



## ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF COMRADE TODOR ŽIVKOV

*On September 7, 1981 we celebrated the 70th birthday of comrade Todor Živkov, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The entire Bulgarian people honoured this day because for 25 years now comrade Todor Živkov has been leader both of our Communist Party and of the State.*

*Throughout the conscious years of his life Todor Živkov has been closely connected with the life, struggles and achievements of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Born in the village of Pravets in the family of poor peasants, Todor Živkov experienced the hardships in the life of the broad masses under capitalism. He first worked as a printer in Sofia and thus his life became part of the life of the proletariat in this country. He became member of the Bulgarian Youth Communist League and soon afterwards joined the Bulgarian Communist Party. He advanced quickly as an important political and public figure, as a communist and professional revolutionary. In the 1930's Todor Živkov held different posts in the BCP: he was member and secretary of BYCL and Party committees. In these positions he worked for the organizational and political consolidation of the Party and for the introduction of the Dimitrov line in the work of the BCP. Todor Živkov was particularly active during the war years. As member of the Sofia District Committee of the BCP, Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the First Insurgent Operative Zone, and leader of the Operative Bureau of the revolutionary forces in the Sofia region, he was one of the most indomitable organizers of the anti-fascist struggle. Under his leadership the partisan movement in the area around the capital gained in strength and scale. Todor Živkov was one of the founders of the First Sofia Partisan Brigade "Chavdar". He played an important role in the 9th of September uprising, being one of the leaders of the combat groups which on the night of September 8th, 1944 delivered the decisive blow that determined the outcome of the uprising.*

*After the victory of the Bulgarian people on September 9, 1944, comrade Živkov was in the forefront of those who began building the new life in our country. He was first the political leader of the staff of the People's Militia in Sofia. At the same time he was Secretary of the Sofia Regional Committee of the Party. Later Todor Živkov was elected First Secretary of the Sofia City Committee of the BCP, Chairman of the Fatherland Front City Committee, President of the Sofia City People's Council and Secretary of the Sofia District Committee of the BCP. In 1945 comrade Živkov was elected candidate member of the Party's Central Committee and in 1948 he became full member of it. In 1950 he was elected candidate member of Politbureau and Secretary of the Central Committee. In 1951 he was elected member of Politbureau and in 1954 — First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Ever since 1945 comrade Živkov has also been member of the National Assembly.*

Todor Živkov played a most active part in the work of the Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, held in April 1956. It is well known that this Plenum marked a turning point in the development of socialism in Bulgaria. It put an end to the personality cult and affirmed the requirements of the Leninist norms and principles of party life and leadership both in the party and in the country as a whole. Conditions were thus created which gave an impetus to the political and cultural activities of our Party.

Following the April Plenum Todor Živkov was deservedly elected to the top positions both in the Party and the State. In 1962 he was elected President of the Council of Ministers, a post he retained until 1971, when he was elected President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. Having overcome the personality cult, the Party, headed by Todor Živkov, adopted the general policy line of building socialism in accordance with existing conditions. As a result the Party gradually freed itself of all petty bourgeois remnants, of all reformist and revisionist deviations, and established the class approach in the activities. The new policy line won the hearts and minds of the working people who, convinced of the high humane principles of socialism, set to work with new energies under the new conditions.

The improvement in the functions of the State is largely due to comrade Todor Živkov. Here is the place to mention that close ties were established between the organs of the State and the population. It was of vital importance that the level of the scientific basis of state administration and of the social system was raised. It was on comrade Živkov initiative that the public-and-state principle of government was introduced, first in the cultural sphere and, later, in the spheres of education, science, agriculture, etc. Todor Živkov has also done a great deal for the improved organization and the development of the Bulgarian Army.

Todor Živkov initiated many ideas which have furthered the development of our national economy. We should mention here his elaboration of the principles of intensification and intellectualization of the production processes, the implementation of the multiplication principle, the introduction of a new perfected economic mechanism.

The upsurge in the cultural sphere owes a great deal to the interest comrade Živkov takes in it. Bulgarian science, education and arts have flourished and this too is largely due to him.

It is well known that Party congresses play an important role in the activities of the Party itself and the development of the socialist State. Six congresses were held under the leadership of Todor Živkov: the 7th in 1958, the 8th in 1962, the 9th in 1966, the 10th in 1971, the 11th in 1976, and the 12th this year. Each of these congresses marked a new stage in the development of our socialist system. Todor Živkov delivered the official reports at each of these six congresses. The reports summarized the activities of the Party during the interim periods, reviewed the implementation of the decisions of the preceding congress, and analysed all important problems related to our social system and the development of socialist democracy. Each report enriched the programme of the Party concerning the methods of building socialism, outlined new directions for the further development of the country, and took account of the activities of the Party in meeting the material and spiritual needs of the population. Most important in the development of socialism in our country was the transition from capitalism to socialism, followed by the first steps in the construction of the developed socialist society.

The strategy and tactics, as well as the lines along which socialist construction has moved in this country, have been examined and elaborated in other reports by Todor Živkov and in many of his speeches and articles. In printed form they amount to nearly 30 volumes. All kinds of questions from all areas of our political,

*economic and cultural life have been examined in them. They also discuss a number of theoretical issues. They are a considerable contribution to the rich heritage of our ideology and the works of Dimiter Blagoev and Georgi Dimitrov. Todor Živkov opposes dogmatism and revisionism, supports the principles of proletarian internationalism, consolidates the unity of all communist and workers' movements in the world. He conducts our home and foreign policy in unity with the USSR and fights for friendship among the peoples of the world. We also have to mention his Balkan and European "policy". Comrade Živkov is one of the world's most prominent fighters for peace.*

*The 12th Congress of our Party, which took place not long ago, gave a high approval of Todor Živkov's contribution to the building of socialism in our country, stressing his merits for the April policy line of the Party. The resolution of the Congress reads: "The political, theoretical and practical aspects of the April policy line are inseparably connected with the name and activities of comrade Todor Živkov. For over 30 years now he has been at the head of the Central Committee of our Party. These years have won him the prestige of a true son of his people, an outstanding theoretician and a generally accepted leader of the Bulgarian Communist Party, of a prominent and respected figure in the international communist movement, and of a worthy continuator of the great cause of Dimiter Blagoev and Georgi Dimitrov."*