) in Tirana, on April 13th, to honor the memory and immortal achievements of Enver Hoxha. After observing two minutes of silence, they took up two points:

First, in order to perpetuate the name



ENVER HOXHA
Born October 16, 1908

and deeds of Enver Hoxha, the Central Committee decided:

1) To erect a Memorial to Enver Hoxha in the capital city of Tirana, another in his birthplace Gjirokastra, and another in the city of Korca.

2) To change the name of the University of Tirana to "The Enver Hoxha University of Tirana".

3) To change the name of the Young Pioneers organization to be "The Pioneers of Enver".

4) The seaport of Durres would henceforth bear the name "The Enver Hoxha Seaport of Durres".

5) The agricultural enterprise with its center in Plasa of the Korca District will henceforth bear the name of "The Enver Hoxha Agricultural Enterprise."

The second point on the agenda was the election of a new First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, to fill the post left vacant by the departure of Enver Hoxha. On behalf of the Political Bureau of the PLA, Adil Carcani proposed the name of Ramiz Alia for the post, characterizing him as a man who worked and fought with lofty loyalty as a disciple and close co-fighter of Enver Hoxha. This proposal was passed unanimously by the Central Committee.

Then all the members of the Central Committee proceeded to the Hall of the Presidium of the People's Assembly to stand guard of honor and to pay homage to the founder of their Party, the man who was the architect of the construction of the new socialist Albania. As they stood around the coffin of their fallen leader in silent veneration, Ramiz Alia addressed them as follows:

"Comrades, we always used to report to comrade Enver on every task we carried out. Today we have come here, and I want the whole Plenum of the Central Committee to say to comrade Enver, to take the oath before him, that all of us, members of the Central Committee, all our Party, all our people, will follow the road of Enver, will march according to his teachings. Let's take the oath that we will carry further the great deed created by Enver Hoxha. Therefore, let us all say together, We Swear!"

All the members of the Plenum responded unanimously, "We Swear!" Then all the Party and State leaders present bowed with profound respect to the coffin of Enver Hoxha, and saluted him with raised fist. At this point the proceedings of the 11th Plenum were concluded.

KOSOVA WAS IN HIS HEART

On April 14, before noon, Ramiz Alia, together with other members of the Political Bureau of the PLA, as well as Nexhmije Hoxha, came again to the Hall where the coffin lay in state. Ramiz Alia pinned a new medal on the chest of their fallen leader, with these words: "Comrade Enver, you founded the Party, made it strong, and the Party will live forever, having you in mind and heart. Today we have come here to award to you the Commemorative Medal of the 40th Anniversary of the Party. Carry it with you. Just as the Party will live having you in mind and heart, may the Party be always with you."

Then Nexhmije Hoxha approached the

coffin, and with deep emotion pinned a National Flag on the chest of her beloved companion of life, struggle and work, saying these words: "Enver, I am placing this flag over your heart on behalf of the people of Kosova, because just as you had them in your heart, all the people of Kosova, and the other Albanians, have you in their hearts too. I have received hundreds of telegrams from them, therefore I believe I am fulfilling a desire of theirs. Carry it with you too."

Later, Nexhmije Hoxha placed on the coffin a wreath of red flowers bearing the inscription: "Seven Red Flowers--Farewell for our Beloved and Unforgettable Grandfather." It was signed with the names of Enver's seven grandchildren: Valbona, Ermali, Dritani, Shpati, Shkelzeni, Blerina, and Besmiri.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE

Thousands of messages poured into Tirana from all parts of the country, with the workers, farmers, intellectuals, and military men pledging to turn their grief into strength. Also messages came from all parts of the world, from Albanians, friends, governments, officials, leaders of parties and movements. Many came from the people of Kosova and the Arbereshi of Italy.

In all the cities where there are Embassies and Consulates, hundreds of people came to pay their respects. At the U.N. General Assembly, the Chairman, Paul Lusaka, announced the death of Enver Hoxha, and expressed sincere condolences on behalf of the General Assembly. A number of delegates of various countries went over to the Albanian delegation to pay their respects. Then the head of the delegation of the PSRA, Justin Papajorgji, took the floor. He spoke of the historic significance of Enver Hoxha's work and thanked the Chairman and other delegates that had expressed their condolences. A message was also sent to Tirana by the Secretary General of the U.N.

Official national days of mourning were declared by the Governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Burkina Faso, for April 15 and 16. A number of countries expressed their wish to send official delegations to attend the funeral, but the funeral commission, while thanking them for their sentiments, declared that the presence of foreign state delegations on such occasions is not in accord with Albanian custom.

THE FUNERAL CEREMONY

At 9:00 a.m. on April 15, the leading members of the Party and State again entered

the hall together with Enver Hoxha's children and other family members and relatives. At 10:00 a.m. the leadership carried the coffin on their shoulders out of the hall, and placed it on a gun carriage. It was covered with the national flag. As the band played funeral marches, the procession moved slowly down the Boulevard "Deshmoret e kombit" to Scanderbeg Square, where a platform was erected in front of the Scanderbeg monument.

The square was filled with thousands of workers, farmers, school children, Pioneers, veterans of the class struggle and the National Liberation War, and the mothers with black handkerchiefs on their heads who had sent their sons and daughters to the mountains to fight as partisans. Also on the rostrum were representatives from all the districts of the country. The square was filled with banners carrying revolutionary slogans, such as "Glory to the brilliant and immortal deed of comrade Enver Hoxha!"-- "Let us make Albania as comrade Enver wanted it!"-- "Let us close our ranks more and more around the PLA and its Central Committee!"-- "Let us strengthen our steel-like unity!"-- "Party, Enver, we are always ready!", etc.

FUNERAL ORATION BY RAMIZ ALIA

The leading members of the Party and Government, as well as Nexhmije Hoxha and the other members of his family, mounted the tribune, and Ramiz Alia, the First Secretary of the Central Committee, delivered a short and moving funeral oration*. He spoke about the life and activities of Enver Hoxha, calling him the greatest man that the Albanian soil had ever given birth to, hailing him as the founder of the new Albania. People in the crowd cried in silence.

After the speech, the procession headed for the Cemetery of the Martyrs of the Nation. The Pioneers of Enver started the chant, "Party, Enver, we are always ready!" and a thunderous response came from the people in the square: "Party, Enver, we are always ready!"

The procession moved slowly through the streets which were lined with crowds of grieving people. The Party and State leaders walked on foot. At the cemetery, they carried the coffin on their shoulders to its last resting place, and the coffin was placed in the grave, alongside the other

* The entire speech is available in pamphlet form, entitled "Enver Hoxha And His Work Live, And Will Live Forever." (\$.95 post-paid.)

heroes and martyrs of the Liberation struggle.

"There is no death for Enver Hoxha, but only birthdays, 1908 only," said Ramiz Alia with tears in his eyes to Nexhmije Hoxha. "People like him do not die!"

"Long live the Party!" replied Nexhmije Hoxha."

"Comrade Enver will live eternally with the Party, with the people," answered Ramiz Alia.

At this time, as pre-arranged by the Party and State leadership, all work stopped for five minutes in every corner of socialist Albania. The sirens of factories, trains and ships sounded, and all the people in the country stood at attention in silent respect for their beloved fallen leader. A 21 gun salute sounded in the capital city, 5 gun salutes were sounded in the cities of Gjirokastra, Vlora, Kruja, Korca, Peshkopia, Shkodra, Kukes, Berat, Durres, and Elbasan.

Then Ramiz Alia and Nexhmije Hoxha placed a shovel of soil from Tirana upon the coffin, one from Enver's place of birth, Gjirokastra, and one from Korca where he began his organized communist activities. The grave was covered with red marble slabs, inscribed in golden letters--ENVER HOXHA, 1908. Ramiz Alia spoke once again: "Rest peacefully comrade Enver, because the people and the Party, always with you in mind and heart, will march on the road you have defined. And Albania will flourish, Albania will prosper just as you wanted it. Farewell, Comrade Enver."

Then innumerable wreaths of flowers were placed around the grave, in the first place by the Central Committee of the Party, inscribed "To the founder of the Party and leader of the people, our beloved comrade Enver Hoxha." Then another by Nexhmije Hoxha, inscribed "To my companion in life and war-- Nexhmije." After the ceremony was finished, the military guard of honor marched off briskly to the sound of a military march.

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF ENVER HOXHA

Enver Hoxha was born on October 16, 1908 in the southern town of Gjirokastra. After receiving primary schooling in his native town, he attended the French High School in Korca, where he became involved in the revolutionary movement.

At the age of 16, he organized and led his schoolmates in the first protest demonstration ever held in Korca, which resulted in his arrest and some time spent in jail.

In 1930, he graduated from the French High School in Korca with a brilliant

record, which earned him a university scholarship funded by the Albanian Government. In 1931, at the age of 23, he enrolled in Engineering School at the University of Montpellier in France.

While a student at the university, Hoxha joined the Communist Party of France, but in 1934 the Albanian authorities found out about his political activities and suspended his scholarship. Therefore he had to move to Paris to find work, where he landed a job on "L'Humanite", the newspaper of the French Communist Party. There he wrote articles denouncing the oppressive regime of King Zog.

While working in Paris, he made contact with many Albanian emigres, including progressives and left-wing individuals. He also enrolled in the second year courses of the Law School. While continuing his studies, he got a job as secretary to the Albanian Consul in Brussels. In 1936, because of his continuing revolutionary activities, the Tirana authorities had him dismissed from his job at the Brussels Consulate, and he returned to Albania. In 1937 he became a teacher in the French high school in Korca, and he also became an active member of the local communist group.

When the Italian fascists occupied Albania in 1939, he was dismissed as a teacher by the puppet government in Tirana. The following year he was sent to Tirana by the Korca Communist group to build up a Communist group in the capital. In October 1941, he led a great anti-fascist demonstration in Tirana, and was condemned to death *in absentia*. Naturally, under the conditions of the times, he had to work "in the underground."

FOUNDED ALBANIAN PARTY -- 1941

In November of 1941, he was instrumental in bringing together representatives of the various disparate communist groups in Albania, and at a conference in Tirana, under conditions of complete illegality, they founded the Communist Party of Albania, with a provisional Central Committee of seven, of which Enver Hoxha was the head.

The Communist Party proceeded to organize a national liberation struggle against the Italian occupation forces and the Germans who succeeded them later. An important role in this struggle was played by the Party's newspaper "Zeri i popullit" (The People's Voice) of which Enver Hoxha was editor and principal contributor.

In July 1943, the guerrilla detachments were transformed into a regular National

Liberation Army, with Hoxha elected to the post of Political Commissar of the General Staff, and later became its Commander-in-Chief, with the rank of Colonel-General.

In May 1944, at the Congress of Permet, made up of representatives of the People's Councils of all the districts of Albania, Hoxha was elected President of the Anti-Fascist Committee of National Liberation. Later, in October, at the second Conference of the Anti-Fascist Council in Berat, he was elected head of the new Democratic Government.

On November 28, 1944, Hoxha entered Tirana, with some units of the Liberation Army, and proclaimed the program of the new People's Government. The following day, November 29th, the last units of the German Nazis were driven out of Shkodra province over the border, and the whole country was liberated. Thenceforth, November 29th became the National Day of the Liberation of Albania.

AT PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE -- 1946

As president of the country, and first Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Hoxha attended the Paris Peace Conference in 1946, making a strong appeal for international recognition of the new Albania by the allied powers.

In July 1947, he headed a delegation to the Soviet Union, where successful talks were held with the Soviet leadership, including extensive talks with Joseph Stalin. Then later in that year, he also visited Bulgaria, where he had long, friendly talks with Georgi Dimitrov.

In 1948, he was elected to the Political Bureau of the Party and later that year he was promoted to the rank of General of the Army. That same year he attended the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies, which was held in Warsaw. Then later that year he again led an Albanian delegation to Moscow for further talks with Stalin.

One of the highlights of Enver Hoxha's career was the speech he delivered in Moscow on November 16, 1960, at the Meeting of the 81 Communist and Workers' Parties, in which he delivered a blistering denunciation of the revisionism and betrayal of Khrushchev and his associates.

At the time of his death, on April 11, 1985, he was First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, Chairman of the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the PSRA.