

Documents

Anti-Religious Campaign in Albania

As a supplement to Bernhard Tönnes's article on Albania (pp. 4-7) we publish an article on the anti-religious campaign from the main Albanian Party newspaper, Bashkimi (21 July, 1973). This article by Milkë Sotiri is entitled "More Activity in the Struggle against Religion" and was translated from the German version which appeared in Osteuropa-Archiv 9/74, pp. 602-3.

In order to get results and to better shape the work for the future, the activity of the Democratic Front organization on the current scene must increase. It must base itself on the *volkintelligence*. There is now no single village where it is impossible to have a powerful political, economic, cultural and social base for working against religious survivals and every sign of a strange ideology.

We must differentiate between zones, villages, customs, sectors, groups of people or certain people who preserve religion or those who believe in customs connected with it. If we make a careful study of this, we will discover that the present scale of religious belief and religious influences among our people can be distinguished or grouped as follows:

(1) A minority of people consisting of certain families and individuals, who are fanatics and conservatives. If left alone they will influence others, not just anyone, but especially those wavering. We should remember that such an influence can be exercised through different types of relationships as well as economic or social circumstances. In families, particularly, this happens through the division and functioning of family responsibilities, through the administration of income, through the nature of the place of the women, and through the enforcement of moral and social laws.

(2) The group of waverers (includes workers) who keep away from prayers, religious practices and ceremonies, but in whose consciences a long, continuous struggle is going on. Yet in the end, if we work with this category of people carefully and systematically, we will win them over more quickly because their religious and backward convictions are being attacked while in the process of decay. With them we will succeed in developing solid atheist convictions.

Unlike these groups, there are people who have kept away from every influence and ritual of open or hidden religious significance. These are the majority of communists in general, of the cadres, the young people who have not experienced the past nor been affected by religious influences. These are the advanced social activists whose consciences are fully liberated. These are the ones who study systematically Marxist-Leninist literature, the teachings of the Party and of Comrade Enver. They are in all things ideologically formed people.

Only when the Democratic Front has a good and accurate knowledge of these groups can it hope to be able to build up its work, possibly discover interesting scientific-atheist methods. But it should be remembered that this work must be done systematically and with discrimination, so that the debate is carried right into the family itself . . .