

May Day visit to Albania

WORKERS in Britain today are not short of advice from all corners of the globe. When you come to weigh it up, however, it is advice only concerned with saving capitalism.

Some tell us we could overcome unemployment by expanding our trade with them. Others tell us to creep in closer with the boss in Europe to save our necks. The Americans tightly embrace our technology and tell us to die peacefully. The Tories say 'accept redundancy and save jobs' and the Labour Party takes out a contract - 'accept cuts to restore your living standards.'

Could it surprise anyone to find a land where workers, having rejected such advice are confidently advancing? Albania is such a place and a striking contrast it makes for the visitor. The workers there, having taken power by themselves, are building a self-sufficient economy to their own plan. Not impressed by the 'world surplus of steel' they are pouring their own at Elbasan. Already the giant complex there employs more workers than the population of that district in 1944. Where they are short of land on the plains they

terrace the hills. Hydro-electric schemes, fertilizer factories, oil wells, mines, schools, hospitals, whole new towns are brought into existence. Railways and roads and electricity find formerly remote places. Factories which started out to supply spare parts are moving on to make tractors and machines. Women have thrown off ancient subservience to forge an equal role in industry and defence.

In 34 years they have transformed the most backward country in Europe into the most successful.

Workers are welcomed to Albania as equals for they do not claim their victory as theirs alone, but rather they see in the world that workers are their allies. Their aim to be self-sufficient has made many enemies among the rulers of the world. Albania is a pie into which capitalism's fingers cannot dip. And to visit there in May, to celebrate May Day amongst the Albanians is a great delight. Their keen interest in the struggle of workers everywhere is that of friends. And their advice is very simple. Make revolution where you are, take control of your own country and build it healthy and independent.



Delegates to the May Day celebrations in Albania invited by the Albanian trade unions being greeted in Kruja by Young Pioneers.