

Anniversary of Albanian Army

The congratulatory telegrams and other activities marking the 19th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian People's Army are in sharp contrast with the rather silent treatment of the 41st anniversary of the founding of the Chinese CP. There have not been any indications of congratulatory messages sent to the Red Chinese on their Party anniversary by the Albanian leaders, or of any special friendship activities in the country marking the day (with the exception of a minor meeting in Durres where a few Chinese employees are located, and a dispatch of a telegram only to the Chinese Embassy in Tirana). However, the Albanian Army leaders received telegrams from their counterparts from Red China, North Korea and North Vietnam. Furthermore, a meeting attended by high Chinese military officials was held in Peking on the occasion.

The telegram of the Chinese Defense Minister, Marshal Lin Piao, to the Albanian Defense Minister (also Politburo member and first Deputy Premier) Lt. Gen. Beqir Balluku, stated that "The Albanian People's Army led by the experienced Albanian Workers Party and headed by Enver Hoxha...stands vigilantly at the south-western outpost of the socialist camp". The message further read, "The Chinese people and the people's liberation army of China have heart-felt admiration for the Albanian people's army and for its successes which are of great inspiration. The Chinese and the Albanian armies are bound by a profound militant friendship. This friendship is based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism, which can face any test." The telegram concluded on the note, "Hail to the unbreakable fraternal friendship of the peoples and armies of China and Albania."

The North Korean Defense Minister, General of the Army Kin Gvan Hem, sent a message to Balluku which when referring to friendship was milder in tone. It stated that the Albanian People's Army "guards vigilantly the great socialist victories which the Albanian people have achieved under the guidance of the Albanian Workers Party." The North Korean then wished Balluku "further successes in the defense of the victories of socialist construction, in the military-political training of the Albanian People's Army

10 JULY 1962

and in the further strengthening of its defensive power."

The message of the North Vietnamese Defense Minister was more similar to the Chinese in his warm praise for the Albanian army and people. The North Vietnamese leader, General of the Army Von Guan Ja, wished the Albanian People's Army, led by the "wise" Albanian Workers Party, "further successes in the strengthening of the defensive power, in the defense of the socialist victories and in the peaceful work of the fraternal Albanian people who are contributing to the strengthening of the power of the socialist camp." The telegram concluded with the call "let us strengthen and improve the solidarity of the armies and of the peoples of our countries and of the fraternal countries of the socialist camp on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism" (Radio Tirana, July 9).

In Peking, the central political directorate of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, organized a meeting marking the 19th anniversary of the founding of the Albanian People's Army. The meeting was presided by the deputy director of the central directorate, General Fu Chun. Many other generals and officers representing the three armed services of the Chinese armed forces were present, and so was the Albanian Ambassador to China, Reiz Malile. General Fu Chun after having praised the "powerful modern revolutionary" armed forces of Albania, led by the "wise" Albanian Workers Party headed by Enver Hoxha, declared, "Let us always march closely together with the heroic Albanian people and its armed forces, and with the peoples and the armies of the other socialist countries, fighting united for the fulfillment of our great cause and ideals."

The military attaché of the Albanian Embassy, Colonel Elami Hado, spoke also on the occasion, but he limited himself only to the history of the Albanian People's army. (Radio Tirana, July 9.)

Radio Tirana Commentary on Moscow Peace Congress

A Radio Tirana commentary on July 9 stated that the Albanian delegation to the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace would advocate peace and the checking of the so-called imperialist aggressors. The commentator declared that "Imperialism could not be persuaded by requests and advice. It is based on the

10 JULY 1962

policy of strength and could be persuaded only by means of the strength of the peoples."

Tying in the question of national-liberation with disarmament the commentator stated: "The call for disarmament is inseparable from the national-liberation war of the peoples for independence. The support for such a war will directly cause the weakening of the positions of imperialism and consequently increase the strength of those who will force imperialism to accept disarmament." Immediately following that statement the commentary continued "the Albanian people along with the Party and government are in favor of general and total disarmament, therefore they support Soviet proposals in this connection. However, the Albanian people are aware that it is impossible to persuade the imperialists to disarm. Imperialists can only be convinced by the combined resources of the peoples and by the change of the great movement for peace into a true revolutionary movement." These type of statements throw some light on the stand which the Albanian delegation will take at the Moscow conference.

In conclusion, the broadcast again brought the question of national-liberation war into the picture by declaring that the Albanian people "have supported without reservation and have been in uniformity with the peoples who are fighting for independence and liberation. They consider this, therefore, to be the best contribution to peace."

Albania Wants to Take Part in Moscow Championship

Albania has expressed desire to participate in the world volleyball championship (man's division) to be held in Moscow in October this year. (Radio Tirana, July 9)