

NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 5th, 6th, 7th.

by Kate O'Connell

The Second All-Canada National Youth Festival was held in Toronto on October 5th, 6th and 7th. The Festival was organized by the Communist Youth Union of Canada, (Marxist-Leninist) (CYUC (M-L)), the Canadian Worker's Association, and the Canadian Cultural Workers' Committee. Over 500 revolutionary youth attended the Festival. While the majority were from Ontario and Quebec, delegations of youth from across the country, including one delegation from P.E.I., also attended the Festival.

Representatives of the revolutionary youth of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the Labour Youth Union of Albania, also attended the Festival and were warmly welcomed by the Canadian Youth, along with representatives of the revolutionary youth of Britain, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States. The Festival in Toronto was a concrete manifestation of the struggle of the revolutionary

youth against both the Canadian monopoly capitalism and the U.S. imperialist domination of Canada. The festival was organized for the purpose of further mobilizing the youth to make the rich pay for the crisis.

Albania is a country where the rich have been made to pay. It is the only genuine socialist country in the world. The future of the youth in Albania is bright. There is no unemployment, in fact, there are more jobs than workers to fill them. There are no taxes, yet education and health care are provided free of charge. There is no inflation in Albania and the standard of living of the Albanian people is steadily increasing. All of this is because in Albania the rich have been expropriated and the working people hold state power and run the country in their own interests.

At the Second All-Canada National Youth Festival the Canadian youth were able to sit down with the delegations from the Labour youth Union of Albania and engage them in

lively discussion under the general topic, "The Youth of Albania in Perspective". When asked what was the source of the happiness and the bright, future of the youth of Albania, the Albanians replied that in Albania socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat had been established, and therefore there was no exploitation of man by man.

The Albanians stated that their socialist society is a society of progress, and that it embodies the aspirations of the youth and ensures all rights to them. The dictatorship of the proletariat ensures the broadest democracy for all people, especially the youth.

Some of the rights ensured by the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism are:

1. The right to work. Because a socialist economy is a planned economy there is no unemployment. Jobs are closely connected with the abilities of the people to work. Workers are paid according to the quality and quantity of their work. In Albania work is considered a right, a duty and an honor, because all work is a contribution to the building of socialist society.

2. The right to rest. A wide network of rest houses, cultural centres, libraries, theatres, cinemas and sports centres have been established across Albania where the youth can pass their leisure time. In these centres the youth can be entertained with films or artistic productions, or the youth may participate in arts and crafts, sports, music and many other pursuits. The youth also take an active part in building these centres.

3. The right to education. One out of every three people in Albania attends school at one level or another. All education is provided free of charge. Education is ensured to everyone today in Albania where prior to the liberation of the country in 1944 80% of the population was illiterate and 90% of these were women. Furthermore, the educational system has

been set up to serve the people's interests. To meet this end it is made up of learning, productive labour, and physical and military training.

The Albanians were asked if drugs and alcohol were a problem among the youth of Albania. They replied there was no drug abuse at all in Albania and while the Albanians certainly drank and enjoyed alcohol, they have no problem with alcoholism. They suggested that drugs and alcohol are used so much by the youth of Canada in an attempt to escape from their hopeless situation.

When asked about crime and the role of the police in Albania, the Albanians replied that there are some crimes in Albania but that these are like a bubble in the ocean. Such crimes are carried out by remnants of the reactionary classes and some people who are influenced by bourgeois revisionist ideology and who are not politically mature. The Albanians explained that when a crime is committed, although this is very rare, they analyze it and find out where it could have been prevented so that it won't be allowed to happen again.

The Albanians at the end of the discussion explained that the character and workings of the Labour Youth Union of Albania, the other mass organizations of the PIA and the whole of socialist society are geared towards the development of the "new man". One who sacrifices one's personal interests for the homeland. Special attention is taken to develop this attitude in the youth and the youth do not hesitate to embrace this attitude.

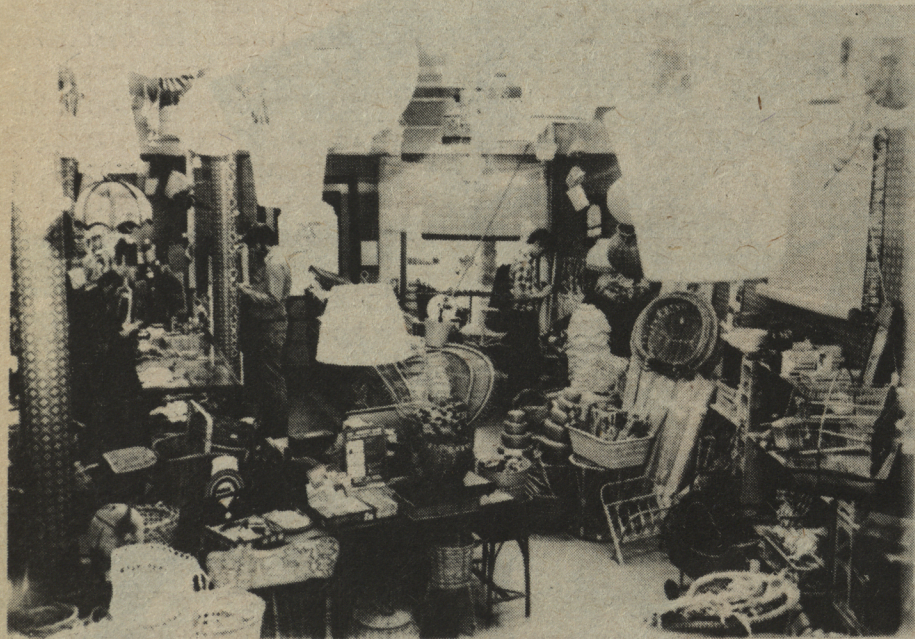
The Canadian youth asked many many other questions, too many to repeat in the space allowed here. The Albanians answered the questions in great detail (more detail than we were able to go into here).

After the discussion was over the Canadian youth continued to discuss what the Albanians had said. They were very impressed and inspired and repeatedly expressed their determination to intensify their work to make the rich pay and to establish a Workers and Small Farmers Government in Canada.

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