



PROPAGANDA DURING THE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP

An exhibition by the Institute for Democracy, Media and Culture (IDMC) with the support of the Central State Archive (AQSH)



I. PROPAGANDA DURING THE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP

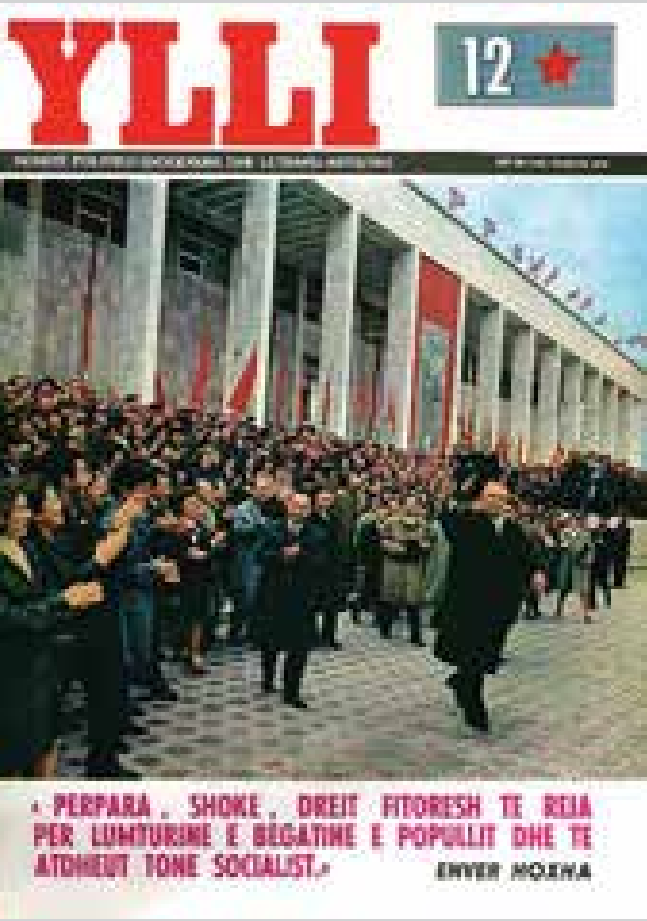
National Spartakiads on the fortieth anniversary of the Liberation of the Fatherland.
Photo gallery AQP, 1967, photo no. 66.

The exhibition “Propaganda during the Communist Dictatorship” presents aspects of political manipulation of the masses by the communist state through the use of different forms of propaganda such as press articles and pictures of the period, official ceremonies, caricatures and other forms. The propaganda on the achievements of the Party and peoples’ power towards the construction of socialism in Albania accompanied the measures taken by the communist state such as the destruction of private property and creation of collective ownership over the means of production; creation of the “New Man” with features of the communist moral; divining the role of the Party and its leader, Enver Hoxha, and was aimed at emphasising the supremacy of communism over the capitalist system. The defining role of propaganda in moulding this new man, loyal to the line of the Party and Marxism-Leninism, is especially important to show how people lived subdued in a country lacking freedom of speech. This was used as grounds to create a uniformed society

with class warfare used to inject Party ideals and to eliminate political rivals. By using propaganda in social and economic achievements during the period of communism, shadows were extended on all failures and negative effects of the system. Propaganda consisted not only in emphasising the achievements of the period, but also in denying any past achievement and the prosperity of Liberal Democracies, so called “imperialist”. While the population suffered the failure of the centralised economy, the lack of political pluralism, lack of freedom of speech, and the strong indoctrination of the new generation with Marxist-Leninists ideology, propaganda of the period reflected the prosperity and happiness that characterised Albanian society. Numerous social, economic and political problems were hiding behind the façade of an advanced socialist Albania, where people lived cheerfully. Only the collapse of the regime would end that illusion that became a utopic reality for the period.



Parade for the holiday of 1 May.
Photo gallery AQP. 1946, photo no. 81.



“Ylli” Magazine
December 1971.



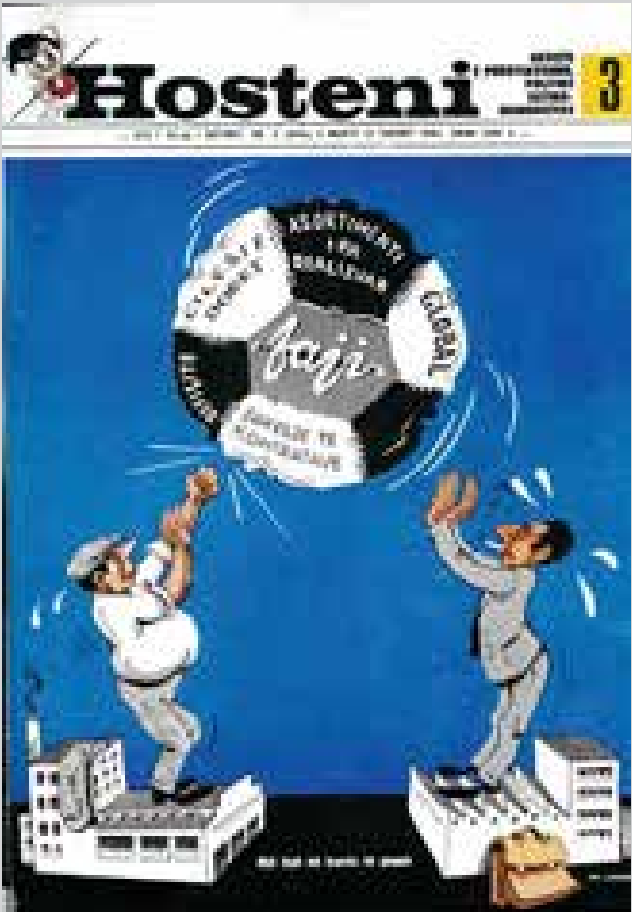
Article from the newspaper “Zëri i Popullit,”
30 May 1956



Parade on the occasion of 1 May.
AQP. 1962, photo no. 33.



“Horizonti” Magazine,
January 1980



“Hosteni” Magazine,
12 February 1980.



“Shqiptarja e Re” Magazine, no. 11, 1989.

II. CULT OF THE PARTY

On 17 May 1976, in the "Dinamo" stadium in Tirana, on the occasion of the opening of the physical training-sports demonstration held on the occasion of the end of the 1966-1967 school year.

Photo gallery AQP. 1967, photo no. 66.

The Albanian Communist Party (ACP) was established on the 8th of November 1941 and renamed the Albanian Labour Party (ALP) in 1948. The Cult of the Party starts with the emphasis put on the leadership role of the Communist Party during the Second World War in the fight against Italian and German invaders. An expression of this fact was the majestic remembrance of the 29th of November and different events from the war, especially ACP congresses and plenums where decisions consolidating its power were taken such as, e.g.: Congress of Përmet. Antifascist stance became the main source of legitimacy for the ACP attaining power after the Second World War. Through elimination of political adversaries, the ACP opened the path for power to

be concentrated in its hands. Every opposition towards Party directives was punishable by Law and anyone that broke this line was considered "Enemy of the People" which for him and his family opened up the pathway of internment, imprisonment or execution. Expanding its power to every cell of society and making use of the press of the time, , headlines and titles of articles of newspapers and slogans like "Long live the Party" or "Glory to ALP", reflected the new reality designed and built by the Party-State. Official propaganda emphasised ALP's role in building socialism in Albania and great accomplishments of the Albanian people under the leadership of the Party.



March on the occasion of 1 May. Parade of children accompanied by the slogan "Long Live the Party of Labor of Albania." Photo gallery AQP. 1957, photo no. 46.



View of the march on the occasion of 1 May. Photo gallery AQP. 1963, photo no. 63.



Sixth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania. "Ylli" Magazine, December 1971.



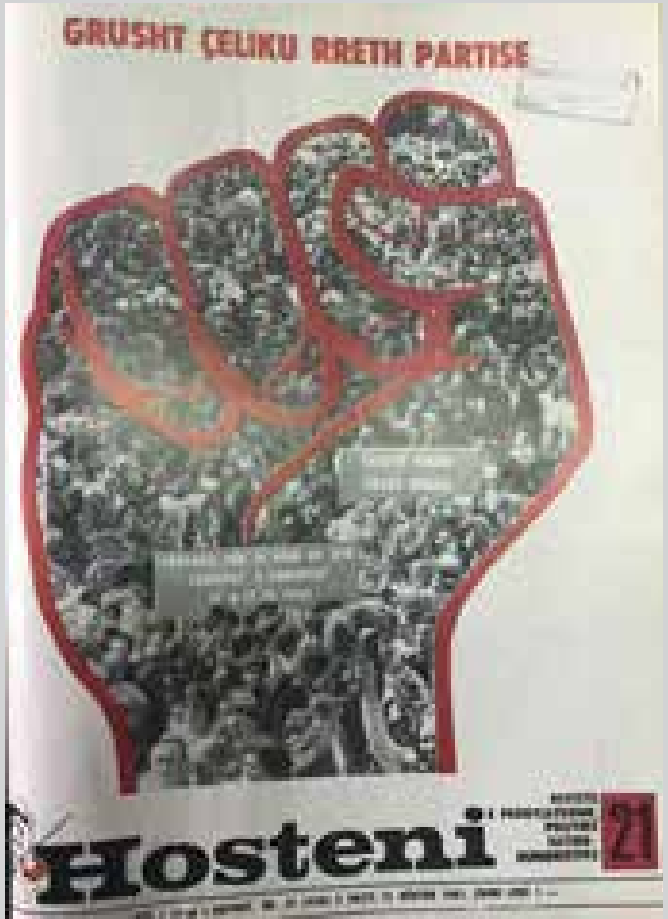
Party Conference of Region No. 1 of the city of Tirana: On the frontal portion, it is written: "To further improve all of the work of the Party to successfully fight bureaucratization, technocratization, and intellectualization." Photo gallery AQP. 1975, photo no. 98.



"Fatosi" Magazine, 1 January 1976.



"Pionieri" Magazine, February 1976.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 12 November 1981.

III. CULT OF PERSONALITY



Parades on the occasion of 1 May.

Photo Gallery AQP. 1978, photo no. 10.

Closely associated with the cult of the Party, there was also the cult of personality built around Enver Hoxha. Propaganda raised his cult above all else, presenting him as ACP founder, National Liberation Antifascist War Commander, and leader of the Albanian people on the path of building socialism. With the main purpose of demonstrating “love” and “adoration” for his figure, the birthday of Enver Hoxha was considered a holiday and visits were organised in his villa. Until 1954, Hoxha held the posts like Prime Minister, Minister of National Defence and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Until his death in 1985, he held the posts of First Secretary of the ALP Central Committee and Armed Forces General Commander.

The country brimmed with his photos, paintings, and statues that dominated public spaces, especially on official holidays. The burial ceremony of Enver Hoxha was a testimonial of the populations’ deep indoctrination with the cult of personality, which carried on even after his death in the framework of the “continuation course” and expressed itself by designating the name “Enver Hoxha” to a series of institutions and building a museum in his honour. The fall of the monument of Enver Hoxha on the 20th of February 1991 became the visual symbol of collapse of the communist regime.



Enver Hoxha with children.
Photo gallery AQP. 1949, photo no. 52.



View of the exhibition “10 years under the leadership of the Party.”
At the center it is written: “Long live the Secretary General of the Party, Enver Hoxha.” Photo gallery AQP. 1951, photo no. 66.



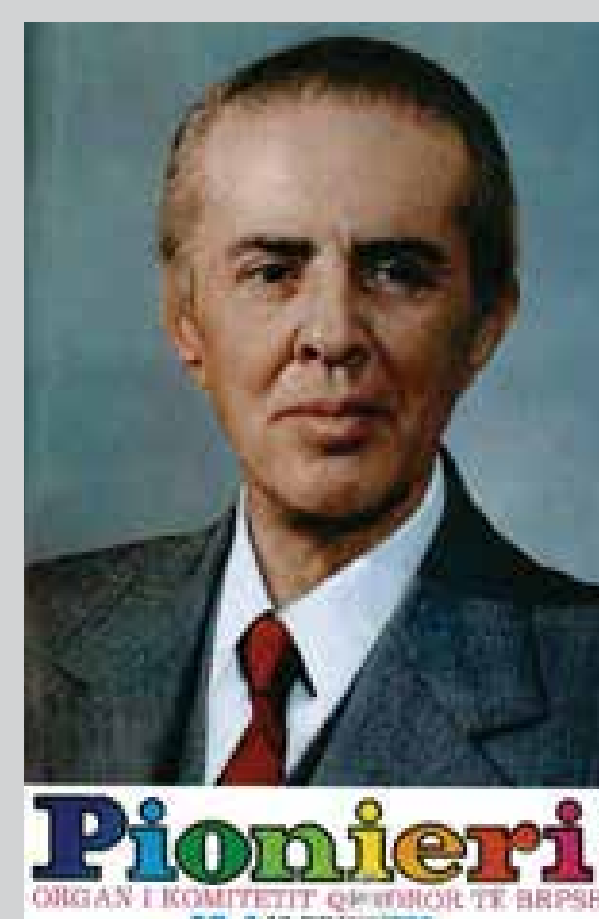
Visit on the occasion of Enver Hoxha's 50th birthday in his home, on 16 October 1958.
Photo gallery AQP. 1958, photo no. 93.



Visit on the occasion of Enver Hoxha's 50th birthday in his home, on 16 October 1958. Photo gallery AQP. 1958, photo no. 93.



“Ylli” Magazine,
December 1971.



On the occasion of Enver Hoxha's death. “Pionier” Magazine,
16 April 1985.

XHAXHI ENVER NUK KA VDEKUR

Asnjë fëmijë i Shqipërisë nuk do të besojë se xhaxhi i tyre i shtrenjtë Enver vdiq. Emrin e tij e kanë në gojë të gjithë, që nga ata kolopuçet e kopshteve e deri te pionierët. Emrin e tij të lavdishëm e ka në gojë mbarë Shqipëria. Udhëheqësi ynë i madh mendonte për gjithë popullin e veçanërisht për të vegjëlit, të cilët i quante «lulet më të bukura të kopshtit tonë socialist»...

“Fatosi” Magazine,
19 April 1985.

IV. PROPAGANDA THROUGH THE PRESS



View of the national conference of new talents in the field of literature.

Photo gallery AQP. 1970, photo no. 110.

Undoubtedly in a dictatorial state, written press is the main mechanism of propaganda. Subjected to constant censorship, press and literature of the period were weapons in the hands of the state. Information was given in accordance with the ideological principles dictated by the Party-State. Newspapers like “Zëri i Popullit (Voice of the People)”, “Bashkimi (Union)”, “Zëri i Rinisë (Voice of the Youth)” or even “Gazetat e Murit (Wall Posters)” etc., conveyed the Marxist-Leninist ideology and the speech of the Party. Initially newspapers circulated for the most part in cities, but very quickly measures were taken for them to be distributed to even the most remote villages, with the objective of informing the public with the speech imposed

by the Party itself. During that period, the press had a great indoctrinating role and was used as the main instrument for state propaganda. Desistance from all other alternative press entities was accomplished through the creation of structures controlling every media and written press activity.

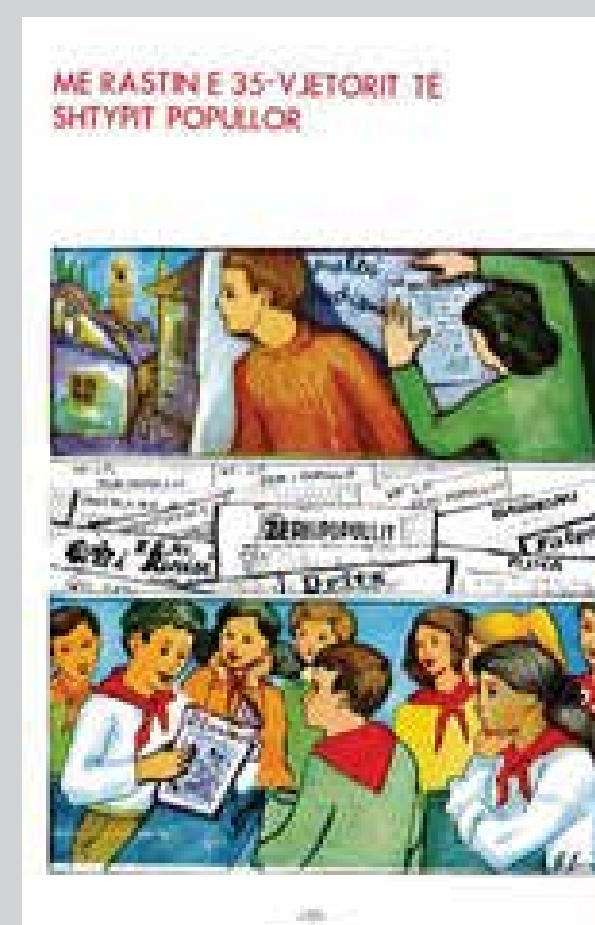
As instruments at the hands of the state, written press and all forms of literature was used to convey to the masses the message the Party wanted. Use of propaganda as a medium of communication to manipulate the masses takes on great vestiges considering the international isolation of Albania, especially after the break in relations with China.



View of the Presidium of the National Conference of Worker and Village Correspondents.
Photo gallery AQP. 1951, photo no. 17.



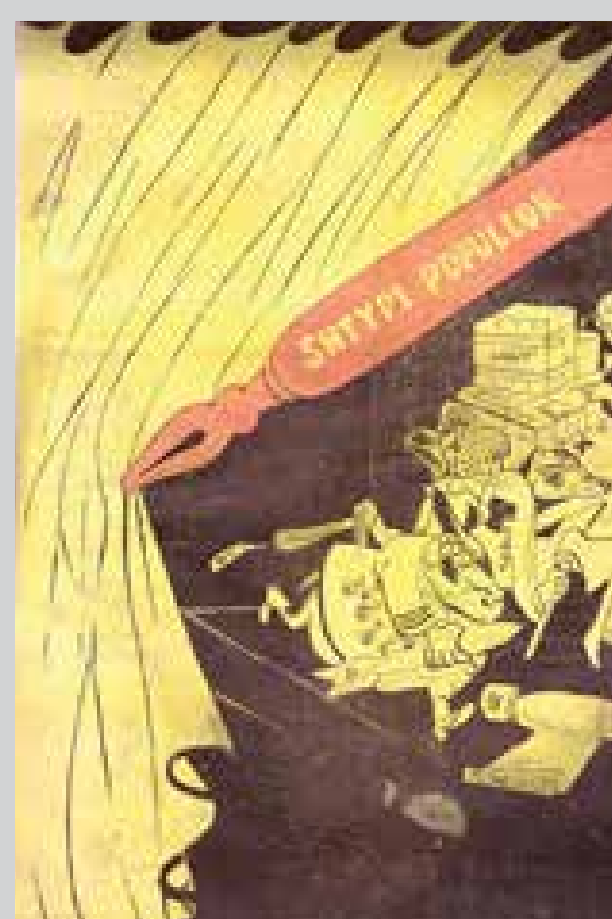
The press hits bureaucratization, regressive practices, and fanaticism.
“Hosteni” Magazine, 20 August 1967.



Children read the papers.
“Pionieri” Magazine, 10 July 1977.



Tirana: View of the meeting organized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the newspaper “Puna,” on 29 April 1975.
Photo gallery AQP. 1975, photo no. 132.



“Hosteni” Magazine,
April 1985.



In the photo it is written: “Writer - and artist-comrades. You have achieved great success in your work, but you are still indebted to the theme of the War for National Liberation and to the theme of the war for the construction of socialism.” “Hosteni” Magazine, 17 August 1965

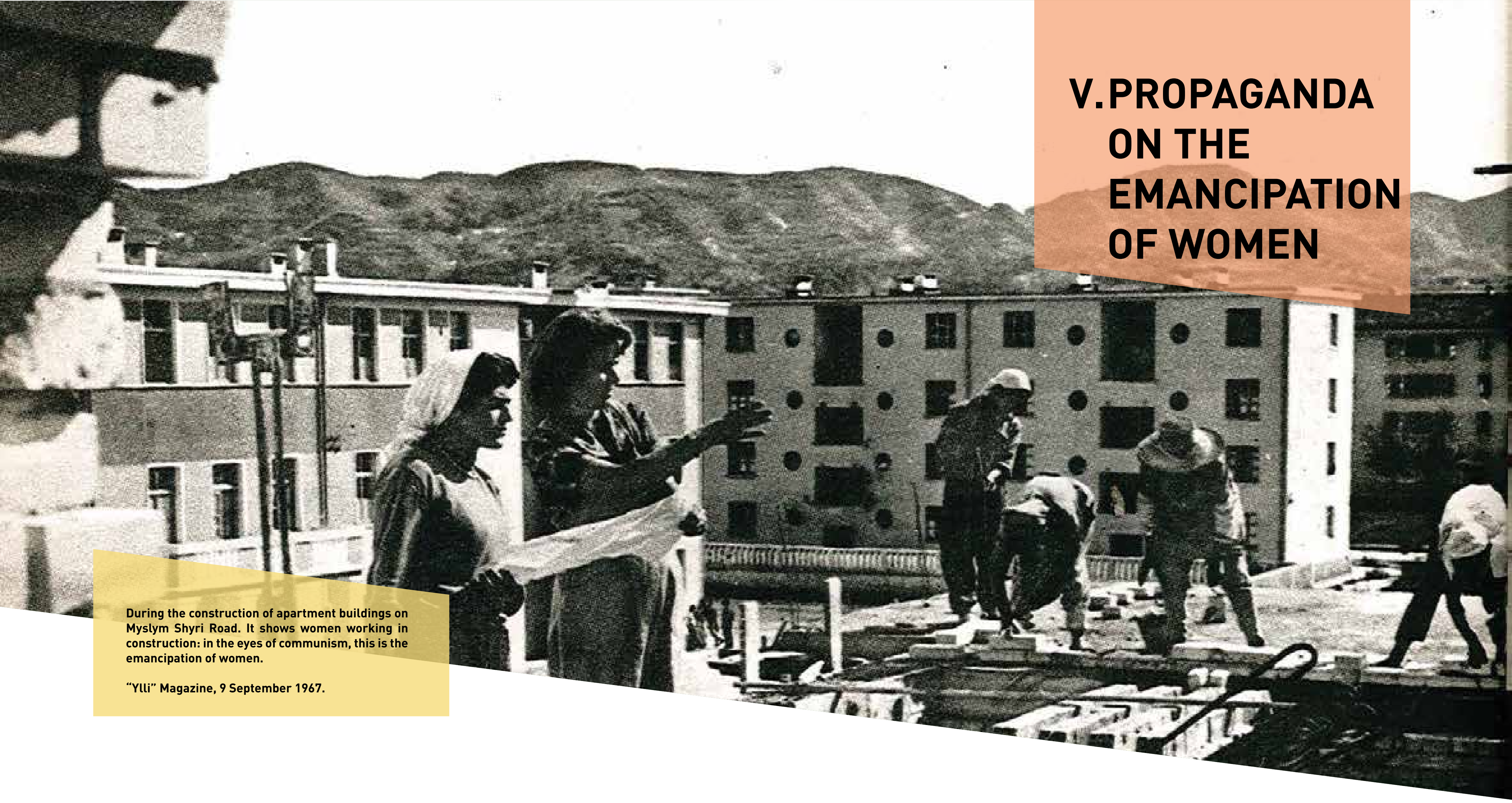


“Ylli” Magazine,
August 1967.



Conference of Village and Worker Correspondents.
AQP. 1952, photo no. 114.

V. PROPAGANDA ON THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN



During the construction of apartment buildings on Myslym Shyri Road. It shows women working in construction: in the eyes of communism, this is the emancipation of women.

"Ylli" Magazine, 9 September 1967.

Official propaganda during the socialist period considered the National Liberation Anti-Fascist War as the start of emancipation of Albanian women. Regardless of the steps and legal initiatives on the emancipation of women during the inter war period, previous achievements were denied by the ALP. Communist propaganda advertised the emancipation of women as its own achievement and as the strike of the Party against the previous backward mentality. Employment of women in different areas of economy would provide the state more labour forces and more economic benefits. Women found themselves working in different sectors of the economy and up to the top of Party bodies.

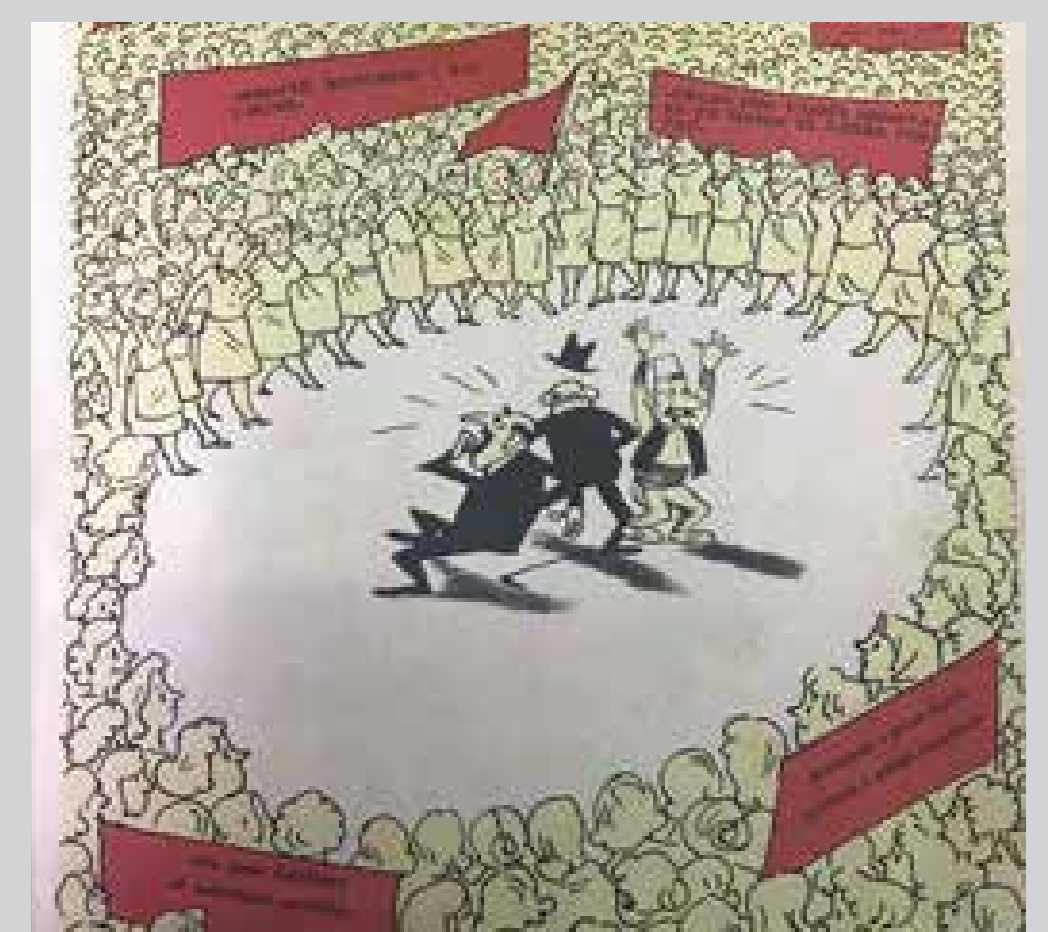
They were also enrolled into organisations like the Union of Albanian Women, "Organization of Women in the Neighbourhood", where pensioners were involved, "Organization of Women in the Enterprise", etc. Women were overburdened when they had to face employment outside the house and workload inside the home as well, such as upbringing children, which continued to be considered a duty of women. Attention towards women was connected to their role of educating the young generation and their children with the values of a communist society.



View of the meeting organized on the occasion of the 8 March holiday. Photo gallery AQP. 1957, photo no. 53.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 2 April 1961.



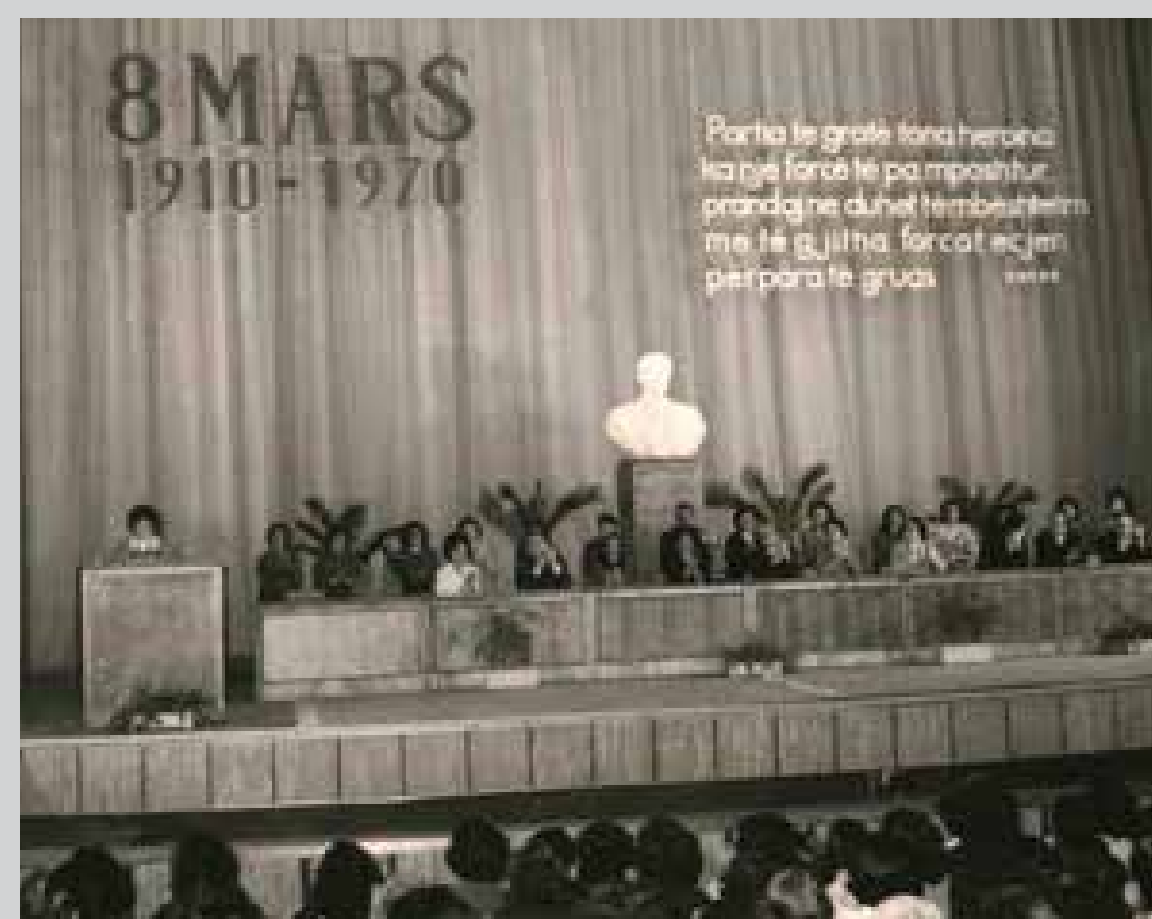
"Hosteni" Magazine, 20 October 1967.



"Ylli" Magazine, 4 April 1967.



"Ylli" Magazine, April 1967.



From the meeting organized on the occasion of 8 March. Photo gallery AQP. 1970, photo no. 42.



"Ylli" Magazine, March 1971.

VI. INDOCTRINATION OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

Children with the slogan,
"Long Live the Red Army."

Photo gallery AQP. 1945, photo no. 81.

Brainwashing of the young generation was one of the main objectives of the Party-State. Communist leadership emphasised the importance of injecting from childhood Marxist-Leninist ideology and the role of the Party as an important element of the formation of the "New Man". Propaganda would start from kindergarten and continue its chain reaction not only during the educative years but throughout life. The figure of the dictator and of the Party was always honoured, so that the new generation would be imbued with love for the system based on Marxist-Leninist principles. The education system became one of the founding pillars for indoctrinating the young generation, with communist ideals and creating citizens obedient towards Par-

ty directives. This purpose was served by the creation of youth organizations and publication of magazines like "Fatosi", "Pionieri", "Horizonti," where official propaganda occupied a considerable place. In the framework of reforms undertaken in the 60's, school kids were involved in productive work that foresaw different voluntary activities like building railways, freeing up of new arable land, and different agricultural work. The education system was based on Marxist-Leninism and the three edged ideology of education-productive work-physical education. Children also suffered the consequences of class warfare because entire families were interned when parents were punished.



Children of Kindergarten No. 1, placing flowers on the graves of the Martyrs; members of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania. The children are paying respects to Qemal Stafa. Photo gallery AQP. 1950, photo no. 39.



Comrade Enver Hoxha with distinguished pioneers, on the occasion of the New Year. Dated 31/12/1958. The dictator aimed to make the masses his own, beginning with children. Photo gallery AQP. 1958, photo no. 120.



Pioneers in 1967. "Ylli" Magazine, September 1967.



Children reading the newspaper "Zëri i Popullit." "Pionieri" Magazine, February 1976.



"Fatosi" Magazine, 19 January 1976.



"Ylli" Magazine, June 1971.



"Horizonti" Magazine, May 1985.

VII. PROPAGANDA ON CLASS WARFARE

View of the Camp of Tepelena

Conflict between communist and anti-communist forces started and continued after the war. This conflict did not conclude with the war because through constant efforts to eliminate all opposition, the ALP started “class warfare”. In Albania “class warfare” took on the features of a war that would strike all those that went against the Party line. Propaganda emphasised that class warfare had to be continuous and severe in order to avoid any appearance of it.

Class warfare took on the vestiges of a continuous effort to find new enemies in all domains of life and economy and therefore to persecute, intern, and kill thousands of innocents. Consequently many Albanian families were interned and seen with animosity. The intensity of class warfare changed in accordance to the political and economic circumstances but it never ceased. Especially interruptions in foreign policy and their consequences in the development of the country were accompanied by intensifying the search for foreign and domestic enemies.



Tirana. View of the progress of the proceedings of the plenum of Professional Unions. Photo gallery AQP. 1973, photo no. 76.



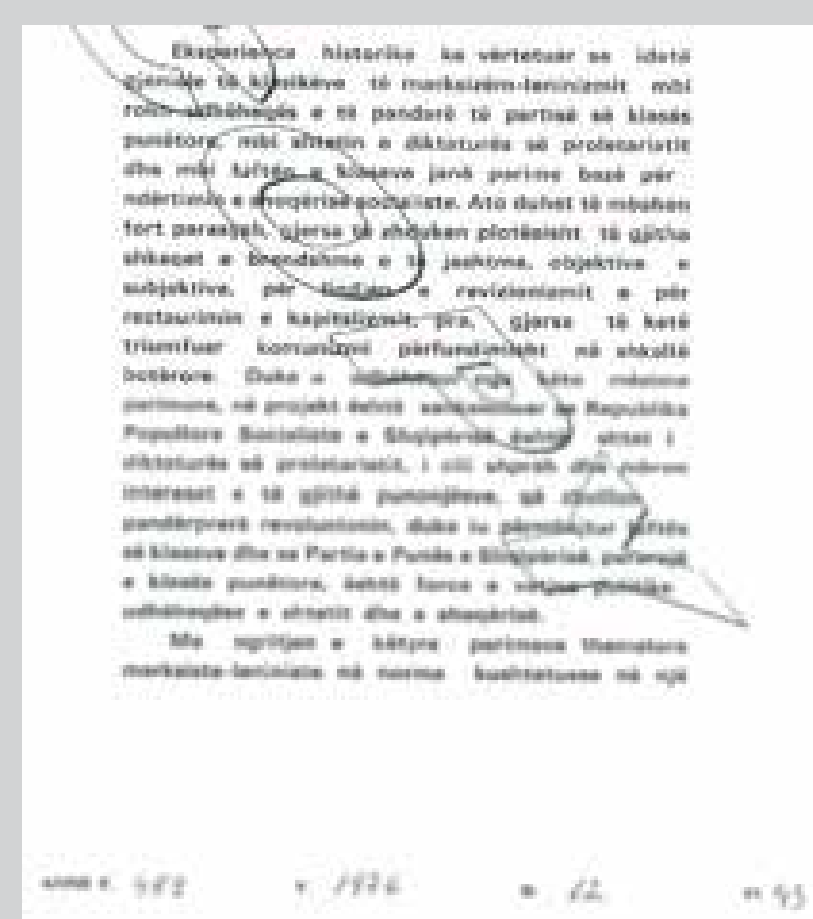
When the “Enemies of the People” were punished.



“Hosteni” Magazine, 26 January 1979



“Hosteni” Magazine, 17 August 1965.



Constitution of 1976, AQSH. Council of Ministers. Dossier 12, p. 43.



All those who refused to cede their land and means of production were called “kulaks.” They were declared enemies of the people and of the working class. “Hosteni” Magazine, 17 July 1966.



“Hosteni” Magazine, 26 January 1979.

VIII. PROPAGANDA AGAINST RELIGION

Photograph of the First Congress of the Meeting of the Democratic Front of Albania. Representatives of religious communities can also be seen.

Photo gallery AQP, 1945, photo no. 119.

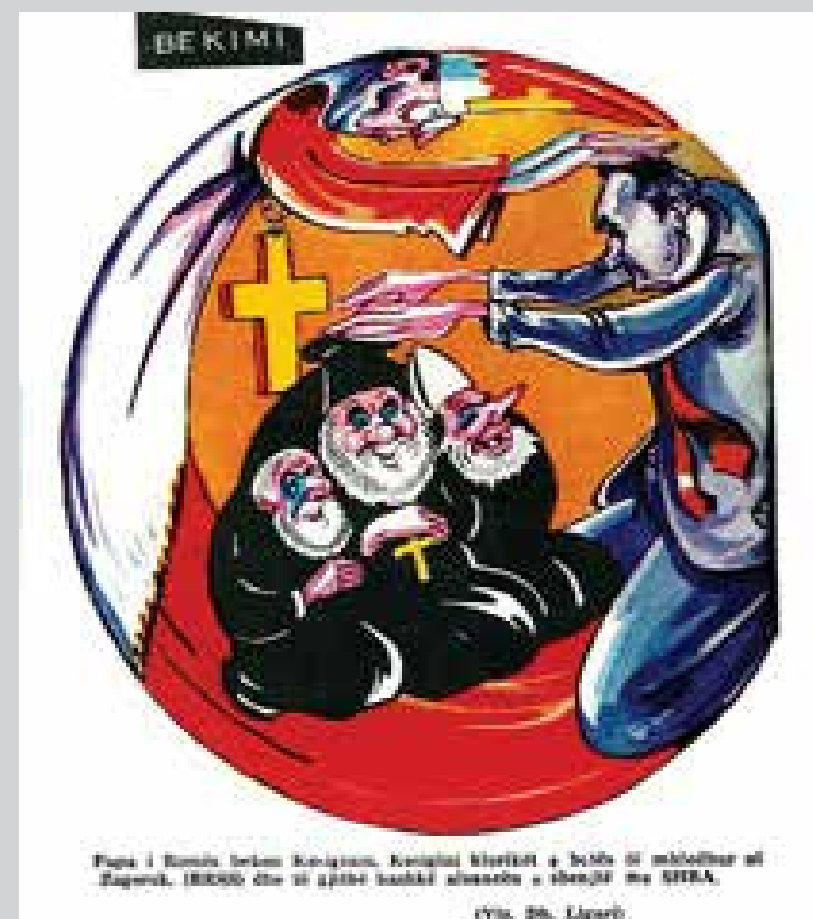
“Opium for the people” was the qualification of communist propaganda against religions. Even though that the 1946 Constitution of the Albanian People’s Republic would allow for freedom of religion and its exercise, class warfare did not spare even clergy. Considering them backwards and a danger to the country, propaganda of the period focused itself on battering religious beliefs. In 1967 war against religious beliefs intensified and groups of young people were encouraged to destroy religious edifices. Religious institutions were destroyed, part of the efforts to uproot religious beliefs in the country. A negligible part was turned into buildings of culture and sports such as cinemas, sports venues, or storehouses.

Many from the clergy were considered enemies of the people and were arrested, executed or interned. Communists saw religion as highly harmful and a barrier to the creation of this new society. It had to be fought by any means necessary.

Religion was also considered a source of foreign propaganda in Albania. Through anti-religious propaganda the new anti-religious communist was being designed. Communist ideology replaced religious ideology. With the 1976 constitution, Albania was officially declared an atheist country.



Meeting of the Albanian Committee for the Defense of Peace on 5 February 1955. Leaders of religious communities in the country took part in this meeting. Photo gallery AQP, 1955, photo no. 2.



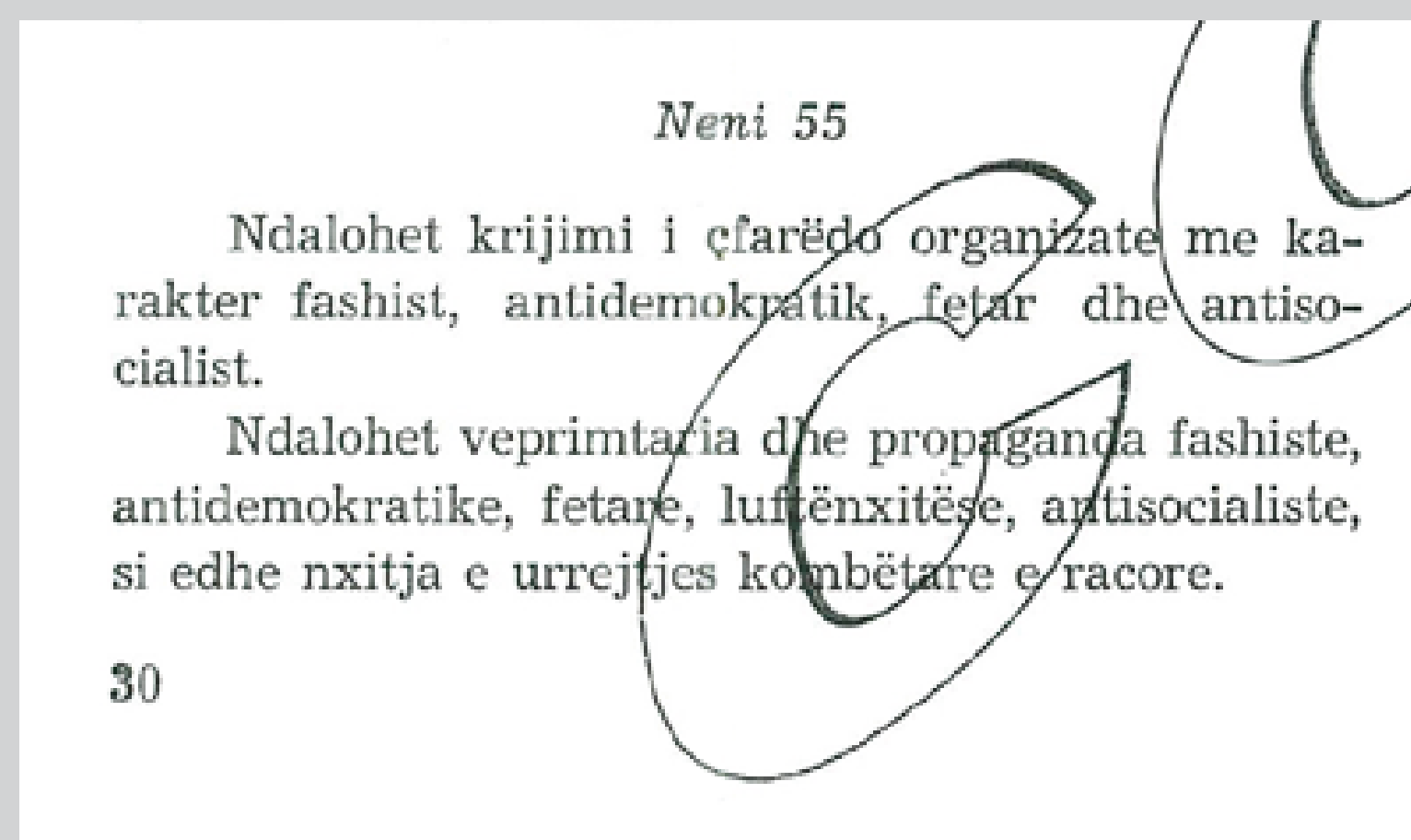
“Ylli” Magazine, January 1969



“Ylli” Magazine, February 1962.



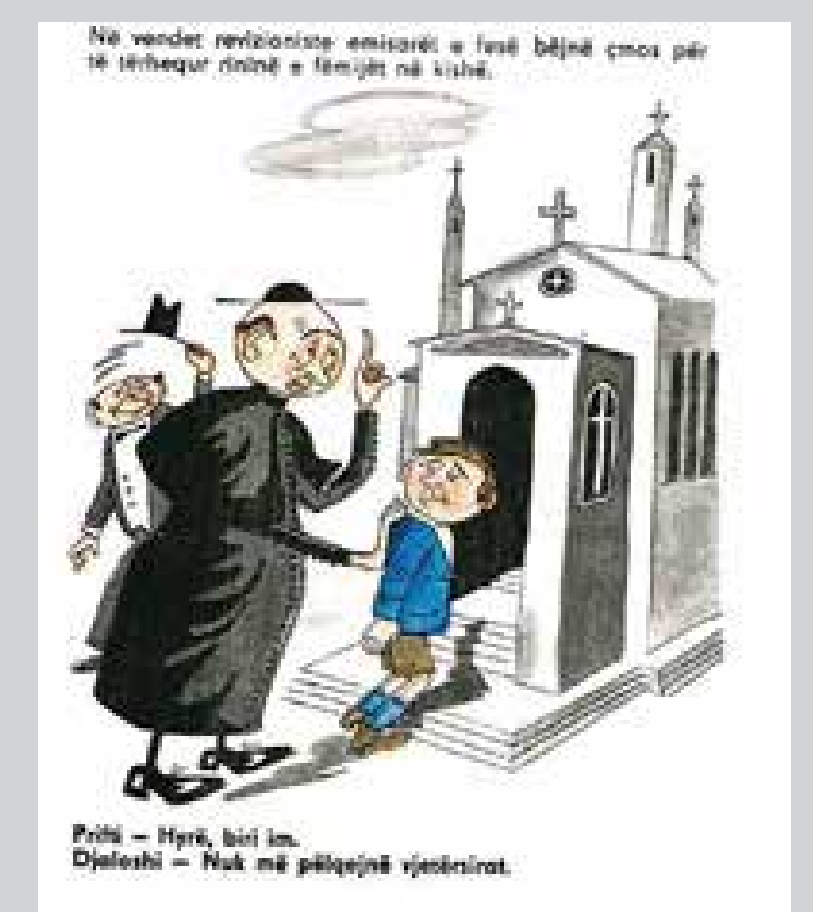
An article in which religion is considered “Opium for the people.” “Ylli” Magazine, February 1967.



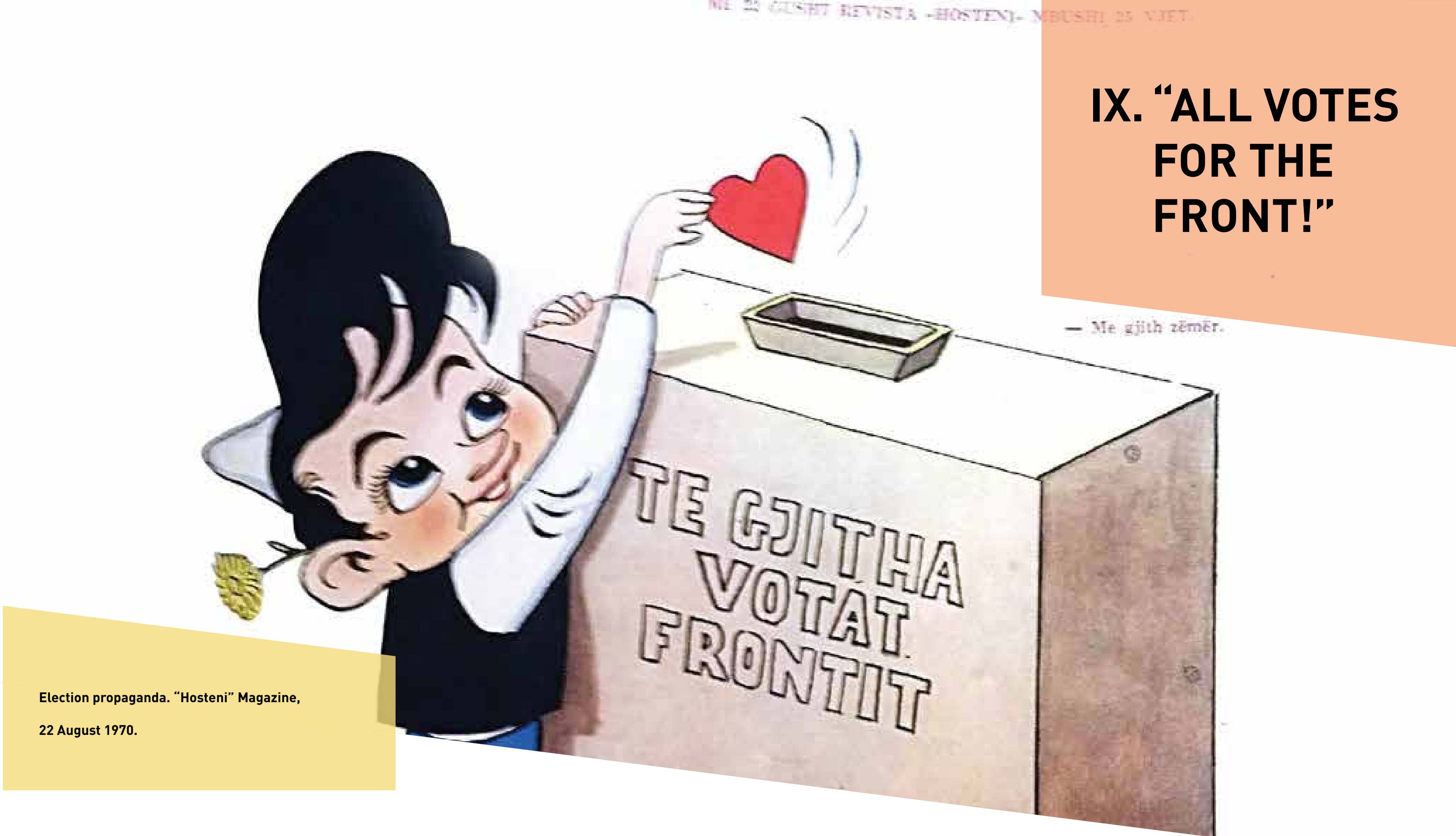
Constitution of 1976, Article 55, in which Albania is declared an atheist state. AQSH. Council of Ministers, Dossier 12, 1976, p. 78.



“Hosteni” Magazine, 13 November 1978.



Anti-religious propaganda considered religion to be regressive. “Hosteni” Magazine, 13 November 1978.



Election propaganda. "Hosteni" Magazine, 22 August 1970.

Through unilateral decisions during the Second World War, the ACP paved the way for a power grab by considering itself as the only political force in the country. In order to have legitimacy and to ensure international recognition after the end of the war, elections had to take place. All Albanian citizens over the age of 18 were eligible to vote in elections. It was said that elections would be democratic, equal, and would have vote secrecy. Very soon the opposite would be attested to, because the Communist Party made all efforts possible to restrain strong political opponents from competing in elections. On the other hand, many authors agree that in many areas of Albania, especially in the north where the Fronts' supporters were not numerous, the population was obligated to vote. During the elections, order enforcement

would sometimes be transformed into psychological violence on voters: every voter was supplied with one marble, specifically produced for voting. Voters were confronted with two ballot boxes, one representing the Front candidate and an empty one. Voters were obliged to place their hands in both boxes so as to safeguard the anonymity of the vote. The empty box was against the Front candidate; therefore communists made sure to make those boxes resonate when the marble was dropped inside. The first Constitutional Assembly elections took place on the 2nd of December 1945, where the Democratic Front won with about 93% of votes cast. During the dictatorship, elections were for ACP (ALP), with over 99% of votes.



Enver Hoxha voting, accompanied by Ymer Nishani, Gogo Nushi, Koci Xoxe, and Myslym Peza. Photo gallery AQP. 1946, photo no. 30.



Enver Hoxha during a meeting with voters in his electoral zone in Tirana, on 29 May 1958. AQP. 1958, photo no. 38.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 3 July 1966.



Victory of the Front, a blow to the enemies. "Hosteni Magazine, 5 June 1967.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 17 May 1976.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 13 November 1978.



**X. 1st of MAY
OR SHOW
OF FORCE**

People's parade, with portraits of Stalin and the Secretaries General of Communist Parties from other countries.

Photo gallery AQP. 1950, photo no. 28.

Just like in other communist countries, the 1st of May or the “Day of the working class” was considered as one of the most important events of the year. In its occasion, activities and manifestations were conducted throughout the country. A great manifestation would take place on Scanderbeg Square in the capital and in the main stand located in front of the building of the National Assembly where the ALP leadership would salute the working class. Parades were organised in the form of squares, squares of school children and students, squares comprised of the working class and different factories throughout the country, military squares, all saluting the high leadership of the Party. This celebration was used to indicate that the Party

and its leadership were leading the country towards economic prosperity and were infallible. Afternoons were accompanied by festive activities in schools, cooperatives, and different factories where the years’ most accomplished workers were announced. For the consecutive time, on this occasion, the clique of the period took the occasion to advertise the achievements and majesty of the “Albanian Labour Party with Enver Hoxha at its helm”. From a celebration originally comprising manifestation and protest to improve working conditions of the working class, the 1st of May transformed into a celebration where the Party-State advertised “the great development enjoyed by the country”.



Parade on the occasion of 1 May.
Photo gallery AQP. 1965, photo no. 40.



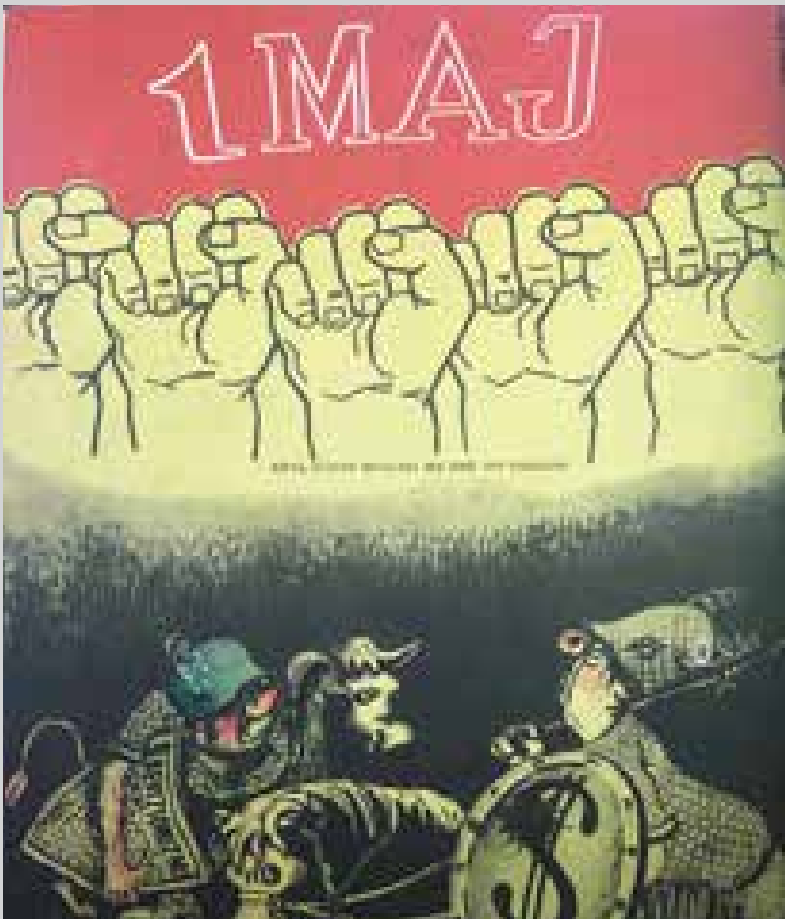
Parade of the working masses on the occasion of 1 May.
Photo gallery AQP. 1960, photo no. 32.



March on the occasion of 1 May.
Photo gallery AQP. 1970, photo no. 12.



“Hosteni” Magazine,
May 1970.



In the photo it is written: “These aren’t windmills, but hurricanes”.
“Hosteni” Magazine, 1 May 1969.



“Hosteni” Magazine,
1 May 1955.



“Hosteni” Magazine,
May 1978.

XI. (UN) PLANNED ECONOMY



In the main corps of the Dinamo Factory, "Ylli" Magazine, No. 2

February 1971.

Economy during socialism was organised in accordance with the soviet model, based on 5 year planning, the emphasis being the industrialization process in its two branches, the light and heavy industries, by aiming especially for the development of the heavy industry, specifically mining. Speeches of the Party leaders were focused on the industrial construction done in country with foreign aid.

The 5 year plans would often fail and their failure would be the cause of class warfare intensification and creation of imaginary enemy groupings, the members of which would be shot, imprisoned, or interned with their families. So under pressure

and constant fear of not fulfilling the plan, at a time when the main production means were missing, the quality of products in circulation was low. Propaganda considered every plan not only complete at the measure of 100%, but often even surpassing it, when in reality basic needs for the population were not fulfilled. Albania according to propaganda was one of the most industrialised countries of the period, when the wide majority of the population had no electro-domestics and to purchase them authorization was needed. Missing consumption goods became more obvious in the 80's as a result of international isolation of Albania and compliance with the principle of on our own.



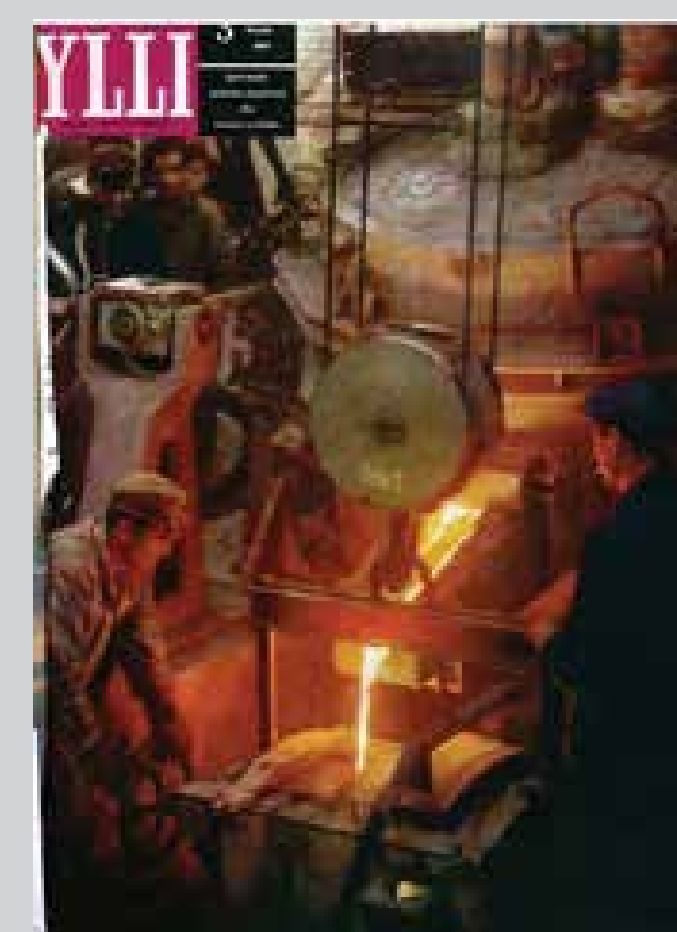
View of the inauguration of the construction of the first furnace in the Elbasan Metallurgical Conglomerate. Photo gallery AQP. 1975, photo no. 37.



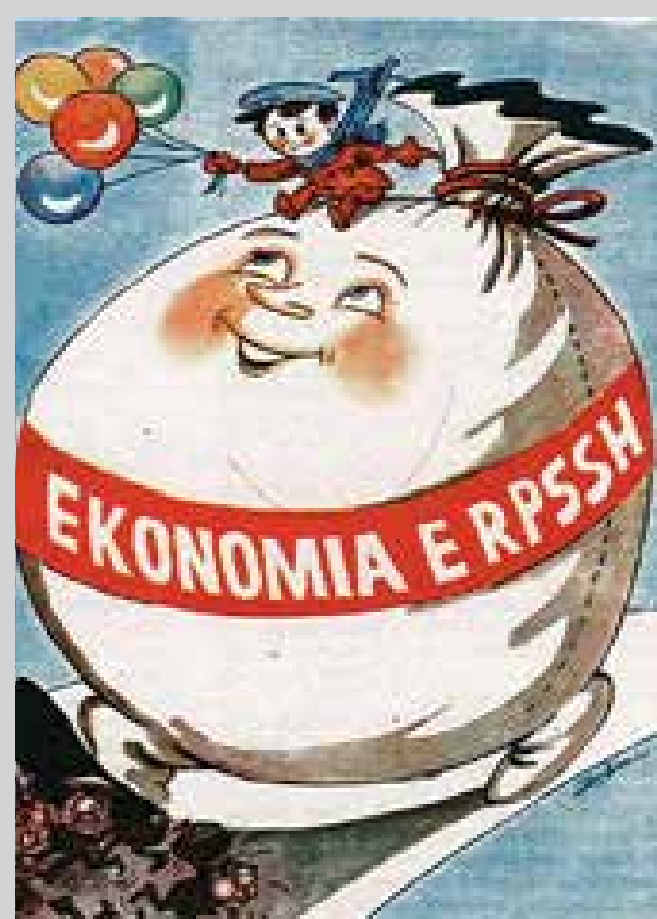
Representative of the Chinese delegation, Cen De Bal, visits the Enver hydroelectric plant, Ulza. Photo gallery AQP. 1957, photo no. 108.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 17 April 1959.



"Ylli" Magazine. March 1967.



"Hosteni" Magazine 13 November 1978.



"Hosteni" Magazine 26 March 1978



"Hosteni" Magazine 12 May 1980.



View of the inauguration of a factory. Photo gallery AQP. 1956, photo no. 51.



XII. PROPERTY BELONGS TO THE STATE

A day in the cooperative.
"Ylli" Magazine,
November 1966.

As soon as the ACP came into power, it started efforts to gradually liquidate the agricultural private sector. In the framework of the 1946 agrarian reform, big and medium land owners were initially expropriated, not even sparing lands of religious institutions or those bought by foreign capital. Using the slogan "Land belongs to the one who works it", initially land was distributed to peasants without property and then the collectivisation process started with the objective of creating big state owned cooperatives.

Collectivisation was aimed at being achieved through the use of peasants with small or medium assets, against rich ones classed as kulak. Many of them were interned or imprisoned after forceful sequestration of property and production

equipment. The collectivisation process, which started in 1946 with the raising of the first cooperative, ended in 1967 and was a process where the state used all means to complete it.

The Constitution of 1976 sanctioned the elimination of private property turning everything into state owned property. This policy severely damaged agricultural development as well as the supply of agricultural and farming products to the population. State measures at the beginning of the 80's in limiting the cooperative yard and bundling of livestock belonging to cooperative families only aggravated the crisis. Guided production was not suitable and did not fulfil the needs of the population, which very soon started to take food rationed through ration stamps.



"Hosteni" Magazine
20 November 1952.



"Hosteni" Magazine
2 April 1956.



"Hosteni" Magazine
June 1956.



"Hosteni" Magazine
17 August 1961.



View of the progress of the proceedings of the Fifth Congress of the Agricultural Cooperatives.
Photo gallery AQP. 1968, photo no. 62.



View of a meeting in Gjirokaster.
Photo gallery AQP. 1977, photo no. 10.

XIII. ON OUR OWN

Fushë-Arrëz (Puka District): Enver Hoxha with workers of Fushë Arrëz. 1970, one-year attack for economic development and the realization of the five-year plan.

Photo gallery AQP. 1970, Alb. no. 1, photo no. 107.

Economically dependent on other countries of the communist camp, Albania encountered huge difficulties after the breakup of relations with the Soviet Union and China. In a difficult economic situation and lacking foreign aid, the Party started to advertise the principle of building the country “On our own”.

This principle consisted in using domestic production to fulfil the needs of the population. In reality this was impossible for a country lacking many raw materials and that could not fulfil the needs of the population, even with basic food and farming products. In the framework of reforming state administration

and war against bureaucracy, the state apparatus was cleared of undesired elements and even clerks were included in production. Even though the official propaganda had started its work much earlier, Article 14 of the 1976 Constitution defined that building socialism in the country would be done by “On our own”.

This was the only solution in a situation of political and economic isolation of Albania from the international arena. The country dove into a deep economic crisis in the 80's, which became a testimony of the failure of the communist system.



Enver Hoxha with workers of Fushë Arrëz. 1970, one-year attack for economic development and the realization of the five-year plan. Photo gallery AQP. 1970, Alb. no. 1, photo no. 107.



Meeting of veterans. Photo gallery AQP. 1974, photo no. 100.



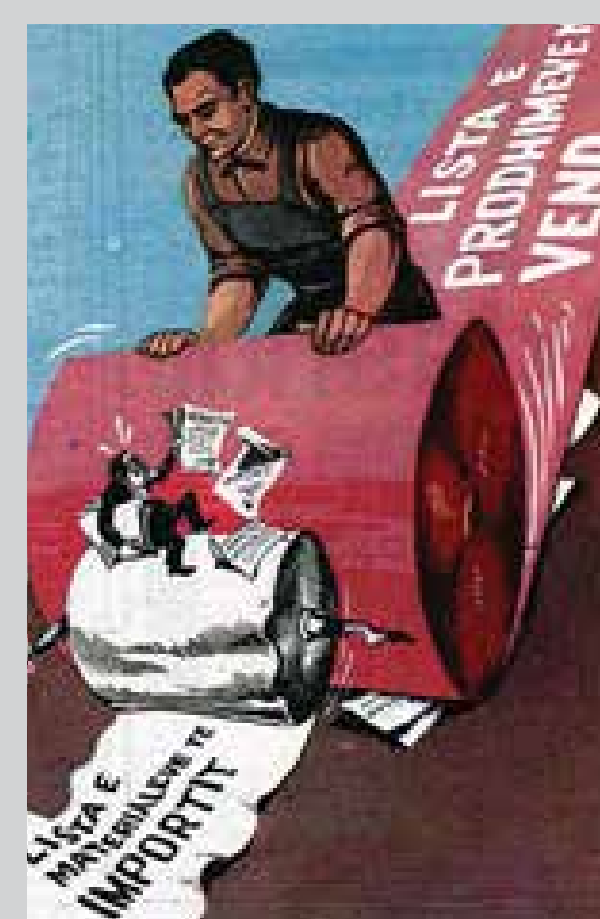
"Hosteni" Magazine 12 August 1978.



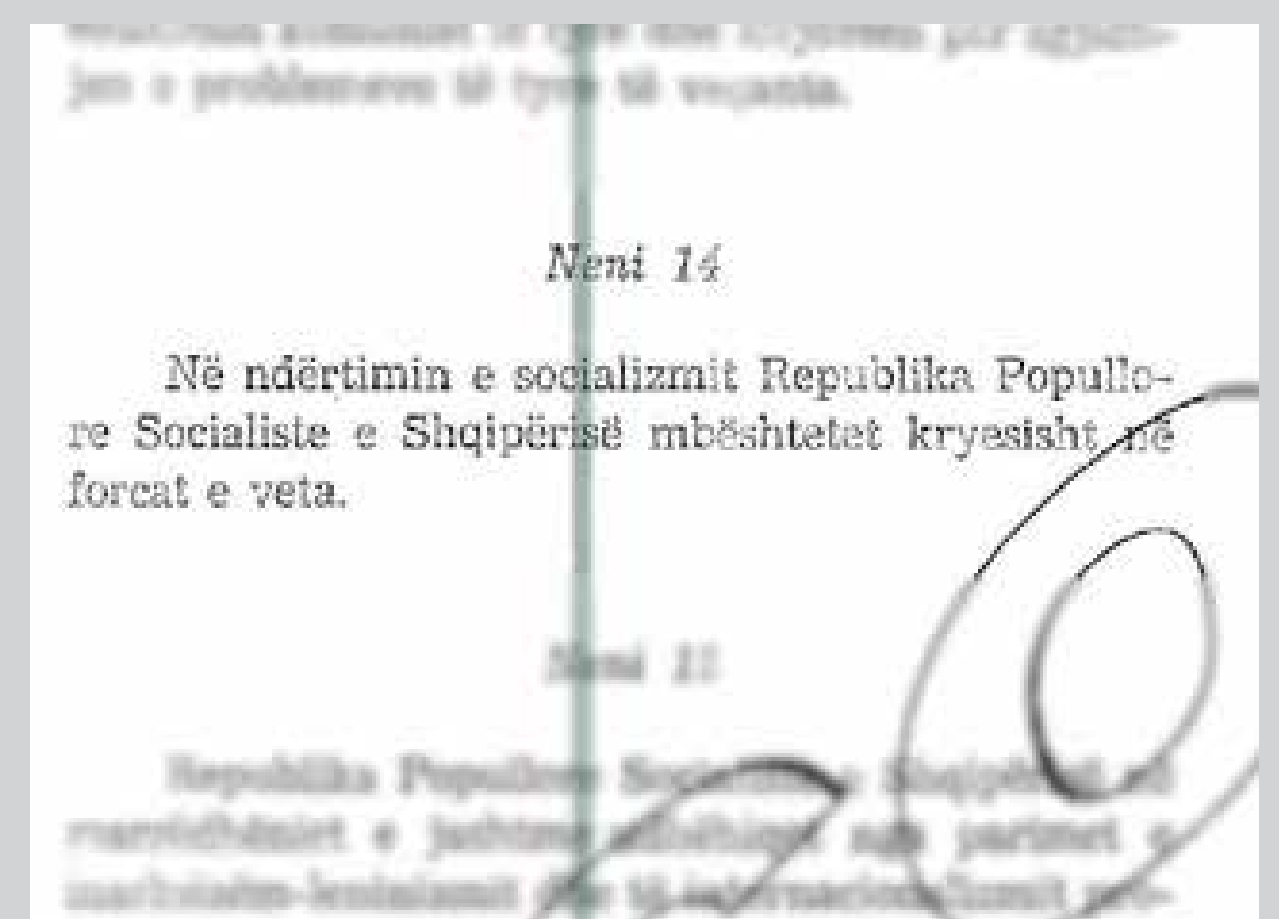
View of the ceremony on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the State Bank. Photo gallery AQP. 1975, photo no. 2.



"Hosteni" Magazine 26 October 1978.



"Hosteni" Magazine, 26 January 1979.



Constitution of 1976, Article 14. AQSH. Council of Ministers, Dossier 12, 1976, p. 70.

XIV. FOREIGN ENEMY PARANOIA

Parades with tanks on the occasion of the establishment of the People's Army.

AQP. 1949, photo no. 58.

The National Liberation Army, established during the Second World War, was reformed to operate in the conditions of the Cold War and was renamed the National Army. It was abundantly supported by the Soviet Union, with the aid of which the Vlora Naval Base was built in 1957. After the aid coming in the framework of the Warsaw Pact stopped flowing, measures were taken to make the military less costly.

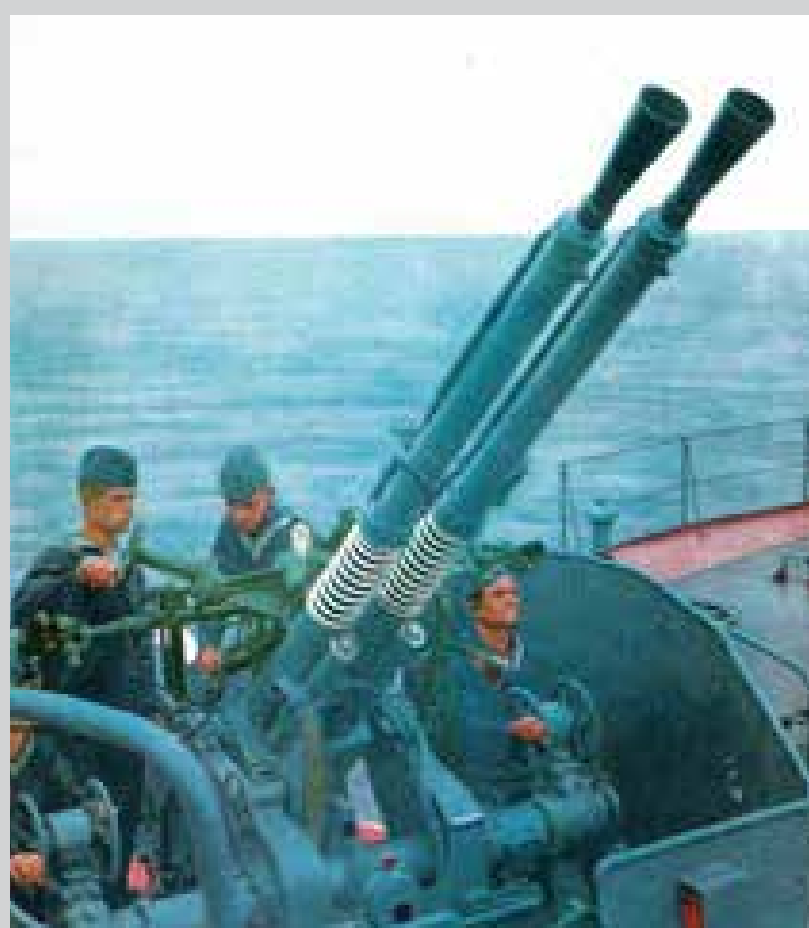
Political commissars assigned by the Party were placed in the military chain of command, often with no relevant experience, and the military ranking system was removed. Through this reform, Enver Hoxha avoided the creation of a military cadre, which would

threaten his power and eliminated a large number of generals that he himself had assigned. Propaganda of the period was trumpeting foreign enemies that could attack and invade the country. During the Cold War, propaganda said imperialist countries threatened the country, and later on, revisionist countries like Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union had become enemies and could attack Albania.

Military education was also introduced to civilian population which was actively and regularly engaged in military training exercises. Visual heritage of the foreign attack paranoia can be found in the many bunkers built during the communist period that remain part of the Albanian scenery as a testament to that part of the past.



Formation in honor of the army (Major General Gjin Marku, who was later considered to be an "enemy of the people," can be discerned at the head of the column). AQP. 1953, photo no. 12.



"Ylli" Magazine, June 1967.



Meeting in Tirana "Ylli" Magazine, August 1968.



"Hosteni" Magazine 2 June 1961.



"Ylli" Magazine, July 1971.



"Pionieri" Magazine 10 July 1977.



"Hosteni" Magazine 10 July 1978.



XV.JUGOSLAV- ALBANIAN BROKEN FRIENDSHIP

Meeting in Tirana, immediately after the rupture of relations between Albania and Yugoslavia
AQP. 1949, photo no. 85.

The first country to recognise the post war communist government was Yugoslavia. During 1945-1948, relations between the two countries focused on close cooperation in the political and economic domain. Finding itself in the situation where economic aid coming from Yugoslavia was indispensable, a series of agreements were signed that unilaterally affected the country.

The economic convention signed by the two countries in 1946 foresaw the coordination of economic plans, equal currency, and customs union. Very soon efforts by the Yugoslavian Communist Party were noticed to include Albania within Yugoslavia or in the Balkan Federation that was being designed and to replace Enver Hoxha with a Yugoslav proponent. The June 1948 Resolution of

the Information Bureau of the Communist and Labour Parties condemned Yugoslavian leadership for divergence of the joint path of communist parties and, in this international context, Enver Hoxha seized the moment to reposition relations with the communist camp. On the 1st of July 1948, the Albanian government announced the annulment of agreements with Yugoslavia. From this moment, official propaganda engaged itself in harshly attacking Yugoslavia and its leader, Josif Tito. Enver Hoxha used the breakup of relations between the two countries as a pretext to purge the government from those that threatened his authority and accusing many of the members of the politic bureau as “enemies of the people”.



During the inauguration of the works of the Tirana-Durrës railroad, with aid credited by Yugoslavia. AQP. 1948, photo no. 19.



After the rupture of Albanian-Yugoslavian relations "Hosteni" Magazine, 17 January 1952.



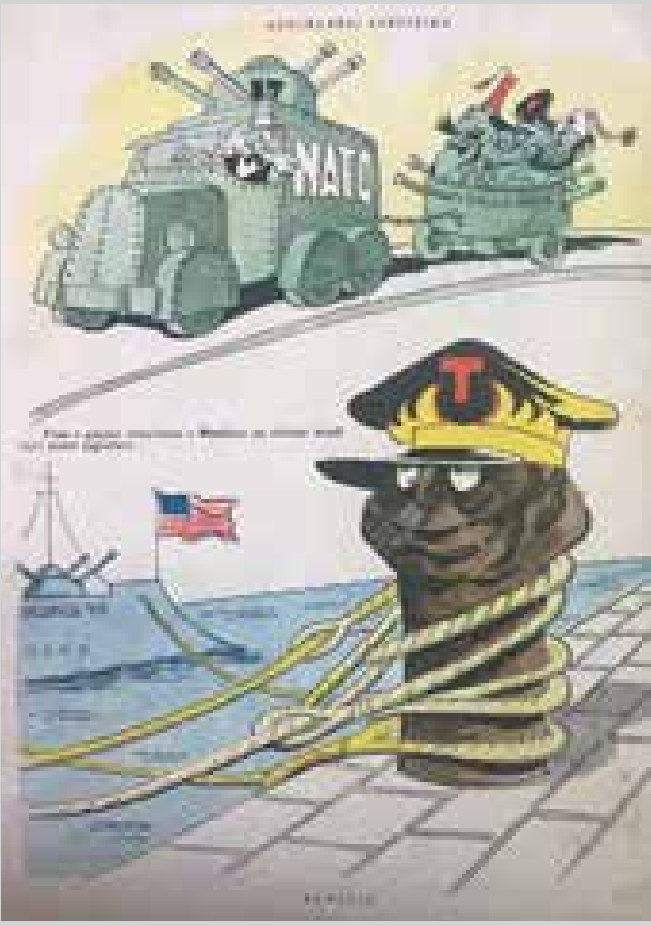
"Hosteni" Magazine February 1952.



"Hosteni" Magazine 17 January 1952.



"Hosteni" Magazine 2 February 1961.



"Hosteni" Magazine 2 June 1961.



"Hosteni" Magazine 2 February 1959.

XVI. ALBANIA AND SOVIET UNION: FROM FRIENDS TO ENEMIES

Arrival of the Soviet delegation, led by Nikita Khrushchev, in Albania, May 1959.

AQP. 1959, photo no. 85.

The breakup of relations with Yugoslavia and its negative consequences on the economy of Albania brought about a change of course towards the Soviet Union. After the death of Stalin in 1953, many relation divergences arose between Albania and the Soviet Union. In 1956, Enver Hoxha was obliged to renounce many of the political posts that he was holding, in order to support the Khrushchev course of "De-Stalinization" and "Denouncing the Cult of Personality".

Soviet-Albanian relations seemed to reach their peak with the official visit by Khrushchev in Albania, in May 1959. Nonetheless, the dictator feared the Soviet Union had plans to replace him with another person from within the party which pressed him to openly go against the Soviet Union at the Congress of 21 Communist Parties, Moscow 1960, by supporting China. Until 1961, the Soviet Union was considered the

greatest friend of Albanians, and abruptly the population had to get used to the idea that this country from now on was an enemy. Glory and titles for the unwavering friendship were replaced by propaganda qualifying the Soviet Union as an enemy and revisionist country.

The consequences of this breakup in relations would influence economic development, as interruption of financial aid and the departure of specialists hindered further development and completion of 5 year plans. Dozens of mixed Albanian-Russian families were obliged to separate; students returning from the Soviet Union and Russian women that stayed in Albania were placed under constant surveillance by the State Security.



On the occasion of J.V. Stalin's birthday. AQP. 1948, photo no. 70.



View from the days following Stalin's death, March 1953. AQP. 1953, photo no. 1.



The welcoming of Khrushchev during his visit to Albania, May 1959. AQP. 1959, photo no. 31.



Moscow meeting. "Hosteni" Magazine, December 1969.



Caricature of the figure of USSR leader Nikita Khrushchev, after the rupture of relations between the USSR and Albania. "Hosteni" Magazine, 12 May 1980.



Parade on the occasion of 1 May. AQP. 1970, photo no. 4.

XVII. TOGETHER WITH DISTANT CHINA

Welcoming Zhou En Lai at Rinas Airport, on 23 March 1965.

AQP. 1965, photo no. 21.

The first phase of Albanian-Chinese relations comprised the consolidation of relations until 1959. After the breakup with the Soviet Union, relations between Albania and China were characterised by the creation of a close and stable alliance between the two countries. Official propaganda rushed to state that great China would aid Albania in the economic and political aspect.

China would supply Albania with a lot of necessary aid for the country; even so, relations between the two countries started to deteriorate in the early 70's, when China started lowering tension

towards the west. At this point, the state propaganda started considering it a revisionist country. In the 7th Congress of the ALP in November 1976, displeasures against China would reflect indirectly whilst on the 7th of July 1978 the Chinese leadership notified Tirana on the interruption of loans and financial aid, as well as the recall of its specialists. This event would become the cause for a new purge within the leadership of the Party. Press was filled with articles and criticism on ideological mistakes made by yesterday's friends.



Visit of Ho Chi Minh to Tirana in August 1957.
AQP. 1957, photo no. 65.



"Hosteni" Magazine
July 1968.



On the occasion of the Albanian delegation's visit to China. "Ylli" Magazine April 1966.



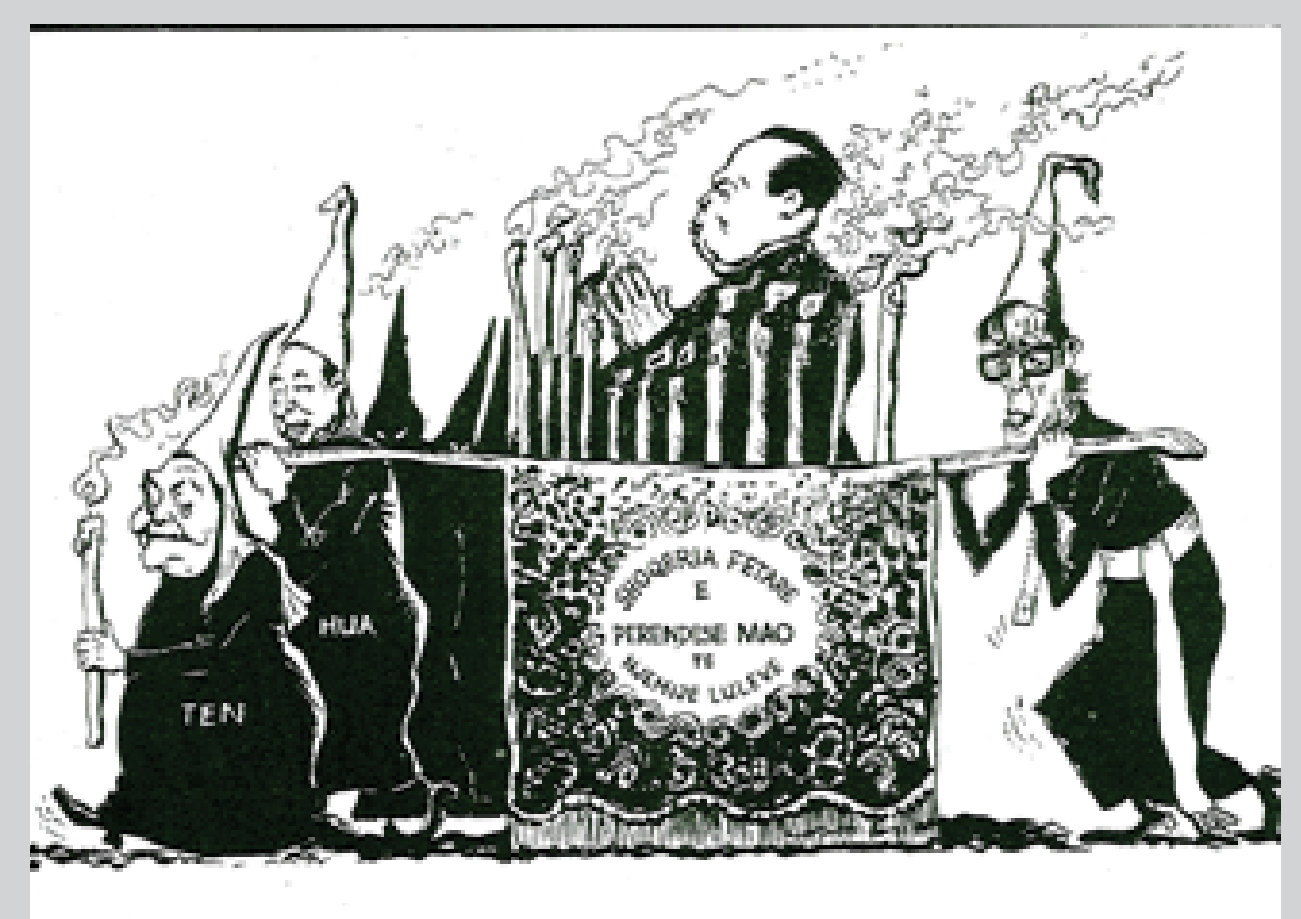
Article in "Zëri i Popullit."
"Hosteni" Magazine, July 1978.



View of the visit of the Chinese military delegation to Albania. 16 August 1971.
AQP. 1971, photo no. 5.



Meeting in Tirana to honor the memory of Mao Zedong.
AQP. 1976, photo no. 111.



After the rupture in relations with China
"Hosteni" Magazine, August 1979.

XVIII.ACROSS THE IRON CURTAIN

Demonstrations for the recognition of the Albanian government, which had already legitimated its power by way of elections.

AQP. 1945, photo no. 95.

After the conclusion of the Second World War, Albania steered itself towards the soviet camp by embracing the totalitarian communist political model. During this period, propaganda was focused to the countries beyond the Iron Curtain that were considered “imperialist” nations. Using the press to convey the idea that in such countries people were exploited and lived in misery, it seems the propaganda of that period aimed at creating the conviction that communism was the best system that could be applied in any country. Through newspapers full of headlines on the constant threat of invasion coming from those countries, or from the danger threatening communism

from any western capitalist type display, people had to think that the main objective of those countries was breaching world peace. Being isolated from the international arena and lacking independent information sources, it seems propaganda on bad living conditions of people in “capitalist” countries and good living conditions in communist countries was successful.

Caricature was one of the propaganda tools used against the so called “revisionist countries”, through which the enemy became visible to popular masses.



On the occasion of the arrival of the English military mission in our country, demonstrations take place for the recognition of the government and for representation in the Peace Conference. AQP. 1945, photo no. 19.



Celebrations of 9 May in Albania. AQP. 1950, photo no. 40.



“Hosteni” Magazine 20 August 1967.



Meeting for the recognition of the Albanian government AQP. 1945, photo no. 96.



“Portrait of imperialism” “Hosteni” Magazine, 17 January 1952.



Western countries are compared to the Third Reich and Hitler. “Hosteni” Magazine, 29 November 1952.

XIX. ON NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT

After Albania's "de facto" exit from the Warsaw Pact in 1961, the country's press began to compare and equate it with NATO.

"Hosteni," 20 July 1967.

The establishment of NATO in 1949 would be followed by the creation of another political-military alliance of popular democracy countries of the East. On the 14th of May 1955, at the seat of the Council of Ministers of the Peoples' Republic of Poland, the Warsaw Treaty was signed.

This event was extensively covered by Albanian press which trumpeted great joy that Albania had become a full rights member of that pact that would ensure it protection in case of foreign attack. Communist leadership rushed to express and propagate the country's benefits from signing the agreement, propaganda that would totally shift after 1961, when Albania

de facto broke away from the Warsaw Pact. Then a broad propaganda elaborating on the revisionist aims of the Warsaw Pact would start, which reached its peak when the alliance attacked Czechoslovakia in 1968, an event that served as pretext for Albania to officially leave this Pact. From this moment, the alliance would be compared to its counterpart, NATO, and official propaganda accused both as being allies in breaching world peace. According to propaganda of the period, they trampled on the rights of small nations which had become battleground for the fulfilment of their interests.



Albania joins the Warsaw Pact
"Hosteni" Magazine,
2 June 1955.



Meeting on the occasion of the formation of the Warsaw Pact.
AQP. 1955, photo no. 55.



"Hosteni" Magazine
10 July 1978.



On the NATO military pact, and the threat to world peace.
"Hosteni" Magazine, July 1978.

IMPRESSUM

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AUTHORSHIP

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