
answers
to questions
about
ALBANIA

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ABOUT ALBANIA**

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATIONS

**WHERE IS THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
SITUATED AND WHAT IS ITS RELIEF?**

The People's Republic of Albania is situated in Europe, in the western part of the Balkan Peninsula, between the 39°38' to 42°39' north geographical latitudes and the 19°16' to 21°4' geographical longitudes east of Greenwich meridian. It has the form of an irregular hexagone, with a maximum length (from north to south) of 340 km and a maximum width (from west to east) of 148 km. Its surface is 28,748 square kilometers. The states with which Albania has common frontiers are: to the north and east — Yugoslavia; to the south-east and south — Greece; whereas its western and south-western regions are bounded by the Adriatic and Ionian seas. The total length of the boundary line is 1204 km (476 km with Yugoslavia and 256 km with Greece), of which 577 km are terrestrial frontiers, 472 km are maritime confines and the remainder fluvial and lake boundaries.

Albania is the most mountainous of the Balkan states and one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. Only one-third of its surface has an average altitude of up to 300 metres above sea level, while the other two-thirds range from 300 to 2700 m. The average altitude of the country's entire surface (714 m above sea level) is about twice that of Europe. A rare combination of lofty mountains, deep valleys, plains, hills, mountain and lowland lakes, rivers — a varying geographical construction — make Albania one of the most typical places with

regard to the complexity and originality of its relief: a place very attractive for its nature full of contrasts and rare beauties.

In order to better bring into evidence the particular differences of the relief and its unity as a whole, the simplest division of the country could be made into these three natural zones: the North Albanian Alps, the Inner and Coastal Albania.

The Alps occupy the country's eastern part and rise from 2000 to 2700 m above sea level. They have a west to east length of about 50 km and a north to south width of 20 km. The Alps, with their ragged caps covered with perennial snow, are split by impetuous, crystal-clear and icy rivers rushing through valleys of a rare beauty. Many are the roads leading to the interior of the Alps, one of them to their very centre: to the typical alpine village of Thethi whence one can enjoy a ravishing panorama and a very good climate — an ideal resort for tourists. The Alps constitute one of the most interesting parts of the country. They are the alpinist's hardest trial, the tourist's passion and an everlasting problem for the Albanian geologists. Our Alps are rich in forests and valuable minerals.

Inner Albania stretches beneath the Alps and includes the eastern part of the country, from Shkodra in the north to Leskoviku in the south. This zone, too, has chiefly a mountainous character, but its valleys and plateaux are of importance and occupy a large surface. The mountain chains of this zone may be classified into three groups: the Western Group, rising in Central Albania, with Mt. Dajti (vis-à-vis Tirana) and especially Mt. Tomorri, near Berati (2417 m high); the Middle Group, of which the Lura Mountains with beautiful meadows and lakes that make them a rare alpinistic centre deserve special mention; and the Eastern Group

in which Mt. Korabi, the highest in Albania (2751 m high), is to be found. These mountains are very rich in timber and in various ores, while, at the same time, they serve as vast pasture grounds. The valleys and plains of this zone are of great economic importance because of the food grains and industrial crops, as well as the plants and fruits cultivated in them.

Coastal Albania stretches with its plains and highlands to the west of inner Albania. Its northern part is a combination of hills and plains, the central one is chiefly made up of lowlands and the southern part is mountainous. But even the plains are much intersected by rivers, low mountains and hills. In the coastal zone stretch the fertile plains of Mati and Thumana, as well as the Myzeqe plain — the largest of Albania. Once inundated by swamp waters, they have been now definitely drained and converted into renowned yielders of food grains and industrial crops. The part of Coastal Albania most reputed for its natural beauty is the mountainous seacoast from Vlora to the vicinity of Saranda in the south, which constitutes the famous Albanian Riviera — a succession of picturesque corners and health resorts, full of contrasts, on the Ionian seacoast.

The Riviera, which is about 80 km long, is dotted with beautiful villages renowned for their mild climate all the year round. The mountains and hills drop perpendicularly upon the sea. The cooperative peasantry and the workers of the State Agricultural Establishments have created large plantations of citrus trees: lemons, oranges, mandarines and citrons, as well as entire blocks of olive groves and vineyards along the Riviera.

Along the Albanian seacoast, from north to south, stretch famous beaches which, on account of their clear waters, their fine sands containing large percentages of iodine, their natural beauty, their resting-houses, hotels

and restaurants, have become favourite resting centers for thousands of our workers and for foreign tourists.

WHICH ARE THE COUNTRY'S MAIN RIVERS AND LAKES?

In the Albanian territory there are many rivers and lakes. In the highlands, they are narrow rushing brooks, gurgling down from steep places, whereas upon reaching the plains of the seacoast they become wider and quieter.

The longest rivers are: Drini (281 km), Semani (252 km) formed by the conjunction of the Devolli and Osumi rivers, Vjosa (238 km), Shkumbini (146 km), Mati (104 km), Erzeni (91 km) and Buna (44 km).

The mountainous character of Albania exerts considerable influence on the flow of the rivers. Because of the declivity of the ground, the swiftness of the rivers on their upper reaches is great. Almost all the rivers flow in the same direction — from east to west. Most of them pour their waters into the Adriatic and only a few unimportant ones into the Jonian sea.

Almost all of them are mountain rivers with swiftly rushing currents and a water level changing from season to season. These characteristics make them innavigable, with only one exception — the river Buna — which quietly flows through flat territory in the north-eastern part of the country.

Although innavigable, the Albanian rivers play an important role in our national economy. The rivers and lakes of Albania are potentially capable to produce milliards of kilowatt/hours of electric power. In this respect, our country surpasses the German Democratic Republic and may be compared with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. But this valuable wealth began to be made use of only after the country's liberation and the establishment of the People's Power.

Albania has got many lakes. They are more than 150. Most of them are relatively small and are situated in the mountains. The larger ones are the frontier lakes, namely those of Shkodra, Ohri and Prespa — the Albanian part of their surface being 140, 92 and 100 square kilometres respectively.

Our lakes are renowned for their rare beauty, their crystal-clear waters and the magnificent landscapes surrounding them. Especially reputed are the picturesque glacial lakes of Lura.

WHAT IS ALBANIA'S CLIMATE?

Although a small country, Albania has different climatic zones. This is due to a series of factors, such as its equidistance from the Equator and the North Pole, its vicinity to the Adriatic and, especially, the Ionian sea, the great differences in the relief of the ground, the altitude and direction of the mountain chains, the influence of the masses of hot air spreading from the Adriatic and Ionian seas and the Atlantic Ocean, and of the cold winds, blowing from the interior of Central Europe and the Balkan Peninsula. It is due to these factors, therefore, that the climate varies a great deal from east to west and from north to south.

Until recently climatic elements had not been studied scientifically and methodically because of the lack of a meteorological service. After liberation this service was established on a scientific basis and is now of great help to our people's economy, particularly, to agriculture, navigation and fishing. The studies carried out during the recent years have completed the necessary data on the country's climate.

The temperature of Albania rises when going from north to south and from east to west. This rise becomes

especially conspicuous along the seacoast regions. The higher we climb above sea level the more does the temperature fall. Besides, the temperature greatly oscillates between night and day as well as between winter and summer.

The average yearly temperature for the north-eastern part of the country is 14°C and for the south-western part 18°C. The coldest month is January, during which the average temperature in the different zones oscillates between 3°C and 10°C; whereas the hottest month is July with an average temperature of from 25°C to 26°C.

All this indicates that Albania is one of the hottest places in the Balkans. During all the seasons the temperature stands relatively high: the annual sum of temperatures wavers from 2000°C to 5000°C. The Himara region on the seacoast, with 5000°C, is one of the hottest places.

The average yearly precipitations surpass 1000 mm. Particular importance assumes the seasonal distribution of the rain falls. The summer period is especially dry in the southern and seacoast regions. The dry periods occur often and last more than one month. In autumn and winter the precipitations are abundant.

ARE THE ALBANIAN FLORA AND FAUNA RICH?

Few are the places of the world possessing so many varieties of plants, and of such different origins, as Albania. The greatly varying climatic, geological and geographical characteristics are responsible for the country's multifariousness of flora and fauna. In Albania there grow about 3500 species of different plants, which not only represent the greater part of the Balkan Peninsula's flora, but are also related with the plants of most distant

lands. Forests in Albania occupy about 45 per cent of its surface, thus classifying it third in Europe, directly after Sweden and Finland.

Albanian flora differs according to the regions, depending on their distance from the seacoast and their altitude. Thus, for example, the seacoast flora is of the Mediterranean type and is chiefly represented by evergreen Mediterranean shrubs. In this zone predominate the olives, vines and such fruit trees as figs, oranges, and lemons.

The representatives of the fruitless trees of the coastal zone are: the heather, the valonia, the gorse, the cypress, etc. But food products and industrial crops such as cotton and tobacco also grow in this zone. Whereas in the inner hilly and mountainous regions of Albania predominates the flora of Central Europe. Widely spread in this zone are also such fruit trees as nuts, apples, pears, quinces, plums, grapes, etc. Whole forests of chestnut trees are to be met with in Northern Albania. Among the fruitless trees of this zone, special mention should be made of the oak, ash, beech, fir, black pine, and similar trees.

Of the Albanian flora, the medicinal herbs are of numerous varieties and widely spread. Such are the sage, the camomile, the elder tree flowers, the rosemary, etc. After liberation these herbs are being systematically exploited. Our country now exports about 45 varieties of medicinal herbs.

In the past, the Albanian flora used to be studied by many foreign scholars, while our own former regimes did not devote the slightest attention to it. They not only did not undertake any study in this direction, but they did not even prepare any collection of the flora, no matter how simple and crude it might have been. The People's Power, assessing aright the importance of

the flora both from the scientific and the economic point of view, took a number of measures for the collection and study of the plants. Today 90 per cent of the studies of this nature have been and are being carried out by the scientific workers of Albania.

A series of books of a highly scientific and practical value have been published during the years of the People's Power on the exploration and exploitation of the floral wealth of the country. Such are: «The Trees and Shrubs of Albania», «The Flora of Tirana», «The Dendroflora of Albania», «The Weeds», «The Forage Crops of the Pastures of Central Albania», etc.

The warm climate, the numerous forests, the waters, and the mountainous character of the Albanian relief are responsible for the richness and multifariousness of its fauna. Besides the domestic animals, there are also to be found such beasts of prey as the wolf, the bear, the fox, etc., just as other wild animals as, for example, the hare, the deer and the wild goat.

Albania is rich in poultry, too. Besides the domestic fowls, we also have many wild birds — both of the sort that prey and others.

The fish world in the Albanian waters is multifarious. There exist about 110 fish families representing all the varieties of the Mediterranean zone. Among the chief kinds are the mullet, the bass, the trout, the carp, etc.

After liberation, the People's Government, valuing the flora and fauna as great riches, took the necessary steps for their rational development and exploitation for the benefit of people's economy. Many raw materials coming from our natural resources are now processed at home by the canning, wood, fur, pharmaceutical and other industries. These vast natural resources constitute, at the same time, a good basis for Albanian exports.

WHAT TREASURES LIE HIDDEN IN THE ALBANIAN SUBSOIL?

Although a small country, Albania has great underground riches. Research work has established that in our country exist more than 30 different kinds of metallic and non-metallic minerals. The south-western part of the country is rich in hydro-carbonic and combustible materials (fuel), whereas in the north-eastern part great reserves of metallic ores are to be found. The chief place among the hydro-carbonic raw materials is held by naphtha and the bitumen ore. After liberation, new reserves of naphtha were discovered. The main naphtha zones are the Stalin City, Patosi and Marinza. Natural gas is also found in great quantities. During the years of the Third Five-year Plan (1961-1965) an important source of methane gas was discovered in Central Albania. Natural bitumen is extracted in abundance and of a very good quality at the Selenica mine, in the South-west, which is the oldest in Albania. The mineral here is in an almost pure state.

Among the combustible materials an important place is occupied by coal, which has a calorific value of up to 7000 calories. Albania is one of the richest places in the world in high quality chrome ore containing 48% pure metal. The fact that it is found in not very deep layers facilitates a great deal its extraction. The Bulqiza mine, to the northeast of Albania, is one of the most important in the world both for its industrial reserves of chrome and for its annual capacity of production. In 1958, in our country began the extraction of iron-nickel ore. The mineral contains 60 per cent pure iron, 1 to 2 per cent pure nickel and a smaller percentage of cobalt. The iron-nickel ore is found chiefly in the south-eastern region of the country. Based on raw materials found within the country black metalurgy is also being

developed in Albania. Copper occupies an important place among our minerals. Its main sources are at Kurbneshi, Rubiku and Gjegjani, in the North. During the years of the People's Power, new copper mines have been opened in Albania, modern metalurgic workshops have been built for its processing and refining, as well as a factory for producing copper electric wires. Our copper blister and electric wires are much in demand in foreign markets.

Albania is rich in many other minerals such as bauxites, gold, silver, etc. Besides the metallic minerals, in Albania there are also non-metallic minerals widely used in industry. Among the non-metallic ores are to be mentioned: sulphur, asbestos, arsenic, gypsum, clay, etc.

In the past regimes, the great treasure of the Albanian subsoil did not serve for the development of national economy, but went to enrich the monopolistic companies of imperialist countries. The People's Power put an end once and for all to this state of affairs. The nationalization of all companies and concerns belonging to foreign capital and local private owners was carried out. After passing into the hands of the State considerable prospects were opened to the Albanian mining industry, in spite of the serious difficulties and devastations. The Albanian geologists discovered new mineral sources, and the heavy processing industry was created and is rapidly growing in the country. The products of the mineral extracting and processing industries are exported to many countries of the world and represent over 50 per cent of the total amount of Albanian export.

WHICH ARE THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF ALBANIA?

Tirana is Albania's capital and the biggest economic, administrative and cultural center. It is situated in the

central part of the country and is connected by automobile roads and railways with several cities and large industrial centers of the country.

Tirana is a relatively young city. In historical documents it is first mentioned in the XVth century, at the time of our people's wars against the Turks under the leadership of Skanderbeg. In the XVIIth century it is mentioned as a city with many mosques, shops, etc. Although it was not an administrative center at that time, it has nevertheless played an important role in our country's history.

In 1920, by decision of the patriotic Congress of Lushnja, Tirana was proclaimed the Capital of Albania. From 10, 845 inhabitants that it had in 1923, it increased, this number to 25,000 in 1938, whereas today the city boasts of 170,000 inhabitants. On November 8th 1941, during the grim days when the country writhed under fascist occupation, there was founded, in a humble house in Tirana and in clandestinity conditions, the Communist Party of Albania, which led the Albania people in their National-liberation War for achieving national freedom and social emancipation. Hundreds of actions were organized and executed in Tirana against the invaders.

The battle for the liberation of Tirana, which lasted three weeks (from October 29 to November 17), was one of the fiercest of the National-liberation War. On November 28, 1944, the members of the first Albanian Democratic Government entered Tirana.

After liberation, Tirana embarked on a course of very rapid progress. A modern new industry was put up, with dozens of workshops, factories and mills for the mechanical, textile, building materials, glass and porcelane, food processing and other industries. Such educational and cultural institutions were set up as the State University of Tirana, the upper Institute of History

and Philology, the Institute of Folklore, the Opera and Ballet Theater, the People's Dramatic Theater, the «New Albania» Film Studio, the Museums of Archeology and Ethnography, of the National-liberation War and of Natural Sciences, the «Lenin-Stalin» Museum, the Museum-House of the Party of Labor, the Gallery of Arts, the Palace of Culture, the Pioneers' Palace, etc.

A very great impetus was given to the construction of buildings, roads, parks, department stores, shops, etc., which are daily turning Tirana into a truly modern city.

Durrës lying west of Tirana, one of the oldest cities in Europe, built in the year 627 before our era and called Epidamnus or Dyrrachion in ancient times, has played a very important role as a big city and chief sea-port of the eastern Adriatic. A number of monuments discovered there bear witness to the high degree of economic and cultural development the city had attained.

Durrës today is the biggest port of Albania and an important industrial centre with a series of new factories and workshops for the construction of agricultural machines and the processing of: rubber, plastic materials, cigarettes, tobacco, etc. During the post-liberation years, the port has been widened and modernized. A dockyard has also been erected there.

The beach stretching to the south of this city is one of the biggest resorts of the Adriatic, with fine sands containing plenty of iodine. Many rest-houses for the workers and children, as well as comfortable hotels for tourists, have been constructed here. *Durrës* has over 50,000 inhabitants.

The city of *Shkodra*, with its 48,000 inhabitants, lies on the northwestern part of the country. It is mentioned as early as ten centuries before our era as a fortress of the ancient Illyrian clan of the Labeates and, later, as capital of the big Illyrian state of the Ardians who fought

for a long time against the Romans, and as an important city ever after. On a hill near *Shkodra* stands the historic castle of *Rozafat*. Today *Shkodra* is one of our chief economic and cultural centers. A very modern workshop for producing copper electric wires has recently been built there, while near this city is being constructed the potent hydro-power station of *Vau i Dejës* with an installed capacity of 250,000 kilowatts.

To the south-east of Albania is located *Korça*, a city with 45,000 inhabitants and one of the principal hearths of the Albanian patriotic and cultural movements during our wars for liberty and independence. This city possesses a modern knitting industry and is renowned for the beautiful articles produced by its dexterous artisans. Especially famous are the artistic rugs of *Korça*.

The «hero-city» of *Vlora* is situated in the South-west. It is first mentioned by the Alexandrian geographer Ptolemy (of the second century B.C.) under the name of *Aulon*. On the 28th of Nov. 1912, our national independence was proclaimed in *Vlora*, after almost five centuries of Turkish yoke, and an Albanian government under the chairmanship of *Ismail Qemali* was established there. *Vlora* is today an important sea-port and an advanced industrial and cultural center. It has over 48,000 inhabitants.

Elbasan lies in central Albania. After liberation it became an important industrial center and its prospects for future development are very great.

Kruja lies in central Albania. This town, with its historic castle, was the epicenter of the world-famous anti-Turkish resistance of the Albanian people, who fought under their renowned leader *Skanderbeg* during the XVth century.

Pogradec is a health resort in the southeastern part of the country: a balnear station on the banks of the

Ohri lake — one of the most picturesque lakes, with clear waters and the famous salmon-trout called «Koran».

Berat or, as otherwise called, the «City of a Thousand Windows», is one of the most ancient Albanian towns. It is mentioned and has played an important role during many centuries. This city, with its numerous monuments of culture, its majestic castle and the characteristic style of its buildings, has been declared a «museum-city».

The city of *Gjirokastra*, lying south, resemble a magnificent museum with very interesting urbanistic features and an unique Medieval architecture. The *Gjirokastra* house is a prominent stone building erected on sharp declivities, the houses here seem to have been placed one upon another, giving to the city a typical appearance. In this city the visitor admires the traditional art of stone and wood carving. In spite of the recently constructed modern buildings, *Gjirokastra*, nevertheless, preserves its peculiar characteristics. It has more than 15,000 inhabitants.

WHAT DO THE NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION AND THE PROLONGATION OF THE AVERAGE SPAN OF LIFE SIGNIFY?

In little more than two decades since the People's Government is in power, the population of Albania has been doubled. In March, 1968 it reached the 2 million mark. The demographic statistics of the past 22 years indicate that, with regard to the natural increase of population, Albania occupies one of the first places in the world. Thus, while before the war the natural increase of population was 16 per 1,000 persons, during these last years it has risen to 30 per 1000. Very significant is also the prolongation of the average span of

life of the individual. While before liberation it was about 38 years, now it is 66, i.e. almost the double.

These two very outstanding facts are, in the first place, an indication of the continuous improvement of the welfare of the people in socialist Albania and of the great care taken of man. In 1965, the real pay of the workers and employees was 157 percent and the real income of the peasants about 162 percent as compared with 1950.

Everything is done in Albania for the all-round comfort of man. The State assures to the workers the best possible living conditions and takes various measures for the protection of their health. Large funds are expended for this purpose. A large network of prophylactic centers are set up everywhere in the country. Medical aid is given free of charge to all the people without exception. Diseases such as malaria, from which half of the population suffered before liberation, have been eradicated. The cases of tuberculosis and other contagious diseases have greatly decreased. As a preventive measure against diseases, the children are vaccinated not only against the small-pox (as in the past) but also against diphtheria, polyomyelitis, measles, etc. The medicines for children up to one year old are not paid for even when the sick infants are visited by doctors at their homes. The mother of the sick child gets a paid leave as long as she is obliged to stay beside her sick infant. About two-thirds of the expenses for keeping the children in creches are defrayed by the State.

These measures account for the fact that Albania, from a country of high mortality figures which it was before liberation (17 per 1000 inhabitants), is now arrayed among the countries with low mortality rates (8,4 per 1000 inhabitants). The Albanian worker faces the future with optimism. He is no longer afraid that in old age

he may remain forlorn and without support; he is not afraid that his children may remain uneducated. He faces the future with his head up, fully aware that his labor and his sweat will not be exploited by others. The continuous development of economy, without crisis and depressions, which is the fruit of the social work of all the labourers, who are the collective owners of the means of production, serves directly for further improving the welfare of the workers. Thus, for example, during the Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970), the expenses for the social and cultural sectors will be 21% bigger than in the Third Five-year Plan. Again, during the present Five-year Plan, the real income per capita of the population will increase up to 17%.

**THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE HAVE HACKED THEIR
WAY THROUGH HISTORY, SWORD IN HAND**

**WHICH IS THE ORIGIN OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE
AND OF THEIR LANGUAGE?**

Eversince the XVth Century, the Albanian humanists, relying on historical documents, have rightly considered our people as descendants of the populations that inhabited the Albanian territory in ancient times, namely the Illyrians and the Epirotes. This thesis was scientifically supported by historical and linguistic documents delved into by many historians and linguists. A series of Illyrian words and phrases, such as, for example, the names of places and persons, as well as certain particular words found in inscriptions and the texts of ancient writers, can only be explained with the help of the Albanian language. Anthropological researches strengthen the thesis of the Illyrian origin of the Albanian people. They point out that the brachycephalic character of the present-day Albanians corresponds to that of the majority of skulls of the ancient Illyrians.

Confronted with these sound arguments establishing the Illyrian origin of the Albanian people and, hence, also their being the original natives of the regions which they inhabit today, the totally groundless and unscientific thesis of some authors holding that the Albanians have emigrated from the Caucasus, simply because in that place existed in ancient times a population bearing the name of «Albani» holds no water. As a matter of fact, this name — with very ancient roots — is met with in many different regions of Europe having no direct relation with one another.

The genetic ties of the Albanian with the Illyrian language were denied by a group of foreign linguists who thought that the Albanians of today and their language are connected with another ancient people of the Balkans — with the Thracians — who inhabited the eastern part of the Peninsula.

But the studies and investigations of the Albanian scientists — archaeologists, linguists, etc. — carried out during these last two decades have succeeded in throwing further light on this matter, adding new arguments in favor of the thesis of the Illyrian origin of the Albanian language and people and of their indigenous character.

Based on a profound and all-round study of the Albanian language, the Albanian linguists emphasized that we find in it a number of borrowings not only from the littoral Latin but also from the ancient Greek, which have passed through the coastal colonies and places, — a thing which would have been impossible if the forefathers of the Albanians had lived in the eastern inner regions of the Peninsula.

The Thracian elements found in the Albanian language, as well as the common elements observed in the language, folklore and material culture of the Albanian and Rumanian peoples, are to be explained by the fact that, within the Illyrian territory, there have existed also Thracian oases; besides, they are a result of reciprocal relations developed between two peoples at a time when their habitations must have been nearer to one another than they are today.

The thesis that the Albanians came to their present regions during the time of the peoples' migrations in the IVth to VIth Centuries of our era, has been refuted in the most convincing manner by the findings of the Albanian archeologists. Continuing their excavations and studies on the material culture of our country, they have

demonstrated that the Albanian culture of the early Middle Ages, the so-called «Komani Culture», which has been found in a considerably wide territory of present-day Albania, has got many points of contact with the culture of the ancient Illyrians and, on the other hand, with that of the later Albanians. As an intermediate historical link, the «Komani Culture», therefore, indicates that the Albanian territory has always been inhabited by the same Illyrian-Albanian population.

But the Illyrians, although an important link in the formation of the Albanian people of today, were not the primal or original link. The archaeological and linguistic sciences struggle further to find the precursors of the Illyrians, too, i.e. the most ancient ancestors of the present Albanians. Based on a number of very old relics known in the Albanian language and on the material culture of the country, some foreign scholars, since the past century, spread the thesis that Albania and the Albanian people are the direct descendants of the Pelasgians, who are considered the most ancient inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula and the Mediterranean zone. The results of the new excavations and researches by the Albanian archeologists demonstrate that the old thesis, which spoke of an emigration of the Illyrians to the regions of present-day Albania at the beginning of the first millenary, i.e. in the iron age, can no longer stand. The Albanian archeologists think, and in this they are upheld by a number of Balkan colleagues, that the Illyrians and their culture have occupied our regions at least since the middle of the bronze era, if not earlier. Thus the path is open for searching the ancestors of the Albanians in even more distant epochs of history.

The thesis that the origin of the Albanians is very ancient and that they are the original natives of their present regions has acquired ever more solid foundations.

HISTORICALLY, HOW HAS THE ALBANIAN NATION COME TO BEING?

Assimilating, during later centuries, new ethnical and cultural elements, as, for example, during the Roman and Byzantine periods as well as during the Slav colonization, the Illyrian population preserved in essence their own ethnical character, their language and their culture, creating — in new historical, social and economic circumstances — the present Albanian nation.

The Albanian language pertains to the family of Indo-European languages. The present Albanian is the continuation of the ancient Albanian, which was spoken in much older times on this side of the Balkans. Many foreign and local scholars have engaged and continue to engage in the study of the ancient character of the Albanian language. At the same time, the comparison of many names of cities, mountains, etc., of Albania in their archaic form with their present one, bears witness to the indigenous character of the Albanian people, and the development of these words is specific for the Albanian language finding no counterpart in any other language of the Balkan peninsula.

The studies of the Albanian scholars in the field of Albanology are acquiring an ever increasing importance. In these last two decades remarkable successes have been achieved in Albania in this sphere, and the center of Albanological studies, which used to be abroad, has now been definitely established inside the country. The further development of the Albanological sciences has been aided, among other things, by the Conferences of Albanological Studies held in Tirana in Nov. 1962 and January 1968. A number of Albanologists from various countries of the World took part at these Conferences.

Before the Albanian nation came into existence, the Albanian territory was inhabited by the Illyrian tribes. At the dawn of history, these populations were organized in a multitude of tribal communities. Within each community existed strong economic, social, spiritual and cultural ties, but each of them led a separate life, without any connection with any of the neighbouring communities, although they spoke the same language.

With the social division of labour, production grew, private property came to being and classes appeared. From the exchange of products within single communities, it was passed to trade relations between the various ones. Another step forward was made when cities and villages were formed with inhabitants having no tribal relations among themselves. As a result of the establishment of serfdom relations, which began to spread out in Illyria from the fifth to the fourth centuries before our era, large Illyrian communities were formed having in common not only their language and territory, but also a sort of material and spiritual culture, as well as some economic ties. In these large communities the particular names of the former tribes began to leave their place to a common name for all the members of the large community. Thus, for example, the «Enchelean» gave the common name to all the inhabitants that composed the community of the State of the Encheleans, no matter from what tribe they originated. The same thing was true of the other communities as well.

The further development of this process, which would lead to the formation of the Illyrian Nation, was complicated and delayed by the Roman occupation that lasted from the Second Century before our era to the

Fourth Century of our era. The Roman Empire deported as slaves entire Illyrian populations to different regions far from their country, settling strong Roman colonists as permanent inhabitants in the present regions of Albania while at the same time exerting an all-round powerful pressure through its culture and more advanced technique. This created for the Illyrian populations the danger of becoming romanized and of forming a Roman or neo-latin instead of an Illyrian nationality, just as for example, the French nationality formed by the romanization of the Gauls, and the Spanish nationality by the romanization of the Iberians, etc.

It is true that romanization affected a good part of the Illyrian population living in the coastal regions, around the cities and on lands suitable for agriculture. But outside these parts, and especially in the mountain regions of the interior, the Illyrians preserved the ethnic character both of their language and of their culture. Later events also testified in an undisputable manner to the wonderful vitality of the Illyrian population. As we know, after the fall of the Roman Empire, the present territories of Albania were taken over by the Byzantine Empire which, for two centuries or so, brought no changes in the situations formerly established in these regions. It left in power the Roman serfdom institutions and, along with them, also the Latin as official, church and cultural language. Hence, the pressure of romanization for two more centuries. During these two centuries, the Albanian territories were overrun by various barbarian tribes, as the Visigoths, the Ostrogoths, the Huns and the Vandals. In general, these hordes remained here for short periods of time, but there were also cases of very long stays. Such was, for example, the case with some of the Visigoths who remained in the regions of Central Albania for about 150 years. About

the Sixth Century there began the mass onrush of the Slavs, who during the Seventh Century settled down definitely in these regions and tried to become masters of the house. Neither the cities nor the romanized colonies were able to withstand their annihilating onslaught; so they diminished and, later, withered out altogether.

The Slav colonization, too, just like the Roman occupation, created the danger of assimilating the Illyrians who had been able to ward off romanization. Thus, for the Illyrians there began a new phase of the struggle for their ethnic existence. The Illyrian population, although shrunk within the Albanian territory, resisted in an amazing manner the Slav and Byzantine pressure; as a matter of fact they began to regain their lost positions. They definitely ventured out of the shell of tribal and rural communities where foreign pressures had compelled them to crouch. This phenomenon, which was occurring in the conditions of the birth and development of feudalism, led to the formation of a new ethnic community. The core of this new community of people was made up by the Illyrian populations, but the members of the new territorial community differed from the ancient Illyrians. They were the descendants of those Illyrians who, along their historic path, had acquired a series of linguistic and cultural elements from the Thracians, the Helenes, the Romans and the Slavs while, at the same time, losing a lot from their own ancient linguistic and cultural fund. Among other things, the new population formed during this historical process lost its old tribal distinctions as well as its ancient name of Illyrians. Thus, at the close of this long historical process which lasted for over 1000 years, in the territory of Albania there was formed a new nationality — the Albanian Nation — with its own language,

the Albanian, and having the regions of present-day Central Albania as their central territorial hearth. Beside its Balkan neighbours, the new nation appeared on the historical stage with the common name of «Arbën» («Arbër») or «Arbënesh» («Arbëresh») — «Albanesi» by the Latins, «Arbanasi» by the Slavs, «Arvanites» by the Greek, etc. — all the other names of the former Illyrian communities being forgotten. The common name was no other than that of the Illyrian tribe of the «Albanoi» which, in ancient days had inhabited the territories between Durrës, Lezha and Dibër. In the XIth century, on the occasion of the wars of the Normans against the Byzantines in Albania, the Byzantine chroniclers, Michael Attaliates and Princess Anna Komnene refer to the Albanian territory under the name of «Albanon» and to its people under the names «Albanoi», «Albanitai» and «Arbanitai».

The name of the Albanians bearing the root «Arbër» is in use to this very day among the «Arbëreshes» of Southern Italy (a population of Albanian origin who migrated and settled there during the Middle Ages to escape the Turkish yoke). The «Arbëresh» nationality, formed during the early Middle Ages, was in later centuries continually strengthened. During the XIX century the Albanian population definitely developed into a Nation.

**THE VITALITY OF OUR NATION IS A RESULT OF THE
CONSTANT WARS FOR LIBERTY THAT THE ANCESTORS OF
THE ALBANIANS HAVE WAGED.**

Fighting against foreign invaders occupies an important place in the history of Albania. With their heroism in the wars against foreign occupations and the political and social oppressions they gave rise to, the

Albanian people have written glorious pages in world history. The resistance of the Illyrians to the Roman invasion and their long struggle, combined with the uprisings of the slaves and colonists and the onrushes of the barbarian tribes, contributed to the overthrow of the Roman Empire. Even Suetonius, the Roman historian of the I and II Centuries of our era, writes that the Illyrian uprising of the years 6-9 has been the most terrible of the wars that Rome fought abroad, second only to that against Carthage. In these uprisings, the Illyrian women fought side by side with their menfolk and displayed feats of great heroism: hurling themselves from towers or getting burnt inside the cities, together with their children, in order not to fall into the hands of the enemy. The annals of Medieval history write about the revolts of the Arbëresh against Byzantine bondage, too.

Our ancestors were compelled to undergo hard trials in their uninterrupted wars for freedom and the defense of their language, their culture, their best customs and traditions, warding off all attempts of assimilation. In 1185 the Albanian feudal chiefs extricated themselves from Byzantine control and formed their first state — the principality of *Arbëria* (Arbëria). The capital of this new state was Kruja.

Later there were created a number of feudal dynasties, such as those of the Thopia, Shpata, Balsha, Kastrioti, etc., but these principalities were ever at war with one another, each seeking to enlarge its own domains at the expense of the others.

Precisely at the time, when the process of centralization into one single state was in course, the Ottoman Turks appeared at the gates of Albania. Then our heroic and invincible people, who could not bear foreign bondage, rose in war for liberty.

**WHAT IS THE CONTRIBUTION THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE
UNDER THEIR NATIONAL HERO GJERGJ KASTRIOTI —
SKANDERBEG HAVE RENDERED TO THE DEFENSE OF
EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION?**

In the XVth century, when European civilization was threatened with destruction by the Turks, the Albanian people wrote their glorious epic with their blood. For twenty five years in succession and under the leadership of their great general Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg, their National Hero, the Albanians coped with more than 22 ferocious Turkish campaigns, and in each one came off victorious, at a time when the Ottomans were considered invincible. In 1450 Sultan Mourad II, who during all his 30 years' reign had scored only victories was completely defeated before the walls of Kruja, the main center of Albanian resistance. His son Mehmet II the conqueror of Constantinople (on account of which the Turks called him «Fatih» meaning «Conqueror») was likewise covered with shame.

Skanderbeg, better than anyone else in the Middle Ages, knew how to rally about himself the large masses of people and to give to the war of liberation a popular character. Only this can explain the legendary epic enacted in these mountains, valleys, plains and castles of Albania for a quarter of a century, at a time when all Europe was terror-stricken by the irresistible onslaught of the Turkish hordes.

Because of their vast importance, the battles the Albanian people fought under Skanderbeg's leadership against the Turks, were echoed beyond the country's frontiers and assumed international significance. The Albanians engaged a considerable part of the Ottoman Army, causing them repeated losses. This decreased the fierceness of the Turkish attacks against the Hungarians

and impeded the passage of the Turks to Italy. The Albanians became a strong barrier obstructing the occupation of Europe by the Turkish hordes. Thus, with their heroic wars, the Albanians played an international role in defense of European civilization.

Skanderbeg was a great leader. He succeeded in limiting feudalism and created a potent central government. Meantime, he strengthened the position of Albania in the international arena by means of international agreements. In the military field he proved himself a great Captain, a master of people's war exploiting to advantage the peculiarities of a place like Albania with exquisite skill.

The Albanian people continued to resist the Turkish hordes even after the death of Skanderbeg. But coping with so powerful an enemy having such infinite resources, the temporary defeat of the Albanian people — so small in numbers, unarmed and without allies — was inevitable. The Turks finally conquered Albania or, rather, the ruins that were left of it. A very dark period followed after the occupation. The country had lost countless numbers of people, indeed, the majority of the population were killed or had abandoned their homes to escape brutal terror. Many cities and villages were razed to the ground.

But, although the Turks occupied Albania militarily, they never subjugated the freedom-loving Albanian people. The reprisals, the barbarous punitive measures, were unable to quench the Albanian people's love of their country, their liberty and independence.

WHAT PATH HAVE THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE FOLLOWED TO GAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE?

For centuries, the Turks tried to impose their laws and customs on conquered Albania. They used all possible means to turkishize the people, but all attempts to hitch the country's destiny to the Istamboul cart failed completely. The Albanians offered an unprecedented resistance to the Turkish invaders. The five centuries of Ottoman bondage are replete with incessant revolutions against the Turkish yoke. The mountains, as usual, remained the unconquered nests of liberty. But the Turks did not attain their ends in the cities either. In the XIX century a marked rise was registered in the national consciousness and the struggle for liberty and independence. The aim of this war was not only to break the age-long chains of foreign bondage, but also to win national independence and to create the Albanian State — not a feudal but a democratic State. This period, known in the country's annals as the «Albanian National Revival», constitutes one of the glorious pages of the history of our people. The war was difficult because it was directed not only against the Turkish invaders, but also against the chauvinist cliques of our neighboring countries, which strove to chop up Albania among themselves as soon as it got freed from Turkish bondage. And it was even more difficult because it had to be directed also against the local feudal chiefs, who had made common cause with Turkey; and, at the same time, the religious and regional antagonisms, which had been fostered by foreign interests, had also to be overcome. Nevertheless, the Albanian patriotic and democratic forces did not withdraw in face of these difficulties but courageously

continued their heroic war, with weapons and pen, until final victory was achieved.

A new phase in the Albanian people's war for liberty and independence commenced during the 1878-1881 period. By the Treaty of St. Stefano (of 1878) the Great Powers decided to chop up Albania giving genuine Albanian territories to Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro. This aroused the strong and legitimate protests of the Albanian people.

In a pro-memoria to the British Embassy at Istamboul, patriot Pashko Vasa wrote among other things: «To annex Albanian regions to Montenegro or any other state means not only to commit an abominable injustice, but it is at the same time, a political blunder which will not fail to bring about a bloody conflict. Albania demands the right to join the great European family of nations».

At this period, the war of the Albanian people against the Turks was directed, at the same time, against the Great Powers who, by the Treaty of St. Stefano and, especially, through the Congress of Berlin, sought to partition Albania among its neighbouring states. Behind this policy lay hidden the colonizing plans of the Great Powers themselves, who were attracted by the strategic position of Albania on the Adriatic shore, as an important bridge-head on the Mediterranean, as well as by its natural resources.

At the beginning of the XX Century the war of the Albanian people for liberty and independence took on a massive character, especially during the years 1908-1912. During 1912, the revolts of the Albanian people against Turkey reached the phase of a general armed uprising which spread all over the country and was crowned with the Proclamation of National Independence and the formation of the Albanian Government at Vlora,

on the 28th of November 1912. The Government of Vlora, headed by the old patriot Ismail Qemal, struggled hard both for the internal organization of the Albanian State and, in the international arena, for the defense of Albanian's cause and frontiers, since the imperialist Powers were plotting to divide Albania among her chauvinist neighbors.

[The activity of Ismail Qemali's Government demonstrated to the whole world that the Albanian people are capable of governing themselves and of living as an independent nation.

On July 29th 1913, after long bargainings typical of secret imperialist diplomacy, the Great Powers were obliged to recognize Albania's independence, but under their own control and guarantees. The obligation of remaining neutral in any situation and under any *condition* was imposed to the country. The frontiers agreed upon left almost half of Albania's legitimate territory outside its boundaries. In contradiction with the people's will and without the consent of the Government of Vlora (which, by the way, they obliged to resign) the Great Powers dictated to the country their preferred status placing a foreign prince at the helm of the new state. All these measures were an outright insult to the proud Albanian people. But both the internal and the international situation were so complicated, that to commence a new conflict against the Great Powers was inadvisable: The world was at the threshold of the first World War. The enemies of Albania tried to exploit the country's international «control» for grabbing, at the opportune moment, the biggest slice for themselves. Thus it became clear that the international control was in effect nothing but a second yoke. The neutrality of Albania, proclaimed by the Great Powers, was by themselves trampled down only after 15 months. The Powers

that guaranteed the «independence» of Albania, became its most zealous grave-diggers.

During the first World War, although Albania was not involved in it, it was turned into a battle field for the parties in conflict. The northern part was occupied by the Austro-Hungarians, the South by Greece, Vlora by Italy and a part of Central Albania by Serbia and Montenegro.

Events reached their climax when, in April 1915 England, France, Tsarist Russia and Italy — four of the six Great Powers that had signed the Act of Albania's Independence and guaranteed it — signed the shameful Treaty of London which actually liquidated the independence of Albania and partitioned its territories among its neighbours.

The end of the First World War found Albania once more in a tragical situation: The country, devastated by the war, was now about to be completely partitioned. Albania was not represented at the Peace Conference, called in Paris in 1919 by the Great Powers to remake the map of the World, and there was no one to defend it. It still languished under the occupation of foreign states, which decided on its fate. But its sons did not leave the destinies of their Motherland at the mercy of the Paris Conference. They rose up again to defend it. On the 21st of January 1920, the Albanian patriots summoned the historic national Congress at the small town of Lushnja, which said «No!» to the base Paris deals. The Congress did not confine itself to decisions alone, but took energetic measures as well. An uprising burst forth in June 1920 at the most neuralgic point of imperialist plots round about Vlora, which Rome considered as the Gibraltar of the Adriatic. The Albanian insurgents who displayed matchless heroism, won over the vast enemy forces and obliged the Italian Government

to begin negotiations with the Government of Tirana and, on the 2nd of August 1920, to sign an agreement to withdraw its troops from the occupied zones, recognizing at the same time, the territorial integrity of Albania.

After the First World War, Albania, which was saved thanks only to its sons' bravery in war, embarked on the work of building its state economically, socially and culturally. The democratic circles, which opposed the conservatory and reactionary forces, carried on a determined fight to steer the country along the path of progress, civilization and democratization. These progressive forces enjoyed the aid and support of all the people, who struggled to be extricated from the oppression of the beys and to put an end once and for all to the age long backwardness.

During the years 1920-1924, a vast antifeudalist movement spread all over Albania, a movement for the democratization of the country, which was crowned by the triumph of the bourgeois democratic revolution of June 1924 that brought in power the first bourgeois-democratic government of a revolutionary character in the Balkan. The program of this government headed by Fan Noli was a democratic program promising many progressive reforms.

But, as usual, in this case, too, the imperialists did not fail to put their fingers into the pie: Through feudal tools like Ahmet Zogu, and with the aid of the Yugoslav army and the white Guard bands, they overthrew Noli's government and placed in its stead a reactionary and anti-national one.

Ahmet Zogu first came in power as a president, but in 1928 he proclaimed Albania a monarchy and himself king of all the Albanians. Whether president or king, Zogu has always acted like a dictator. He has been a despot of the oriental type, or «little Sultan» as he was

satirically called in Albania. He considered and treated Albania as his personal estate. Unemployment, poverty and misery, oppression and violence, injustices and bribes, famine and diseases — these were the chief results of the internal policy of Zogu's regime. The demagogic noise about reforms and the stale promises were meant only to deceive the masses, to cover up the profoundly reactionary politics, the embezzlement of state money and the various other abuses committed by Zogu and his clique.

The results of the foreign policy were even more disastrous. Having come to power by the aid of foreign bayonets, Zogu felt indebted to his patrons; therefore, he adopted towards them the «open door policy». Ever since 1925, the Italian monopolies obtained a series of concessions in the field of the exploration and exploitation of our sub-soil resources and in the sphere of banks, commerce and agriculture. In 1926 there was signed in Rome «The Pact of Friendship and Security» and, one year later, «The Pact of Defensive Alliance», according to which Italy gained the right to military intervention in Albania under the pretext of external threats. The Italian loans placed Albania under the economic dependence of Rome. The Italian military missions and fascist organizations, which had gained a wide footing in the military ranks and administrative personnel of Albania, paved the way for the country's occupation by fascist Italy. So, on the 7th of April 1939, the fascist army attacked and occupied Albania. The Albanian people were caught unprepared and unprotected on account of the treason of King Zogu, who secretly fled away from the country.

Immediately after this, the fascist invaders launched a campaign of terror and propaganda, spreading their poisonous fascist ideology. Their aim was to realize the

old Roman policy of turning the Adriatic sea into an Italian lake. This, of course, presupposed the Italianization of the eastern coasts of the Adriatic, just as ancient Rome had tried to do in its time. One year after the occupation, the number of Italian workers in our country surpassed that of the local workers. The land surveying was begun and the question of removing the Albanian farmers to the country's interior was brought up. The cities were crammed with a dense network of Italian institutions, various business concerns, and so on.

However, the Albanian people were neither intimidated nor deceived by the policy of fascist Italy, but as usual, rose in defense of their country and of their liberty.

HOW DID THE EPIC OF THE NATIONAL-LIBERATION WAR DEVELOP?

The National-Liberation War in Albania began as early as the first days of fascist aggression, in April 1939, as a legitimate resistance against the invaders, as a purely national antifascist war. It kept on growing uninterruptedly. The invaders and their servants within the country were unable to stop the propagation of the flames of the antifascist struggle. Meanwhile, the situation called for a strong leadership capable of uniting the people, of making them perfectly conscious of the aims of the war and of leading them to complete victory over the foreign and internal enemies. The Albanian people found such a leadership in the Communist Party of Albania founded secretly on the 8th of November 1941, in one of the poor quarters of Tirana.

With the founding of the Communist Party, the

National-liberation War in Albania entered a new phase: Very soon it assumed vast proportions, became fiercer and was turned into a real people's revolution. The Communist Party conducted the National-liberation war with a clear political program for national and social liberation, making the people perfectly conscious with regard to the aims of the war. The large popular masses saw in the Party's program a just policy perfectly in keeping with the urgent political exigencies and with their own aspirations, as well as with the highest interests of the Fatherland. They were at the same time convinced, by their own experience, that the communists actually turned their words into deeds, being themselves the first to set the example of valour and abnegation for the great cause of liberation, of love and loyalty towards the people and country, of unflinching confidence in victory. Thus, only after 8-9 months from its inception, the Communist Party was generally accepted by the masses as the only leadership capable of bringing the National-liberation War to a successful close, crowning it with complete victory over the foreign and internal enemies.

The Communist Party united and organized the Albanian people into a single National-Liberation Front, whose foundations were laid at the Conference of Peza (a nation-wide conference) held in September 1942. Under the Party's leadership, in 1942, began the large scale armed war against the invaders and traitors, which served as a basis for the preparation of the great popular antifascist revolution. The number of warriors of the Albanian armed resistance in 1942 exceeded ten thousand.

In the heat of battle against Italian fascist oppressors and local traitors, there were set up the National-liberation Councils as organs for mobilizing the people for war and as embryos of popular revolutionary political power.

In 1943 the National-liberation War in Albania took on a great impetus, especially after the historic victory of the Red Army at Stalingrad, which marked a radical turn in the Second World War. Eversince the summer of 1943, the greater part of the Albanian regions (with the exception of the big cities) were in the hands of freedom fighters.

The National-liberation War was taking the form of a vast popular revolution. In these circumstances, on the initiative of the Communist Party, a General National-liberation Council was called at the beginning of July 1943, which decided to create a General Army Headquarters and to incorporate all the partisan units and batalions into the National-liberation Army.

After the capitulation of fascist Italy, on the 8th of September 1943, Albania was occupied by the German nazi army. At first, the Hitlerites tried to beguile the Albanian people by claiming to be the saviours of Albania from the Italian yoke. But the popular masses were not deceived. They were well aware that the German nazis were their avowed enemies, the enemies of all mankind, executioners who had killed and slaughtered millions of innocent people, destroyers of world culture, and that they had come in our country to take the place of the Italian fascist invaders. The Albanian people could not accept any form of occupation nor any kind of government headed by traitors. They recognized only the authority of the National-liberation Councils.

Thus the Albanian people continued the war against the new invaders with even greater fury. At the end of 1943 the number of warriors incorporated in the various units of the National-liberation Army grew to 20.000. Besides, about 20.000 other fighters belonged to the selfdefense units of villages and the guerrilla units of the occupied cities.

The German fascist invaders and the local traitors tried to destroy the National-liberation Army and the National-liberation Front by organizing ruthless military operations with the participation of entire divisions against them. But all their attempts were completely frustrated.

In May 1944 when — as a result of the great victories of the Soviet Army that had come as far as the Balkans, and thanks also to the heroic war of the Albanian people themselves — the liberation of Albania was a matter of little delay, in the free city of Permeti was held the Antifascist National-liberation Congress, which elected the Antifascist National-liberation Council — the first Popular Assembly of Albania — and appointed the Provisional Revolutionary Government with Comrade Enver Hoxha as Premier.

In June 26, 1944, the National-liberation Army attacked Northern Albania, which was held by the German nazis and the local traitors, with a view to liberating the whole country. This date marks the beginning of the final phase of the National-liberation War of the Albanian people. At this stage the Albanian National-liberation Army had become a regular army made up of divisions and corps. The number of warriors reached the 70,000 mark, armed with rifles, automatic firearms, machine-guns and artillery seized from the Italian and German occupationists. Besides, about 50,000 more persons took up arms and fought side by side with the partisans whenever fighting took place in their districts.

After fierce combats against the Hitlerite occupationists and the local traitors, from June to November 1944, the National-liberation Army forces liberated, one after the other, all the regions and cities of the country, destroying considerable forces and military equipment of the enemy. Within this period, the National-liberation

Army forces, in collaboration with units of the Yugoslav National-liberation Army, liberated also the cities of Dibra, Prizren, Gjakova, Peja and almost the whole of Kosova and the Dukagjin plateau.

One of the biggest battles fought by the Albanian National-liberation Army in the conclusive phase of the war was that for the liberation of the capital, Tirana, which lasted 19 days (from October 29 to November 17, 1944). The battle of Tirana had a real frontal character and developed according to all the norms of war between two regular armies. In this battle about 5,000 Hitlerite soldiers were killed.

On November 29th 1944 the forces of the National-liberation Army liberated the whole of Albania. People's power was established throughout the country. The heroic war of the Albanian people under the guidance of the Communist Party of Albania was crowned with complete victory.

Immediately after the country's liberation, two divisions of our National-liberation Army (the Vth and VIth) followed the Hitlerite invaders into Yugoslavia and fought, alongside the Yugoslav National-liberation Army, for the liberation of Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

WHAT WAS THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE IN THE PEOPLES' WAR AGAINST FASCISM?

While heroically fighting for the liberation of their country, the Albanian people have at the same time given their modest contribution to the people's great battle against fascism. Their National-liberation War, which took place at the enemy's rear, coordinated with the war of the other oppressed peoples, was a great aid and a powerful support for the final victory over fascism.

The Albanian partisans, with their heroic fighting, engaged in Albania 100,000 Italian and 70,000 German soldiers, inflicting great casualties in them: about 70,000 dead, wounded and prisoners. Besides, they seized or destroyed 2,100 enemy armed-cars, tanks and military vehicles, more than 4,000 mortars, guns and machine guns, and they blew up 216 ammunition dumps.

Our country, with a population which then did not exceed the one million and two hundred thousand mark, occupied one of the first places with respect to the amount of losses in men and materials suffered during the Second World War. Small Albania gave to this gigantic conflict 28,000 martyrs or 2,48% of the entire population, thus coming up fifth among the antifascist coalition of nations. The percentage of the killed is 3,1 times higher than that of England and 17.59 times higher than that of the United States of America. In military losses Albania numbers 11,000 killed, or 0,97% of the population, thus occupying the fourth place among the nations of the anti-fascist bloc. During the war, Albania had 11 wounded for every 1,000 people, or five times more than the average of all the wounded of the anti-fascist countries — the Soviet Union excepted. 44,500 people, or 3.96% of the population, were imprisoned or deported. Thus 86,000 persons, or 7,64% of Albania's whole population, were either killed, mutilated or suffered physical injuries.

The material losses of Albania were colossal also. Suffice it to mention that 36.66% of the dwellings were burned down. Globally, the losses are estimated at more than one billion and six hundred three million dollars (according to the exchange rates of 1938), or about 1,603 dollars per capita.

But these figures can but very poorly portray the unheard-of sacrifices of the brave partisans and of

the entire Albanian people, who — although unclad and barefooted, unarmed and often unfed, in snow and storms — never for one moment left the enemy in peace.

WHAT CHARACTER DID THE NATIONAL-LIBERATION WAR OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE HAVE?

The basic aim of the Albanian people's war was to completely liberate the country from foreign bondage, to acquire real national independence and to establish people's democracy. The chief social contradictions then existing in Albania were, in the first place, contradictions between the fascist invaders, who had occupied the country and the Albanian people, who wished to live free and independent. There were also contradictions between prominent feudalist survivals, who formed the social support of foreign occupation, and the large masses of the people, who demanded their democratic liberties.

The Albanian people's war against the fascist invaders and the local traitors aimed precisely at the settlement of these contradictions. The class of feudal landlords, clan chieftains and rich merchants became servants of the fascist invaders and linked their fate with that of fascist Italy and Germany.

Therefore, the National-liberation War of the Albanian people had a two-fold character: it was an anti-imperialist and anti-fascist democratic revolution and, at the same time, an anti-feudal and popular one. The driving forces of the National-liberation War were: the working class, the poor and medium peasants, the small city bourgeoisie and the patriotic intellectuals. The directing force was the working class, while the other forces were its allies.

The Albanian working class was very young, small and scattered. It was still in the phase of the creation of the industrial proletariat and not properly steeled in the revolutionary war against the capitalist exploiters. However, it had its Marxist-Leninist Party — the Communist Party (now the Party of Labor of Albania) — which has no loftier interests besides those of the people. The fundamental strategic duty of the Party was «to fight for the national independence of the Albanian people and for a people's democratic government in an Albania freed from fascism». The Party united all the patriotic and antifascist forces of the country in a single National-liberation Front. The program of the Party considered the armed revolution as the chief form of war. Enver Hoxha, Secretary General of the Communist Party of Albania was Commander in Chief of the National-liberation Army. The political commissar, who was the representative of the Party stood side by side with each commander of an army group, unit or sub-unit. Communists and non-party patriots to whom the cause of the liberation of the country and the people was sacred took part in regional and district National-liberation Councils.

The peasantry was the broadest social basis of the Albanian National-liberation War, its source and principal attacking force. With their active and all-round participation in the war against the invaders and local traitors, the peasants played a decisive role in the achievement of victory.

The Albanian peasants, who constituted more than four-fifths of the country's population, bore in their breasts vast revolutionary energies and brilliant patriotic and warlike traditions.

The Albanian national bourgeoisie constituted the most contradictory element in the National-liberation

war. Being under the continuous pressure of foreign capital and in danger of annihilation, while, at the same time, also under the influence of the traditional patriotism of the people, the petty and medium bourgeoisie of the cities was in essence against the fascist occupation of the country and hated the feudal chiefs. Nevertheless, they were unstable and not determined to fight against the invaders to the end and without compromise.

It must also be borne in mind that the national bourgeoisie was not in position to play a leading role in the war against the fascist invaders because it was economically weak, it had no experience in political war, it had no political party of its own and it did not constitute a compact political force.

It was because of this that some elements of the national bourgeoisie and, especially, the majority of the petty and medium bourgeoisie participated in this war under the leadership of the Communist Party of Albania.

The National-liberation Front, created on the initiative of the Communist Party of Albania, had its own original features. It was not organized as a coalition of political parties and groups, but as a voluntary union of all anti-fascist revolutionary forces of the country, under the sole and direct leadership of the Communist Party. This union's aim was the war without reserve and without compromise against the foreign invaders. The basis of this Front was the alliance of the working class with the laboring peasantry.

Those who did not align themselves with and even fought against the Front were the feudal chiefs, the tribal chieftains, the upper merchant bourgeoisie and the well-to-do peasants, that is the former exploiting classes and their representatives. They collaborated with the fascist invaders, coming out openly against the National-liberation Front. The reactionary forces created the treacherous

organizations «Balli Kombëtar» (= «National Front») and «Legaliteti» (= «Legality»), which side by side with the invaders, took up arms against the National-liberation Army and the National-liberation Front. At this stage, the War for Liberation merged with the Civil War and assumed a general character.

The chief characteristics of the armed revolution in Albania was the fact that it was not a single act lasting a few days or weeks but an entire long process. The partisan war which, by the summer of 1942, had assumed vast proportions served a real basis for the preparation of the armed popular revolution. In the summer of 1943, after the creation of the National-liberation Army and its General Headquarters, the partisan war was converted into a real armed revolution of the whole population.

On account of the special conditions created by the fact that the country was occupied and that the Second World War was in course, it was necessary that the armed revolution in Albania should be carried out, mainly under the form of partisan war until complete victory was achieved.

The armed partisan war of the Albanian people, on a European scale, was a war at the enemy's rear. As such, it played an auxiliary role in the general anti-fascist war. But, on a national scale, it played a decisive role. The Albanian National-liberation Army did not execute only tactical and operational duties, but also strategic ones, inasmuch as it had set to itself the task of liberating the whole country and of bringing the people to power without waiting for help from abroad.

The principal question of every revolution is that of seizing state power. The peoples' masses of Albania successfully solved this question during the National-liberation War. Even before the country was completely liberated, the old oppressive feudal-bourgeois order was

destroyed and its place was taken over by the National-liberation Councils invested with the power of the democratic and revolutionary forces of the Albanian people: the only legal political power in Albania.

The National-liberation War in Albania resembled a popular revolution in form and military means, whereas in substance it developed elements of the socialist revolution. These elements were: firstly, in the heat of the National-liberation War not only the rule of imperialism and of the feudal class, but also the political reign of the bourgeoisie were done away with; secondly, the Communist Party was the only directing party of the new political power and of all the political life of the country; thirdly, the new governing political power, elected at the first Anti-fascist National-liberation Congress (held at Permeti in May 1944), represented a democratic dictatorship of the people holding within itself the embryo of the dictatorship of the proletariat in rapid development.

With the complete liberation of the country the first phase of the popular revolution terminated and the quick development of the socialist revolution commenced. The economic and social tasks of the democratic revolution, which it was not proper to solve during the National-liberation war, were solved after it within the process of development of the socialist revolution.

The National-liberation War of the Albanian people was not separated from the general anti-fascist war waged by the different peoples of the world against the common enemies: the German, Italian and Japanese aggressors. It was a component part of the great anti-fascist world war and, hence, it had also an international character.

The gigantic anti-fascist struggle of the peoples of the world and, primarily, the Great Patriotic War of the

Soviet Union, constituted the outside support of the Albanian National-liberation War. The Communist Party educated the Albanian people in the spirit of genuine internationalism, of friendship and fraternity with other peoples. The correct and principled attitude of the people and of the Communist Party of Albania towards the great antifascist coalition, in general, and towards each of the foreign allies, in particular, were of major importance for the victory of the Albanian people in the National-liberation War. The peoples' masses and the Communist Party of Albania, from the onset, appraised the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition as a great military alliance demanded by the circumstances for saving the world from the danger of fascist bondage, and they rightly understood the historic role of this coalition for the liberation of Albania.

The Albanian people and the Communist Party of Albania kept a differentiated attitude towards the foreign allies. The Communist Party of Albania had made it clear to the people that, at that time, the Soviet Union was their faithful and sincere ally; therefore, in order to win their liberty and independence, they were to link their National-liberation War mainly with the Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union.

The people and the Communist Party of Albania did not allow any foreign allies to interfere in the internal political, military and economic affairs of our country. The numerous and repeated attempts of the English and U.S. governments and their missions in Albania to interfere in the internal affairs of Albania, in order to impede the victory of the revolutionary forces and the establishment of the government of the people, completely failed because the Communist Party of Albania and the General Headquarters of the National-liberation Army, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the

helm, maintained a determined and absolute stand towards all English and U.S. pressures, upholding the interests of the country and of the revolution.

The Albanian people and the Communist Party of Albania never looked up to others to bestow liberty to them. The peoples' masses of Albania were perfectly aware that liberty is not bestowed but won at great sufferings, blood and sacrifices. The decisive internal factor for achieving complete national independence and bringing the people to power was the heroic war of the Albanian people themselves, led by the Communist Party of Albania; whereas the historic victory of the Soviet Union over Hitlerite Germany constituted the decisive external factor.

**THE SOCIAL ORDER
IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA**

HOW WAS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE BORN?

The establishment of the new socialist order in Albania is the greatest victory achieved by the heroic and long-suffering Albanian people through their popular revolution. For the first time in their ages long history, the rule of the exploiters was overthrown and the entire state power passed into the hands of the working masses of the city and village, headed by the working class. The establishment of the People's Rule marked a radical turn in the historical destiny of the Albanian people and the beginning of a new era in their life. Albania was once and for all extricated from the imperialist and capitalist system and before the Albanian people lay the wide and illuminated road of socialist construction under which everything is done in the name of and for the workers.

The People's Power was born in the flames of the National-liberation War. The first document of the Communist Party of Albania, issued in November 1941, set before the communists and the Albanian people the task of not only liberating the country, but of investing political power in the working masses, the task of fighting «for a free, democratic and popular Albania».

The first decisive step towards the creation of the new regime was taken at the nation-wide National-liberation Conference held in 1942 at the village of Peza (18 kilometres from Tirana) already liberated by the partisan forces. It was there that the National-liberation

Front was formed, uniting all the country's patriotic forces, without distinction of opinion, region or religion, in the war against the fascist invaders and the local traitors. The National-liberation Front was led by the National-liberation Council composed of elected representatives: communists, nationalist democrats, representatives of the communist youth, of the antifascist women, etc.

At the Conference of Peza it was also decided that freely elected National-liberation Councils should be formed all over the country — legally in the liberated zones and illegally in zones that still writhed under the fascist heel. These National-liberation Councils fulfilled a two-fold function: On the one hand, they were mobilising organs of the armed revolution and, on the other, they were organs of the local administration, organs of the new revolutionary governing power built on the ruins of the old regime of the invaders and of the exploiting classes.

After the historic Conference of Peza National-liberation Councils were formed in villages and cities all over the country, despite all the opposition and ruthless terror of the enemy. Their vitality and all-round activity increased the prestige of the National-liberation Front both within the country and abroad. Consequently, at the end of 1942, the Great Allied Powers — the Soviet Union, England and the United States of America — recognized the liberty and independence of Albania and the right of the Albanian people to choose the regime and form of government that they desired after the war.

The «Statute» and «Regulation» of the National-liberation Councils were approved at the second National-liberation Conference, held at Labinoti on September 4th, 1943. In the Statute it was stated that in the liberated regions «they represented the civil authority of the

places», that they were «embryos of the political regime of the Albanian people» and that, «after liberation, the people would themselves choose the form of their regime».

In the «Regulation» it was stated that the Councils are «democratic organs and exercise the real authority of the Albanian people», that they are «elected in a democratic way» and that the right of electing and being elected is enjoyed by all persons having completed 18 years of age, «without distinction of political or religious opinions, with the exception of spies and traitors».

In the occupied zones the National-liberation Councils were charged with the duty of helping, with all their means, the National-liberation Army and of organizing and conducting the people's war against the invaders.

In the liberated zones, all the old governing organs, such as the municipality, the prefecture, the courts, the police, the gendarmery, etc., were abolished and immediately stopped functioning, yielding their place to the National-liberation Councils which, in conformity with the «Regulation», took over all administrative, executive and judicial power.

By the spring of 1944, the Albanian National-liberation Army had liberated almost all the southern part of the country and were launching their counter-offensive all over Albania. It was in these circumstances that the Antifascist National-liberation Congress was held on the 24th of May 1944, in the already freed city of Permeti marking an important stage in the history of the establishment and consolidation of the People's Power. There were about 200 delegates at this Congress chosen from all the regions of Albania and representing the General National-liberation Councils and the General Army Headquarters, the Brigades of the National-liberation Army, the Albanian Anti-fascist Youth Union and the Union of the Albanian Women.

The Congress of Permeti took a series of important decisions. It elected the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council as the highest legislative and executive body and the supreme representative of the people's sovereignty. The National-liberation Council then appointed its Anti-fascist National-liberation Committee with the attributes of a democratic provisional government.

The Congress of Permeti decided that the question of Albania's regime be settled immediately after the country's liberation, but it prohibited the return of King Zogu in Albania and it did not recognize any other government formed, inside the country or abroad, against the will of the Albanian people. The Congress voted to reconsider all political and economic agreements entered into by previous governments, especially by that of Zogu, and to annul all those that jeopardized the sovereignty of the people or the economic interests of the country.

In October of the year 1944, when the partisan forces had liberated more than three-fourths of Albania and when the country was faced not only with military tasks for bringing the war of liberation to a successful end, but also with political, economic, social and cultural duties arising in a free and independent state the second meeting of the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council was held in the liberated city of Berati. It converted the Anti-fascist National-liberation Committee into the Democratic Government of Albania headed by Enver Hoxha. The Council approved the law on the elections to the National-liberation Councils, that would take place after the complete liberation of the country, and the law on the rights and duties of said councils, according to which they would only govern, whereas the political functions would be exercised by the National-liberation Front. The conference approved also «The Declaration on the Rights of the Citizens», which guaranteed to them de-

mocratic rights and liberties such as: equality before the law, freedom of thought, of meeting, of speaking, of organizing and of the press; equal rights for men and women in economic life and in social activities; the right of secret, equal, direct and general voting; the electoral right for all citizens having completed 18 years of age; the right of petitioning to all government forums; the right for education, etc. The Declaration prohibited all fascist and pro-fascist organizations as well as any activity of theirs.

«The Declaration of the Rights of the Citizens» was one of the first important constitutional documents of the new democratic Power of the people.

HOW WAS THE OLD BUREAUCRATIC MACHINE BROKEN AND THE PEOPLE'S POWER STRENGTHENED?

The People's Power was not a grafting on or combination with the old regime of the bourgeoisie. On the contrary, it was born in the fire of the National-liberation War and established and strengthened on the ruins of the old authority of oppression and exploitation.

After the complete liberation of the country, the old state administration was totally liquidated and a new apparatus erected in its place — from the ministries and central offices, to the law courts and people's police. All over the country elections were held for the people's councils of the villages, cities and districts, which became political organs of the new state-power in the center and provinces. In May 1945 the statutes, laws, draft-laws, regulations and decrees issued during the period of Italian and German occupation were abrogated and declared null and void.

The persons who had collaborated with the enemy

or were notorious for their anti-popular activity, were expelled from the ministries and other links of the administrative apparatus. Their substitution with new cadres schooled in the National-liberation War and faithful to the interests of the people, and the establishment of the Party's control over the State apparatus, made it possible for the latter to be converted into a powerful lever for the successful continuation of the socialist revolution and for dealing further blows at the exploiting classes. Of particular importance was the organization of the Army on a modern basis and the creation of the State Security organs for safeguarding the victories of the popular revolution. From the outset the military forces, together with the units of the People's Defence organs (State Security), began to fight against the remnants of the reactionary bands: to frustrate the plots woven by the imperialists. The support that the new Power found among the large masses of the people in the cities and villages, its close ties with them, smothered all the attempts of the enemy forces to organize revolutionary hotbeds. The fight to chase and make short work of the bands of fugitives and defectors sent over from abroad lasted for some years.

After liberation, the People's Police Force was established for maintaining order, and measures were taken to create a new juridical apparatus to serve the people. In accordance with the law «On the Organization of Military Courts», promulgated in January 1945, military courts were created with competences to judge, besides the crimes committed by military men, also those committed by the war criminals and the enemies of the people. Later, in May 1945, in harmony with the administrative division of the country, there were created the People's Courts for the sub-prefectures and prefectures, as well as the High Court.

The juridical organs played an important role in meting out punishment to the survivors of fascism and reaction. Even before the country's liberation, the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council, on the 28th of May 1944, decreed the creation of a Committee for discovering and ascertaining the crimes perpetrated by the invaders and their local collaborators. Moreover, the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council decreed the creation of a special court for passing judgment on the war criminals and on those, who collaborated with the enemy.

The war the reactionary forces waged against the People's Power took on different forms. Along with the existence of the armed bands, which were especially resistant during the first period after liberation, the overthrown exploiting classes resorted, on an ever larger scale, to other forms of warfare such as organizing conspiracies and creating counterrevolutionary organizations, in close collaboration with the spy agencies of the imperialist countries, as well as attempting to impede and undermine the revival of our national economy which had to overcome the great difficulties and devastations caused by the war as well as the backwardness inherited from former anti-popular regimes.

In order to suppress the hostile activity of the overthrown classes, the People's Power issued some important laws and dispositions. The Law of December 12, 1946, «On Penal Offenses Against the People and the State», stipulated severe punishments against traitors, sabotage agents, spies and terrorists and against participators in counterrevolutionary organizations, in conspiracies and uprisings against People's Power.

The suppression of the hostile activity of the exploiting classes was only one aspect of the policy which the People's Power adopted towards them. This aspect reflected, primarily, the protection of the victories achie-

ved and the measures for liquidating any attempts to restore the past. But the principal object of our government was to further develop the revolution and to accomplish radical social and economic transformations that would pave the way for the construction of socialism which, after the fulfilment of the task of liberating the country and establishing the People's Power, had now become the strategic aim of the Party.

The Democratic Government took a series of important measures of an anti-imperialist and anti-feudalist character: All the enslaving agreements contracted by the former regimes were abrogated, the properties of foreign capital and of the war criminals were confiscated, the agrarian reform laws were put into execution, foreign trade and the production and distribution of the industrial output were brought under state control. Furthermore, at this time there appeared the legislation on work which, for the first time, established in Albania the 8 hour work-day, the right of a yearly paid leave of 15 days, etc.

From the very beginning the new Democratic State has been playing a decisive role in all the life of the country. During the years 1946-47 it nationalized all industrial plants and mines without remuneration, thus putting an end to production by private capital and creating a new socialist sector. The agrarian reform laws, based on the principle: «The land to him that tills it», abolished land ownership by latifondists dealing thus a heavy blow at the rural bourgeoisie.

The major reforms carried on by People's Power during the first period after liberation created better living conditions for the broad masses of the people, liquidated the survivals of feudalism, shook the capitalist system in Albania from its foundations and paved the

way for the further development of the country on socialist lines.

These victories had to be sanctioned also constitutionally. As decided at the Congress of Permeti, it was for the people to express their will on the future status of Albania: to definitely choose for themselves the form of government that they desired. On the 26th of September 1945, the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council approved the law on the Constituent Assembly. This law provided that the Assembly would decide on the form of the regime and legalize the decrees issued by the Council and its Executive organ before the Assembly was convened. At the same time, the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council approved the Law on the elections of the people's representatives to the Constituent Assembly and the Law on the electoral lists.

On December 2, 1945 (for the first time in the country's history), real democratic elections took place, according to the right for general, equal, direct and secret voting. The Constituent Assembly that resulted from these elections met on the 10th of January 1946, and on January 11 it proclaimed Albania a «People's Republic». Just as it was decided at the Congress of Permeti, the question of the political form of the state was freely settled by the Albanian people themselves and the monarchy of Zogu was officially (*de jure*) liquidated. On the same day, the Constituent Assembly decided: «to approve all the laws and decisions of the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council and its Executive organ, from the Congress of Permeti up to the day that the Constituent Assembly was convened».

After the proclamation of the People's Republic of Albania, the Constituent Assembly approved, on the 14th of March 1946, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, after its draft had been discussed at

large by the people in rural and urban areas. After having accomplished its historic task, the constituent Assembly decided to convert itself into a People's Assembly.

The proclamation of the Constitution was an important event for our young state. It sanctioned the social order in the People's Republic of Albania, the class structure of society, the economic base, the fundamental rights and duties of the citizens, the system of the state organs and the sphere of their competences and the electoral system.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania is one of the most democratic constitutions in the world with respect to the principles that it proclaims and the guarantees that it provides for their application.

In this manner, the prospects for the construction of socialism, which appeared right after the establishment of the government of the workers and the laboring peasants on the 29th of November 1944, began to expand on a wide front, leading to a deep and rapid transformation of the relations in production.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN FUNCTIONS OF THE ALBANIAN SOCIALIST STATE?

The People's Republic of Albania is a state that performs the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Albania, as a free and sovereign state, would not be able to fulfill its historical mission of building socialism in the extremely difficult conditions of imperialist-revisionist encirclement and to fight with success the attacks and conspiracies of the rabid enemies of the Albanian people and of socialism, if our state, born of the revolution, would not keep ever alive and

active the features and functions of the proletarian dictatorship (expressed in the form of violence towards the enemies and most complete democracy for the working masses) and would, instead, «liberalize» and degenerate into an amorphous state that, to the satisfaction of the modern revisionists, would help the restoration of the capitalist order.

Albania's experience in successfully building up socialism and safeguarding it, has completely justified the indispensability of the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat. This experience is connected with and finds expression in the gradual expropriation of the exploiters' possessions and the liquidation of private property as the sources of the exploitation of man by man; in protecting the victories of the socialist revolution and suppressing the resistance of the exploiting classes spurred by foreign imperialism; in building up socialism by rallying around the working class and under its Marxist-Leninist Party the broad masses of the people; in fighting reactionary and antisocialist ideology and traditions; in defending the Fatherland from imperialist armed aggression.

The experience of the socialist revolution in our country has perfectly ascertained that the supreme interests of the working class and the safeguarding of the victories of the revolution cannot permit the slightest weakening of the socialist state; that precisely these interests impose the rigorous and energetic execution of the functions of the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat. So long as there exist social groups interested in the return of the old and the restoration of capitalism, so long as there exists a strong and aggressive imperialism eager to overturn the socialist order by violence or in a «peaceful way», so long as there exists the «Trojan Horse» (revisionism of the Tito and Khrush-

chov brand), — it is indispensable to maintain and strengthen the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat and not to liquidate it. The state mechanisms of this dictatorship must be invigorated and sharpened, its interior and exterior functions must be elevated to a higher and more perfect level. So long as imperialism championed by the U.S.A., the most ferocious enemy of the peoples and of socialism, is alive, the danger of aggression, war and conspiracies against the socialist system will also be alive.

Therefore, one of the principal functions of our socialist state, as a form of the proletarian dictatorship, is to suppress of the resistance of the overthrown classes and to wage a consistent struggle against the survivals of the past in men's consciences as an internal danger for the birth of revisionism and the restoration of capitalism. Class struggle does not cease even after the liquidation of the exploiting classes. It takes on new forms, it moves in zig-zags. Even greater becomes, in these circumstances, the role of the socialist state as architect of the new-type man, divested of the remnants of the past, who plays a decisive role in the struggle of the new against the old.

Class struggle transcends the state boundaries and is represented also in the international arena by the fierce struggle going on today between imperialism and socialism, between revisionism and Marxism-Leninism. Our Republic gives its contribution also to this gigantic struggle for life or death. Through its principled anti-imperialist and anti-revisionist policy, it does not only defend its own liberty, but it also gives its aid to the progress of human society. It is in this that the function of our socialist state to strengthen the ties of fraternal friendship and collaboration with countries standing on sound Marxist-Leninist positions, the function of suppor-

ting the revolutionary National-liberation movements, the function of fighting for socialism, find their concrete expression.

One of the chief functions of the Albanian socialist state has been and remains that of organizing, directing and developing our socialist economy on the basis of the objective laws of production, as well as organizing, directing and developing culture. This function assumed particular importance in view of the great economic and cultural backwardness that Albania inherited from the past. It was only during the years of the People's Power that Albania was able to surmount its age-long backwardness and is today confidently building socialism. The country's economic structure is undergoing rapid changes. From being the most backward agricultural country in Europe, which it was in the past, Albania is now becoming an agrarian-industrial country with prospects of being later transformed to an industrial country with an advanced agriculture.

The amazing successes realized by Albania have been possible only thanks to the existence of the most progressive social and political order, the socialist order, and of the new type of state exercising the functions of the proletarian dictatorship: of such a state that, led by the Marxist-Leninist Party, is capable of accomplishing with success its historical role of leading the working class, the cooperative peasantry and the popular intelligentsia, which constitute the solid basis of the People's Power — in other words, the entire Albanian people — towards the complete construction of socialist society, and of frustrating the aggressive anti-Albanian and anti-socialist plans and plots of our imperialist and revisionist enemies.

The People's Republic of Albania has become an important factor of social progress and peace, a brilliant example of the application of the life-giving ideas of

Marxism-Leninism in a creative manner. «New Albania» — Comrade Enver Hoxha has said — «is an irrefutable evidence of the incomparable superiority of the socialist order over any oppressive and exploiting order».

WHAT DOES THE DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER OF THE ALBANIAN SOCIALIST STATE CONSIST IN?

The democratic character of our socialist state springs from the fact that the social and state order of the People's Republic of Albania is erected on an economic basis which depends on social ownership of the means of production, i.e. on the recognition of the fact that they are the common property of all the working masses. So long as these masses possess the means of production and direct all the economic development of the state, the political superstructure, too, i.e. the state and its apparatus built on such an economic basis, expressing and executing the will of these masses, cannot be conceived apart from them and without their direct participation in carrying on the activities of the state.

The participation of the working masses in the building and activity of the state appears in a number of forms, to wit, in electing the representative organs and in supervising the activity of the state organs.

In the People's Republic of Albania, all the citizens having completed 18 years of age, without distinction, enjoy the right to elect and to be elected to all organs of state power, including the People's Assembly. This is one of the basic principles of our socialist democracy, which in turn is connected with another not less important principle, namely, with the control continuously exercised by the masses over the elected organs, over the activity

of the elected, so that the representatives of the people, in all the organs of state power, should be responsible to their electors.

Through their representatives in the state organs, the people take part directly in governing the country and in conducting all the political, economic, cultural and social life.

The participation of the masses in governing the country has continuously improved the abilities of the government organs, it has brought closer the ties between the government and the people, it has made possible the just solution of important state problems in harmony with the objective of building socialism. The participation of the working masses in governing the country has led to the discovery of talented organizers among the workers and peasants who, as a consequence have been promoted to various leading posts in the state apparatus.

The forms of participation of the working masses in governing the country are several and diverse. Thus, thousands of workers take part in Congresses, Conferences and meetings organized by the governing organs, as well as in the different committees set up to help the authorities, both at the center and in the outlying districts.

A considerable number of workers take part in the country's various activities through their mass organizations: the social organization of the Trade Unions, the Labor Youth Union, the Democratic Front, the Albanian Women's Union and other voluntary organizations.

The entire legislative activity of our government is carried on with the active participation of the working masses. The very fundamental law of the Albanian state, the Constitution, was approved only after having previously gone through a minute examination in which all the workers took part. The same holds true for other

laws, too, especially for those regarding the 5 year plans on the development of people's economy and culture, the law on the educational reform, etc.

The numerous initiatives of the working masses, the inventions and rationalizations, the realization and surpassing of the state plans, are so many forms of self-government by the people. Besides these, the governing of the country is also realized through the supervision exercised by workers' committees set up in state establishments and agricultural cooperatives in order to step up production; organize, protect and manage socialist property and other material values; to carry out campaigns to prevent waste and so on.

Being owners of the principal means of production and wielders of the country's political and economic power, our workers enjoy a series of democratic rights and liberties, which are an eloquent expression of our socialist democracy characterized by a complete and all-round political, economic and social equality among the workers, by effectively guaranteeing these proclaimed rights and liberties and by further strengthening and developing the means that guarantee them.

The right of work and the corresponding pay for it, in conformity with its quantity and quality, the right of education and rest, of providing for the means of subsistence during old age and illness or during loss of ability to work, free medical aid, the equality of the woman with man in all spheres of life (economic, political and social), the actual equality of all citizens before the law, the right to elect and be elected to all the elected organs of state power, the inviolability of person and domicile, the secrecy of correspondence, the right of self-defense, the freedom of thought and belief, the freedom of speech, of organizing, of meetings, of public manifestations, etc., just as an entire chain of other social, economic and po-

litical victories, are brilliant indicators of the irrefutable fact that only socialism is able to guarantee the emancipation and all-round development of the individual upon sound economic and political foundations.

What distinguishes our socialist democracy from that of the capitalist countries is the fact that, with us, it is the people who — really and actually — direct, lead and administer. The people, through their organs and their organizational forms, take an active and direct part in the administration of our socialist property, which is the material basis of our socialist order, of our country's strength and of the material and cultural welfare of our labouring masses.

Through their state organs our people actually direct the development of the socialist system of our economy by plan.

The consistent democratic character of our state is guaranteed by our Party of Labor. In its program and its general political course it embodies the interests and the line of the masses for the construction of socialist society. The Party of Labor of Albania is the only party in power that directs and leads our country.

HOW IS DEMOCRATIC CENTRALIZATION APPLIED AND SOCIALIST LEGALITY OBSERVED IN OUR COUNTRY?

Democratic centralization is an organizational principle of the state apparatus in the People's Republic of Albania and it runs through all its levels.

In our socialist state, democratic centralization is an indispensable condition for a maximal development of the forces of production, for assuring a uniform administration of economy according to the law of its proportional development and, in general, for directing the activity

of the state. Without such a centralization, the concentration of the political and economic power in the hands of the working masses is not possible, nor can their will be executed on a general state level.

But, at the same time, the centralization of the socialist state apparatus, confronted with that of the capitalist states, is not merely and solely a concentration of the state functions in the hands of state organs interdependent among one another in a bureaucratic chain. Such a concentration would convert the state apparatus into an organism alien to the people and one which would exclude the possibility of being democratized. On the contrary, the centralization of our socialist state apparatus is, at the same time, coupled with its democratization, i.e. with its construction in such a way, that all possibilities are available for the people to take part in the activity of the state and to undertake state tasks.

The state apparatus of the People's Republic of Albania is so built up that the principle of centralization appears in many forms, according to its component parts (systems). Thus, according to the principle of democratic centralization, the systems of the representative organs and of the state administration are constructed and operate in the following manner: The state administrative organs are responsible for their work to the representative organs, whereas the latter are responsible to the electors. Hence, according to this system of dependence, the former are obliged to render account of their activity to the representative organs and the latter must, in turn, rapport to the electors. The juridical acts of the representative organs form the juridical basis for the acts issued by the administrative state organs and, consequently, they must obligatorily be executed.

One of the most important principles, which must be respected by the state apparatus of our country in its

activity, is that of socialist legality, by which is meant the unconditional and rigorous application of the Constitution which indicates, in general lines, the competences of the various organs of this apparatus. The exercising of these competences is especially reflected in the juridical acts issued by said organs. Thus, the People's Assembly exercises its supreme state activity by issuing juridical norms regulating the most important relations of social and state life in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

The other state organs may and must formulate their acts (or by-laws and ordinances) in such a way that they may not be at variance with the Constitution and the laws, nor with the acts of other organs hierarchically their superiors.

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF OUR ELECTORAL SYSTEM?

The electoral system in the People's Republic of Albania, as part of the juridical superstructure, rests on the socialist economic basis of our country. [This economic basis, with the means of production in the hands of the people who also are the direct beneficiaries of the material goods produced, assures a perfectly democratic electoral system.

The aim of the electoral system of Albania is to guarantee, by all means, the expression of the electors' free will and their voluntary massive participation in the election.

Every citizen having completed 18 years of age enjoys the right to elect and be elected to all the elected organs. The electoral right is general, with no restrictions for economic or sex reasons, social position, religious belief, culture, domicile, etc. It is equal for all,

because every elector—man or woman, civilian or military — has a right to only one vote, of equal value to every other vote, because the elections are held in electoral zones (constituencies) having equal numbers of people (for example, in the case of the elections to the People's Assembly, every 8,000 inhabitants choose one deputy); and because all the elected representatives enjoy equal rights. The right of voting is direct, because the electors vote directly for their representative — no matter whether we have got to do with the election of a member of a village council, a people's judge or a representative to the People's Assembly. The polling is done secretly. Voting with sealed ballots, in special polling booths set at every voting center, under the supervision and care of the mass organizations which send their own representatives to the various voting committees, and the penal punishments foreseen against those that violate the secrecy of voting, etc., are provisions that guarantee an absolute secrecy.

Organizing elections to any of the forums imposes a series of duties both to the state organs and to the political and social organizations of the masses. The electoral lists are compiled by the organs of the people's councils concerned, they include all the persons that, on election day, whereas the electoral lists — one month before. Every elector has the right to request from the proper organs and, if necessary, even through the court, the correction of eventual mistakes regarding his own registration (or that of any other elector) in the electoral lists.

The electoral zones, formed according to the number of inhabitants, assure an equal representation for each group of citizens. In the zonal polling centres, the representatives meet with their electors and, thus, they get better acquainted with one another and their mutual ties become stronger.

Supervising the proper application of the electoral laws, registering the proposed candidates, ascertaining the results of the elections and registering the elected representatives, are duties carried out by the electoral committees.

The electoral committees are composed of representatives of the mass organizations of the workers and representatives of the working collectives of enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, ministries, institutions, etc.

Representatives of mass organizations and of workers' associations as well as newspaper reporters may assist at the counting of the ballots by the electoral committees, provided they are duly authorized by their respective organizations. Thus the elections are conducted, supervised, controlled and realized by the workers themselves.

According to the electoral laws, the right to present candidates belongs to the social organizations, workers' associations, the Party of Labor, the Democratic Front, the Trade Union Organizations, the Youth and Women's organizations and the cultural associations. This right may be exercised by the central as well as by the provincial organs of said organizations, by the general meetings of workers and employees in enterprises, by military men in their quarters and by collective farmers in their cooperatives. No taxes, guarantees, deposits, etc., are demanded of the candidates themselves or of the organizations that present their candidatures. The only necessary requirements are: that the candidate should enjoy the electoral right, that the particular organization presenting his (or her) candidature should declare in writing its will to do so and, finally, that the candidate should likewise sign a written declaration confirming his (or her) acceptance of the candidature to represent that particular organization to the organ in question.

The names of more candidates are always brought

up to and discussed at the pre-electoral meetings than the actual number of persons to be elected. Such meetings are characterized by a spirit of criticism and self-criticism. There the electors select the candidates that really deserve their confidence and are fit for the particular post to be filled, persons ever ready to serve the people and most competent to discharge the duties and responsibilities confided to them. In order to achieve this, at the pre-electoral meetings, the activity of the people's representatives is minutely and critically discussed and the latter are obliged to give full account of their work. During the propositions for candidates and the corresponding discussions about the candidatures presented, the elector has not only the right and all the necessary possibilities to express his acceptance or disapproval for each candidate or to propose candidates himself, but he (or she) is also duty-bound to do so.

The elections always take place on free day. Throughout all the territory of the Republic, polling begins at 06.00 hours in the morning and ends at 22 hours in the night. The persons who are unable to be present at the voting centers on the appointed day, are provided with certificates entitling them to vote at any other polling center of the Republic. Special voting centers are organized for the sick in hospitals; besides, the members of the polling committee take the ballot box to the persons unable to move, wherever they may be. Invalids unable to fill up the ballot-slips themselves are allowed to take with them to the polling booths, persons they confide in to do so in their presence. For sailors, who are on the seas, voting centers are organized on board their ships.

Winner is declared the candidate who gets one vote more than half of the number of electors registered in the particular constituency. The result is announced by

the polling committee, which issues the necessary certificate to the elected person. If the above majority is not attained, then, the law stipulates for the voting to be repeated within two weeks.

The citizens of the People's Republic of Albania consider the elections as a high patriotic duty having a direct bearing on the further consolidation and democratization of the People's Power. Participation in the voting has always been almost 100% and, in all cases, the candidates proposed by the electors themselves at the meetings organized by the Democratic Front during the electoral campaign have won (carrying nearly all the votes cast).

HOW DOES THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY REALIZE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL THE PEOPLE?

The People's Assembly is the highest organ of State Power in the People's Republic of Albania. Being composed of deputies elected directly by the people, it holds the sovereignty of the nation and of the state in the name of the people that it represents. The activity of the People's Assembly consists in exercising the main functions of directing and supervising the affairs of the people's democratic state. The sphere of this activity is very wide. It comprises practically all fields of economic, political, social and cultural life, because for all these fields exist laws determining the activity of the state and social organs.

The concentration of all the state power in the hands of the People's Assembly is an eloquent demonstration of socialist democracy at work in a socialist order of things.

As the highest representative organ of state power,

the People's Assembly is characterized by certain essential elements which distinguish it radically from the corresponding high organs existing in the exploiting states and, especially, from the bourgeois parliament. It is worth mentioning here that the People's Assembly is not simply and only a legislative body in the sense of the bourgeois parliament; it does not confine itself to issuing laws, but it supervises the application of these laws as well.

Another characteristic feature consists in the fact that the acts of the People's Assembly cannot be ultimately discussed or reconsidered by other state organs. In other words, the law — once adopted by the Assembly — becomes obligatory for all. Its power and, hence, also the birth of juridical consequences depend only on the volition of the Assembly. This high body itself fixes the moment when a law is to enter in vigour and no other organ has the right to annul, alter, suspend or return it to the People's Assembly for reconsideration.

The laws promulgated by the People's Assembly are not submitted to the control of any other state organ with respect to their constitutionality, as it does happen in certain bourgeois countries. The Constitution recognizes the absolute superiority of this highest state organ.

A fundamental characteristic of the People's Assembly is also the fact that it cannot be dissolved by any other state organ before the expiration of the term of its mandate. Only the People's Assembly itself may decide, without the intervention of any other organ, whether it ought to continue its activity until its mandate term is over, or whether it should suspend it in advance.

All state organs are subordinated to the People's Assembly. The People's Assembly approves the laws, the state budget and the economic plans of the Republic. It appoints the high state organs such as the Presidium of

the Assembly, the Government, the High Court of the Republic, the Attorney-General and his Deputies. The legislative power is exercised only by the Assembly. The basic principles directing the Assembly's activity are set forth in the Constitution of the Republic.

The working system of the Assembly is based on sessions. The ordinary sessions are held twice a year, the first usually in spring and the other before the end of the year. This latter approves the state budget for the coming year. Extraordinary sessions of the Assembly may be called on the initiative of the Presidium of the People's Assembly or on the request of 1/3 of the deputies.

The proceedings of the Assembly at regular sessions permits the deputies to perform other jobs in the interim between the sessions, thus being in daily contact with the people.

For directing the work of the sessions the Assembly elects, at the beginning of each legislature, a Committee composed of a Chairman, two Vice-chairmen and a Secretary. But until such a body has been elected, the first meeting of each legislature is presided over by the oldest among the deputies.

The Order of the Day of the sessions is approved by the Assembly itself.

For the detailed examination of the drafts presented to it, the People's Assembly appoints committees such as the committee of the mandates, that of the laws and of the budget, the economic committee and the committees for social questions and foreign affairs. If necessary, the Assembly may create other temporary committees for special questions; it may diminish or augment the number of the existing committees; it may dismiss or substitute at any time, totally or partially, the members of committees. The committees subject the draft referred to them to a very minute discussion and consi-

deration. Often, the committees send their own members or other specialists to study the work of such state organs or enterprises, the activity of which has got to do with a draft under examinations. Sometimes the committees form sub-committees, which must obligatorily be presided by a member of the committee. Specialists that may not be deputies, may also be called to take part in these committees. All state organs are obliged to give to the committees of the People's Assembly the requested data and any other aid necessary for the successful fulfilment of their tasks.

The committees express their opinions to the Assembly by means of written reports. The theses of these reports are distributed to the deputies not less than 24 hours before the meeting. When in a committee the opinions are divided, then the report is compiled by the majority, but the deputies of the minority also have the right to defend their point of view in the Assembly meeting.

The laws promulgated by the People's Assembly pass through certain phases. The initiative for proposing laws belongs to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Government, the Committees of the Assembly and to each deputy. The conditions required of the proposer are: that the draft-law be presented in writing, drafted in the form of a law and accompanied by a report. Only propositions for amendments to the Constitution cannot be presented by individual deputies. In this case the initiative belongs to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, to the Government or to a group consisting of two-fifths of the total number of deputies. The draft is first examined by the committee concerned and then it goes to the plenary meeting of the People's Assembly. It is first discussed and voted upon in general. Then each article is discussed and voted separately. Finally the voting of

the law as a whole takes place. The amendments are voted upon before the initial draft. The ultimate voting comprises also the amendments accepted during the examination of each article. The phase of the communication of the law is one of mere procedure. The publication is done by the Presidium of the People's Assembly and bears the date of its adoption by the session.

The Presidium is the permanent organ of the People's Assembly. It exercises the functions of a collective leadership of the state. The contacts with foreign countries are kept by the Chairman, but all decisions and decrees are examined collectively at the meetings of the Presidium. The competences of the Presidium as the supreme state organ are very broad and they are listed in the Constitution of the Republic.

The Presidium calls the sessions of the People's Assembly, fixes the dates of elections, decides on the compatibility of the laws with the Constitution (on condition that these decisions be later approved by the Assembly), interprets the laws, promulgates the published laws, issues decrees (when the decrees contain juridical regulations, they must be presented to the next session of the Assembly for approval), exercises the right of amnesty in conformity with the requisites of the special law, awards decorations and honorary titles, ratifies and denounces international treaties (unless it considers it necessary for the approval or denunciation to be made by the Assembly itself), appoints and dismisses — on the government's proposition — extraordinary envoys and plenipotentiary ministers, receives the credentials of diplomatic representatives of foreign states, appoints and dismisses the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces of the People's Republic of Albania in the interim between two sessions of the Assembly, declares general mobilization and a state of war in the event of an armed

aggression against the People's Republic of Albania; on the proposal of the Prime Minister, it appoints and dismisses Ministers in the interim between two sessions; and a number of other competences which it exercises even when the People's Assembly is in session. But the Presidium, as a collective leadership of the state, is responsible for its acts to the People's Assembly which elects and may dismiss it at any time.

WHAT ARE THE RELATIONS EXISTING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY THEM?

In the People's Republic of Albania, the relations between the people and their representatives do not end when the voting is over and the elected deputies have received the mandates to exercise state power in the name of the people. They continue after the elections, too, and consist mainly in the control the electors exercise over the elected state organs, both as regards their activity in general and that of each individual representative separately.

A common form of such a control are the periodic contacts of the deputies with the electors of their constituencies and their reporting to the latter. During these contacts the representatives must inform the people on the work of the state organs in which they take part and on the activity developed by them within said organs. They must listen to the observations and execute the suggestions or instructions of their electors, of course if said recommendations come within the sphere of their competences as representatives and, furthermore, if they are legal, etc.

If the representatives do not keep regular contacts with the electors of their constituency zones and, besides,

if they do not execute their advice or instructions, or when they commit acts not compatible with the attributes of a representative, the electors have the right to discharge them and to elect, in their stead, other representatives enjoying their political confidence.

The right of the electors to revoke their representatives is a direct expression of the constitutional principle of the people's sovereignty and, consequently, of the democratic character of our state apparatus. The initiative for the revocation of a representative may either be taken by the electors of the respective electoral zone themselves or by the worker's organizations and societies who had presented his candidature, or even by the elected state organs to which this representative makes part.

In order to be able to properly discharge their duties, the representatives enjoy parliamentary immunity consisting in: a) penal irresponsibility; b) penal inviolability. They enjoy, besides, a series of prerogative rights which emanate from and are based on their mandate and may be exercised for as long as this mandate lasts. As member of the collective composing the People's Assembly, the people's representative has a number of rights, through the exercising of which he takes part in the high state activity.

Participation in the deliberations of the People's Assembly enables the representative to express his opinion on all questions brought up before that high representative body, to make propositions touching them, to direct question and interpellations to single ministers or to the government as a whole, etc., and in this way to exercise, together with his colleagues and in the name of the people, the people's power or authority, giving to it — through the acts adopted by the Assembly — general state character.

As member of the People's Assembly, the represen-

tative has the right to be elected to the Assembly's organs which are composed only of regular representatives. Such organs of the Assembly are: the Presidium, its Executive and the permanent and temporary Committees.

Besides these rights, which are directly connected with the exercising of State Power by the People's Assembly and the organization of its organs, the people's representative enjoys a series of other rights, the exercising of which — although having no direct connection with the execution of state functions — helps towards their accomplishment by the proper state organs. Such rights, exercised by the people's representative outside the People's Assembly (during the period that the Assembly is not in session), are: the right to take part in the meeting of the people's councils and their executive committees, the right to freely visit institutions, enterprises and different organizations and to demand from them information concerning their activities.

However, by taking part in the meetings of local administrative organs, or in requesting to be informed on the work carried out by other organs, the people's representative cannot shift or substitute these organs in their functions and competences. The aim of his participation is to help them in discharging actual state tasks and in the uniform interpretation and execution of the laws.

Just as the rights, the duties of the representative also emanate from his mandate. They are connected with his work, during or outside the Assembly's sessions, with the People's Assembly and, directly, with the electors.

Chief among his duties (which in fact is the basic one that determines all the others) is to faithfully serve the people and the state.

The representative must, furthermore, keep close

relations with his electors. These relations, in the first place, enable the electors to control the work of their representatives and, secondly, they enable the representatives themselves to become better acquainted with the electors of their constituencies, with their needs and requests, and to intercede with the competent organs for their fulfilment; or, if need be, to bring these needs and requests for examination before the Assembly itself.

The best way to maintain these relations, which in fact is a practical demonstration of the subordination of the people's representative to his electors, is for him to meet them periodically and to render account of his doings to them.

The Regulation of the People's Assembly provides that «the deputies give account of their activity to their electors and report, at the end of each session, on the work of the People's Assembly» and «explain to the electors the laws and decisions of the People's Assembly».

WHAT IS THE POPULAR CHARACTER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA REFLECTED IN?

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania is really a popular organ, since it is appointed and dismissed by the People's Assembly which, by the way, is an organ elected directly by the people. The Government is responsible to the People's Assembly, to which it renders account of all its activities. In the interim between two sessions of the Assembly, it is responsible to the Presidium of the People's Assembly. Thus, the power exercised by it does not, in itself, constitute a separate and independent authority. Besides, the very existence of the People's Assembly and its Presidium practically excludes any possibility on the part of the

Government to act as a body independent of the high organs of state power.

At the first session of each legislature, the existing Prime Minister tenders the resignation of his Cabinet to the new Assembly. The resignation is voted upon and may or may not be accepted. If accepted, then, on the proposition of one or a group of representatives, the Assembly chooses one of its members as Prime Minister and charges him with the duty of forming a new Cabinet. The list of Ministers presented by him is discussed in the Assembly and, if approved, the proper decision is taken on the appointment of the new Government. The popular character of the Government is reflected in its very composition. The members of the Government are sons of the people; those that yesterday fought and bled for liberating the country, those that work untiringly for its improvement and progress, those that faithfully follow and adopt the line of the masses and that spare no time or effort in upholding the interests of the country and people.

The Government acts in conformity with the Constitution and the laws. It issues decrees and orders and it controls the application of the laws in power.

The government draws up the country's general economic plan and the general budget, which it presents to the People's Assembly for approval, and then exercises the necessary control regarding their application. It directs the country's credit and monetary system, it takes all necessary measures for assuring and defending the constitutional order and the rights of the citizens, it directs the general organization of the Army, it conducts the contacts with foreign countries, it looks after the application of treaties and international obligations, it presents to the People's Assembly the draft-laws prepared by it or by the various Ministries, it decides on the

manner of internal organization of the Ministries and dependent institutions, it creates committees and institutions for implementing the economic, cultural and national defense measures.

The popular character of our Government finds further expression in its program which, both in the external and in the internal policy, fully reflects and safeguards the interests of the people.

The main task of the internal program of the government of the People's Republic of Albania is to develop further the country's productive forces: by increasing industrial production and by giving a good impulse to agricultural production, which will bring about the desired uplift of the material welfare of the people, and the further strengthening of the country's defensive power. Among its principal duties are also the further development of socialist relations in production, the deepening of the socialist revolution in the ideological and cultural spheres, the consolidation of People's Power and of the moral and political unity of the people around the Party and Government.

Respecting foreign politics, the Government's program aims at guaranteeing national independence and sovereignty against any eventual danger from abroad; at strengthening further the country's positions in the international arena; at strengthening the friendship, sincere collaboration and reciprocal aid with the fraternal peoples of the socialist countries, based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism; at supporting without reserves the revolutionary and national-liberation struggle of the oppressed peoples; at extending the relations and collaboration with all countries of different social systems, based on the principles of equality, non-intervention in the internal affairs of one another, mutual respect and mutual profit; at safeguarding and consolidating real peace.

The entire activity of our Government is carried out in the interests of the working masses. Being the offspring of the people, it is always by their side in days of weal and in days of woe. During the earthquake of November 1967, from which the people of the districts of Peshkopia and Librazhdi suffered heavy damages, the Government took immediate steps to come to their aid. The Premier himself and many other Ministers visited the above-mentioned regions and personally directed the work of reconstruction, making it possible, within that very month, for the consequences of this calamity of nature to be totally removed. This is but one example revealing the ties existing between the Government and the people and the great care that the former shows for them. In fact everyday life is full of such examples demonstrating the democratic character of our government.

WHAT ARE THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND WHAT FUNCTIONS DO THEY FULFIL?

In conformity with article 71 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, the local organs of state power are the people's councils which, together with the People's Assembly, constitute the political basis of the Albanian state.

The fundamental principles of the organization and activity of the people's councils are defined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania and, explained in more detail, in the Law of November 26th, 1953 «On the People's Councils». This law with certain small alterations, is still in power. The principles directing the organization and activity of the people's councils, defined by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic, are meant to assure the real democratic character

of the local government, the everlasting and effective control of the masses over its activity and the active participation of these masses in the daily work of the local organs of state power.

The network of the people's councils is built in harmony with the administrative and territorial division of the country. The whole territory of the Republic is divided in districts. The districts are composed of localities and cities. The big cities are sub-divided into quarters.

In conformity with this division, in the People's Republic of Albania there exist people's councils of districts, cities, localities, villages and city-quarters.

Said councils are elected for a period of three years, by citizens having completed 18 years of age, through direct, secret, equal and general voting.

The people's councils call periodical meetings of the electors and report to them on their activity. The electors have the right to revoke any or all the members of a council, even before the expiration of the three years' term, if it turns out that they have not deserved the confidence given to them by the people.

The lower people's council renders account of its work to the next higher in rank, according to this order: village, locality, city and district. Hence, we have here a twofold subordination of the councils: to the people and to the next higher councils.

The people's councils perform their work in regular periodical sessions called by the executive committee of the people's councils; whereas the emergency sessions are called by their own executive committees, or on the request of 1/3 of the members of the people's council, or of the higher people's councils and their respective executive committees, or by the higher organs of State and administrative Power.

A meeting of the people's council is valid only if the majority of its effective members are present.

In order to fulfil their functions, the people's councils choose their own organs, their Executive and various other committees among their own members. The councils accomplish the greater part of their tasks through their own executive committees, while the other committees serve to exercise the necessary control over the enterprises, institutions and organizations depending on them.

The duties of the people's councils are to direct the economic and cultural activity within their jurisdiction, to control the application of the laws, to guarantee public order, to safeguard the rights of the citizens, to look after the realization of the economic plan and the local budget, to elect their executive committees, to dismiss them or any of their members when they do not fulfill their tasks, to create permanent and temporary committees.

According to article 73 of the Constitution, it is in the competence of the people's councils to issue ordinances compatible with the Constitution, with the laws and the general dispositions of the higher State organs. The people's councils may abolish the decisions and ordinances of their own executive committees as well as those of the lower councils.

The executive committees are chosen by the people's councils at their first meeting directly after elections. The executive committees are composed of Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen, Secretaries and members.

The executive committees have their sections and offices for all the branches of the district state administration. Such, for example, are the sections of industry, agriculture, education, etc.

The executive committees compile and present for

approval to the people's councils plans for the economic and cultural development of their territories and take the necessary steps for the application of said plans. They compile and present to the councils for approval their budgets and look after their realization. They guarantee the application of the laws, decrees, decisions and ordinances of the government and of other high organs, as well as the ordinances of their own councils. They take measures for protecting socialist property and the rights and interests of the citizens living in their territory.

WHAT ARE THE ORGANS OF JUSTICE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA?

Justice in the People's Republic of Albania is administered by the High Court, the district courts, the people's courts in villages, towns and city quarters. It is the duty of the courts of justice to protect from any violation:

the social and state organization of the People's Republic of Albania, the socialist system of economy and socialist property;

the political, housing and work rights as well as the personal and property rights and interests of the citizens;

the rights and interests of state institutions, enterprises, cooperatives and other social organizations guaranteed by law. Their task is, on the one hand, to fight, using revolutionary violence, against external and internal enemies and, on the other, to educate the popular masses in the spirit of discipline, socialist legality and socialist norms of ethics and to help build socialism.

The court sessions are held with open doors except

in cases when it is necessary to guard some state, military or diplomatic secret and when sexual crimes and crimes committed by minors under 16 years of age are involved. However, the decisions must in all cases be made public.

The Albanian language is in use at all court procedures. Those who do not know it may speak through an interpreter.

The High Court of Justice is the highest legal organ of the People's Republic of Albania. It is appointed by the People's Assembly for a four years term of office.

The High Court of Justice controls the activity of all the courts and examines complaints and protests against verdicts passed by the District Courts. It also examines requests by the Attorney-General or the President of the High Court in defense of legality against verdicts that have taken a final form.

The District Courts are elected for a term of three years by the District People's Councils under their territorial jurisdiction.

The People's Courts of Justice in villages, towns and city quarters were first set up in 1968. They are organisms of a social character which pass judgment on simple civil conflicts which have been removed from the sphere of competences of the District Courts and have been left to be settled by the workers' collectives among whose ranks they have been confirmed by organisms of a social character. Thus, the people's courts of justice are brought nearer to the masses in villages, towns and city quarters so that a number of matters at variance with the law and socialist ethics may be judged by the people's courts of justice in their own presence. Sessions in villages, towns and city quarters are presided over by an assistant-judge appointed by the District Court and two social activists.

The right to propose candidates for people's judges and deputy-judges is enjoyed by the organizations and associations of workers, as well as by the general meetings of workers, employees, peasants and military men in their centres of work or service.

The people's judges render account of their own work and of that of their courts to the electors and may be dismissed at any moment, by the latter if they have abused their confidence.

The Attorney's Office is an organ of the People's Assembly. Its main duty is to strengthen legality and to protect state and social property. Led by this aim, the Attorney's office controls whether the decisions, ordinances, orders and instructions of the local government organs are compatible with the Constitution, the laws, decrees and ordinances of the Government. It supervises the rigorous and just application of the laws and other legal dispositions by the institutions, the local government organs, the social organizations, officials and citizens. It supervises the just and uniform application of the laws by the judicial organs. It commences penal indictments in all courts of the People's Republic of Albania. It controls, in conformity with special dispositions, the legality of the actions and orderly activity of the organs of the Ministry of the Interior.

The chief functionaries of this Office are the Attorney-General and his Deputies, who are appointed and discharged by the People's Assembly. The Attorney-General is responsible to the People's Assembly for the activity of his office.

The District attorneys, the Military procurators, and their respective assistants, are appointed and dismissed by the Attorney-General, to whom they are responsible and render account of their work.

The procurator's organs are independent of all local

organs and subordinated only to the Attorney-General.

Said organs are built in accordance with the principle of complete centralization: the procurator higher in rank is authorized to suspend and abrogate any irregular actions of an inferior colleague. The democratic principle finds its expression in the appointment of the Attorney-General and his Deputies by the People's Assembly.

The procurator has a right to protest against the verdicts of the courts in his jurisdiction. The Attorney-General is entitled to bring up requests in defense of legality against final-form verdicts, at the same time ordering the suspension of the execution of the decision against which the protest is launched.

All state organs, institutions, organizations and the citizens are obliged to give to the procurator, upon his request, informations, clarifications and other necessary data.

No one can be detained for more than three days without the consent of the procurator and no one can be arrested without a court decision or the procurator's approval.

The procurators are aided in the discharge of their duties by the people's procurators, chosen by the people in every city quarter, village or working center.

The procurators help with their work the invigoration of socialist legality and the strengthening of socialist consciousness among the citizens.

WHAT DOES THE DEMOCRATIC CHARACTER OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA CONSIST IN?

The democratic character of our judicial system is reflected by the very principles of organization and functioning of the courts in the People's Republic of Albania. These principles are:

1) Equality of the citizens before the courts. 2) The eligibility of the judges and assistant-judges. 3) The participation of the people in the exercise of justice. 4) The independence of the judges and assistant-judges and their subordination only to the law. 5) The right of the accused for defense. 6) The public character of the court procedure. 7) The development of the court procedure in the Albanian language and the possibility given to persons not knowing it to express themselves in their own national tongue.

The principle of equality of the citizens before the court is one of the most important testimonies of the democratic character of our judicial organs.

The legal sanctioning and steady application of such a principle is conditioned by the very character of these bodies, as organs of the socialist state, and by the relations between them and the citizens: Since the courts are state organs that realize the will of the people, they cannot keep different attitudes towards different citizens, regardless of the social position, property condition, degree of culture, nationality, race and faith. They act in the same manner towards all citizens and equally apply towards them, in analogous circumstances, the penal or ordinary, material and procedural legislation.

The fact that the judges and deputy-judges are elected, is another expression of the democratic character of our courts.

Confiding to the state organs (the representative organs), namely the people, the right of electing the various links of the network of court organs, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania has avoided all possibilities of an intrusion of other state organs in forming these links, even if said organs were included in the system of representative organs or of those that are directly controlled by them. Thus, neither the Presidium of the People's Assembly nor the Executive Committees of the People's Councils can complete or alter the composition of the High Court and District Courts, respectively, less so can they dismiss one or all of them and appoint others instead, at a time when the People's Assembly and the People's Councils are not in session.

The democratic character of our courts is evidenced also by the fact that they cannot administer justice beyond the maximum limits provided by the Constitution. Besides, no state organ — not even the one that has elected them — can prolong their term of office.

The composition of the personnel of all the network of courts may be totally or partially revoked by: the People's Assembly for the High Court; the District People's Councils for the District Courts and the people themselves for the People's Courts.

The dismissal and substitution of the judges and assistant-judges is a guarantee against any abuses committed by them while exercising the state authority confided to them in the field of justice.

The people's participation in administering justice is one of the most important ways of rendering the courts democratic. This fundamental principle in the composition and functioning of the courts is apparent in two directions: firstly, in the fact that the judges are elected from among the workers; and, secondly, by the institution of the link of assistant-judges.

The institution of assistant-judges is intended, mainly, to attain these aims: to assure the direct participation of the broad masses of workers in administering state power in one of the most important spheres, namely the wielding of justice, as well as to inculcate in the judicial acts (the court verdicts) the juridical conscience of these masses.

Furthermore, the participation of the assistant-judges in the administering of justice creates the possibility that in this sphere of state activity, too, there should find expression the principle of collective leadership in examining such important, varied and complicated matters involving justice; so that said examination may be thorough and exhaustive, and that the verdicts may be just and founded on law.

The assistant-judges are called upon to exercise their functions by turn, each 15 days a year, but this term may be prolonged if it is deemed necessary for a particular case to be concluded by the same assistant-judges.

In order to assure the effective participation of the assistant-judges in the administering of justice, the assistant-judges who are workers or employees, continue to be regularly paid by the institutions, enterprises or organizations where they work for the time they serve in courts, or, if they receive no pay, they get retributed for their expenses, in the measure provided for by the government dispositions.

In the execution of their duties, the assistant-judges enjoy the same authority as the judges. They enjoy the same rights and have the same duties. Above all, the assistant-judges enjoy equal rights when a decision is put to vote.

The activity of such organisms as the courts of justice in villages, towns and city quarters reflects ano-

ther aspect of the democratic nature of our courts. This activity is of a purely educational character. Through this activity, through taking up for examination simple civilian conflicts the workers' collectives strengthen their revolutionary vigilance in defense of our state and social order, in defense of socialist property and legality, on the one hand, and they exert their great educational influence on individuals, on the other. Setting up organisms of a social character to pass judgment on a series of conflicts which, as a rule, express non-antagonistic contradictions among the people, goes a long way in stepping up and settling aright these contradictions by the participation of the masses themselves, and in this way reduces them and, consequently, further consolidates the unity of the people. Meanwhile appropriate conditions are created for the masses to get a better grasp of the political and ideological substance of our laws, to carry them out on a higher sense of duty and to fight with determination in defense of our socialist legality. Setting up organisms of a social nature to settle simple civilian conflicts is another step towards fighting bureaucracy, which promotes the revolutionization of our socialist justice. This brings about a broader participation of the masses in the administration of justice, a closer cooperation between the organs of justice and the people and creates conditions for the masses to exercise their leading and supervising role on the organs of justice. The democratic character of the juridical system in our country finds its expression in the fact that the people themselves make the law. In recent years a broad public discussion took place to simplify our laws, make them more understandable to the masses, more practical by divesting them of bureaucratic excesses. By exercising their sovereignty the broad masses amended many out-dated laws and ordinances adap-

ting them to the conditions of our times. But the practical verification of the accuracy and justice of our laws is not a matter of campaign but a permanent prerogative of the masses emanating from their very sovereignty.

In the People's Republic of Albania the law asserts the leadership of the Party over the courts of justice and subjects them to the criticism and supervision of the laboring masses. Thus, the so-called bourgeois and revisionist principle of the absolute independence of the courts of justice is substituted with the Marxist-Leninist principle of the leadership of the party and its policy over the courts of justice and of subjecting the latter to the criticism and supervision of the people who hold the reins of state in our country. Guided by the policy of our Party and in line with our laws, our courts and our judges act on their initiative and responsibility but the laboring masses have the right to supervise, criticize and call them to account for the work they have done.

The independence of judges must not be understood as something absolute, as a prerogative of independence entitling them to act as plenipotentiaries and apart from the policy of the socialist state and of the Party of the working class. Such an interpretation of the judges' independence would lead to ignoring the objective reality that the Court, as an institution of the dictatorship of one or a number of given classes, does not stand above the classes, above society, but serves their interests and, as such, has class character.

Our socialist court accomplishes its duties in administering justice while being always led by the policy of our socialist state and of the Party of Labor of Albania as the leading force of the state and of society. Therefore, its independence is of a relative character: it applies to its relations with other state organs while passing judgment, i.e. while it examines the various

questions within the limits of its competences and pronounces its decisions with regard to them.

In the meantime, such an independence does not exclude, but on the contrary it demands, a state of dependence on the people, or on the respective representative organs that have elected them. This dependence is reflected in the accounts that the judges render to the electors or to their respective representative organs. As a result of this, the electors or representative organs, as the case may be, exert their influence on the judicial activity that the judges will perform in the future and, control and criticize the work they have done.

Such a control has a two-fold character: in the first place, it makes possible the revocation (dismissal) of the judges when it turns out that they have not properly fulfilled the tasks assigned to them; and, secondly, through it the elector and, respectively, the representative organs, come to know whether the verdicts are given in conformity with the laws: whether they satisfy the requirement of socialist legality and the interests of the working masses.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE FURTHER DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER?

Its continuous democratization is the distinguishing feature of the process of development of the People's Power. Our People's Power differs radically from the previous governments of the exploiting classes. It was born and ever remains as the Power belonging to the broad working masses — the dictatorship of the proletariat. The strengthening of our social and economic order constitutes an important factor in the broadening of the social basis of this dictatorship. This fact creates

today particularly favorable conditions for the allround development of socialist democracy, for the eradication of bureaucracy, which is the antithesis of this democracy, and for the establishment of the closest possible ties between the governing power and the masses. There exist no other interests for the People's Power than those of the working masses. Our Government relies on the powerful support of the masses; its aim being to provide the widest possible participation of them in governing the country and in controlling the state apparatus in accordance with the principle that the people in power direct, lead and administer the country.

The experience of socialist construction has clearly demonstrated and demonstrates that the dictatorship of the proletariat cannot be strengthened and an all-round development of socialist democracy cannot be realized without a determined struggle against bureaucracy. The deep roots of the regressive and counter-revolutionary process now taking place in countries where revisionists are in power, must be sought in the gradual bureaucratization of the socialist state apparatus, in its estrangement from the popular masses and in the creation of a privileged class of bureaucrats. It was precisely the spreading of bureaucracy that constituted one of the main factors responsible for the usurpation of state power by the renegade Khrushchovite clique.

The People's Republic of Albania has always attached serious attention to the fight against bureaucracy and has continually warned against the danger springing from it.

Bureaucracy is a survival of the past and an expression of the pressure exerted by the enemy of the working class and his ideology. The Party of Labor stresses the necessity that endeavours should never cease for the further democratization of the Government, not only

in its form but, especially, in its contents — bringing it ever nearer to the masses, so that there should always predominate its democratic essence, its profoundly popular character, because it is this character that will eradicate the bureaucratic elements inherited from the past or reborn in new forms. The essence of bureaucracy is the estrangement from the masses, the treatment of the problems not from the political prism but from the technocrat's view-point, the liquidation of the revolutionary spirit, the gradual creation of a privileged layer of people, i.e. the creation of the social basis of revisionism.

The Party of Labor of Albania has emphasized that the strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat can be attained only by relying on the line of the masses and by elevating the role of the representative organs of the Government, which are elected by the masses and are under their direct control.

For this reason, a number of important measures have been taken, not of a purely administrative character but of a deeply political one, which aim at strengthening the Government of the people and further revolutionizing it. An efficient fight against bureaucracy has been waged, the state apparatus has been reorganized and simplified by eliminating the unnecessary links and personnel, by divesting the central organs of their excessive competences, which weighed heavily on their work and hindered their control and aid to the subordinate organs. The local organs have been strengthened and their competences increased, the representative organs and other organisms of socialist democracy have been invigorated and their control over all the state apparatus has been lifted to a higher level.

Recently, a series of measures of great political and ideological importance have been taken, such as curtail-

ing the higher salaries twice in succession without affecting the low and medium ones, in order to establish a more just ratio between them; the wide participation of cadres, administrative personnel, intellectuals and school youth directly in manual labor, side by side with the workers and farmers; the systematic and continuous circulation of the cadres from the center to the grassroots and vice-versa; the placing of cadres, communists and all state employees under the rigorous supervision of the working masses; the systematic application of the principle of democratic centralism against any symptoms of bureaucratic centralism; the improvement of the method and style of work by directing the main attention of the state organs to the treatment of all state and economic problems not from the positions of «technocracy» and «economism», but from the standpoint of the Party's policy and ideology, always keeping proletarian politics in the fore-front.

The Party of Labor of Albania has always and persistently followed the line of the masses, the line of relying greatly on the masses, of developing their initiatives and creative abilities, the line of deep respect for the masses, of reciprocally learning from the masses and teaching them. This line of the masses has now acquired a new development: it is being constantly applied in depth.

In our country today, the activity of the masses has been lifted higher than ever before. The masses have been gripped by the impulse of many important revolutionary movements of a political, ideological, cultural, economic, scientific and military character.

After these measures, work in the state apparatus has been improved: It has become more active, more operative, more creative and better linked with life; more correct relations have been established between the

elected organs of People's Power and their executive bodies, both in the center and in the provinces; great work is being done to purify our laws and other juridical norms from any bureaucratic traces, in order to divest them of their formalism, to make them more revolutionary and more understandable by the people so that they may respond fully to the Party's policy and to the conditions and needs of the country.

But the struggle against bureaucracy and the measures for improving the method and style of work in the state apparatus are not a temporary campaign but a lasting one, indispensable for strengthening People's Power, for invigorating its apparatus to the effect that it shall adapt itself to the country's conditions at different stages. The struggle against bureaucracy is a continuous class struggle for preserving the state power in the hands of the working class and the working masses, for avoiding its degeneration into a dictatorship of a privileged layer.

The further improvement of the activity of the representative organs, of their executive bodies and of all the state apparatus, is realized by fighting against all symptoms of bureaucracy and by further developing socialist democracy. This war is closely linked with carrying the line of the masses further and further ahead.

The masses enjoy the right to criticize and to bring up suggestions in connection with the Party and State policy and with the activity of the different organs of the Party and State.

Relying greatly on the masses, our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat will always become stronger, our socialist democracy will develop and expand.

HOW WAS OUR PEOPLE'S ARMY BORN AND HOW DID IT DEVELOP?

Our People's Army does not draw its origin from the old Albania Royal Army. It did not inherit anything from it. The old army of ex-King Zogu's regime was a tool in the hands of the feudal-bourgeois ruling clique: it defended its interests and was used by it to oppress the working masses who rose to fight for their rights. The clearest proof that it did not at all serve the people and the Fatherland, was its capitulation, on April 7th 1939, without firing a shot against the Italian fascist troops that attacked and occupied our country. The degenerated, anti-popular army laid down the arms; whereas the genuine sons of the people, those who really loved their Fatherland, met the invaders with bullets.

Our People's Army was born, in the thick of the National-liberation War, from the country's own breast.

At the time when the National-liberation movement against the fascist invaders was rapidly turning into a general popular uprising, the Communist Party of Albania, which directed this movement, called its first National Conference to map out the new tasks. This Conference, which held its meetings at Labinoti (in the Elbasan district) from 17 to 22 March 1943, adopted important decisions for further strengthening the National-liberation Movement; and, as chief means for realizing this end, it considered the creation of the National-liberation Army. The Conference, accordingly, decided: «to create, from the partisan and voluntary units, the regular National-liberation Army, which shall be a terrific power against the invader and a powerful and sure guarantee for liberating the people». On July 10th 1943, the General Staff of the National-liberation Army was formed for conducting the armed struggle of the Albanian

people. This date entered the history as the day of the creation of the Albanian People's Army. With the appointment of the General Staff the war against the enemy took on a more organized, broader and fiercer character. In an order to all Regional Headquarters, dated July 30th, the General Headquarters stated: «... so long as one single armed fascist shall have remained in our country our war must continue most ferociously». On August 15th 1943, the 1st Storm Brigade was formed of partisans from all over Albania at the Vithkuqi village. After that, many other Storm Brigades, Divisions and Army Corps were formed and they, engaging in fierce battles, ultimately expelled the enemy from our country, bringing liberty to the people. In 1944, the ranks of our National-liberation Army counted 70,000 partisans, sons and daughters of the people: workers, peasants, youths of both sexes, patriotic intellectuals.

In the heat of battle, the Communist Party solved the problem of training cadres to lead the Army: by picking them up among the bravest and most determined workers, peasants and intellectuals. The problem of arms, ammunition and raiments for the partisan units was solved by capturing them from the enemy in fighting. The tactics to be followed in the war was likewise determined and it consisted in storm actions, avoiding frontal engagements and exploiting to the utmost the predicament and the element of surprise and maneuver.

The Party imbued the partisan fighters with the spirit of lofty popular patriotism, of high moral and political qualities. It is thanks to these lofty qualities that the partisans performed such marvelous acts of heroism, always coming off victorious, while fighting under great difficulties: facing enemies vastly superior in numbers and braced to their teeth with the most modern armaments.

The National-liberation Army discharged the military duties assigned to it with honor covering itself up with glory.

The complete liberation of the country and the establishment of People's Power on the 29th of November 1944 inaugurated, a new era in our country's history: it paved the way for development and progress towards socialism. During the years of People's Power, great strides have been made towards the development of our people's economy and culture. This progress has served also as a powerful basis for the continuous growth and strengthening of the armed forces, which are today transformed into a modern Army. By further developing the great experience of the National-liberation War, which became a vast treasure of education and inspiration, our soldiers honorably discharged the new duties assigned to them. If in the past our army was only a land force, it gradually grew into a complex army, with all the various services as well as the most different kinds of modern arms. Our country vaunts now of an audacious and invincible army, equipped with armaments which are the last word of modern military technique. Yet the strength of our Army does not consist only in its excellent armaments but, mainly, in its close ties with the people, in its high sense of duty as well as its ideological and political consciousness, in the perfect understanding, by each army man, of the lofty mission confided to him: to defend, every span of our socialist Fatherland and the victories of the revolution to the last drop of blood if the need arises.

The great successes achieved in the strengthening and modernization of our army, necessary to enable it to discharge the tasks assigned to it, have been made possible thanks to the just policy of the Party of Labor which, relying on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism,

has always been led by the principle that, so long as imperialism and its zealous collaborators (the modern revisionists) exist, the danger of war is likewise always existant. Considering the international situation, the Party has adopted a just and determined revolutionary course, both regarding the building of socialism and the safeguarding of the country, which finds expression in the warlike slogan: «To build socialism holding pickaxe in one and rifle in the other».

Recently, a series of measures have been taken to further strengthen and democratize our Army. These are the reappointment of political commissars to all the military units, the abolishment of ranks and the simplification of the uniforms. These important measures have strengthened the ties of the soldiers with the cadres and of the Army with the people, making the former more powerful and invincible.

Our People's Army, as an arm of the dictatorship of the proletariat, has assigned to itself the important mission: to defend the liberty and independence of the country, the brilliant successes achieved by the Albanian people during the years that they are in power, as well as socialism and peace. As a new type socialist army, it threatens no one, but it nevertheless does not allow the sacred frontiers of our country and the interests of peace and socialism to be violated.

Our army is characterized by its political and moral unity with the people, whom it serves, and by the internal monolithic unity within its ranks. In our country's history there have never existed, nor could there exist, such sound, close and inseparable ties between army and people. These ties are objective, for they are conditioned by the nature of our People's Power, by the make up of our army and the interests it defends.

Our army sprang from the ranks of our urban and

rural laboring masses, it received and continues to receive fresh blood and vigor from the people. Among us every worker is both a builder of socialism and a soldier. On the other hand every armyman feels closely attached to the great front of socialist construction.

The revolutionary slogan of the Party of Labor: «to build socialism holding pickaxe in one hand and rifle in the other», expresses the ardent readiness of the people for work and defense and is a clear proof of the reciprocal ties between the army and the workers, between the great cause of building socialism and that of defending it from its enemies. Both these constitute an indivisible organic whole. The people's love for the Army, the continuous care that it shows towards it, the readiness of our citizens to help the armed forces by immediately taking up arms in any dangerous situation and their zealous work and interest for the continuous strengthening of the country's power of defence all of these constitute the powerful basis of the army's vital force. This solid steel foundation assures a strong and resistant rearline, which is an important condition for victory over the enemies.

The Albanian people, together with the Frontier Guards and the Army together with the Security organs and the Police, are always on the alert to protect the country from spies and diversionists, from criminal bands and other agents that the enemies of the People's Republic of Albania send over. Countless are the cases when young pioneers and old people have taken an active part in the discovery, liquidation or capture of diversionists and spy groups. All this goes to prove the strength of the ties between the Army and the people.

Besides its great work of defending the country, perfecting its own military readiness and improving its efforts in the important directions of military and poli-

tical preparations, our Army takes an important part also in the socialist construction of the country and in the great social transformations.

It has given and is still giving a great contribution to the work of transforming the mountains and hills into as fertile lands as the plains. Together with the volunteers from different regions of the country, it actively helped to remove, in less than one month, the consequences of the devastating earthquake of November 30th, 1967, which hit the Dibra and Librazhdi regions.

Our Army has become a real school for the sons of the people. Our citizen knows that, serving in the Army ranks, he fulfils a duty of honor: he serves his country and his people. During their term of service in the Army, the soldiers learn different trades and professions which will be of help to them in civilian life.

The working masses of socialist Albania never for one moment forget the honorable duty of defending their country and the victories of the Revolution. The necessity of protecting the country under conditions of imperialist-revisionist geographical encirclement, has taught our people to be always vigilant and to keep their powder dry.

WHAT ROLE DOES THE PARTY OF LABOR OF ALBANIA PLAY AND WHY ARE THERE NOT MANY PARTIES IN ALBANIA?

The leading role of the Party of Labor of Albania in the State and social life of the country is recognized by the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, where it is stated that the Party «is the organized vanguard of the working class and of all the working masses in their fight for creating the foundations of so-

cialism, and the leading nucleus of all the social and state organizations of the workers». The Party of Labor of Albania, founded on the 8th of November 1941 by the Albanian communists as a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party, represents and fully safeguards the interests of all the working people.

The Communist Party of Albania (now the Party of Labor of Albania) was and remained the only vanguard party which undertook and honorably discharged the difficult but glorious task of mobilizing, organizing and leading the people in the war of liberation against the foreign invaders and the local traitors. Thanks to the Party's leadership, the Albanian people beat their enemies, destroyed the old state apparatus, established their own new government of the dictatorship of the proletariat, achieved and strengthened their complete independence and are successfully constructing the socialist society. The Party of Labor of Albania is the sole directing and leading force in our system of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Our Party's force rests on its close and permanent ties with all the working masses. In the practice of the daily revolutionary experience of the masses, in their support and their opinions, the Party tests the justice and exactness of its decisions, enriches its own experience and gets the necessary inspiration to continue its forward march.

In compliance with the aspirations of the masses, the Party issues directives and instructions on important political, economic, social-cultural and organizational questions. On the initiative and under the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania were elaborated: the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, the laws on the economic plans, the most important legal acts concerning the electoral system, the organization

and functioning of the local government organs, etc. Such influence as the Party has exerted on the activities of the State has been carried out primarily through the Party members who, being assigned to commanding posts in the State apparatus, are in a position to see to it that these directives are executed and, thus, they direct this apparatus themselves.

In order to realize its directing role in the country's life, the Party of Labor of Albania creates party cells in all the elected organs of the people's democratic government and in the social organizations. As it is stated in article 69 of the Statute of the Party of Labor of Albania, these cells are created wherever there are not less than three party members. It is the duty of the cells to strengthen the Party's influence and to uphold its policy among the non-party people, to strengthen State discipline and the war against bureaucracy, to supervise the execution of the Party's directives. The Party cells are responsible to the respective organs of the Party (the Party committees and the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania) and in their activities they are led by the leading organs of the Party.

The leading role of the Party in the social activity of the State is exercised, especially, through the Central Committee of the Party and its local Committees.

Nevertheless, this leading role of the Party over the people's democratic State, in general, and of the social and State order, in particular, does not at all signify that the Party organs substitute the corresponding Government organs in their activity. The Party's acts are not, and cannot be, juridical acts that must be executed. They are obligatory only for the citizens that are its members and not for all the people without exception.

Yet, the acts adopted by the Party organs are of special importance for the juridical acts issued by the

State organs. This importance is evident in the fact that the acts of the Party organs determine, in general lines, the every essence and contents of the State acts. In certain cases, especially with regard to questions having a particular effect on the development of the social and State order, the Party organs issue acts jointly with the State organs. In such acts, the directives of the Party are converted into juridical acts and the norms contained in them must obligatorily be obeyed by all the citizens, the State and Party organs and the organs of the social organizations.

Among the acts issued by the Party organs, of particular importance are those issued by the highest forum of the Party of Labor of Albania: by its Congress. Such acts are a very important basis for the State organs in adopting the adequate measures, expressed in juridical acts, dealing with the development of the country's social and State life.

The Party of Labor of Albania does not lead only the activity of the State organs, but also that of all the mass organizations of Albania. The largest of these, in our system of the dictatorship of the proletariat, is the Democratic Front. Besides, in this system are also included all the other organizations of the masses: the Trade Unions, the Labor Youth Union of Albania, the Women's Union of Albania. The members of these organizations are, at the same time, members of the Democratic Front, through which is realized the political unity of all the people. The mass organizations are the Party's levers for effecting its ties with the people and they have played and continue to play a very important role in the life of the country. The Party of Labor of Albania has denounced and unmasked the preachings of the modern revisionists claiming the «independence» of the mass organizations from the Party, which in fact means

independence from proletarian politics, from the Communist Party, and passing over to the complete dependence on bourgeois politics and bourgeois parties.

The Party of Labor of Albania constitutes one of the very rare examples of a Marxist-Leninist party created in a country where, previously, there existed neither socialist and social-democratic parties, nor any bourgeois parties, and which remained the only party of the working class and the only political party in the country's life.

During the war, in Albania there was no other social force or political party able to undertake and successfully conduct the people's war of liberation. The chief exploiting classes — the landlords and the upper bourgeoisie — which had traded with the country's liberty and independence, openly placed themselves at the service of the enemy, from the very first days of fascist occupation.

The Albanian Communist Party appealed to everyone — «without distinction of religion, region or opinion» — to unite in the war against the invader. The appeal was ardently received by all the Albanian people: by all the patriots who cherished and desired the country's freedom. And, as a result of the rallying of the large people's forces to this summons for the country's liberation, the Anti-fascist National-liberation Front was formed. At the base of this broad Front stood the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, under the leadership of the working class, an alliance which constituted the social foundation of our people's revolution.

However, the reactionary classes far from uniting in the people's war, supported the fascist invaders and did everything in their power to check the onrush of the liberation movement. Precisely this end served the for-

mation of the treacherous organization of «Balli Kombëtar» («National Front»), which chiefly represented the interests of the big landowners and of the reactionary bourgeoisie. The creation of «Balli Kombëtar» and especially its overt collaboration with the invaders, from Autumn 1943, deepened the process of class differentiation. Especially after the invasion of Albania by the Nazis all the internal reactionaries enrolled in the treacherous organizations «Balli Kombëtar» and «Legality» in an attempt to destroy the National-liberation Front.

After the country's liberation, the remnants of the exploiting classes and the agents of U.S. and British imperialism endeavoured to create their own political party with the aim of undermining the People's Government and the victories of the National-liberation war. This was an attempt to create a support for the strata and elements of the exploiting minority of landowners and capitalists, who were beaten in the war and who were politically and economically brought down and shattered by the working class in alliance with the peasantry. By so doing, they placed themselves in opposition to the overwhelming masses of Albanian workers and suffered complete defeat.

The lack of other political parties, besides the Party of Labor of Albania, has been for the working class and the people of Albania, for the cause of the revolution and of socialism, a very beneficial event, whereas for the internal and foreign reaction — a flat failure. This is why the bourgeois propaganda accuses our Party and Government of infringing on democracy. But the democratic character of a regime (or State order) is not demonstrated by the number of its parties, nor by their programs and activity, nor still by their noisy electoral campaigns and demagogical promises. It is determined,

instead, by its economic basis, by the class in power, by the entire State activity and politics: whether they are in the interests of the large people's masses and whether they serve them. Albania's experience has now already proved that a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class is capable of perfectly representing and safeguarding the interests of all the working people. The interests and aims of the working class, looked after by the Party of Labor of Albania, are at the same time the interests of the working peasants and of the people's intelligentsia. The experience of our country has furthermore demonstrated that a Marxist-Leninist Party, when there do not exist other bourgeois parties, discharges even better its historical mission of liberating the nation, of realizing the socialist revolution and of building up socialism.

The existence for a long time of other parties, even after the dictatorship of the proletariat has been consolidated and, especially, after the economic basis of socialism has been built, has no meaning at all. «Since the war of classes continues during all the period of building socialist society and the transition to communism, and since the political parties express the interests of particular classes», — Comrade Enver Hoxha has stated — «the presence of other non-Marxist-Leninist parties would be absurd and opportunistic in the system of the dictatorship of the proletariat, especially after the construction of the economic basis of socialism. This does not at all jeopardize democracy but, on the contrary, it strengthens the real proletarian democracy».

WHAT FOREIGN POLICY DOES THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA FOLLOW?

Eversince its inception the People's Republic of Albania has faithfully and unswervingly followed a principled Leninist foreign policy, in agreement with the deep aspirations of the Albanian people for peace and friendship among the peoples, a policy which has always aimed at safeguarding the People's Republic of Albania and guaranteeing the building of socialism in our country, at supporting Marxism-Leninism and the unity of the revolutionary movement on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, at firmly upholding the national-liberation and anti-imperialist wars of the oppressed peoples, at realizing the peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, at defending world peace and unmasking the aggressive policy of world imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism.

This consistent principled policy has guaranteed not only the sovereign development and socialist construction of Albania, but it has rendered valuable service to the cause of socialism and communism, it has augmented the sympathy and the number of friends of socialist Albania all over the world. Today, the name of the People's Republic of Albania is known and respected as the name of a socialist country that wages a relentless war against imperialism and modern revisionism; and this demonstrates that even a small country can realize the socialist revolution, can defend itself and can successfully build up socialism provided it is united and has a loyal and revolutionary leadership, that it maintains an undaunted stand towards principles and against every enemy, that it fights with confidence in the victory of its cause and that it does not recoil from any difficulty or sacrifice.

The People's Republic of Albania upholds the viewpoint that all sovereign states, big or small, are equal and each one renders its contribution in the international field.

The foreign policy of the People's Republic of Albania has always aimed at extending international cooperation and strengthening the friendship among the peoples. In its relations with the fraternal socialist states, the Party of Labor of Albania has always been led by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and of proletarian internationalism, which are the only just basis for these relations. A brilliant example of the justice and force of these principles are our relations with the People's Republic of China. The close, revolutionary friendship and the all-round relations of Albania with China have in recent years taken a vast and very fruitful development. The People's Republic of Albania is, at the same time, extending its diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with many countries of the world, irrespective of their social and political regimes, but always according to the principles of equality, non-intervention, mutual respect of territorial integrity and national sovereignty, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

The People's Republic of Albania opposes with determination the policy of aggression and war followed by the imperialists, with United States' imperialists at the head, it supports without reserve the war of the Vietnamese people against U.S. aggression, in defense of their country's liberty; it likewise strongly upholds the national-liberation movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as the revolutionary wars of all the peoples of the world; it wages an irreconcilable war against modern revisionism for the preservation of the purity of Marxism-Leninism, and it boldly exposes the imperialist-revisionist plots against the interests of the peoples.

The People's Republic of Albania carries on an

untiring activity, in the international arena, in defense of peace in the Balkans and in the world. It has been among the first initiators for turning the Balkans, the Adriatic and the Mediterranean into zones free of atomic weapons and missiles; it has also supported the turning of Central Europe and other regions, too, into such zones; it has declared itself firmly in favor of stopping all atomic tests, stopping the production of atomic weapons and definitely destroying all existing stocks of them; in favor of general disarmament. At the same time, the Albanian Government has denounced the fruitless talks on disarmament which, with the complicity of the modern revisionists, in fact, serve the United States of America to continue the armaments' drive at an ever growing rate; it has unmasked the Moscow Treaty on the Partial Banning of Atomic Tests as a great fraud, as an instrument serving the two Great Powers to achieve atomic monopoly and, consequently, world hegemony.

Our Party and Government have always supported the principle that peace and disarmament are not arrived at by lavishing adulations and concessions on the imperialists, but by imposing peace and disarmament on them through the united force of the socialist countries, the international working class, the national-liberation movements of all peoples and the anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces the world over.

On the German question, our Party and Government have always maintained an attitude decidedly compatible with the security of the German Democratic Republic and the vital interests of the European peoples. They have insisted on signing the peace treaty with Germany as soon as possible and on turning West Berlin, upon this basis, into a free and demilitarized city. They have, at the same time, condemned the dangerous pro-

crastinations and bargainings on this matter by the Khrushchovite Soviet leadership with the U.S. imperialists and the militarist-revanchists of Bonn, who seek to liquidate to German Democratic Republic and create a real danger to the security and peace of Europe.

In all international questions, our Party and Government always follow an unfaltering principled policy in favor of socialism and against imperialism, in favor of the national-liberation movements and against colonialism, in favor of revolution and against reaction, in favor of peace and against imperialist aggressive war. They have never engaged in diplomatic bargainings concerning the principles and rights of the peoples; they have never aimed at deriving any profits for themselves, nor have they ever withdrawn in face of difficulties and sacrifices when defending the cause of peace, socialism and communism.

In its endeavors to strengthen peace and cooperation among the nations, the People's Republic of Albania has always carried on a determined and principled struggle in the United Nations Organization and in other international forums. Our delegations in these organizations have lifted high the voice of truth, have forcefully denounced the imperialist maneuvers and have defended the cause of the peoples who are fighting for liberty, national independence and progress.

The principled revolutionary policy of our Party and Government, their fight in the international arena against imperialism, colonialism and revisionism, in favor of the national-liberation and revolutionary movements, and their just attitude towards important international problems, have strengthened the position and international authority of the People's Republic of Albania, have increased the sympathy of the friendly nations and of the freedom-loving peoples of the world towards it.

Today our country maintains diplomatic relations with 35 states and commercial relations with 40 states, whereas relations for the exchange of cultural materials and delegations with a still greater number of nations. The People's Republic of Albania is a member of 24 international organizations. Societies of the «Friends of Albania» have been set up in various countries. Our men of science and culture, our artistic, sports and cultural groups have carried the message of friendship of new Albania to the revolutionary and progressive forces of dozens of countries and they have been received with respect and enthusiasm by numerous friends. The revolutionaries and progressive men all over the world follow with interest and ardently support the persistent war of the Party of Labor and of the Albanian people to carry the cause of the revolution and of building socialism forward in all fields.

The People's Republic of Albania constructs socialism while being encircled by the imperialists and revisionists, but this fact has not at all impeded it to develop into a sovereign socialist state, to take an active part in and give its contribution to the historic fight of the peoples for the cause of liberty, peace and socialism, against aggressive imperialism and modern revisionism. The Party of Labor and Government of the People's Republic of Albania adopt, in accordance with the actual conditions of our country, a revolutionary foreign policy based on Marxism-Leninism. Comrade Enver Hoxha stated at the Vth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania: «The Party of Labor of Albania has not permitted and will never permit that any of its national or international rights be violated by anyone whosoever. In the future, too, it will fight with all its might, and it will never yield to any political, economic or military pressure intended to impose on our people dictates prejudicial to their interests».

**THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE MATERIAL AND
TECHNICAL BASIS OF SOCIALISM**

WHAT RELATIONS IN PRODUCTION EXIST IN ALBANIA?

In our country there exist socialist relations in production. The economic foundation of our society rests on the socialist system of economy: The means of production are social property, i.e. they belong to the workers represented by the socialist state or by the agricultural cooperatives and other cooperative unions.

The exploitation of man by man does not exist in our country. The socialist relations are characterized by cooperation and mutual aid among the workers. Large-scale socialist production, in the city and in the village, is developed in order to satisfy the ever increasing material and cultural needs of all the people. The just distribution of the national revenue assures the country's rapid economic and cultural development along socialist lines and the continuous improvement of the people's welfare.

Freed from oppression and exploitation, our workers, peasants and intellectuals, now masters of their own destiny and of their country, are conscious and active builders of socialism. They work wholeheartedly because they know that they do so for themselves and for the welfare of society as a whole.

Social property is the basis of our socialist order, the source of the wealth and power of our country and of the prosperity and welfare of all the workers.

In our country exist two forms of social property: State and cooperative property.

State property in Albania are: the subsoil riches, forests and waters; the workshops, factories and mines; the automobilistic, railway, maritime and air-line transports; the means of communication, banks, state agricultural establishments; the motor and tractor stations, state commercial and accumulation and municipal enterprises, concerns and the principal buildings in cities and industrial centers, etc.

In the cooperative property are included: the land of the agricultural cooperatives, the animals and working tools, the product they yield and their public buildings.

With respect to their social nature the two above-mentioned forms, are of the same type. Both the State enterprises and the collective economies are based on the collectivization of the means of production, on a socialist basis and on collective work; they exclude the possibility of man exploiting man and develop their economy according to preestablished plans and carry out the socialist principle of distribution according to the amount of work done.

But there exist certain differences between these two forms of property: The State property belongs to all the people, whereas the cooperative property belongs to individual cooperatives or unions of workers. While in the State concerns the means of production, without exception, become collective property, in the agricultural cooperatives part of them such as the personal plots of ground and part of the farming implements remain the personal property of individual members. Another difference consists in the fact that the produce of the State concerns is the property of the socialist State whereas that of the agricultural cooperatives belongs to them. Hence the difference in the distribution of the social output which in the State concerns is in the form of salaries, whereas in the agricultural cooperatives in work-

days. Differences also exist in the forms of administration of these two kinds of property.

But the differences between the State concerns and the agricultural economies are not of an essential nature. They are differences within the sphere of socialist relations in production.

Personal property, too, exists in our society and it comprises the workers' incomes and savings from their work, their dwelling-houses, house goods and furniture, food products and personal comforts.

Personal property in our country is closely linked up with social property, which is the basis of the welfare of each worker. With the increase of social property, an ever increasing amount of products go to satisfy the personal needs of the workers.

Social ownership of the means of production and of the products of work, and the distribution of the total output in compliance with the interests of the workers, determines the absolute superiority of socialist economy over the capitalist system. In the socialist system, all the benefits of the large-scale social production, which assures a colossal increase of the output of work, go to the benefit of society, to the working masses, and not to the exploiters, as happens in capitalism.

HOW WAS THE TRANSITION TO SOCIALISM ACHIEVED WHILE SIDETRACKING LARGE-SCALE CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT?

Before liberation, Albania was a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country with serious technical and economic backwardness. The cycle of the capitalist way of production had started, but it had not reached the phase of developed industrial capitalism. The remnants of feuda-

lism, which possessed deep roots, especially in the countryside, hampered the free development of the productive forces.

The feudal-bourgeois clique, with its policy of complete submission to the interests of imperialism, opened the way for and aided in the economic enslavement of the country by foreign monopoly capital — mainly by the Italian monopolies. The domination of foreign capital led to the loss of political independence and, later, to the country's occupation by the fascists, thus to the establishment of colonial oppression and yoke.

Before embarking on the road of socialist development, Albania was a typical agrarian country, with a primitive and chopped up agriculture and without industry. In 1938, the overwhelming majority of the people able to work (87% of them) were engaged in agriculture and only 13% worked in industry and the other branches of economy. In this same year, the specific weight of the national revenue from industry was only 4,5% of the total amount of income; whereas that from agriculture, with reference to the country's total volume of industrial and agricultural production, constituted 90,2%.

The ideologists of the ruling classes, in their attempts to perpetuate the robbing of the country by the landlords, the bourgeoisie and the foreign imperialists, preached and spread the theory of «agricultural destiny». They asserted that Albania's technical and economic backwardness was the inevitable result and reflected the natural climatic conditions of the country and, still worse, the nature and the very character of the Albanian people themselves.

But the great successes of socialist construction in Albania during post-liberation years, completely disproved these reactionary assertions.

Although Albania had been a backward and semi-

feudal country, the Party of Labor, adopting with perseverance the revolutionary course of relying on our own forces, from the outset, did not for one moment hesitate to launch the country on the road of socialism sidetracking large-scale capitalist development. The great social and economic transformations that took place after liberation, played a decisive role in the achievement of this aim.

The old feudal-bourgeois state machine was broken to pieces and in its place sprang the new power in the hands of the large working masses. This made it possible for the people, as masters of their own destiny and of their country, to exert all their creative energies and exploit all the resources of the country for the prosperity of the Fatherland and the construction of a new life.

Our country's march on the road of socialism, sidetracking the large scale development of capitalism, was accomplished through bitter class struggle and at war with the deviators within the Party, who refused to accept the possibility of the course adopted by the Party for a direct shifting of the country from the old semi-feudal order to the building of the socialist society, but aimed at encouraging the development of large-scale capitalism.

The passing of Albania directly on the path of socialist development was the only right and possible given road for its revival on a new economic and social basis, for the removal of its great century-old backwardness in all the fields of social activity inherited from the past, for the free and unimpeded development of the creative forces of the people.

Two basic problems had to be coped with in order to build socialism in Albania. First of all, socialist relations in production, based on the collective ownership of the means of production had to be instituted in all fields

of people's economy, i.e. building the economic basis of socialism had to be attained by liquidating the multiform economy and substituting it with a single socialist economy. This task has been completely accomplished. Secondly, the transformation of the economic structure of the country had to be carried out — from a structure where predominated the small and separate produce by handicrafts and primitive farming, into a structure where industry and large-scale production by machinery should predominate, in other words, building of the technical and material basis of socialism had to be attained. This duty, both important and difficult, will be fully realized thanks to the technical-scientific revolution which the working masses are successfully carrying out under the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania.

In Albania, there appeared right at the initial stage of socialist construction the sharp contradiction between the advanced political Power and the backward economy; between the new socialist relations in production, created in the socialist sector of people's economy, and the low level of the producing forces. The low level of development of the producing forces, the very small specific weight of industrial production compared with the country's total amount of production, the very low scale of agricultural products for the market, the low output of social work, the lack of technical cadres and qualified workers, all these were great and serious handicaps on the road of socialist construction. These contradictions and difficulties were surmounted thanks to the correct and far-sighted Marxist-Leninist policy of the Party of Labor, thanks to the Party approaching the problems in a scientific and creative manner, in harmony with the specific conditions of our country. In order to remove the contradictions and surmount the difficulties in the path of constructing socialism, the Party has managed to

mobilize the broad working masses, making them conscientious builders of the new socialist society.

The liquidation of capitalist private property (in industry, transport, commerce, banks, etc.) and the birth of socialist property and socialist relations, opened vast horizons for the development of the productive forces along socialist lines. But, since big industry was missing in our country the superiority created by socialist relations in production could not be fully and effectively exploited. Thus, the contradiction or rather incompatibility, between the advanced political Power and the backward economy, between the new relations in production and the low level of development of the forces of production became evident. Without settling this contradiction, the further development of the country on the road of socialism could not be thought of. For its solution, for the extension and strengthening of the new socialist relations in production, there was but one way: the socialist industrialization of the country.

Without industrialization, the creation of the technical and material basis of socialism could not even be thought of. Therefore, the Party of Labor, from the very first steps of conducting the country on the path of socialist development, set before the working masses the creation of a many-branched modern industry and the electrification of the country — as one of the most vital and urgent tasks for building socialism. Our Party of Labor has considered and considers industrialization as one of the most important tasks for the construction of socialism in our country, without the accomplishment of which the socialist revolution in the economic front cannot be carried forward. After liberation, in Albania there were created a series of new branches of the extracting and processing industries and of the light and heavy industries. The country passed from small, primi-

tive production of a manufacturing character, to new large scale production based on modern technique. This was a great historical victory in the field of creating the material and technical basis of socialism. From a backward agrarian country, which it was in the past, Albania was transformed into an agricultural-industrial one well on the way of being transformed into an industrial-agricultural one. Eventually it will become an industrial country with an advanced agriculture.

For our country, where small agrarian and artisan production prevailed, of very great importance to socialist construction was the reorganization of farming economies on a socialist basis, sidetracking the development of large-scale capitalism in agriculture. For the realization of this transformation there was only one given path, tested by experience, and that was the path of voluntary cooperation of the large masses of the working peasantry and the small city producers — the artisans. Proceeding along this path, the full collectivization of agriculture was realized. Thus, the economic basis of socialism was built in the countryside, too.

The artisans, who during the country's occupation by fascism were impoverished and ruined, revived and developed their economy thanks to the aid of People's Power. Thus they were able to improve to a certain extent their material condition. But, since their economy was based on primitive working tools and it was scattered, their situation could not be very stable and their prospects for further development in the old way of working were very limited. The artisans, therefore, rightly appraising the Party's policy and the aid that the State gave them, actively approved the new path of socialist cooperation and voluntarily adhered to it.

As a result of the successful realization of these great social-economic transformations, the multiform economy

in our country gradually disappeared and a single form took its place — socialist economy. In all the branches of socialist economy there have been established the social ownership over the means of production in its two forms — State and Cooperative — and the socialist relations in production. Thus, the economic basis of socialism has been established both in the urban and rural areas. Capitalist economy, the exploiting classes and the exploitation of man by man have disappeared once and for all time.

The period of building the basis of socialism in our country has been characterized by profound revolutionary transformations which our Party has directed in a conscious and planned way, using the political power in the hands of the working class, that is, the dictatorship of the proletariat as its chief and decisive means.

The working masses of our country have been obliged to wage a fierce struggle, especially during the first years of socialist construction, when the internal enemies, aided and organized by imperialism, tried all sorts of plots, sabotages, terror and murder in an effort to undermine the construction of socialism and to restore the old regime of the landlords and the bourgeoisie. But all their attempts proved shamefully futile. Albania is decidedly marching towards the complete building of socialism.

WHAT ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS HAVE BEEN REALIZED DURING THE YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POWER AND HOW WAS OUR SOCIALIST SECTOR BORN?

The assumption of political Power by the working class in alliance with the peasants is only the beginning — the decisive condition for the socialist revolution. For

its further development in the economic front, that is for building socialism, private capitalist ownership over the means of production must be abolished and substituted by socialist ownership. Therefore, our Party worked out a broad program for developing the socialist revolution in the field of ownership over the means of production and communication. The essence of this program was the nationalization of these means, which were of decisive importance to our people's economy. State supervision of production and distribution established by the law of December 15, 1944 and put immediately into execution served as the first step and preliminary measure towards nationalization of the means of production. State control, applied in the conditions of our country was in reality a form of control by the workers themselves, because at this stage it was the working class that actually governed the new State of people's democracy. Said control was exercised by a Commissar appointed by the Ministry. His chief duties were: 1) To compile an inventory of the concern's property. 2) To take an active part in the administration of the concern. 3) To supervise and control the production and distribution of the products. 4) To approve every act dealing with buying or selling, as well as any other agreement connected with the producing activity of the concern.

In fulfilling these tasks, the Commissars were directly aided by the Party organizations and by the Trade-Unions. This is another element proving that State control was in fact a control by the workers.

In the process of application of the State (Workers') control a survey was made of the producing capacities of the concerns and the sources and reserves of raw materials and fuel; the workers and commissars gained practical notions in the sphere of organizing and directing production, which were later made use of in di-

recting the nationalized industrial concerns according to plan.

The nationalization of the chief means of production and communication was, for the most part, carried out during the years 1945-46. Nationalization on a high scale commenced after the Decree of 13th January 1945. During 1945, this measure affected, mainly, all the commercial concerns, the transport, the shareholder companies and the banks belonging to foreign capital. All in all, 90 shareholder companies and business concerns, previously possessed by Italian capital, were nationalized.

All the concerns and shareholder companies belonging to the local bourgeoisie, were nationalized in 1946.

Of great importance was also the cooperation of internal commerce and the institution of State monopoly over foreign trade. In the cooperation of internal commerce a decisive role was played by the law «On the Extraordinary Taxation Over War Profits». This law provided that the property of all who refused to pay would be confiscated. The greater part of internal commerce was cooperated during the year 1945. From it sprang the State internal wholesale and retail trading units. Directly after this, State monopoly over foreign commerce was introduced and sanctioned by law in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania in 1946.

Socialist collectivization of the chief means of production and communication marked, firstly, the elimination of the economic domination of foreign and local bourgeoisie and the passing of the command over economy into the hands of the State. Secondly, it marked the creation of the economic basis for the dictatorship of the proletariat, without which political Power itself was at stake and it was not possible to march successfully along the path of socialist development. Thirdly, it marked the birth of socialist relations in production and of the

socialist sector in industry, commerce, transport, finances and agriculture — thus laying the foundations for the creation and planned extension of the socialist way of production.

The socialist collectivization of the principal means of production and communication, in our country, was accomplished within a very short time, indeed, within only two years (1945-46). At the beginning of 1947, almost all the means of production in industry had become state property. At the end of this year, to the socialist sector belonged 87% of the total industrial production.

The rapid rhythms of the nationalization of the principal means of production and communication constitute a characteristic feature of our socialist revolution in the field of economic transformations. They were the result of the passing of political Power, from the beginning, into the hands of the working class and of their Party. The establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat constituted the decisive factor and the real basis allowing the application of nationalization with rapid strides.

In the new conditions created, the People's Power was confronted with the necessity of preparing, within the shortest possible time, its own economic cadres from among those that had graduated the school of the people's revolution.

This difficult and complicated task was accomplished within a relatively short time. To furnish the nationalized concerns with medium technicians and economical cadres, various professional courses were organized and opened. Besides, for the preparation of technical and economical cadres with a higher education, young graduates from Middle Schools, who embraced and upheld the Party's policy, were sent to study abroad: in the universities of the socialist countries.

Although the nationalization took place under peaceful conditions, it was nevertheless accompanied by sharp class clashes. The exploiting classes, with their hostile attitude towards socialist transformations, did their best to impede the rhythms of nationalization. The imperialists extensively aided and supported internal reaction in the struggle against People's Power and socialist transformations.

This hostile attitude of the bourgeoisie and its fierce counteraction towards the socialist transformations, determined the forms and methods of the nationalization in our country. In our specific conditions, People's Power was obliged to recur to the method of state confiscation of capitalist property without remuneration. This was absolutely indispensable, although it is not the only form of socialist nationalization.

Meanwhile, the property of small producers — the working farmers and artisans — was not touched. This attitude towards this category of property was determined by political and economic factors. Economic, «because in agriculture predominated the small individual economies depending on the personal labor of the farmers». And political, «because the working peasantry was the close and loyal ally of the working class in the struggle for the liquidation of capitalist relations and the establishment of socialist relations». The socialist collectivization of the means of production of the small producers may be achieved only upon a thoroughly voluntary basis, i.e. by cooperation, which our Party has faithfully adopted.

Faced with the urgent need of eliminating the survivals of feudalism and the ownership of the landlords over large tracts of land, People's Power, satisfying the century-old aspirations of the peasants, implemented the Agrarian Reform Law based on the principle: «the

land to him that tills it». According to this Law, approved in 1945 and completed in 1946, all the lands that were not personally cultivated by their owners, were expropriated without pay. On this occasion, more than 320,000 hectares of land were surveyed and redistributed.

The Agrarian Reform Law restricted the private possession of land to 5 hectares, but did not affect the small lots of land owned by individual farmers who worked them themselves. Land plots were gratuitously distributed to farm-hands and farmers possessing little or no land at all. The Agrarian Reform Laws abolished big land ownership in agriculture and, along with it, it also liquidated landocracy, which was the most reactionary class of our society at that time.

As a result of the Reform, part of the confiscated land was nationalized and it went to form the State Agricultural Establishments, which marked the birth of the socialist sector in agriculture. The forests, waters and the underground resources were also nationalized.

The Agrarian Reform Laws were put into execution in a revolutionary way. They were carried out by the peasant masses themselves, led by the working class. These masses took part actively and directly in surveying and distributing the confiscated land. The creation of the Poor Peasants' Committees for the application of the Agrarian Reform Laws was of great importance and helped a great deal to uplift the consciousness of the peasant working class.

The application of the Agrarian Reform Laws in our country demonstrates that, after seizing State power, only the working class and its Party can bring about radical transformations in agrarian relations in the countryside. The Agrarian Reform Laws marked the first revolution in social-economic relations in the Albanian countryside. The main feature of this revolution was the

democratic transformation in the relations regarding land ownership, the definite elimination of the survivals of feudalism in economy, the abolishment of landocracy and the gratuitous distribution of the land to the land-poor and landless farmers. As a result of the application of this Reform, the overwhelming majority of the landpoor and landless peasants were brought to the level of the medium peasants. The prohibition of selling and buying, renting and mortgaging land plots and other similar measures taken by the State, the differentiation of the peasants into two extreme poles (rich and poor) was very much restricted. But the only way to build socialism in the countryside was to create new socialist relations in production, substituting the small individual property with the large collective property. The second revolution, the most radical revolutionary turn in social-economic relations in the Albanian countryside, was the collectivization of agriculture. The Agrarian Reform Laws were a longway towards creating the premises for the socialist transformation of the countryside.

At this period, the Albanian State applied the monetary reform, too. Inflation and the chaos in the circulation of money, inherited from the old feudal-bourgeois order of foreign invasion, as well as the necessity to remove part of the monetary means from the hands of the bourgeoisie called for the indispensable application of the Monetary Reform as an organic part of the socialist transformations during the period of transition from capitalism to socialism.

The banks were nationalized and the entire system of credit passed into the hands of the State. The real monetary reform was executed in July 1946. The new bank-notes were of a value of 5 times that of the corresponding old ones. The limit of exchange for each family was fixed at 1.000 new units. As a result of this reform,

the amount of bank notes in circulation was reduced 8 times, the consequences of inflation were removed, part of their monetary means was taken away from the capitalists and speculators, a sort of equilibrium was established in the market and the buying capacity of the new franc was stabilized. Thus, the monetary system of our country was radically reorganized.

The passage of political Power into the hands of the working class and their Party and the initial revolutionary transformations in the sphere of ownership over the means of production and communication, marked the beginning of the process of the construction of socialism in our country.

WHAT STAGE HAVE CONCENTRATION AND COOPERATION OF PEOPLE'S ECONOMY REACHED DURING THE YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POWER?

The socialist system of economy helps improve and raise the forms of organizing social production to a higher level through intensifying concentration and cooperation, as well as, through the further specialization of the branches of production.

The concentration of production in our country, is not a spontaneous process. On the contrary, it is applied in a planned manner, in order that its superiority may be exploited to benefit the further expansion of social production. Socialist ownership over the means of production creates very favorable conditions for the concentration of production.

The increase of the degree of concentration in the industrial sector is and continues to be achieved through the creation of new and big enterprises equipped with modern technique, through the reconstruction and concentration of the factories and small units into big ones.

The results are evident. For example, while in 1927 the industrial work-shops with less than 25 workers had 2/3 of the total number of workers, in the year 1965 they employed only 0,6⁰% per cent of the total number of workers.

The overwhelming majority of workers are now concentrated in large establishments. This is responsible for the big strides made towards concentration of production in large enterprises equipped with modern technique and which are a strong foundation for a further impulsive development of the producing forces of the country. Particularly outstanding is the concentration in the industrial enterprises.

As a result of the complete collectivization of agriculture, in this sector, too, have been created large and modern farms. In the other branches of popular economy, also, a conspicuous concentration of workers and production are to be met with.

Concentration and specialization of production holds a series of advantages since it makes possible that the principal elements of production: machinery and equipment, labor power, raw materials, the buildings and installations, should be used with greater efficiency with less waste.

An increase in the scale of concentration makes possible the use of machinery and equipment with larger capacities and new technique, with a resulting increase in their efficiency, which brings about a decrease in the expenses per unit of production, a serious growth in the output of work and a corresponding decrease in the cost of industrial production took on a further development during the fourth 5/year plan (1966-1970). During this period large mills, modern work-shops and factories will be constructed. Besides, there will be a further specialization of production in the machine, wood and building materials' industries.

A new impulse was given to the problem of concentration and specialization of industry by the Third Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania (held in October 1967), which set forth a series of important tasks in this field (especially for the machine making industry) — duties creating new possibilities for the further development of people's economy, in general, and socialist industry, in particular.

Important duties were also discussed at this Plenary Meeting with regard to the extension and deepening of cooperation in people's economy, as important levers for its development and invigoration.

Socialist cooperation in our country is developed and strengthened along with the development of people's economy. In various forms, it has been applied both in industry and in the artisan sector: both within themselves and in connection with one another, as well as between industry and agriculture and other sectors. These forms of cooperation have now become very widespread. They are being developed and perfected and, after the above mentioned Third Plenary Meeting, we are progressing towards a higher phase of cooperation, a more complex, one which will make the construction of machines and factories with our own forces possible. The higher degree of socialist cooperation in the various branches of industry, which will bring about the extension of the connections and cooperation with many sectors of economy — with agriculture, transport, food-processing industry and the cultural and educational sectors — is a characteristic feature of our people's economy.

During the years of People's Power, thanks to the collectivization of agriculture, large farming units have been created and, thus, the premises have been established for the achievement of cooperation in this important branch of people's economy, too. The very name

«cooperative» indicates that it relies on cooperation. In our agricultural cooperatives the means of production are common property and it is on this basis that the work is being done: collaborating and cooperating collectively and socially. Thus, the socialist cooperation in agricultural cooperatives rests on collective work and on collective ownership of the means of production. The development of cooperation within the various branches of the agricultural cooperatives serves to improve the welfare of the cooperative members and to narrow down the difference between city and village. As large farming units the united cooperatives, are gradually organizing their own processing of the dairy products, fruits, vegetables and a series of articles from remnants of plant products, in order to meet the urgent requirements of life in the village, as well as developing handicrafts not only for repairing work tools, but also for the production of clothes, household furniture, buildings, etc. This cooperation exert an influence on the further elevation of the living standard in the Albanian countryside. During the years of People's Power, the cooperation between farming and animal husbandry has also been strengthened. These are branches of the same economic trunk and the one cannot do without the aid of the other. This cooperation has existed formerly, too, among the small units, but as a result of the collectivization of agriculture it has been developed farther and placed on a scientific footing.

Only the socialist system creates possibilities for the widest and best cooperation between the two principal branches of production — industry and agriculture. A reciprocal connection and interdependence exists between these two chief branches of production, becoming ever more pronounced in the development of economy itself. Thus, if our industry provided for agriculture only a

few simple and often inadequate implements, during recent years and especially during the Third and Fourth Five-year Plans, with the strengthening of the leading role of industry, the necessary conditions have been created for better supplying agriculture with farming implements, chemical fertilizers, fuel, building materials, etc. Likewise, in compliance with the tasks assigned to agriculture, possibilities have been created to the effect that the latter, also, should furnish the light and food-processing industries with more raw materials and that the needs of the population should be better satisfied by it.

Hence, in the year 1970, as compared to 1965, it is foreseen that industry will provide agriculture with about 419% more farm machinery, about 170% more spare parts, 141% more work tools and 65% more stored feed for animals. Likewise, the branch of chemical industry dealing with agriculture is going through important developments, as a result of which agriculture will be furnished with chemical fertilizers, nitrates and phosphates, more than ever before. Thus, broader possibilities have been created for the harmonization of the development of these two branches, for smoothing away the disproportion between them.

WHAT PROPORTIONS HAS LARGE-SCALE PRODUCTION BY MACHINERY TAKEN?

In the years of People's Power great endeavors have been and are being made to extend large-scale production by machinery to all the branches of people's economy.

During the years of socialist construction, great achievements have been realized in our country — achievements which, for their magnitude and vast proportions,

for their technique and amount of production, can in no way be compared with the past, but which can well stand side by side analogous achievements by states possessing an advanced industry. Among them we may mention the Oil Refineries, the Mining Concerns, the «Stalin» and «Mao Tse-tung» Textile Mills, the «Drapère Çekan» (= Sicle and Hammer) Knitting Mills, the «Nako Spiru» Woodworking Mills, the Cement factories, the Hydropower Stations, the Tractor Spare Parts Plant, the new metalurgic and chemical plants — not to mention dozens of other lesser enterprises.

The collectivization of agriculture, which terminated in 1967, the creation of enlarged cooperatives, the all-round aid given them by the State through the Machine and Tractor Stations for the mechanization of farming, made it possible for agriculture to embark on the road of large-scale production by machinery. Thus is being fulfilled one of the main requirements for the construction of the material and technical basis of socialism, which is the extension of large-scale production by machinery to the agricultural sector also.

In the first years of the Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970) the following plants were put into operation: two large plants to turn out chemical fertilizers, a calcined and caustic soda plant, a plant to produce spare parts for tractors, two high quality cement factories, a big electric power station, a plant for processing and refining copper, etc. In addition, the following plants will be completed and start producing during the present five-year period or the early years of the following five-year period: the Hydro-power Station of Vau i Dejës (= The Deja Ford), with an established capacity of 250.000 kilowatts, the ferro-chrome metalurgic plant, a new plant for oil refining, a number of factories for processing coal and the chrome and copper ores, new mines for the

extraction of coal, copper, chrome and iron-nickel, several machine shops, a plant for the production of articles from plastic materials, a factory for the production of electric bulbs, another for glass, hundreds of kilometres of high-tension power lines, etc. The number of economic, educational, cultural and social works put up during the Third Five-year Plan reached the 430 mark. During the Fourth Five-year period 50% more such important projects will be constructed than were constructed during the Third Five-year period.

During the fourth five-year period the other branches of people's economy will also be equipped with new machinery. In the building sector, through the increase and better use of the mechanisms and prefabricated parts, the degree of mechanization of work will be augmented, thus converting the construction sites into assemblage or mounting ones. The maritime transport will be equipped with other ships; the number of railway engines and wagons will be increased; the carrying capacity by motor cars will be augmented, etc.

The working masses of Albania are now engaged with multiplied forces in further developing the technical and scientific revolution in all sectors of material production. This will carry social production forward on the basis of advanced technique and modern agricultural methods, it will accelerate the building of the material and technical basis of socialism.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO DEVELOP AND PERFECT TECHNIQUE IN PEOPLE'S ECONOMY?

The development of the productive forces of our country at an accelerated rate has been attained, mainly, by the uninterrupted and planned application and im-

provement of new technique in all the branches of our people's economy.

The People's Power has considered the continuous perfection of production on the basis of modern technique as one of the principal means for the construction of the material and technical bases of socialism in our country. Such a course is an objective indispensability because only through advanced technique we reach that amount of production output which will make a maximum satisfaction of the ever increasing needs of the working masses of our country possible.

In order that high levels may be reached both in the work productivity and in the increase of production, the various branches of our people's economy are continuously being furnished with machinery and equipment of a high technical grade.

The new industrial, mineral and other projects are equipped with modern mechanisms and apparatuses, as which, in most cases, come up to the most advanced level of world technique. The first works set up after liberation, as well as those inherited from the past, have undergone reconstruction and modernization. Advanced and modern technique is being introduced in an ever increasing measure. In the Oil industry, for example, the 3D and 5D drills, as well as the high velocity turbines, are being used making deep borings — even beyond three thousand meters possible.

In mining, the difficult process of boring mines has been mechanized by using pneumatic perforators. In the coal mines there have been introduced cutting saws and electric perforators, felling hammers, automatic transporters, electrically driven vats and loading machines — not to mention a great number of other equipments and machinery.

In the iron-nickel mines, where the mineral is

extracted in open air, such mechanisms as excavators, bulldozers, self-unloading cars, etc. are widely used, and we are progressing towards the complete mechanization of all the processes of work: from the extraction of the ore to its loading on the transporting vehicles.

To make possible the application of the new advanced technique in all the branches of people's economy, the power industry is being rapidly developed. The rate of growth of power industry in all the five-year periods has always been higher than that of the total increase of industrial production. The erection of important electric power plants, such as the «Karl Marx» and «Friedrich Engels» hydro-power plants in the North and the «Joseph Stalin» one in the South, the thermo-power plants of the big industrial concerns, etc. have greatly increased the production of electricity as compared to the past. At the end of the Third Five-year Plan, in 1965, the increase was 41 times higher than in 1938. The greatest part of this power is used for production purposes. The electricity is being used at a growing rate in the technological processes, raising the technique of production to a higher level.

Our Party of Labor attaches constant care to the future development of electricity. Besides the powerful thermo-power plant of Fieri, with an established capacity of 100,000 kilowatts, which started working in 1968, work is going on for the construction of the hydro-power plant of «Vau i Dejës», to the country's North, which is going to be not only the biggest hydropower plant, but also the largest industrial project realized during the Fourth Five-year Plan or during the previous ones. It is estimated that this hydropower station, projected by ourselves, will have an installed capacity of 250,000 kilowatts and will produce, during the first phase, 720 million kilowatt-hours and, when a second station over

the Drini river has been constructed, they will both produce a total of over 1 billion and 100 million Kw/H.

The construction of the material and technical basis of socialism is closely related with the creation of a powerful mechanical basis, which at the beginning would furnish spare parts for machines and serve to repair numerous mechanisms of industry, agriculture, transport, building; later it will undertake (as it has already started doing) to produce in series certain machines, tools and implements to meet the needs of the various branches of our people's economy. In this direction, too, the results are conspicuous. In our country today there are 170 Machine Shops, Plants and other smaller units, 25 of which of national rank. During the Third Five-year Plan alone 6 new machine shops and dozens of other lesser units were created, — not including here the enlargement of almost all the existing ones. The creation of this strong basis in mechanical industry has made it possible for us to meet 54% of the needs of our people's economy in spare parts for machines and to be able to raise this figure to 70% during the Fourth Five-year Plan, extending our efforts at the same time to produce several technical equipments and simple machines. As has already been mentioned, during the last few years, a modern workshop has been erected in Tirana for the production of spare parts for tractors.

The machine-making industry and handicrafts are charged with the task of turning out all the work tools necessary for farm work. During the Fourth Five-year period the machine-making industry will provide almost all the quantity and kinds of spare parts for farm machinery, about 80 percent of the spare parts for tractors, it will continue to turn out several agricultural machinery like threshing machines, sorting machinery, ventilators, plows and cultivators, corn shellers, manure

spreading devices, water pumps, and so on. It will also turn out simple equipments, machines and devices for the other sectors of our people's economy, for further mechanization of work processes including principal as well as auxiliary processes.

The collectivization of agriculture, the considerable increase in the number of Machine and Tractor Stations and furnishing them and the Agricultural Establishments with modern technique, were the important factors which brought about the increase, according to plan, of the draft power in agriculture. The number of tractors has been augmented every year and this has brought about the change in the balance of draft power in favor of mechanical power. Thus, while in 1938 the motor draft power represented but 0,8% of the total power serving in agriculture (99,2% were animal draft power), now motor power surpasses 85% of the total work power in agriculture.

From 30 tractors of 15 HP in 1938, now there are 9,000 tractors at work in agriculture, 7,000 of them serving in the agricultural cooperatives. Albania possesses today one tractor (15 HP) for every 50 hectares of arable land.

The State has invested, and continually invests, vast sums of money on drainage and irrigation. The achievement of great results in this direction brought about a considerable increase in the amount of cultivated and irrigated land. In comparison with the pre-war period, the cultivated areas are now more than doubled, while the irrigated areas have been increased about 7 times. Now about half of the arable land of the country is under irrigation. During the 4th five-year period work will be completed or continued at the following land improvement schemes:

a) The marshes at Durrës, Lezha, Karavasta, South-

ern Myzeqeja, Kakarëqi, Gjirokastra and Korça will be completely drained;

b) the irrigation canals at the Gjirokastra, Durrës, Korça and Shkodra plains will be completed;

c) the draining of the Hoxhara plain will continue;

d) the Shkodra water system will be partially completed, and

e) hundreds of new reservoirs for purposes of irrigation will be built by the State and the peasants themselves.

The material and technical basis of agriculture is, besides, strengthened by reclaiming virgin lands, which constitutes one of the factors for increasing agricultural products. 115.000 hectares of land chiefly in hilly and mountainous zones will be reclaimed during the Fourth Five-year period alone.

An important role in the application of modern technique in an ever broader scale will be played by the further deepening of the technical and scientific revolution, as well as by the Decree on the electrification of all our rural areas by 8 November 1971, 14 years before schedule. The broad participation of the working masses in the technical and scientific revolution, the ways and methods they suggest for increasing production relying on our own efforts and availabilities, the numerous inventions and rationalizations, bear witness to the great interest they take in the application of the new technique in production. And this is but natural, for in the conditions of socialism these progressive movements, far from threatening them with losing their jobs, as in capitalist countries, aim at increasing social production, which automatically leads to a corresponding increase in their own welfare, while at the same time improving and facilitating their working conditions.

HOW HAVE THE STRUCTURE OF PEOPLE'S ECONOMY AND OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF PRODUCTION BEEN IMPROVED?

The socialist system of economy makes it possible for even a backward country, as Albania used to be, to progress and create the most effective and most rational structure of its people's economy, in general, and of the various branches of material production (industry, agriculture, transport, etc.), in particular.

The Party of Labor has considered and considers industrialization as one of the most important duties in connection with the construction of socialism in our country, without the fulfilment of which the socialist revolution cannot be carried forward in the economic front. In the years immediately following liberation, in Albania a new, many-branched industry was created. Our country changed from a backward agrarian to an agrarian-industrial, whereas now it is being transformed into an industrial-agrarian country with the prospect of becoming an industrial country with an advanced agriculture. By the end of the Third Five year Plan the specific weight of industry, in the general production output of industry and agriculture taken together, was 56.6% (as against 8% before liberation).

During the years of People's Power, the structure of industrial production itself has also been continually improved. In order to strengthen the independence of our people's economy, People's Power has steadily followed the policy of increasing the output of the means of production at a quicker rate than the consumer goods. At the core of this policy stands technical progress and the increase, on this basis, of the output of social labor, which makes indispensable the quicker increase in the production of the means of production as compared to

the production of consumer goods, the quicker growth of industrial output as compared to agricultural output, of heavy industry compared to light industry, of the advanced branches of industry (mineral, energetic, fuels, chemical, mechanic, metalurgic, etc.) with respect to the other branches.

The ratio of the average annual rate of increase of production of the means of production and of consumer goods for the period 1938-1950 was 1.07 times (in favor of the former); for the First Five-year Plan (1951-1955), it was about 0,82 times (in favor of consumer goods); for the Second Five-year Plan (1956-1960) it was about 1,11 times; for the Third Five-Plan (1961-1965) about 1,09 times; for the Fourth Five-year Plan — over 1,71 times (all in favor of the means of production). From the above data it follows that our national economy is characterized by a quicker growth of the output of the means of production.

The continuation of socialist industrialization as one of the chief ways of accomplishing the building of socialism in our country, the important strides made towards accelerating the construction of the material and technical basis of socialism, the quicker march and steady perseverance along the path of transforming the country from an agricultural-industrial country into an industrial-agricultural and, eventually, into an industrial country with a progressive agriculture, the continuous application of the socialist principle of self-reliance for achieving a well-developed economy, with a powerful industry and an advanced agriculture run with our own means and resources, which will guarantee the country's independence and its uninterrupted development along socialist lines, — all these required, and still require, a quicker increase of the means of production as against the consumer goods. Thus, gradually, all the necessary

conditions are being created for a quicker development of the means of production, which is an indispensable guarantee of attaining, in the future, an absolute superiority in producing means of production as compared with consumer goods.

During the Fourth Five-year Plan, the production of the means of production will increase 65-69 per cent, whereas that of the consumer goods 33-38 per cent.

The specific weight of the production of the means of production, in the general industrial output, will rise from 50,7 per cent (which it was in 1965) to 55,8 per cent in 1970 (according to the prices of 1966). The priority given to the development of the branches of industry producing means of production, especially those of the mineral industry (both extraction and processing), is indispensable for the development of industrial production as a whole and for the general production of our people's economy. Industry plays today the leading role in our economy.

The Fourth Five-year Plan is the plan of levelling the disproportion between industry and agriculture, of concentrating the principal forces in increasing agricultural production to a greater extent than in all the previous five-year plans, of a general rush towards the further intensification of agriculture. The just line of the Party for creating a developed industry and a progressive agriculture, in order to build a strong and independent economy resting on both feet (industry and agriculture), is being successfully carried out.

Our country is an agricultural-industrial one and agriculture constitutes one of the chief branches of our people's economy. The majority of the population, about two-thirds of it, is engaged in agriculture. With the increase of the population and the continuous improvement of the people's welfare, their needs and those of

economy for agricultural products also increase. Agriculture produces bread, which is the basic means of subsistence. It turns out other products too. It produces raw materials for the light and food-processing industries, which, being processed in these branches of industry, give almost half of the country's total volume of industrial production. Agriculture provides a good part of the products destined for export.

In the Fourth Five-year Plan the rate of growth of agriculture will be very high, higher even than the rate of industrial growth. The average annual rate of increase in agricultural production is 11,5 per cent, whereas in industry it is 8,7 per cent. The establishment of this ratio between industry and agriculture during the Fourth Five-year Plan serves as a basis for the attainment of more rational and closer proportions between them in the future.

In 1970 the general volume of agricultural production is going to be 71-76 per cent larger than in 1965, of which that of the field crops — about 115 per cent larger. The chief duty of our agriculture during this Five-year plan is to increase the production of food crops and potatoes by leaps and bounds. In 1970 the production of food crops will be increased 22 times as compared to the year 1965. Likewise, an important place during this Five-year plan occupies the increase in the growing of the sun-flower, which, together with a relative increase in the production of olives, will solve the country's needs for fats.

The deep qualitative changes in the structure of social products are effectively helping the rapid development of our people's economy, strengthening its independence and the country's potentiality.

WHAT TO THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLE'S ECONOMY?

A distinguishing feature of the building of the material and technical basis of socialism in our country is its high rate of development. The high rate of development are an objective indispensability dictated by the necessity of removing, as soon as possible, the technical and economic backwardness inherited from the past, of elevating — as soon as possible — the development of the productive forces to the level of social relations in production, so as to attain a continuous rise of the workers' welfare — which is the highest aim of our Party of Labor.

The problem of determining correct rates of development of and right proportions among the different branches of our economy as well as the various aspects of the process of re-production has occupied a most important place in every five-year plan. This problem, especially in the present situation of imperialist and revisionist encirclement of our country, is of great political and economic importance because the rates of development and the correct proportions among different branches of economy, particularly between industry and agriculture, are not only connected with the further raising of our people's well-being, but also with the strengthening of the economic independence of our country.

The rate of the average annual increase of our global industrial production during the three former five-year periods has been 15,1 percent. As a result of this high rate the global industrial production (in 1965, the last year of the third five-year period), increased 35 times in comparison with 1938.

In the course of less than 25 years, our agricultural

production has increased nearly 2,5 times and the national income more than 5 times.

A high rate of development has been envisaged for the fourth five-year period, too. The rate of the average annual growth of the industrial and agricultural production taken together will attain 10 percent during the fourth five-year period as against 6,7 percent during the third five-year period. In 1967, due to this high rate, the global industrial production was 44 times that of 1938.

1967 Industrial production as compared with

	1938 in times	1950 in times	1965 in %	1970 as against 1965 according to plan
Global production	43.9	10.6	126	150-154
Group A	46.9	10.9	137	165-169
Group B	40.7	10.1	116	133-138
Crude oil	33.4	9.1	121	183-185
Coal	139.1	12.3	131	183-185
Chrome	47.3	6.3	105	165-169
Copper	105.6	19.7	172	113-117
Ferrous nickel	—	—	193	247-251
Electric power	68.8	33.8	168	198-202
Chemicals	1549.9	95.8	407	206-211
Machine-making in- dustry	76.7	19.8	171	about 7 times
Building materials in- dustry	50.4	14.2	134	221-226
Glass and porcelain industry	—	118.2	124	143-147
Lumber industry	86.1	13.4	119	195-200
Light industry	39.0	28.1	124	121-125
Food processing indus- try	33.9	5.9	108	143-147
Other industries	11.9	2.9	138	145-150

Albania which used to be the most backward country in Europe until not long ago, has already left behind many European countries as far as the rate of development is concerned. The tables below clearly speak of this.

Average General Development Rate of Industry During the 1951-1966 period in some European Countries

Albania	15.0
Yugoslavia	9.9
Greece	8.3
Italy	8.2
Bulgaria	13.6
Rumania	13.2
England	3.1
Soviet Union	10.6
France	5.6
U.S.A.	4.7

Increase of Industrial Production in Some European countries (1938 = 100%)

	1950	1960
Albania	435	2621
Yugoslavia	170	444
Greece	107	242
Italy	126	295
Bulgaria	312	1236
Rumania	147	500
England	133	181
Soviet Union	222	677
France	120	214
U.S.A.	232	337

In 1970 compared with that of 1965 global industrial production will increase by 50-54 per cent at an average annual rate of 8.7 per cent, instead 6,8 per cent as during the third five-year period. In the fourth five-year period, our global agricultural production will increase at an average annual rate of 11.5 per cent. In 1970 due to the growth of social production our national income will increase by 45-50 per cent as against 1965. Particularly numerous branches of our economy, especially those of mining industry such as copper, ferro-nickel, crude oil, etc. are developing at higher rates than our industrial production in general.

In order that industry may become a powerful support for agriculture, in the directives given by the 5th Party Congress for the fourth five-year period, there is provided for a particularly swift development of those branches of our economy which are connected with agriculture. Thus in 1970, chemical industry will produce 7 times more than in 1965, machine-making industry 153 per cent more than in the third five-year period, and so on. With a regard to meeting the needs of our economy in general and of our industry in particular for electric power it is envisaged that in 1970 production of electric power will increase 2.3 times in comparison with 1965.

The average rate of development envisaged for the fourth five-year period is a fully realistic one and our laboring people are constantly raising it. The results attained in 1967 bear witness to this. The volume of general industrial production was 102 per cent above that foreseen in the plan, that is to say 11% over the 1966 industrial production.

The development of our industry is featured by the fact that average annual rate of increase of industrial production is 2-3 times higher than our natural annual

increase of population which is one of the highest in the world (about 3 per cent).

In agriculture, too, unexampled results were attained last year. The plan of agricultural production was fulfilled 100 per cent, with an increase of 12 per cent over 1966 and 26 per cent over 1965; whereas the plan of reclaiming virgin lands was fulfilled 118 per cent.

Relying on the results already achieved as well as on the revolutionary impetus of our laboring masses at work, the tasks set forth for the year 1968 were further advanced: the volume of the global industrial production is to increase 20,7%, thus making it possible for the industry to reach the level of industrial production foreseen for the year 1969.

In 1968, the volume of the global agricultural production is foreseen to increase 12% as against 1967 or 41% as against 1965.

This high rate of development was attained both through increasing the number of production workers and raising work productivity. Thus, for instance, nearly 3/5 of the increase of our national income during this five-year period will come about by the growth of the number of production workers and 2/5 raising their work productivity. In 1970, the growth of the number of industry workers will bring about an increase of 68% in the global industrial production above 1965.

HOW DID WE RAISE OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND INTENSIFY THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES?

From the very first days the existence of our People's Power one of the main objectives in our economic policy has been to do away with the survivals of

the domination of foreign monopolies in our country and to establish a powerful and independent economy through intensifying research work and the processing of our minerals and agricultural raw products as well as through a more intensive exploitation of our resources. Thus, due to the correct implementation of our Party's program on the socialist industrialization of our country there has been set up in our country a many-sided light and heavy industry relying on our raw materials and independent from other countries.

The intensification of the processing of raw materials through setting up and further developing our processing industries parallel with the development of the various branches of our mining industry has greatly enhanced the economic efficiency of our capital investments and the productive activity of the various branches of production.

The ever increasing industrial processing of raw materials at home is reflected, first and foremost, in foreign trade. From being a country which formerly imported almost all sorts of industrial goods, Albania now exports an ever larger range of industrial goods. At present, industrial goods make up half the total volume of our exports. By the end of the third 5-year period, the exporting capacity of our country raised 9 times what it was in 1938. Raising the capacity of our economy and intensifying exploitation of our riches underlies also the policy of our Peoples Power aiming at increasing exports and decreasing imports down to the point the actual conditions of the economic development of our country allow. Thus, in comparison with the 2nd five-year period, the volume of exports increased 63%, while imports went up by 22%. In the fourth 5-year period exports will increase 36%, while imports will increase only 28%.

Research work for making a better appraisal of our natural riches and intensifying their industrial processing continues also in the period of the fourth 5-year plan on a large scale. A series of new plants and factories are being set up, geological research work is being intensified and new mines are being built, a better use of our country's riches, of forests, fuel and hydro-power resources as well as of agricultural products, minerals, etc. is being made. It is for the first time that such important branches of heavy processing industry as chemical industry producing nitrate and phosphate fertilizers, iron and ferro-chrome metallurgy and copper electro-metallurgy are being created. Meanwhile, Albanian geologists are exploring our subsoil and finding new layers of minerals of high economic value, such as crude oil, gas, coal, chrome, copper and ferrous-nickel ores, and so on. During the fourth five-year period our industrial reserves will increase at the following rate: naphtha 120%, chrome 104%, copper 54%, coal 84%, and ferronickel 35%. Thus, the fourth five-year period will mark an important step ahead in making a more rational use of our natural resources.

It is in this way that the future uninterrupted development of our industry, in particular, and of our economy, in general, is guaranteed to proceed at a high rate.

In the fourth five-year period, a big step forward will be taken in setting up new mines and plants increasing, thus, our processing and production availabilities for naphtha and other minerals and ameliorating the structure of industrial production. In this period, 57 new mines and plants will be set up and the work will begin for building several others which will be completed in the next five-year period.

HOW HAS THE PROPORTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE DISTRICTS OF OUR COUNTRY BEEN ACHIEVED?

In the years of its existence our People's Power has healed one of the sorest spots of the past of our country, namely, the disproportional development of its different regions bringing about a correct and rational distribution of productive forces in line with socialist principles and the specific conditions of our country.

In general, rapid development of industry and of other sectors of production during the five-year periods has in general brought about a correct distribution of productive forces. Thus, harmonious development has changed the face of Albania. Hundreds of new industrial workshops, combines, hydro-power and thermo-power plants, mines, etc., as well as numerous agricultural schemes have been set up all over the country. Within a relatively short time, a considerable number of new towns and dwelling centers have sprung up, such as Stalin town, Bulqiza, Patos, Memaliaj, Laç. Numerous formerly backward agricultural districts with no prospects for the future have now been endowed with modern industries. Besides, the rate of development in these districts is higher than elsewhere in our country. Thus, for example, the industrial production of the Fieri district in 1966 was 16.5 times greater than in 1950, whereas in the same period the development of industrial production for our country as a whole was 8.2; and in particular, for the Librazhdi district — 26, the Mati district — 41, for Pogradeci — 13.5, for Kukës — 16.4, and so on. The disproportions among the different regions of our country are done away with enabling thus their harmonious development. Plants and workshops are generally set up in places where raw materials are available. Thus, various factories for pro-

cessing and conserving agricultural products are being set up in agricultural regions. The new economic, social and cultural projects greatly help making short work of the economic and cultural backwardness our country especially our mountain regions have inherited from the feudal and bourgeois regime of the past, opening thus new work fronts to the inhabitants of different districts and raising their standard of living.

In order to do away with the backwardness of the mountain regions and bring about the proportional development of all the regions of our country, of special importance is the complete collectivization of our peasantry in the remote mountain regions and the electrification of all rural areas, which is envisaged to be completed by November 8, 1971, the day of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania. Together with electric light, culture and progress will delve into our peasant's hearth.

A major work is going on today aimed at rapidly developing the mountain regions, at making hills and mountains as fertile as plains. By their collective efforts, our cooperative peasantry and particularly our cooperative youth, are cutting up terraces on mountain and hill slopes and planting trees of the most various sorts.

The construction of the projects of this five-year period is going on according to the socialist principles of the distribution of the productive forces. All this will bring about a further development of our people's economy, in general, and of the different regions of the country, in particular.

HOW HAS THE PROBLEM OF TRAINING AND FURTHER QUALIFYING CADRES IN ALBANIA BEEN SOLVED?

In the field of training and further specializing our cadres we had inherited a lamentable backwardness from the past. In 1938, in our country there were about 15 thousand workers, and only 380 cadres of higher training of whom 102 were physicians, 35 engineers, 45 agronomists and veterinaries and 60 pedagogues. In the pre-liberation industry, where foreign monopolies with their capitals prevailed, most of the cadres with higher and medium training and of the qualified workers were foreigners. After the liberation the People's Power was faced with the alternative: either solve the problem of training the necessary cadres for our people's economy and culture in a revolutionary way or fail to put to life its projects for building socialism in Albania. The first way was chosen, that is to say, the revolutionary way of training the necessary cadres.

As early as the war time People's Power carried on a wide campaign against illiteracy. After liberation a series of measures were taken and reforms were made for increasing the number of schools throughout our country. The revolutionary cadres that came to power and took the direction of economy into their hands attended various schools and courses that were opened all over the country, without detaching themselves from production or administrative work. The system of evening and correspondence schools developed on a large scale turning out thousands upon thousands of cadres of higher and medium training. Special attention was paid to the enlargement of the vocational schools network, and a higher institute of learning was opened for the first time in our country.

In this way, within a relatively short period a whole

army of specialists were trained who today lead in all the sectors of economy as well as in institutions of social and cultural character. The number of workers and cadres has been constantly increasing with each passing year. In 1965 there were 203,740 workers, 9,200 specialists of higher and 22,500 specialists of medium training. In the problem of training our cadres we note both a quantitative and qualitative change in comparison with the past. At present, 25% of the cadres of higher training are engineers, 12.4% are agronomists, veterinarians and zootechnicians, 13.3% economists, and so on.

The problem of training and further qualifying our cadres is being handled with special care in the fourth five-year period, too. In 1970 the number of the cadres of higher training will be 67% greater than in 1965, whereas the number of the cadres of medium training will reach 68%. In 1967 alone more than 1,400 specialists of 45 various denominations graduated from the higher schools of our country, this figure is four times higher than the total number of the cadres Albania had sent abroad to be trained during the 15 years of the feudal-bourgeois regime of King Zogu. In 1967 more than 4,600 cadres of medium training graduated from our secondary schools. In comparison with the last year of the third five-year period (1965), the number of the cadres of higher training that graduated in 1967 was 25% higher while that of the cadres of medium training was 15% higher. In 1967, 2,200 workers of various professions completed their courses of qualification while thousands of others are now attending them without detaching themselves from their jobs. In the enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and Mining alone there are functioning hundreds of such courses attended by nearly 60 thousand workers.

The all-round development of our country along

the road of socialist construction, the progress of science and technique bring to the fore the necessity of constantly raising the educational, technical and professional level of the masses as well as of providing cadres for all the sectors of economy and culture. Therefore, the problem of the cadres, of their training at a higher rate and in a correct ratio for all departments, the further development of education, the expansion of our school system and its strengthening, the work to be done for the ideological and political, technical and professional and educational uplift of the workers is and remains one of the most important and actual tasks confronting us. It is on its successful fulfilment that the carrying out of the future tasks for the development of our people's economy and culture directly depends.

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE?

Foreigners often wonder at how is it possible that tiny Albania, although encircled from all sides by enemies, has heroically resisted and is constantly resisting the pressure, blackmail and blockade that imperialists and revisionists have inflicted upon it; that it marches with confidence consistently and self-confidently on the road of socialism, and is being turned from a backward agrarian into a modern industrial country with advanced socialist agriculture setting, thus, an example to all countries which have recently broken the chains of colonialism and are now making efforts to set up their own economy and pursue an independent policy. This is no mystery if we bear in mind the principle of self-reliance. The mobilization of all energies and creative capabilities on the part of our workers in order to raise the economic potential of our country and to build

up socialism relying on our own forces is in itself the clearest demonstration of socialist patriotism.

The principle of self-reliance is becoming more and more important for our country with each passing day. The development of the national economy goes on relying, first of all, on the work, sweat and mental abilities of our people, on the exploitation of all possible sources of the country, on the development of production on the basis of our reserves of work power and financial means.

On what is the principle of self-reliance theoretically based and of what import is it to for the successful construction of socialism? This principle derives from the Marxist-Leninist thesis on the importance of the internal factor and the decisive role of the masses in socialist construction. The building of socialism, just as the people's revolution, is the work of the broad masses of the people. No free socialist Albania would exist had it not been for their participation in its development.

Our Party and People's Power have abided by this principle from the very beginning, during the period of the National-liberation War for the liberation of our country and the overthrow of the reactionary regime of the exploiting classes and, later on, during the period of socialist construction. The Party of Labor of Albania and our People's Power have always relied on the energies of the people. As early as at the 1st Congress of the Communist Party of Albania (1948) Comrade Enver Hoxha has stressed that «the Albanian people who have heroically fought for the liberation of their country and for their democratic People's Power had grasped it best that they should base their aspirations for marching forward, first and foremost, on their great and inexhaustible forces, they were conscious of however great their sacrifices would be, they were working for themselves

and not for others, that they were working for their Party and People's Power which would lead them for sure on the road of well-being and socialism».

In the present situation of imperialist and revisionist blockade, the principle of self-reliance assumes special importance. For the specific conditions of our country, it requires the mobilization of all sources, of all human reserves and material means of our economy in order to carry through the construction of socialism in our country to the end. All successes we have scored in socialist construction are precisely due to this mobilization. More possibilities are now opened to us for developing our economy abiding ever more strongly by the principle of self-reliance. We have already gone far ahead in developing our economy abiding ever more strongly by the principle of self-reliance. We have already gone far ahead in developing our productive forces; we have set up a relatively powerful material and technical basis for all the branches of our people's economy, we possess a constantly growing industry equipped with up-to-date technique and a socialist agriculture which is on the road of its intensive development; we have established in our country socialist relations in production creating favorable conditions for the all-round expansion of our economy, we have today a whole army of cadres and qualified workers and we have won a rich experience.

It is evident that a country as small as ours with limited material means could not aim at setting up a wholly independent and all-out developed national economy with all the principal branches of heavy industry, machine-making industry included which would be in position to meet all the needs of our country. Taking the course of relying on our own efforts means that we are trying to set up an economy as highly developed as pos-

sible, expanding those branches that are of vital economic and political importance for our country and have availabilities of natural resources and other means.

We do not aim at building up a closed economy of an autarchic character. By relying on our own efforts, making the fullest possible use of all our reserves and setting up a powerful national economy to ensure enlarged reproduction by itself, we will create for ourselves the conditions for collaborating on the basis of equality with other countries as well as for a more effective mutual support and collaboration with socialist countries. On the other hand, we should not forget the fact that extending collaboration and economic relations with other countries cannot be achieved without increasing and perfecting production at home.

By consistently abiding by the Marxist-Leninist principle of self-reliance in both socialist revolution and construction we do not neglect the external factor, but we know that what we produce at home is of a decisive importance, whereas what we import from abroad is a second-hand, auxiliary factor. This we may take notice of if we consider our country in the period stretching from the reconstruction up to our days, when we can concretely speak of a powerful material and technical basis existing in our country. The principal role in setting up this basis has been ever played by the internal factor, by the mobilization, enthusiasm and combative spirit of sacrifice of our people, by our own material and financial resources, by applying correct proportions between accumulation and consumption. Of course, we have profited also from the internationalist support given to us by friendly countries by means of developing import-export and credit to the mutual benefit. As our Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu has put it at the 5th Party Congress «Abiding by the principle of self-reliance does in no way

mean that we should lock ourselves inside our national hull and ignore advanced foreign experience, nor should we ignore the internationalist aid of friendly countries; on the contrary, we should make a correct appraisal of and grasp the positive experience of others, and profit from the internationalist aid of our real friends for building up socialism in our country, as is the case today with the internationalist aid the People's Republic of China gives us.»

The Albanian people have never under-rated or denied the role of the aid or support given by the revolutionary forces abroad. Our Party and people, as real internationalists should, have greatly appreciated this aid and have always expressed their gratitude to those giving it to us.

The revolutionary principle of self-reliance in building socialism is being successfully carried out in the 4th five-year period as it has been done up to now. The necessary means for capital investments and constructions are earmarked to cope with the great tasks of developing economy and culture, and the most of them are ensured from internal sources. Our working people have taken upon themselves the realization of numerous schemes: our geologists have taken into their hands all geological research work; projects of all the mines to be built in the future are being drawn up in our country; important industrial works are being projected and constructed by our own efforts. Such works are: the huge hydro-power plant at Vau i Dejës, a big oil refinery at Fieri and many other plants not mentioning tens of new lines and workshops that are being set up at the existing enterprises in every district. Meanwhile, as a result of the creative thought of the masses, there are being turned out numerous new articles, equipments and machines that used to be imported from abroad. On their part, our

peasants are making fruitful efforts to make our country self-sufficient in food grains. The cadres needed in the different sectors of economy and culture are being trained at our schools.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF ECONOMIC PLANNING?

Socialist production with us is characterized by the planned and proportional development of the national economy. The indispensability and possibility of the planned development of our economy derive from socialist ownership on the means of production. The large production of the socialist society cannot be realized apart from a general plan which ensures a unity of aims and action for our society as a whole. Socialism cannot be thought of without a planned coordination between industry and agriculture.

Quite unlike the bourgeois countries where economic activity is directed by the bourgeois class with the State taking no part in the management of economy, the People's Republic of Albania can in no way maintain an indifferent stand towards the development of people's economy. On the contrary, the existence of socialist property, particularly of its highest form, State property, calls on the Socialist State to administer not only this but also the cooperative property on the basis of a general State plan for the development of the People's economy. State planning aims at meeting the material needs of our society, the needs of the all-round activity of the people in the sphere of industrial and agricultural production, in the sphere of turning out cultural and scientific values, etc. Thus, State planning is in itself an activity embracing both economic, social and cultural life.

But this activity, in its form of economic planning goes on always according to the objective economic laws, first and foremost, the objective economic laws of proportional development of people's economy, in the framework of the other economic laws of socialism.

Viewing the State plan from this angle, our democratic people's State and the Party of the working class have set about the task of building up the economic basis of socialism. They constantly bear in mind what J.V. Stalin has said: «to build up this basis under the concrete conditions of a given country means to unite agricultural economy with socialist industry into a single economy, to let agricultural economy be led by socialist industry, to set the relations between city and the countryside aright on the basis of the exchange of agricultural and industrial products, to put seal off and liquidate all channels favoring the birth of classes and, chiefly, capital, and, finally, to create such conditions for production and distribution that directly lead to the liquidation of the classes».

All plans for economic and cultural development of the People's Republic of Albania are drawn up as to enable the accomplishment of given tasks at given stages of the development of the People's Democratic State. Thus, with the realization of the two-year plan for the development of the people's economy (1949-1950), there were achieved major successes in the development and concentration of the existing light industry and work was begun for setting up the new industry; from a backward agricultural country which it used to be, our country turned into an agrarian-industrial country by the end of the first five-year period (1951-1955); the second five-year period (1956-1960) was the period of building the economic basis of socialism in our country while the Third Five-year Plan (1961-1965) marked a step ahead in the construction of the material and technical basis of socialism.

The Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970) will mark another big step ahead on the road of turning our homeland from an agrarian-industrial country into an industrial-agrarian one.

Because of the great importance taken by the planning in the realization of the principal function of the socialist State — the economic-organizational and cultural-educational function, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania explicitly sanctions by force of law the planned economy as a constitutional principle. In the Constitution it is emphasized that «the State directs the economic activity and development on the basis of a State economic plan which includes not only the State sector but the cooperative one as well. In this way, the Constitution lays a juridical obligation upon the relative State organs to draw up, approve and carry out the economic plan, in order that all economic means and availabilities may be used to «uphold the vital interests of the people and raise their well-being».

The planned development of our national economy assures a great superiority to our country not only in respect to the old semi-feudal Albania of the past, but also in respect to the most advanced capitalist countries.

Our socialist economy develops uninterruptedly, forging forward at an ever higher rate, according to ratios decided upon by the State; economic crises and unemployment are unknown to her and it ensures a rational use of all the labor availabilities of our society.

The expansion of our economy aims at making production meet the needs of society as a whole and does not rush after profit.

The planned expansion of economy in our country is based on the development of science and technique in compliance with the needs of our national economy, and excludes competition and anarchy in production.

Planned economy, in addition to avoiding unnecessary waste of social work, ensures a more rational and profitable exploitation of all sources both within the particular enterprises and the national economy as a whole, and constantly finds out new sources and reserves for increasing production.

At variance with the capitalist principle of profitability, the socialist planned development assures the best form of profitability, that is, a profitability viewed from the angle of the society as a whole. It is for this reason that constructions not even dreamt of in the past are being put up in our country today.

IN WHAT IS THE POPULAR CHARACTER OF OUR PLANS REFLECTED?

Our plans are the result of the collective efforts of our working masses. This is reflected both in drawing them up and in carrying them out. Right from the start our People's Power has been pursuing the Marxist-Leninist principles of socialist planning and has been relying on the participation of the masses and on democratic centralization for their substantiation.

[The working people at work sites, city quarters, villages, cultural institutions and elsewhere have always discussed the draft directives of their respective plans and made their remarks and suggestions. On the basis of the numerous materials drawn from large public discussions most of the initial indices have been connected. The working masses have made important corrections also while carrying out their plans by further advancing the indices and raising the rate of development. The participation of masses in the elaboration of

the Fourth Five-year Plan has been without precedent. Through planning councils and other forms of mass activity that were in use during the period of the elaboration of this plan, there were activated the broad masses of workers and peasants which drew up a realistic, mobilizing and revolutionary plan.

The indices of the Fourth Five-year Plan have been taken up and approved twice by all working collectives. Nearly 16 thousand commissions of State enterprises and agricultural cooperatives have been working on these figures. During the discussion of the draft directives for the Third Five-year Plan (1961-1965), nearly 48,000 discussions were held and nearly 33,000 proposals were put forward at meetings of working collectives called for this purpose, whereas at the meetings of the working collectives for elaborating the Fourth Five-year Plan and for discussing the draft directives of this plan (1966-1970) there were held more than 174,000 discussions, or 262 percent more than for the draft plan of the third five-year period, and nearly 141,000 proposals were put forward, or 327 percent more than for the draft plan of the Third Five-year Period. The working masses rejected the indices of the draft plan sent by the center to serve as an orientation, and fixed greater and more mobilizing tasks. Particularly intensified development and raised rates are characterizing our agriculture. Thus, for example, in the initial project by the State organs there were envisaged to be reclaimed 52,000 hectares of virgin land, but the masses themselves advanced this task further so that the central organs were compelled to raise the former index up to 115,000 hectares. Such examples of tasks advanced by the working masses over what was initially contemplated by State organs are a typical feature for all the plan indices for the 4th five-year period. The State plans for

the economic and cultural development of our country «bear the marks of the people». And this is the surest guarantee for their being successfully put into effect.

WHAT DOES THE COMPARISON OF ONE FIVE-YEAR PLAN WITH ANOTHER REVEAL?

Planning and development on the basis of a unique State plan of the different branches of our people's economy and culture represents one aspect of the superiority of our socialist order over the capitalist and revisionist ones. Our State system of managing and organizing the people's economy in a planned way has emerged from certain simple initial organization forms gradually advancing to the more perfected forms of today, keeping pace with the extension of the people's socialist ownership on the means of production and the expansion of the sphere of activity of the objective economic laws of socialism. At the initial stage of the planned development of our people's economy, there was the Economic Council, which was set up on January 1945, the planning organ coordinating the economic activity of each enterprise. At its initial stage of development, the planning of our economy has been only a partial one. The plans for the years 1945 and 1946 aimed only at restoring our ruined economy. With the successful realisation of the first partial plans for the years 1945 and 1946 through the revolutionary impetus of the labouring masses, a great deal of work was done in restoring our economy, in exploiting mines and rebuilding what was left of our industry devastated by the foreign invaders as well as in building new highways, and so on.

With the realisation of these initial partial plans,

our economy developed, at first, on the basis of current general plans, and not on the basis of prospective ones. The first current general plan of development for our economy was the general State plan for the year 1947. It marked an important step ahead and was a starting point in the development of our economy on the basis of unique State plans. The experience accumulated during the elaboration and realization of the 1947 plan — the first unique State plan in our country — served later on as an important basis for drawing out new tasks and for raising, to a certain extent, the planning level in the 1948 plan. The 1948 plan restored our economy in full and made its further development possible. The global industrial output this year was twice that of the year 1938. Means of transport, bridges, and roads were fully repaired and a series of new works were constructed.

Another step towards developing and raising the level of planification of our economy has been the passage from current one-year plans to plans covering a period of two years. The realization of the Two-year Plan (1949-1950) brought about numerous changes in the structure of the global industrial and agricultural output. In 1951 the planning of our economy entered a new stage, the stage of the five-year prospective planning.

As a result of the successful realization of three five-year plans, Albania has greatly progressed in its economic and cultural development. By the end of the first five-year period (1951-1955) industrial production increased 11.5 times that of the year 1938; by the end of the second five-year period (1956-1960) it went up 25 times, and by the end of the third five-year period it rose nearly 35 times. In 1965, in comparison with 1960, our population had a growth of 15 percent but this did not hinder the growth of industrial production per ca-

pita. Thus, for instance, the global industrial output per capita in 1965 has been 20 percent higher than in 1960; and the production of production means included in this figure has been 23 percent higher. If we consider some of the most important articles, we will see that, in comparison with the second five-year period, by the end of the third five-year period the production per capita in our country rose as follows: iron ore 36%, blister copper — 3.7 times, electric power — 53%, machinery and equipments — 9.3 times, spare parts — 2.1 times, knitted goods — 50 percent, and so on.

The area of land under cultivation has kept on increasing from one five-year period to another. Thus, for example, from 406,000 hectares that it was in 1955 it rose to 466,000 hectares in 1960 and to 510,000 hectares in 1965.

Our five-year plans are plans of major works. This is best reflected in the large increase of investments. In comparison with those of the year 1950, investments increased 152.8 percent in the last year of the first five-year period, by the end of the second five-year period they were 350.7 percent higher and by the end of the third five-year period they rose to 548.4 percent. From the establishment of the People's Power up to now more than 1,000 important works in the sectors of industry, agriculture, education and culture have been built in Albania.

The economic potential of our country has risen as a result of the successful realization of five-year plans. This is demonstrated, in particular, in the increase of the national income both as a whole and per capita. If compared with the national income of the year 1938, in 1955 it has grown 288 percent and 218 percent respectively; in 1960 — 404 percent and 262.5 percent, while in 1965 536 percent and 300 percent respectively.

At present our people are successfully carrying out their fourth five-year plan which is a great program for the further development of the country.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF OUR FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN?

The fourth five-year plan has been worked out by all the working masses of our people and constitutes a revolutionary program of work that will ensure a higher rate of development of the productive forces in the different branches of economy and culture, the further perfecting in a revolutionary way of socialist relations in production and the deepening of our ideologic and cultural revolution.

Albania entered the stage of the fourth five-year plan with a more developed material and technical basis. Global industrial output in 1965 increased 39 percent above that of 1960, that is, 34.8 times as against 1938. On the other hand global agricultural output in 1965 was 36 percent higher than in 1960. The acreage of irrigated land from being 32% of the land surface in 1960, amounted to 46 percent in 1965, while the volume of mechanized work in 1965 was 80 percent higher than in 1960.

The most important task of the Fourth Five-year Plan is to bring about a further development of productive forces and to speed up the complete construction of the material and technical basis of socialism. This will be achieved, in industry, by carrying on the socialist industrialization of the country and by increasing industrial production through a more rational exploitation of the existing productive availabilities, and by building up new works; in agriculture, by concentrating forces for

a more rapid development of agricultural production, especially of food grains, first of all, through further intensifying agriculture. On the basis of the increased social production the material well-being and cultural level of our people, as well as the defensive capacity of our country will be raised. Alongside with this, socialist relations in production will be further perfected in a revolutionary way; a gradual narrowing down of the gap between town and the countryside, between industry and agriculture, and between mental and manual labor will take place; socialist revolution in the field of ideology and culture will keep on deepening and, finally, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the Party-people unity will be strengthened.

In 1970, global industrial output will increase 50-54 percent as compared with that of 1965, at an average annual rate of 8.7 percent. In the framework of the all-out industrial development and in the process of the further socialist industrialisation of the country, special attention will be attached to developing heavy processing industry with a view to ensuring the superiority of the production of the means of production. Therefore, the development of industry in the fourth five-year period will be closely linked, first of all, with the expansion of exploitation of our natural resources, continuously drawing into economic circulation new sources of minerals and fuel and raising their value through processing them at home.

In 1970, the production of means of production will be 65-69 percent higher than in 1965. As a result, the specific weight of the production of means of production will amount to 55.8 percent of the global industrial production in 1970 as against 50.7 percent that it was in 1965.

A distinguishing feature of our industrialisation in the fourth five-year period is the increasing aid to be

given to agriculture by our industry. This will further strengthen the alliance of our working class with the laboring peasantry. In this regard, great importance is attached to developing chemical industry at a higher rate. The construction of two big nitrate and superphosphate fertilizer plants have ensured the necessary conditions for raising work productivity in agriculture. In addition to chemical industry, there will be further developed and strengthened also the machine-making industry. This industry will turn out 80 percent of the spare parts for tractors, machines and various equipments needed in agriculture, as well as various machines and devices for the different sectors of our economy.

Further development of the light and food-processing industry will go on simultaneously with the development of the heavy processing industry and the other branches of industry turning out means of production. Processing agricultural and dairy products on a larger scale will bring about an increase in the number of various assortments and improvement in the quality of products. Production of consumers' goods in 1970 will be 33-38 percent higher than in 1965.

Our State strictly abides by the correct principle that our people's economy, if it is going to be powerful, advanced and independent, should be as many-sided as possible and should stand on both feet on industry and agriculture. First-hand importance is attached to agriculture in the general development of our economy during the fourth five-year period. In 1970, global agricultural production will be 71-76 percent higher than in 1965. This increase in agricultural production is based, first of all, on raising work productivity and increasing the acreage of arable land. The production of food grains will more than double this five-year period; 82 percent of it will be attained by increasing work productivity

and 18 percent by extending the acreage sown with food grains. Alongside with the measures taken for intensifying agriculture, tilling virgin lands will also contribute to its rapid development.

The material and technical basis of agriculture will further be strengthened during the fourth five-year period. The number of tractors (reckoned at 15 HP units) will surpass by more than 34 percent the 1965 mark. The area of irrigated land will make up 53 percent of the total cultivated acreage. This is a most important measure for increasing productivity in agriculture. Important investments will be made in all branches of people's economy. The volume of investments in the fourth five-year period will increase about 34 percent above that of the third five-year period, while the volume of constructions will go up by about 18 percent. The emphasis is laid on developing the productive forces. 80 percent of investments will be made and 72 percent of constructions will be used for the development of productive sectors. During this five-year period if compared with the third five-year period, there will be made 50 percent more constructions of great importance for the economic, educational, cultural and public health sectors.

The expansion of social production will make it possible for the national income to increase 45-50 percent in 1970 as against 1965. Consequently, the real income of the people and the circulation of goods in the retail trade network will increase, too.

The fourth five-year plan is based, first and foremost, on the internal material and human resources, on the already set up material and technical basis, on the creative work of the Albanian people and on the vitality of our social and economic order. A fraternal internationalist aid is given to the Albanian people by the People's Republic of China.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PERIOD?

1. Superphosphate Plant at Laç.
2. Ferro-chrome metallurgical plant at Laç.
3. Soda Plant at Vlora.
4. Refining and Processing Copper Plant at Rubik.
5. Chrome ore concentrating Plant at Bulqiza.
6. Copper Concentrating Plant at Spaç.
7. Cement Factory at Fushë-Krujë.
8. Hydro-power Plant at Vau i Dejës.
9. Cement Factory in Elbasan.
10. Nitrate Fertilizers Plant at Fier.
11. Naphtha Processing Plant at Fier.
12. Thermo-electric-Power Plant at Fier.
13. «Mao Tse-tung» Textile Mills at Berat.
14. Thermo-electric Power Plant at Korça.
15. Coal Agglomeration Plant at Memaliaj.
16. Condensed and powdered Dust Milk Factory at Shkodra.
17. Refrigerator at the Durrës strand.
18. Plastic Goods Factory at Durrës.
19. Big Culture Palace at Tirana.
20. Glass and Window Panes Shops at Kavaja.
21. Rrogozhinë-Fier Railway.
22. Sewing and Embroidering Thread Shops.
- 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28. Reclamation of Swamps.
- 29, 30, 43. Improvement of Waters.
- 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 51. Irrigations.
- 32, 34, 41. Irrigation Canals.
- 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 60, 61. Reservoirs.
- 56, 57, 58. Aqueducts.
- 62, 115,000 hectares of reclaimed virgin land.
63. Hani Hotit-Vermosh Highway.
64. Kukës-Krumë Highway.

65. Lurë-Mazdej Country Road.

66. High Tension Lines.

By November 8, 1971 all the rural areas of our country will have been electrified.

WHAT WILL THE EQUIVALENT OF A WORK-DAY UNIT BE IN 1970 FOR THE ECONOMY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA?

The objectives of the Fourth Five-year Plan open up a brilliant future for our economy and will further raise the value of the work-day unit.

National income from a work-day unit in the fourth five-year period will be equal to what was produced in three days of the first five-year period, or in two days of the second five-year period, or in one and a half of the third five-year period.

— The output of our industry in a single day of the year 1971 will be equal to that of 6 days of the first five-year period, or of 1.7 days of the third five-year period.

— What has been produced in the course of the year 1938 will be produced in 7 days of the year 1970.

— 7 days of the year 1970 will be sufficient for producing the quantity of oil extracted in our country in 1938; one day of its produce in the year 1970 will be equal to that of two days in the year 1965.

— Two days of the year 1970 would be sufficient for producing all the quantity of coal extracted in 1938, while for chrome ore this index would be attained in 7 days.

— All the electric power produced in 1938 will be produced in 4.5 days of the year 1970.

— In 1970 our machine-making industry will pro-

duce in four days what has been produced by the same industry throughout the year 1938.

— In a single day of the year 1970 there will be extracted the quantity of copper produced in 6 days during 1960, or in 1.5 days during 1965.

— Ten days in 1970 will suffice to turn out all the production of the food-processing industry in the year 1938, 9 days will suffice to achieve the production of cement, 3.5 days the production of cotton textiles, 25 days the production of shoes, and so on, of the year 1938.

— The agricultural production turned out in 1970 will be more than four times that of 1938 and 71-76 percent higher than in 1965.

— In a single day of the fourth five-year period there will be produced material values equal to those produced in 2.3 days of the first five-year period, or in 1.5 days of the third five-year period.

— Investments pertaining to three days of the fourth five-year period equal those made by the State in 1938, and investments pertaining to one day of the fourth five-year period equal those pertaining to 3.6 days of the first five-year period.

— Two days of the year 1970 will suffice to realize the total circulation of goods in tons by automobiles realized in 1938, while for sea transports this index will be only half a day.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRY IN THE YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POWER

WHICH ARE THE MAIN FEATURES OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION IN ALBANIA?

The Party of Labor of Albania has considered industrialization as one of the most important tasks of the construction of socialism, without whose solution socialist revolution in the field of economy cannot be advanced.

In our concrete historic conditions, the indispensability of industrialization of our country was imposed on us by a number of factors, the principal being:

Firstly, ensuring the all-round and impetuous development of productive forces for the setting up of the material and technical basis of socialism in order to create the most effective structure of social production;

Secondly, socialist industrialization being an indispensable condition for a continuous perfecting of new socialist relations in production. Relying on the social ownership on the means and instruments of production and on the socialization of work in its highest form, our industry represents the highest type of socialist ownership. The transformation of the other branches of people's economy goes ahead following its example.

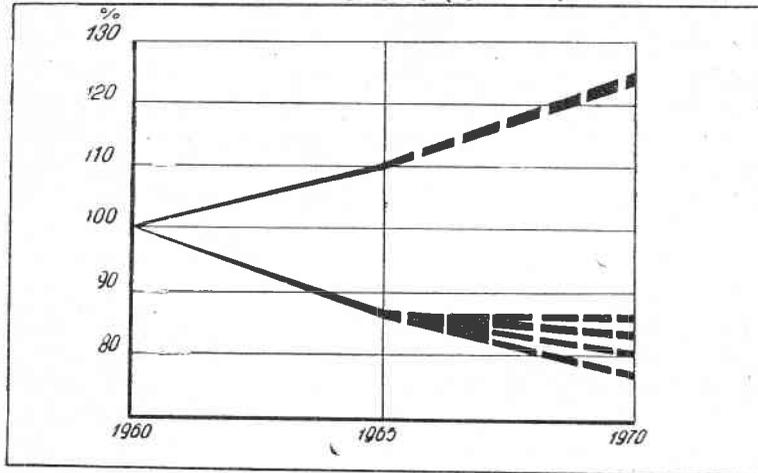
Thirdly, socialist industrialization brings about the raising at a higher rate of work productivity.

Fourthly, socialist industrialization is indispensable for the constant raising of educational, technical and professional level of the working class which constitutes the principal social basis of people's power.

Socialist industrialization of the country was imposed also by the necessity of strengthening its defensive capacity, to make the socialist Fatherland more powerful.

Our course of industrialization is based on the well-known Marxist-Leninist thesis on the priority of the production of means of production to the production of consumers' goods. This is of importance for strengthening the economic independence of the country.

WORK PRODUCTIVITY INCREASE AND LOWERING OF COST IN INDUSTRY (1960=100)



Different from the capitalist industrialization, which is accompanied by intensification of workers' exploitation, further impoverishment of the proletariat and an increase in violence of the class struggle, the socialist industrialization in our country liquidated the exploitation of man by man and succeeded in raising the material and cultural well-being of the people.

Applying the policy for the socialist industrialization of the country, the Party set down at the very beginning

the ways and the means for the growth and use of inner socialist accumulation. It mobilized all the monetary and material means and physical and intellectual availabilities of our capable and hard-working people. On the other hand, it made the most of the internationalist aid rendered by friendly countries.

The principal sources of socialist accumulation in our country have been expropriating the bourgeoisie and of the landlords and the turning over the production means to the people, annulling the debts incurred to by ex King Zogu, appropriately using the profits derived from nationalized industry, foreign and home trade, the banking system, the budgetary provisions for the development of the national economy as a whole. From its proper internal sources, our country succeeded in making relatively big accumulations rendering socialist industrialization possible.

Establishing socialist ownership on the production means mobilized all the material and financial means to employing a good part of them for the development of industry in general, heavy industry in particular.

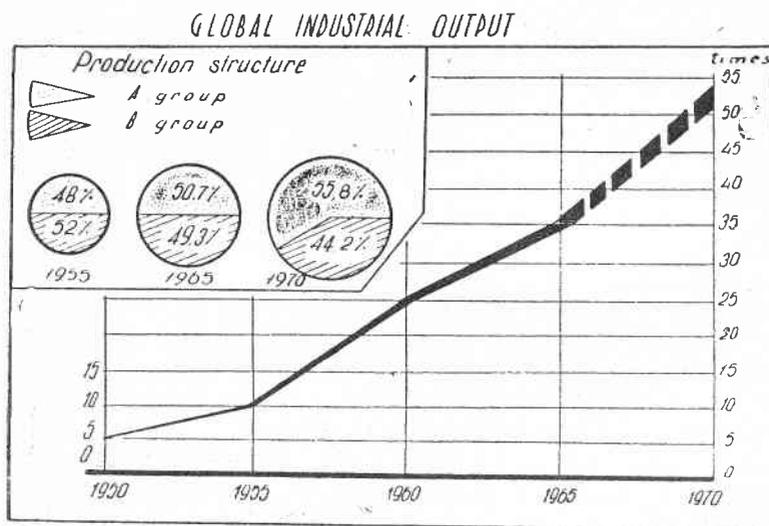
With the socialist industrialization of our country, our cities have been continually expanding and a number of new industrial centers have arisen, the ranks of the working class and their specific weight in our society have grown, the social basis of the dictatorship of the proletariat has been strengthened.

The development of socialist industry couldn't but strengthen the alliance between the working class and the cooperative peasantry.

Socialist industrialization in Albania is being carried out at an accelerated rate. In 1967 the industrial output was 44 times bigger than in 1938.

Within a short period of time, our country was transformed from a backward agrarian country into an

agrarian-industrial and, at present, it is becoming an industrial-agrarian country. With the successful development of industry conditions have been created for liquidating the contradiction between the advanced relations in production and the backward technical and economic basis inherited from the past. Socialist industrialization has strengthened the independence of socialist Albania, and helped in failing all the attempts made by the imperialists and revisionists to make her submit to their domination.



Socialist industrialization in Albania has been achieved through a violent class struggle, against both internal and external enemies. At first, the Yugoslav, and later on the Soviet revisionists tried by all means to sidetrack our people from the road of socialist industrialization under the pretext that their own industry

could allegedly fulfil our needs just as well, that oil industry in Albania could allegedly have no prospects of development, and so on and so forth. The Party of Labor and the People's Government of Albania gave the lie to these allegations and strove courageously to develop the country along socialist lines consistently pursuing the correct Marxist-Leninist road of socialist industrialization, in compliance with the concrete conditions of our country.

WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL STAGES OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION OF ALBANIA?

The socialist industrialization of the country has been achieved stage by stage. During the Two year Plan (1949-1950) the investments for the development of industry made up 47 percent of all the investments in our people's economy. According to this plan began the construction of such industrial projects as the Tirana «V. I. Lenin» Hydro-power Plant and «Stalin» Textile Mills, the Maliq Sugar Refinery and a number of other projects. A great deal has likewise been achieved in developing the mining industry, whereto 20 percent of all the investments of the Two-year Plan were destined. Alongside the construction of new projects, a further development of the existing branches of industry has been carried through, too. In 1950 the general industrial output was 415% bigger than in the year 1938. Industrial output made up 97.2 percent of all the production in the socialist sector.

However it should be borne in mind that the development of industry at a speedy rate began only with the First Five-year Plan (1951-1955). The main economic task of this plan was «to continue at a more accelerated rate the construction of the economic basis of socialism

in order to turn Albania by the end of this five-year period from a backward agricultural into an agrarian-industrial country». This task was accomplished with success. During the first five-year period the construction of the Tirana «Stalin» Textile Mills and «V. I. Lenin» Hydro-power Plant was completed successfully, and many other industrial projects were set up such as the Wood-working Mills in Elbasan, the cement factory in Vlora, the Fieri and Rogozhina Cotton Gins, the Vlora Rice Husking Factory, the Shkodra Tobacco Fermentation Plant, some woollen textile and furniture-making factories in Tirana. All in all, about 150 new State or cooperative industrial enterprises were built and commissioned during the first five-year period. Mining and petroleum industries were further developed. Existing branches of industry were improved. With the realization of the First Five-year Plan, the total industrial output in the year 1955 was 11,5 times bigger than in the year 1938. In 1955 the industry in Albania produced in 35 days as much as it did during the entire year 1938.

The process of the socialist industrialization of our country continued at a still more accelerated rate during the second five-year period (1956-1960), the draft directives of which were approved by the Third Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania. During this five-year period, a series of important industrial projects were handed over for exploitation amongst which: the «Karl Marx» Hydro-electric plant on the Mati river, the Cerrik Oil Refinery, the Vlora Fish and Vegetable Cannery, fruit and vegetable canneries in Elbasan, Korça and Shkodra, the Glass Factory, the Velvet Factory, Food Processing Combine and the Porcelain Plant in Tirana, wineries in Këlcyra, Durrës, Librazhd, Përmet and Shkodra, the Factory for the Enrichment of Copper in Kurbnesh, brick factories in Tirana, Lushnja, Vlora, Korça, Shkodra

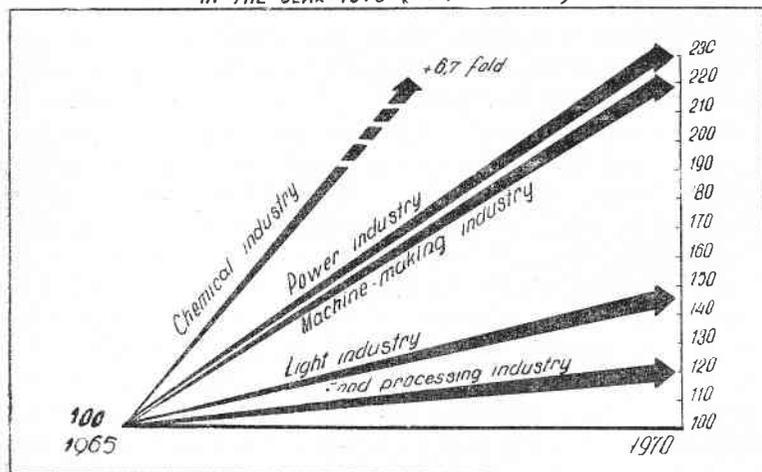
and Elbasan, a series of high tension power transmitting lines, new mine pits, and several other projects. At the end of the year 1960, total industrial output was 25 times bigger than in the year 1938. In comparison with the year 1938, the output of electric power rose 24.4 times in 1960, of oil 21.8 times, of coal 78,6 times, of chrome 41,9 times, of the machine-making industry 30,4 times, and so on. By the end of the Second Five-year Plan, the economic basis of socialism was built in Albania and the socialist relations in production were established both in urban and rural areas. In the year 1960 in the socialist sector of economy were realized: about 90 percent of the national income, more than 99 percent of the total industrial output, 100 percent of the wholesale trade, 90 percent of retail trade, more than 80 percent of the total agricultural production.

With the speedy development of industry new dwelling centers were added to the map of Albania such as Cerrik, Maliq, Patos, Fush Arrës, Kurbnesh, Bulqiza, Memaliaj, Laç, etc. Existing cities and dwelling centers underwent great changes. With the accomplishment of the Second Five-year Plan the structure of all the branches of the industrial production changed accordingly with a tendency towards a rise in the specific weight of the branches turning out production means especially in the mining industry. During the second five-year period the industry continued to develop at an accelerated rate, surpassing considerably the development rate of capitalist countries. Thus, the average rate of annual increase of the industrial output in Albania in the years 1951-1959 has been 20,6% whereas it was only 8,8% in Greece, 11,3% in Yugoslavia, 8,3% in Italy.

New and greater tasks for the development of the industry were provided for the third five-year period (1961-1965). During this period big investments and cons-

tructions were made, the major part of which destined for the industry. During the years of the Third Five-year Plan, in spite of the serious difficulties caused by the imperialists and modern revisionists, our people's economy in general and our industry in particular have kept on developing at a much higher rate. In 1965 the total industrial output was 34,8 times higher than in the year 1938. It rose 41 times in power industry, 27,5 times in oil industry, 106,3 times in coal industry, 44,9 times in chrome industry, 44,7 times in machine-making industry, etc. During this five-year period a great number of new industrial plants were commissioned, such as the «F. Engels» Hydro-electric Power Plant on the Mati river, the «Joseph Stalin» Hydro-electric Power-plant on the Bistrica river, the Elbasan Iron Melting Plant, the Tirana Tractor Spare Parts Plant, the Copper Melting Plant at Gjegjan of Kukës, the Shkodra Copper Wires Plant, three paper mills, and many other works.

PRODUCTION ACCORDING TO BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY
IN THE YEAR 1970 (1965 = 100)



During the third five-year period 430 economic and social and cultural projects were commissioned instead of the 400 ones envisaged in the plan. With the construction of these new industrial plants, the structure of our industry was improved upon and industrial output increased accordingly. The specific weight of industrial production in our economy reached 56,6 percent in 1965 as against 8 percent in 1938. These data go to show the progress made in the socialist industrialization of the country during the years of People's Power.

WHAT SORT OF DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND WHAT ARE ITS PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE?

The mineral industry is the principal branch of the heavy industry in our country. The subsoil of Albania is rich in minerals, the most important of which are: petroleum, gas, chrome, iron-nickel, copper, coal, bitumen, etc.

But, with all this great underground riches, mineral industry had not assumed in the past any development worth mentioning. By its open doors policy, the feudal and bourgeois regime had left free hand to foreign imperialist powers to rob our country of its subsoil riches. The imperialists, particularly, the Italian imperialists, had founded their shareholder companies in Albania, had begun exploiting our oil, bitumen, coal, chrome and copper reserves in the most primitive and rapacious manner. They exploited mineral wealth guided merely by commercial and profiteering objectives, disregarding all technical rules, without any sort of mechanization of the working processes.

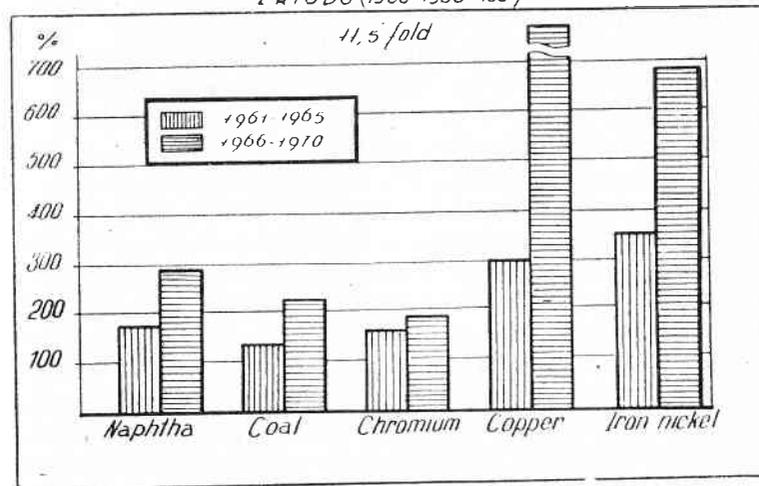
People's Power put an end once for all to this state of affairs. Right at the start all the companies and enter-

prises owned by foreign capital were nationalized. After they had passed over to the hands of the state, in spite of the serious difficulties and the havoc wrought by the war and the invaders, our mining industry was restored and became the most important sector of our people's economy.

Right from the beginning People's Government made large investments and took immediate measures for intensifying the extraction and treatment of our minerals by opening new pits and building modern plants. All this caused the production to increase from one five-year period to another. Today Albania possesses five times more mines than it had before the war. In 1968, in comparison with the year 1938 it is produced 41 times more oil, 164 times more coal, 52 times more chrome, 29 times more copper than in 1950, and 3 times more iron-nickel than in 1960, and so on. While during the anti-popular regimes and foreign occupation Albania's underground riches used to be processed and treated abroad, nowadays her minerals are mostly processed and refined in the new plants and factories erected near their source after the liberation. Albania possesses now petroleum refineries, factories for the complete treatment of such mineral as copper, iron melting and chemical fertilizers producing plants.

Great prospects are opened to the extractive and mineral processing industries during the fourth five-year period (1966-1970). Industrial output in 1970 will go up 54 percent as against the last year of the third five-year period. The fourth five-year period will witness the further improvement of the structure of industrial production, priority being given to the development of industries producing means of production, of the mining industry especially. Thus, for instance, in 1970, the petroleum industry will increase its output up to 85 per cent

MINERAL PRODUCTION DURING 1961-1965 AND 1966-1970
PERIODS (1956-1960=100)



in comparison with 1965, the coal industry 69 percent, the copper industry 151 percent, the iron-nickel industry 102 percent, etc. The Mining industry will be expanded through raising work productivity in the existing mines and putting into operation new ones.

The workers of different branches of the mining industry are step by step and successfully fulfilling the tasks of the fourth five year period. During the year 1967 new plants for oil refining and extracting coke from petroleum bitumen were handed over for exploitation. In Central Albania a new big coal mine began producing while another is under construction. In Northern Albania, new copper and chrome reserves have been discovered. Meanwhile, Albanian specialists have drawn the geological map of the country, — a work of great value for the prospective development of the mining industry in Albania.

The development of this most important branch of the people's economy aims at relying on the inner resources in order to warrant the independence of the country and its unremitting development along socialist lines. The development of the mining industry plays a very great role in the development of the other branches of the people's economy. In the Fourth Five-year Plan the task is set to extend the front of the exploitation of natural resources including more and more new sources of useful minerals and of combustibles into the economic circulation and raising their value by processing them within the country. The accomplishment of this task through opening new mines and commissioning new processing plants, as was done in no other five-year period, makes it possible for our country to embark upon a new phase of industrialization, on the phase of the development of the heavy processing industry, which is of decisive importance for assuring the superiority of the production of the means of production within the framework of the entire industry. It is on the basis of raw materials made available by the extractive industry that the processing industry was born and is developing successfully.

In the early post-liberation years in Albania there was only one foundry for producing blister copper, whereas at present there are a number of copper processing plants for enriching, smelting, refining up to producing copper electric wires. Commissioning new plants has made it possible to process at home the whole bulk of the copper mined in Albania. We have now become exporters not only of blister copper, but also of cathodic copper and of high quality electric wires. Approximately 600 diverse assortments of electric wires will be produced at the Shkodra copper wires plant with the extension of the existing plants and the commissioning of new ones,

other by-products of processed copper will cope with the country's needs and will be exported to foreign markets.

Great prospects lie ahead for the iron-metallurgy. The erection of the Metal Rolling Plant in Elbasan constitutes the first step towards building this industry. During the fourth five-year period a plant for smelting iron and nickel ore will be constructed which will supply with its products the existing Metal Rolling Plant and will give a further impulse to the machine-making industry. During the same five-year period a foundry for refined ferrochrome will be constructed.

The great prospects for the development of metallurgy are based on the large mineral deposits discovered by the Albanian geologists, especially during these recent years. Thus, the reserves of important minerals even cover all the needs for raw materials not only for this but also for the coming five-year periods as well.

HOW HAS THE FUEL INDUSTRY IN ALBANIA DEVELOPED?

The fuel industry, and primarily that of petroleum, occupies an important place in the economy of Albania. Petroleum constitutes one of the principal natural resources of the country. Prior to the country's liberation, it was exploited by foreign capitalist companies, but with the establishment of People's Power, it became one of the principal sources for the growth of the economic potential, for the welfare of the people and for the defensive capacity of the country.

The People's Government invested large sums for the speedy and all-round development of the oil industry. After liberation the extractive industry did not confine itself to the petroleum fields of Kuçova (now Stalin

city) alone, but it developed further, to the petroleum fields of Patos, to the new petroleum field of Marinëza, etc. While before the war only one oil field was exploited in Albania, now oil and gas are pumped out of 9 oil fields. The successes attained in gas and oil research by our men particularly during the third five-year period, provided a solid and real basis for the rhythmic development of the oil industry not only in the present fourth five-year period but also in those to come. Prospecting for and extracting petroleum is carried out now on the basis of up-to-date technique, by scientific methods, what has considerably raised production. The output of the oil industry now is 41 times bigger than in the year 1938. Before liberation Albania used to produce only 104 kilograms of petroleum per capita of the population, whereas in the year 1965 she succeeded in producing 441 kilograms per capita (although the population of the country has nearly doubled).

It was only after liberation that the processing industry was created in Albania. In Cerrik and Stalin city were erected refineries producing benzine, gasoil, kerosene for tractors, lubricants, coke, bitumen of various sorts, etc. From importer of by-products of petroleum that she had been in the past Albania became their exporter. In Stalin city a plant for producing bituminous coke has also been erected to meet the needs of copper metallurgy. During the years of People' Power a modern mechanical basis for the oil industry has also been created, making not only medium capital remounts, but producing, in addition to spare parts, new equipments also for drilling and boring pits, for extracting and processing petroleum. At present in all the sectors of the oil industry there are employed workers, technicians and engineers with rich experience and with good technical and professional know-how.

The rapid development of the fuel industry in our country has been carried through in accordance with the policy pursued by our Party of Labor aiming at building an independent economy. This policy is intended at producing at home as wide a range of articles as possible to meet the needs of the socialist construction. With the objective of interrupting the process of socialist construction in Albania, the cliques of the Titoite and Khrushchovite revisionists attempted to sabotage our petroleum industry and to throttle its development. But this did not take place, because the Party of Labor of Albania persisted with her program of the socialist industrialization of the country and stuck to her policy of the development of the petroleum industry. The Albanian geologists discovered important oil fields and rich coal deposits, thus setting up new prospects for the development of the fuel industry.

The new tasks the Fourth Five-year Plan propounds for the rapid development of the entire people's economy make the problem of the growth of the production of combustibles one of the most important ones. The specific weight of the oil in the balance fuel consumption will increase. In 1970 the output of oil will grow up to 85 percent more than in 1965, as against 26 percent that has been the growth during the third five-year period; our refineries will process up to 120 percent more petroleum than in the last year of the third five-year period. Detecting and exploiting important sources of natural gas will make its output increase about five times. The coal production will grow 69 per cent. Vast coal mines are well underway of being put into operation in central Albania.

Strengthening the fuel basis demands for the intensification of geological research as provided for by the Fourth Five-year Plan. The technique which is now

being made use of by our oil industry permits drilling pits at more greater depths and a more rapid rate. Opening vertical shafts in our coal mines has enabled to exploit rich coal layers deep underground. A plant for enriching coal will be put into operation during the fourth five-year period.

People's Power in Albania considers the strengthening of the fuel basis, just as the ever bigger output of electric power, as a decisive factor for the development of the industry in particular and of the people's economy in general.

WHAT IS THE DECISION FOR THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY BY NOVEMBER 8, 1971 BASED ON?

In December 1967 the Party and the Government decided that the electrification of all the rural areas of the country should be completed by November 8, 1971 (the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania) — 14 years ahead of schedule. This historic decision is based on the rapid development of the electric industry during the years of People's Power.

Prior to the liberation, Albania was the most backward country in Europe in this domain. The installed capacity of all the power stations of Albania in 1939 was 3,340 kw, and the annual electric power output was 9,315,000 kwh. But even those few small power stations that existed at the time served mainly to illuminate in part the cities where they had been erected, while the electrification of rural areas could not even be spoken of.

The programme of socialist industrialization undertaken by People's Power could not even be thought of without the electrification of the country. For this reason it attached great importance to the development of this

branch of industry. In a very short period, the electric power industry in Albania was given a vigorous impulse. A number of hydro-and thermo-power-stations were constructed such as: the «V. I. Lenin» hydro-power plant near Tirana, the thermo-power stations in Tirana, Stalin city, Vlora, Cerrik, Maliq; the «Karl Marx» and «Frederic Engels» hydro-power plants on the Mati river, the hydro-power plants on the Bistrica river, and so on.

At the end of the third five-year period the electric power production in our country was 41 times bigger than in 1938, and the installed capacity per capita of the population was equal to the world average. In the year 1968 our power industry produced 80 times more power than before the war. Electrification is being made use of for the mechanization of labor, assisting directly in the improvement of the technology of production, bringing about a quantitative and qualitative rise in production, reducing the fuel consumption.

Of great success in the development of power sources in Albania is the establishment of a general power system. It was effected in 1957, when all important power stations and substations were linked among themselves by means of a network of high tension cables. The creation of the general power system in Albania increased the power supply, made the rational exploitation of hydro-and thermo-power stations possible and, as a consequence, lowered the production costs.

The socialist system has enabled the application of a series of important norms, which have made rate of development of the power industry more rapid. These norms are:

— developing power industry according to plan giving priority to this over the other sectors of people's economy;

— concentrating power production in some relatively

major power stations and doing away with power production in small non-rentable units.

- building power station using local fuel;
- exploiting hydro-power sources in an all-sided way;
- coordinating power stations in a single system.
- combining the construction of hydro-and thermo-power stations, which supplement each other and secure an uninterrupted supply, thus bringing about an undisputable benefit to the people's economy.

In the fourth five-year period (1966-1970) socialist industrialization in our country entered a new phase — the phase of the development of the heavy processing industry such as copper, iron and iron-chrome metallurgy, chemical industry, and so on. Under these conditions, the demands for a continuous and uninterrupted supply with electric power grows steadily. For that reason, a high rate of growth of electric power production has been foreseen. In 1970 power production will be 2,3 times higher than in 1965. New power plants have been or are being commissioned. In 1968 the huge Fieri thermo-power station with an installed capacity of approximately 100,000 kw will have begun functioning. Meanwhile, work has started at the first hydro-power station on the Drini river, at Vau i Dejës, in northern Albania. This is the biggest project of the present five year period. It will have an installed capacity of 250,000 kw and an average annual output of about one billion kwh. The Vau i Dejës hydro-power station has been projected entirely by Albanian specialists. Working like true revolutionaries the builders of this project have pledged themselves to commission their hydropower station by 1971, — two years ahead of schedule. In the fourth five-year period, industry, which already has succeeded in producing high quality electric wires for the internal

and external market, will also turn out electric bulbs, motors, transformers. A number of new workshops and enterprises are being erected for manufacturing electro-technical equipment and articles, which formerly used to be imported from abroad.

All these have made it possible for us to take such a courageous decision as that of electrifying all the rural areas of the country by November 1971. Within a period of four years 70% of the country's villages will be electrified, at the rate of two villages a day. The amount of power that the villages alone will consume each year will be almost 10 times higher than that produced in 1938.

To meet the needs of the electrification of our rural areas some 10,000 km of cables of various tensions, 1,600 transformer stations, some 160 substations of various capacities will be constructed.

Such a grand and humanitarian deed can be undertaken and achieved only by genuinely revolutionary people's government as our's is. Even states with much greater economic potential and industrial development have not undertaken any task of this kind.

WHAT PROSPECTS LIE AHEAD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MACHINE-MAKING INDUSTRY?

Before liberation the machine-making industry in Albania was confined only to a few primitive repair shops for motorcars. It was during the years of People's Rule that it made rapid progress. At present it is represented by 170 various machine shops and is capable of meeting more than 50% of the needs of our country for spare parts. At the same time, it produces simple machinery and equipments for all the sectors of economy. It can repair practically all the types of machines used in our country. In 1968, the volume of the production of this

branch of industry was 95 times bigger than in 1938 and 26 percent bigger than last year.

The Fourth Five-year Plan assigns to the machine-making industry the task of producing spare parts for agricultural machines, turning out about 80 percent of all the tractor spare parts and about 70 percent of the spare parts needed for the people's economy in general, as well as simple machinery and equipments for agriculture and the mechanization of labor processes in the various sectors.

Each year with the initiative of the workers, new assortments of spare parts are being produced which formerly used to be imported from abroad. Now spare parts of steel melted in electric furnaces are also being produced. There is a marked increase in spare parts for motorcars and tractors, which are now manufactured in two big plants specialized for this purpose.

Special attention is being paid to producing agricultural machinery in general, and tractor aggregates in particular. A great number of tractors will be outfitted with earth displacing rasps; there will be manufactured sufficient quantities to provide for the country's needs: pumps for sulphurating and sprinkling, irrigation centrifugal pumps, grain-threshers, corn shellers, hay-rakes, sorting, binding and sowing machines (the latter being also spreading fertilizers at roots), plows, harrows and cultivators, etc.

For the other sectors of people's economy the machine-making industry is turning out centrifugal ventilators, various conveyors, bandsaws and logs circular saws, feed-grinders, all sorts of cable-conveyors, Diesel-motors, hammers, kneading machines, wagons for mines, brick-factories and building construction, electric motors, transformers, many sorts of machines for the food-processing industry and the handicrafts, and so on.

In these recent years the projection and production of many lines, workshops, even of entire plants have been organized in the country.

Valuable initiatives have been taken by the workers also in the field of consumers' goods production. Actually our industry meets the needs of the country in almost all the sorts of kitchen zinc and tin utensils, electric and petroleum stoves and furnaces of which serial production has begun. A great number of diverse building materials are also being produced. Likewise, during recent years the production of metal-cutting instruments for the machine-making industry has started and is being extended. Meanwhile, the machine-making industry is becoming a solid support for the mechanization of labor and the increase of production in many other sectors.

Now the machine-making industry is faced with the task of concentrating on metal-cutting machines in order to strengthen the existing plants, of determining the profile, the speciality and the cooperation of these plants, of erecting new lines, workshops and plants, so as to pass gradually to the production of machinery.

During the years of the Fourth five-year period the machine-making industry will increase its output about twice in comparison with the past five-year period, and it will attain this end mainly through raising labor productivity, through establishing three work shifts and developing the cooperation between the machine-making plants and workshops on a large scale.

WHICH IS THE YOUNGEST BRANCH OF ALBANIAN INDUSTRY?

The youngest branch which, in the true sense of the word, has been created only in recent years, is the che-

mical industry. Formerly this branch could not even be spoken of. In the process of socialist industrialization the necessary cadres were trained and plants and small factories producing various chemical articles began to be erected. New enterprises for producing pharmaceutical and cosmetic articles, plastics and other chemicals were built. At the beginning, these enterprises used to import the raw material from abroad. Thus, for examples, the sulphuric acid for producing copper or iron sulphate used to be imported from abroad.

The nucleus of the chemical industry in Albania were local chemical enterprises meeting the needs of the industry only in part.

The development of many branches of industry, particularly of the light, glass, textiles and oil industries, etc. made the creation of a heavy chemical industry indispensable. Chemical industry became essential particularly on account of the needs of agriculture for chemical fertilizers, if the country was to pass over to an intensive agriculture.

Under these conditions, in the third five-year period the construction of three great plants of chemical industry such as the Fieri nitrate fertilizer plant, the Laç superphosphate fertilizer plant and the Vlora caustic and of calcined soda plant has begun. Although such plants were constructed for the first time in Albania they were built and mounted in record time.

Commissioning these plants, extending the existing chemical factories and building other works during the fourth five-year period will raise the role of the chemical industry in the development of the economy of Albania. The output of the chemical industry in these five years taken together will be 6,7 times what it was in the third five-year period. An up-to-date technology of pro-

duction and a high degree of automation and of mechanization is used at the new chemical plants.

In the Fieri nitrate fertilizers plant besides the ammonium nitrate which is its principal product, a series of other by-products will also be turned out such as, for example, nitric acid, oxygen, nitrate, etc., which will meet the needs of the country with these products. All these products were formerly imported from abroad.

For the first time in Albania sulphuric acid also will be produced in one of the factories of the Laç superphosphate plant. This product, which finds extensive use in many sectors of the industry, such as in the petroleum, textile and leather industries will be turned out entirely at home.

Up to now the copper sulphate has been produced by antiquated methods and what was still worse, with imported sulphuric acid. Now a new copper sulphate factory will be erected which will use exclusively the raw materials of the country.

The commissioning of the Vlora soda plant is another great step in the development of chemical industry in Albania. The calcined and caustic soda are now produced at home and a quantity of the produce is even exported abroad.

The sound foundation has now been laid in Albania for the further development of the chemical industry, which, with the existing plants, and their extension, and the erection of new ones, will solve the problem of the chemicals needed for the industry. In 1968 the output of the chemical industry is to be 53 times what it was the past year.

WHAT BASIS DOES THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD-PROCESSING AND LIGHT INDUSTRY RELY ON?

The highest aim of the People's Power, — the continual rise of the welfare of the working masses — is reflected also in the development of the food-processing and light industries at a rapid rate.

Albania has very favorable natural conditions for the development of the food-processing industry. A whole range of agricultural crops can be raised, animal husbandry and fishing can be developed. Nevertheless, during the rule of the feudals and the bourgeoisie with their backward economy, a modern food-processing industry could not even be spoken of. Only a few repair workshops and small oil presses, flour mills and cigarette factories existed at the time.

After the liberation of the country, with the rapid development of heavy industry, People's Power devoted special attention to the growth and modernization of the food-processing industry. At the same time the new works of the food-processing industry were built in all districts of the Republic. There were built sugar mills, fruit, vegetable, meat and fish canneries, vineries, hard and soft drink distilleries, plants specialized in producing fruit juice and essences and childrens' food, etc. Today in Albania there is no district without plants of the food-processing industry. All of them have been erected within reach of raw materials. Among others are to be mentioned the «Ali Kelmendi» food-processing combine in Tirana — one of the biggest plants of our food-processing industry, renowned for its multifarious productions, and a meat-combine, the tobacco fermentation and cigarettes factories in the tobacco growing regions of Gjirokastra, Shkodra, Elbasan, Durrës. To demonstrate what great development has been achieved

by the Albania food-processing industry in these 24 years, it suffices to mention the fact that its whole production volume in 1938 is realized in only 9 days in 1968. Now this industry branch produces 37 times as much as before the war. The Albanian food-processing industry provides the market with multifarious articles of increasingly better quality. Its products are appreciated a lot in the internal and external markets. The People's Republic of Albania has become an exporting country of all the sorts of canned food, of wines, cognac, of dry and fresh fruits, and has largely extended her traditional export articles, such as tobacco and cigarettes. In order to respond to the demands of foreign markets for our alimentary products, a special export enterprise — the «Agroexport» — has been founded in our capital city. It exports fresh and processed agricultural and dairy products to tens of countries of Europe, of Asia, to Arab countries, and even to the American continent. The products of the Albanian food-processing industry attracted attention in International Fairs as well.

Great prospects are opened to this branch in this five-year period. It is anticipated that by 1970 the food-processing industry will raise its production by 24 per cent. New flourmills, macaroni factories, dairies, wineries, oil presses and potato meal plants will be added; during this five-year period honey processing will be industrialized, and so on. Meanwhile, the existing factories will be extended by adding new production workshops.

The speedy development of this industry, alongside with the very rapid development of food grain production, of industrial crops, of fruticulture and of horticulture, will supply the population with more and more varieties of food-stuffs and will increase the gamma of Albanian export items.

The Albanian light industry plays an important role in treating home produced raw materials, in supplying and increasing the gama of our export items. From the stage of handicrafts in which it was before the war, it has now turned into a highly developed industry with modern factories and combines, capable to meet the overwhelming part of the needs for home consumption and to produce more and more articles for export. Among the new branches of light industry created in the process of industrialization are the textile, knitting garment making, shoe, glass, porcelain, rubber and plastic materials industries.

During the year 1968 the light industry will produce nearly 45 times as much as in the year 1938, or 22 percent more than last year.

Great progress has been achieved especially by the textile industry. In the year 1938 the small textile enterprises produced altogether 358 thousand metres of fabrics, that is to say 30 centimetres per capita of the population, whereas today 65 times more is produced per capita of the population, in spite of the fact that the population has doubled within these 30 years. In the years of the People's Power such great combines have been built as the «Stalin» Textile Mills in Tirana, the «Sickle and Hammer» knitting combine in Korça, the «Mao Tse-tung» Textile Mills in Berat, etc.

In the year 1970, in comparison with the year 1965, the main productions of the textile and knitting industries will grow as follow: cotton textiles 150 per cent, knitting 163 percent, sewing-threads 8 times more, and so on.

In the year 1970, for each inhabitant of Albania there will be 19.5 linear meters of cotton fabrics from

15 linear metres of cotton fabrics which were given him in 1965.

By putting into operation the Berat «Mao Tse-tung» Textile Mills, one of the most up-to-date plants of its kind, the Albanian textile industry began to produce new assortments of high quality textiles which previously used to be imported. In this five-year period a factory to turn out sewing and embroidery yarn will be erected at the Knitting Combine in Korça, which will meet all the needs of the country.

In the «Stalin» Mills the existing worsted factory will be expanded in order to produce cloths of finer texture.

In the future the experiments will be extended for the employment of synthetic fibers mixed with cotton and wool, in order to produce new textile and knitting assortments. New fabrics of dyed thread will greatly enrich the gamma of cotton textiles.

From an importing country of textiles of all sorts, Albania has turned into an exporting one.

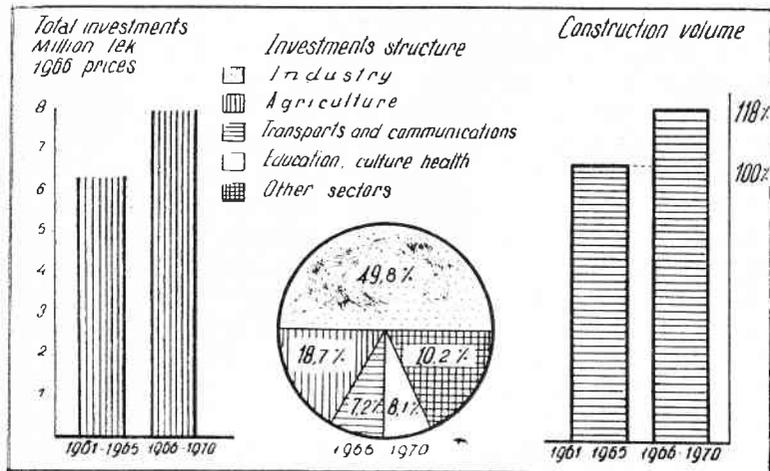
WHAT CONSTRUCTIONS ARE PUT UP IN ALBANIA, AND WHOM DO THEY SERVE?

«Albania is a great construction site» — this is how numerous foreigners, who have had the opportunity to visit her in the post-liberation years, have depicted our country.

Albania is one of the countries which has incurred greater losses during World War 2, not only in human lives, but also in material and cultural values: 21 per cent of peasants' homes were burned down or destroyed, bridges, factories, workshops, mines, ports and many roads were blown up or badly damaged. Through self-

less efforts our builders, aided also by the population, rebuilt the demolished towns and villages, put into operation most of the mines, restored the principal ports of the country and did other work of economic character in record time within the year 1946.

INVESTMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIONS



Immediately after liberation, big State construction enterprises were created in various districts of the country. The great army of builders have given to their home country plants worthy of the socialist epoch, have incarnated in them their capabilities, talents and their revolutionary spirit.

In socialist Albania, constructions have promoted national interests of the present and of the future. Hundreds of industrial plants built in various districts of the Republic have brought about a very rapid development in the mining industry, — for extracting and

treating minerals, in the electrical, machine-making and construction materials industries; they have laid the foundations of the chemical fertilizers industry, of the modern textile, sugar, canning, glass and porcelain, rubber, plastic materials industries. In agriculture, the area of cultivated and irrigable lands increased very much as a result of the drainage of big swamps and of the construction of irrigation canals and reservoirs, which work is now being carried out also in the remote highland regions. In the meantime, our builders have put up and continue to put up new dwelling houses, schools, culture homes, hospitals, creches and kindergartens in all the districts of the country, they have opened roads in the remote mountain regions.

As to the proportion in which the constructions have grown in our country it suffices to mention the fact that, in order to achieve the volume of constructions which has been effected in Albania during the last two decades of People's Power, five centuries would have been required by the feudal-bourgeois regime, in case it would have proceeded at the rate of the year 1938. The volume of constructions realized in one year in the period of feudal bourgeois rule is now accomplished in less than one week. During the third five-year period (1961-1965) alone, Albanian builders have set up more than 430 industrial, agricultural and social-cultural plants. The implementation of the construction plan at the ratio of 104 percent, or 67 percent higher than in the second five-year period, is a great success achieved under the conditions of the twofold, imperialist and revisionist, blockade. In order to sabotage the construction of socialism in Albania, the Khrushchovite revisionists annulled arbitrarily all the agreements to accord economic assistance and credits, they withdrew their specialists, trampled underfoot all the contracts concluded with

the Albanian Government. However, their blockade failed with shame in front of the revolutionary resoluteness at work of the Albanian laborers, technicians and engineers. In the field of new industrial projects, the Albanian workers accomplished in nearly two years and a half what should have been achieved in five years, because the new projects, instead of starting to be built at the beginning, started towards the third year of the five-year period, since time was required to design and to provide equipment for them. Through the labor of our construction workers, a high rate of construction was attained. In this manner, the «Mao Tse-tung» Textile Mills in Berat was built twice as fast as the «Stalin» Textile Mills in Tirana, the Nitrate Fertilizers Plant in Fieri was built in less than two years, which is a record time for our conditions.

The «Fredrich Engels» Hydro-Power plant in the North and two others on the Bistrica river, in the South, the Copper Metallurgy Plant in Kukës, a series of works of the other branches of our economy, the spacious Palace of Culture in the capital city and many social-cultural works were built by our own efforts.

Endowed with a rich experience the Albanian construction workers began the battle for the realization of the Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970) with revolutionary resoluteness and optimism, in order to embellish and strengthen our socialist Fatherland by new works. The number of important economic, educational-cultural and social projects, which will be built in this five-year period is about 50 per cent higher than the number of those constructed in the third five-year period. The two principal branches of economy, industry and agriculture — will take up more than two thirds of our total investments. A big leap forward, unprecedented in other five-year periods, will be made for the construction of

new mines and plants, the production and refining of petroleum and of useful minerals will mark a sharp rise, 57 new principal mines and plants will be built while work will start on many others to be completed in the next five-year period.

Led by the principle of self-reliance, the Albanian designers have projected and are projecting important plants for the economic and cultural development of the country. Everywhere a close cooperation of the engineers and technicians with the workers is being realized in order to build faster, cheaper and better. A modern industry of construction and prefabricated materials has been put up for the use of constructors, whereas the country's schools are continually training medium and high grade cadre contingents for the construction sites.

HOW IS THE HOUSING PROBLEM BEING SOLVED IN OUR COUNTRY?

In the past, the housing situation in our country was appalling. In cities mainly ground-floor houses without any accommodations predominated, whereas in villages people dwelt in straw thatched huts. This situation deteriorated still more on account of the war devastations. The nazi and fascist invaders burnt down and demolished 62,475 houses in villages and cities.

After liberation the working masses, gripped by the revolutionary drive, began to heal the war wounds through voluntary work. The housing problem then stood in the center of attention. During the first five years of the post-war period alone all the demolished houses were rebuilt and 1,100 new apartments were constructed.

In the course of the five-year periods the rate of construction of dwelling houses was greatly accelerated.

In the principal cities great blocks of apartments for workers' families were constructed, and the dwelling places near great mineral and industrial centers have assumed the aspect of small beautiful towns. During the years of People's Power the State built so many dwelling houses that would have been enough to house more than half of the population the country had prior to the war. The building of houses in villages by the cooperative peasants themselves with their own incomes and helped by the State credits has assumed great proportions. During the three five-year periods (from 1951 up to 1965) alone some 75,000 new houses have been built in rural areas. Today more than half of our peasant families dwell in new houses.

In order to make the construction of dwelling houses more rapid, People's Power has helped the workers to build their houses through long term credits at no interest rate whatsoever. During the past five-year periods alone, 30,000 new houses have been built by the citizens themselves.

As a result of the great number of modern buildings, our cities and villages have thoroughly changed their aspect, they have expanded and are embellished and modernized. The buildings in cities as well as in villages have been set up on the basis of a carefully studied planimetry with the aim of providing the best possible living conditions for the workers.

However, despite the acceleration of the rate of construction of dwellings, the housing question, as a result of the rapid growth of our population, still remains an urgent problem for our country. This problem cannot be settled by usual means, — the more so when in the country great investments are being made for the construction of factories, plants and hydro-power stations, for the opening of mines, for the drainage of

swamps and for the construction of a network of irrigation canals. Under these conditions, the housing problem can be solved in a revolutionary way. By summing up the experience won in the elimination of the war devastations in the first years of the post-liberation period and, particularly, the experience of the mass action for overcoming the consequences of the earthquake of November 30, 1967, when 6,048 buildings were built or repaired within 29 days, by voluntary work, the Party and State Authority have made of this problem a concern of the masses. Alongside with the constructions which the State will accomplish in this field, the population itself, will build dwelling houses in excess of the plan by voluntary work. For this purpose, in city quarters and in work centers staffs have been set up to organize the mass voluntary work, to decide on the projects, on the site of constructions and to take steps for securing the necessary materials and implements of work. The campaign has embraced wide masses throughout the country for the solution of this problem as soon as possible. The workers of the city of Tirana alone have pledged to build in the course of this year 800 apartments in excess of the planned targets.

This revolutionary way of acting will undoubtedly lead to the speedy solution of the housing problem. Already in the first months of 1968 many new apartment houses have been built and workers' families will be settled in them.

Such a revolutionary mass action is possible only in a socialist country like Albania where the principle «one for all, all for one» has replaced the bourgeois precept «a man is a wolf to man». The participation of broad masses in this action demonstrates that the housing problem is being solved in the correct way that is to the advantage of workers.

The dwelling houses, which are State property, are rented to workers without any distinction and discrimination. They are allotted by the People's Councils of city quarters elected by the people. The dwelling space is allotted on the basis of a set norm, according to the persons each family has.

The rent of dwelling houses in Albania is symbolic, amongst the lowest, not to say the lowest, in the world. It takes up only about 3 per cent of the average income of the worker.

Persons who own their houses as personal property can lease them out to others. However, in these cases also, the rent does not exceed the set State norms. In this manner, the way to all sorts of speculations in the housing fund is blocked.

HOW HAS THE VOLUME OF INVESTMENTS GROWN IN THE YEARS OF PEOPLE'S POWER AND IN WHAT MANNER DO THEY INFLUENCE IN STRENGTHENING THE MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL BASIS OF OUR PEOPLE'S ECONOMY?

The investments which the Albanian State makes today for economic and cultural development are incomparable with those made during the time of feudal and bourgeois domination. It has been calculated that it would have taken the former regimes 1480 years to equal the volume of capital investments of our four five-year periods (covering the period from 1951 to 1970) or it would have taken them 74 years to equal the amount of investments made now in Albania in one year.

Here is a significant example to illustrate what is said above. In the period of Zog's regime, for demagogic ends, a group of foreign specialists was invited, who, after due consideration arrived at the conclusion that

to construct a hydro-power plant at Vau Dejës the whole budget of the Ministry of Public Works of that period would have to be invested for about 1500 years in succession. Whereas today our socialist state is building this magnificent project in 5 years, at the same time when hundreds of other works are being set up.

During the years of People's Power the investments have steadily increased from one five-year period to another and from one year to another. Thus, in the third five-year period as against the second five-year period the investments were 43 percent higher, and in the Fourth Five-year Plan as against the Third Five-year Plan the investments are foreseen to augment by nearly 34 percent. If Albania today realizes an industrial production 44 times greater and an agricultural production thrice that of the preliberation period, this is due, to a great extent, to the large investments which People's Power has made for the development of productive sectors. With the objective to create a strong and stable economy our state allots more than two thirds of the total investments for the development of the two principal branches of economy — industry and agriculture. Alongside with that, the State allots considerable investments also to other sectors which have to do with the wellbeing of the working masses.

In the People's Republic of Albania capital investments are concentrated in the hands of the State. This assures their centralized financing and stimulates the proportional, consistent and rapid development of economy and culture.

The Party of Labor of Albania adheres persistently to the correct revolutionary course of the construction of socialism by relying on the country's own forces. This is expressed clearly in the field of investments, too. The overwhelming majority of the necessary means for ca-

pital investments and constructions are assured from internal sources.

The new State order, created in our country through the establishment of People's Power, has discovered and developed new sources of internal accumulation. The establishment of the social ownership on the main means of production, the concentration of the financial system in the hands of the State, the elimination of exploiting classes and, together with them, of their parasitical expenditures, the establishment of a strict regime of economy, side by side with the continual endeavours of the working masses to increase the material goods, all these have made it possible for the national income to grow rapidly. At the end of the third five-year period, in 1965, it was 5,4 times greater than before the war, while in 1970, it is estimated to be 50 percent greater than in 1965.

The establishment of most correct ratios in the distribution of the national income for the accumulation and consumption funds, and its most effective employment, has been and is the object of a continuous and special concern of the Party of Labor in its economic policy. Taking into account the circumstances under which our country is constructing socialism it has been planned to use 28.2 per cent of the national income for accumulation and 71.8 per cent for social and personal consumption during the current five-year period. «With a view that accumulation should serve, in the first place, for creating a strong and stable economy», — Comrade Enver Hoxha said at the 5th Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania — «the orientation of the Party has been and actually is to give priority to investments in the productive sectors». In line with this directive, it is planned to use 80 per cent of the whole volume of investments for productive and 20 per cent for unproductive sectors.

In order to attain the objectives of the Fourth Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule the investments and constructions effected by the Albanian State, together with the revolutionary work the urban and rural working masses are bringing in their train a speedy strengthening of our economy accelerating the complete construction of the material and technical basis of socialism, changing the country from an agrarian-industrial to an industrial-agrarian one and raising the welfare of the people at a rapid rate.

WHAT ARE THE HANDICRAFTS COOPERATIVES?

Handicrafts in Albania have been developing ever since ancient times. Before liberation the penetration of foreign capital into our country blocked the way to the further development of Albanian handicrafts. It is only after liberation and the establishment of People's Power, that favourable conditions were created for their development through cooperation. The establishment of handicrafts cooperatives responded in full measure to the interests of craftsmen and of producers in general. The first handicrafts cooperatives came to being on a small scale in 1946. Now all our craftsmen have joined in cooperatives. The handicrafts cooperatives at present have become an important sector of service and repair for the people.

As against the capitalist system of economy, where the large scale development of industry brings ruin and differentiation to the small scale producers of goods, in the socialist system, the craftsmen, united in handicrafts cooperatives, as the most suitable form, combine their personal with social interests. Propitious conditions are created to them for the development of their talents, for increasing production, for reviving and further develop-

ping crafts and activities, some of which were disappearing before liberation on account of the interference of foreign capital.

As in all the other sectors of economy, so in the handicrafts cooperatives considerable investments have been made for building new workshops. The craftsmen, who once had worked in small, antiquated and dark shops, by most backward implements of work producing insignificant results, being at present united voluntarily in cooperatives, work in favourable conditions and have all the possibilities and means for an all-round development of their capacities.

The handicrafts cooperatives have their social insurances and enjoy all the rights guaranteed by law, the same as the other workers of state enterprises.

United in cooperatives, the craftsmen of our country have been imbued with the spirit of collectivity, with a new attitude towards work and towards common property, with a new socialist sense of duty stripped of all remnants of the past.

A number of new centers of production have been set as a result of the development and consolidation of these cooperatives. These include those that turn out glassware, wickerworks, rugs and carpets. A marked revival has been brought about in embroidery, jewelry, pottery and in sectors that turn out such articles of art as silk products, furs, tobacco pipes, pyrographics and silver filigree work.

Now the Handicrafts Cooperatives have established over ten main branches of activity like those of wood-working, pottery making, turning out construction materials, ready-made garments, textiles, leather and rubber goods, and others, carrying on their activity in all the districts of the Republic and, thus, coming to the aid of the rural and urban workers.

Handicraft Cooperatives have achieved good results in increasing the volume of production and of repair services. Thus, by the end of the second five-year period, in 1960, excluding 18 factories which have been turned over to the State, they have raised their production nearly 15 times what it used to be in 1938, whereas, by the end of the third five-year period, in 1965, it rose 32% above that of 1960.

Special attention is attached to the sector of repair services so that the rural and urban laboring masses may be served better, quicker and cheaper. Today about 40% of the workers of the Cooperatives are engaged in repair services.

For some years now the Albanian Handicrafts Cooperatives have been turning out products for export as, for instance, finished velveteen garments, rugs and carpets, briar pipes, furs and belts, and others. These products have been highly valued at a number of international fairs.

In the Fourth Five-year Plan it is envisaged that the volume of industrial products of the handicrafts cooperatives in 1970 will increase 46 per cent above that of 1965, with an average yearly increase of 9 per cent. Products in sheet metal will increase 110 per cent. The cooperatives which produce work tools will increase their products 161 per cent, thus helping the State industry to meet the needs of agriculture with work tools and equipments of various kinds.

During the fourth five-year period special attention will be devoted to the production of art products of national motifs. The volume of these products in 1970 is envisaged to increase six times above those of 1965. Products destined for export will mark a 72 per cent increase.

Steps are now being taken in handicrafts cooperatives

to further mechanize the process of work, to raise the qualification level of workers, to raise the output of work and to lower costs of production as well as to improve the quality and structure of products. Articles for export will at the same time increase.

The Albanian Handicrafts Cooperatives have exhibited their products in many international fairs like those of Bari, Paris, Viena, Izmir, and so on. In these fairs the products of Albanian handicraft, particularly, the carpets, the rugs of the «Kavaja» brand, pipes, art products which portray the culture and art of the Albanian people and many other products have been well received.

THE POSITION AND ROLE OF THE MASSES IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION

**WHO RUN OUR INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES AND WHAT
RELATIONS EXIST BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND THE
MANAGING CADRES?**

Our industrial enterprises are the property of all our people and they are run by the class in power, that is, by the working class. The latter run the whole of our people's economy through its representatives in the Government.

The managers of enterprises are appointed by the Government organs concerned and they are responsible to these organs for the organization of production and the output of work. In their work they are assisted by the Party grass-root organizations, by the trade union organizations as well as by the workers' collectives as a whole. The manager of the enterprise, the Party and trade union organizations run the enterprise and production in compliance with the directives of the plan and of collective contracts.

The managers of enterprises are sons and daughters of workers and peasants, many of whom fought arm in hand to drive away the fascists, who did their utmost to establish the people's regime, loyal to the last to the cause of the people and of the Party. Cases are not rare when simple workers who have taken part in building industrial projects and who have distinguished themselves in work have been promoted to managerial posts. Most of the leading cadres of our economy have received their training in the process of socialist construction.

Many of the managers of enterprises have been trained in our higher institutes of learning. These sons of workers and peasants are as much devoted to the cause of socialism as their parents. Our younger generation, educated and tempered by our Party of Labor, will carry further ahead the torch of revolution and socialist construction in our country.

The managers of our enterprises run production on the basis of the principles of democratic centralization which combines a right centralized leadership with the maximum creative activity of the laboring masses who take direct part in producing material goods.

The managers of our enterprises are not their owners. They have no claim on production and profits which the enterprise realizes. The latter belong to all the people. The managers' task consists in seeing to it that this property entrusted to them on behalf of the people is handled with care and to the interest of the socialist construction of the country.

The establishment of collective ownership on the means of production rules out any possibility of man exploiting man. The new relations between the workers and managers of enterprises are based on this same principle. Both workers and managers of enterprises are persons of the same class. There exist no antagonistic contradictions between them. On the contrary, their interests — the organization and further development of production which lead to socialist construction and uplift of general welfare — fully coincide. The workers' collectives in our socialist enterprises embody the closest cooperation between the workers and managers of our enterprises. The workers' collective of every enterprise takes up for discussion and sets the planned tasks on the basis of which the manager organizes and guides production. The managers of our enterprises are assisted by the workers

in fulfilling their obligations both through their selfless work in accomplishing the tasks of the State plan as well as through consultations and exchange of experience in solving complicated problems. The leading cadres, the engineering and technician personnel and the workers learn from one another combining in this way science with practical experience in production in as close a way as possible. This close collaboration and mutual assistance have given rise to a number of inventions and rationalizations and have deepened our technical and scientific revolution.

With a view to consolidating the relations between the leading cadres and workers and to warding off any danger of bureaucratization of the former, our leading cadres in all our enterprises do no less than a month's practical work in production each year. This initiative taken by them is of major political significance for it helps narrowing down the distinction between manual and mental labor, it helps the leading cadres to get better acquainted with the problems of construction, to get in closer contact with the workers, know their needs and problems, teaching them to appreciate and not look down upon productive work, removing from their consciousness all manifestations of bureaucratism and technocratism, tempering them physically and rendering them capable of taking up any job. Of major importance in this respect is also the circulation of cadres, assigning leading cadres who have long been doing office work to work of production and promoting persons of the grass-roots to posts of leadership.

All these go to prove that, contrary to the situation existing in capitalist countries, there exist among us no barriers between the workers and leading cadres of our enterprises; on the contrary, there have been established relations of active collaboration and mutual assistance

between them. Through their own organizations and, especially, through the Party and trade union organizations, the workers' collectives control the activity of the managers of our enterprises through their meetings and workers' supervision. The workers call to account the leading cadres for their shortcomings and mistakes and, if the latter persist in them and show no signs of improvement, they dismiss them from the posts that they hold.

Relations between the leading cadres and the laboring masses in our country are the best substantiation of the principle of democratic centralization.

HOW HAS THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE WAGES OF WORKERS AND THE SALARIES OF THE LEADING CADRES BEEN REDUCED IN ALBANIA?

Correct relations between our workers and leading cadres are portrayed also in our system of payments. There is no pronounced disparity in this domain in our country. The ratio between the average and lower pay, on one hand, and the higher pay, on the other, is among the lower if not the lowest in the world.

Our Party of Labor and Government have time and again taken steps to adjust the ratio between lower, medium and higher pay. In solving this problem they adopted the method of lowering the salaries of high ranking functionaries beginning with those of the State and Party leaders without affecting those of the medium and lower salaries and wages. This problem was not brought up on economic grounds, for economic motives. This is a matter of political and ideological importance. Disparity in pay detach leading cadres and intellectuals from the masses; they stimulate officialdom and create

a spirit of contempt for work in production giving rise to tendencies of comfort and ease and placing personal above common interests, paving the way to bourgeois and revisionist degeneration among our cadres.

By raising the problem of doing away with anomalies in the system of payment, our Party of Labor and our Government do not intend to bring about the tendency of equalization, of not taking into account the relation between simple jobs and the jobs of managing, between unqualified and qualified work. On the contrary, they are guided by the Marxist-Leninist principle of not allowing perceptible differentiation, of remunerating every one according to the work he or she does and this remuneration to be in just ratios to the average conditions of living of our workers. Our country's conditions demand that every worker be imbued with the sense of simplicity, having for his main objective in life and work not his personal comfort and ease but the ideal of socialism, the struggle to build the country, the joy of creating something, of the continuous uplift of the standard of living of the people as a whole.

Eversince 1966 and onward measures have been taken twice to cut down the higher salaries without affecting the medium and lower ones, bringing down to the lowest point the disparity which existed in this regard. Steps were taken at the same time to effect a rise in the lower salaries of certain categories, a rise in low pensions, fixing a maximum limit to pensions, lifting all taxes on salaries up to 680 leks a month and so on.

These steps met the unanimous approval of the people as a whole. The workers themselves, realizing the political significance of doing away with privileges in payment, gave up of their own free will many supplementary remunerations and incomes above their salaries. The importance of such an initiative is a major

one, above all, in the communist education of men, in educating them in the spirit of giving priority to the policy and ideology of the Party, in the spirit of collectivism, liquidating all manifestations of individualism which is alien to our socialist society and which promotes the bourgeois and revisionist degeneration of individuals. These initiatives reflect the correct understanding of the relations between common and individual interests, giving priority to the former. It is in this process that the role of moral stimuli assumes a growing importance in socialist society as a major means of the conscious mobilization of our workers for productive work.

ON WHAT BASIS IS THE PAY OF WORKERS FIXED IN ALBANIA?

Exploitation of man by man has been abolished in Albania as a result of the establishment of public ownership on the means of production. The products of social efforts as well as the means of production are in the hands of all. Part of the income resulting from this production is used as accumulation for expanding production whereas the other part is distributed to the members of society for personal use in the form of remuneration of work on socialist principles, «from each according to his ability and to each according to the work he turns out», as well as for State, social and cultural expenses from which all the population benefits.

The way of calculating the pay for workers or employees for various categories of work done is left to the competence of the Government which, in fixing the amount of money to be paid, does not take into account only the kind and category of work, the quantity and

quality of the work done but also the difference existing between hard and light work, between specialized and simple jobs as well as the importance of the job. The projects at which the workers and employees work are not of the same category both as regards their importance as well as the processes of carrying them out. Since harder jobs are more toilsome, labor legislation envisages larger remuneration for workers engaged in these jobs than for workers engaged in lighter jobs so that they may be able to meet their needs and regain the extra energy they have put into the work. Processes of hard work are considered the jobs of miners, the work of loading and unloading, the work of dyers who use lead paints, divers in water, glass smelters, roentgen operators, and others. But with the steady perfecting of the means of production, conditions are being created in our country not only to raise work output, to improve the quality of products but also to do away, to a certain extent, with the difference between hard and light jobs.

The worker or employee is not remunerated only for the work he accomplishes during his work time, that is, during the 8-hour time limit, but also for the work he does outside this normal work day, receiving, in each case, a cash payment equal to 25% of his normal wage or salary. In certain cases, when a worker or employee, for one reason or another, works on some other job for a certain period of time, he receives his wages or salary from the enterprise, institution or organization to which he is assigned definitely. A worker or employee is entitled to his wages or salary from his center of employment even when he or she is temporarily absent from there, when he attends the meetings of the National Assembly or the People's Councils in his capacity as a representative of the people, when he or she fills the function of an assistant judge, is called as a witness or

expert by the Court of Justice or the organs of investigation, when he or she takes part as a delegate at congresses, conferences or forums. These have taken the form of law so that our workers may participate in the political and social life of the country on as broad a scale as possible without incurring any material loss for carrying out the tasks assigned to them.

Great importance is attached in our country to the all-round training of our workers so that they may be prepared at any moment to protect our socialist country; the worker or employee is paid for the time he or she is absent from work because of being called to serve his term as a reservist receiving three-fourths of his or her salary for the time he or she has been absent from work.

In cases when a worker or employee does not work for reasons of interruption of production, for which he is not to blame, the enterprise, institution or organization is obliged to pay 50% of the wage or salary unless the enterprise, institution or organization assigns him or her to another job in accordance with the stipulations of the law in power.

The law attaches special consideration to persons who are appointed to a job for the first time, to those who are sent on a mission, who are transferred or appointed to a job in another place. These persons, in addition to the pay for work done, are entitled to travelling expenses, lodging, food as well as to other expenses as for instance, freight charges for his personal belongings, up to a fixed limit, for the members of his or her family in case of being transferred, appointed or elected to a post in another place. If a worker or employee is unjustly left without a job because of having severed his relations with his work center at an enterprise, institution or organization, he or she is entitled to a remuneration not exceeding his or her monthly salary.

The pay or any other remuneration which a worker or employee receives from the enterprise, institution or organization is the result of the efforts and sweat he or she has put into the work assigned to him or to her. Consequently, the pay or any other remuneration which accrues to him or her for work done is inviolable.

Through its norms which fix the amount of remuneration for a worker or employee, labor legislation in the People's Republic of Albania aims, on one hand, at creating real guarantees for remuneration of workers who are employed at work and, on the other, at conducting an organized campaign against petty bourgeois tendencies to extort from society as much as possible and to give to it as little as possible, against idleness and loafing, against every kind of formalism and officialdom which hampers the advance society.

HOW HAS UNEMPLOYMENT BEEN SWEEPED OUT IN ALBANIA?

The number of workers keeps growing in the People's Republic of Albania as a result of the rapid development of economy and culture on socialist lines. Thus, for instance, by 1968 the plan targets foresee an increase of nineteen thousand workers employed by the State as against 1965. This increase alone is almost equal to the total number of workers Albania used to have before liberation, at the time when the feudal bourgeoisie held sway, while the total number of workers Albania boasts of today is twenty-two times what it used to be then. Formerly, about 50% of Albanian workers suffered from unemployment. The right to work is the most important social and economic prerogative which has been guaranteed to Albanian workers with the establishment of People's Rule. This is bound closely to the

very nature of the socialist order of things. The laboring masses in our country are not only masters of political power but of the main means and implements of production as well. Besides, there are no exploiting classes in our country to develop production with a view to providing as much profits for themselves as possible and to turning the labor force into a commodity. The workers in our country enjoy the products of their efforts themselves. In socialism there is neither crisis nor chaos in production which in capitalist countries result in closing down enterprises and in turning out hundreds and thousands of workers to the crossroads. Socialist economy develops according to plan, in an uninterrupted, harmonious way conformable to national interests, to the interests of the laboring masses. A development of this kind does not only open up opportunities for work for all able-bodied persons but copes also with the natural increase of population.

The constant rise of work output brought about by the adoption of up-to-date technique and efficient organization of work, sets part of the working force of some enterprises free, but these forces can always be used at work fronts in the new projects which the People's Power sets up.

Planned development of economy and culture enables the State to provide jobs for all able-bodied workers according to their profession. It is in the process of expanded socialist reproduction that the harmonious proportion is established between the increase of the working force and the needs of the economy of the country which is continually on the rise.

Deep social and economic transformations have also occurred on the Albanian countryside. With the collectivization of agriculture there were established socialist relations in production, relations of collaboration and

mutual assistance and agricultural production reached an all-round development to the benefit of society. «Hushed up agrarian unemployment» which used to be a big social sore in our country before the establishment of People's Rule, disappeared once for all time. The time when Albanian workers and farmers migrated to various countries of the world in search of jobs which they could not find in their own country, has now become a bitter memory of the past.

Socialist construction is also associated with the disappearance of the pronounced disparity in the development of the different districts of the country. This is of importance, among others, also for providing work for all the able-bodied workers of every district. Every district of our Republic boasts now of its own economic State and cooperative enterprise, of its own building work-yards, its social and cultural institutions. In a tiny country like Albania over 1,000 buildings have been set up for the sectors of economy and culture during the last two decades of People's Rule. A major role in abolishing unemployment has been played by the policy of the complete emancipation of women. No distinction is now made between man and woman, no discrimination of race or nationality of workers is now practiced when it comes to assigning people to work. The position of each worker in our society is determined by the contribution he or she renders to useful social work. Enjoying complete equality, the Albanian women take part on a large scale in the economic and social life of the country. Now, more than 42% of the total number of workers is made up of women.

In addition to the economic guarantees, which serve as a material basis for the citizens to exercise their right for employment, of major importance are, at the same time, the legal guarantees which the State has

enacted in order to ensure the right to employment to the citizens and to protect them from any infringement of their rights. These guarantees are embodied in the regulations to give work to citizens, in the juridic regulations of cases when a worker may be transferred or dismissed from his job, in the legislative acts governing the organization of training, qualifying, distributing etc workers.

Every citizen of the People's Republic of Albania is entitled to take a job at any enterprise, institution or organization, to be appointed or elected to any function, etc. Refusal to admit people for work on the part of enterprises, institutions or organizations is considered as a violation of labor legislation.

Work contracts are the main organizational form of implementing the right to work in the People's Republic of Albania.

Work contracts are freely entered into by the worker or employee and the enterprise, institution or organization through which the worker or employee assumes the obligation of carrying out given job at a given post according to his or her profession and the enterprise, institution or organization assumes the obligation of remunerating him or her and of guaranteeing the necessary conditions of work.

Jobs are given to all persons who have reached the age prescribed by labor legislation. According to the Labor Code the age required for admittance to a job is not less than 15 years. Any work contract entered into with a person who has not reached the age required by law is contrary to law and as such is null and void.

But in spite of the fact that our labor legislation has stipulated that a person wishing to take up a job should have reached the age of 15, it has nevertheless

put a number of limitations for assignments to jobs which by their very nature are hard or injurious to the health to teen-agers. Thus, it is forbidden to persons under 18 years of age to enter into work contract in such sectors of work as mining, oil, acid, gas refining; etc, as well in municipal services such as cleaning or repairing canals, digging and removing earth under water, working with electric currents above 500 voltages; in loading and unloading, and the like.

In addition, those persons who have completed their age of 18, if they want to take up work at certain sectors must present medical reports stating that their health conditions are such as to allow them to take up hard jobs. Such reports are demanded of miners, of persons engaged in loading and unloading, of dyers who use lead dyes, of those who engage in the work of pharmaceutical preparations with quick silver, of divers under water, of glass smelters, of workers in photographic laboratories, in Roentgen rooms and so on.

Our labor legislation stipulates special treatment for women workers. Women are not allowed to engage in very hard jobs injurious to their health such as underground work, cleaning naphtha wells, working in metallurgic furnaces, in slaughter houses, in transporting or shoving logs, in mining work, in digging wells, in building bridges, in diving under water, in doing the work of cablemen, in transporting by wheel-barrows, in carrying heavy loads and loading and unloading, and so on.

The citizens of the People's Republic of Albania are entitled to jobs conformable to their profession, specialization and qualification with no distinction or discrimination whatsoever. Such a prerogative has its source from the socialist principle «from each according to his ability and to each according to the work he turns out».

Our society is deeply concerned that the workers of

our country should be systematized at jobs so that they may give to society as much and of as high a quality as possible. This is attained when each tackles the job he is best suited for. It is for this reason that our labor legislation stipulates special rules which define clearly how to go about moving cadres from one post to another. These rules aim at avoiding the inefficient use of the labor force, at avoiding the unreasonable transfer of cadres, etc.

At the same time, our labor legislation enables the administration of an enterprise, institution or organization to transfer workers from one job to another when the needs and interests of production demand such a gesture. This is done not only when the needs and interests of production demand it but also when it becomes necessary to assign workers who are ill, incapable etc., to lighter jobs.

The labor legislation in the People's Republic of Albania guarantees the right of work to citizens not only through rules and regulations of assigning them to jobs or transferring them from one job to another but it clearly defines also cases when a worker may be dismissed from a job.

In order to avoid any arbitrariness on the part of managers of an enterprise, institution as well as on the part of their administration, the question of assigning to, or dismissing a person from, a job is left entirely to the judgment of the masses. In every special case the matter is referred to the collective without whose consent the management can take no action.

The managers of enterprises or institutions are obliged to reserve the post of a worker for a period of six months if the latter does not report for work for health reasons. This time limit is extended to twelve months for pregnant women workers. But this time limit

does not mean that, when this period has expired, the manager is obliged to automatically discharge the worker. On the contrary, dismissals from work for health reasons are very rare and demand special consideration; they are made only when the worker's absence hinders the normal course of activity of the enterprise, institution or organization.

A strict definition of cases when an administration can dismiss a worker from his job as well as the establishment of mass control over the question of cadres excludes all kinds of arbitrariness and reserves the job to a worker. On the other hand, it must be stressed that in all cases when an administration is authorized to dismiss a worker from his job it should without fail find a suitable job for him elsewhere.

Socialism is the only system in which the complete emancipation of work is realized, in which work is considered the basis of all material and spiritual values, in which work is considered a matter of honor and praise, etc. Socialist construction has become a source of inspiration, enthusiasm, heroism and innovation for the Albanian workers who enjoy full title to work and to all other prerogatives connected with it.

The elimination of unemployment in Albania has put an end, once and for all time, to the plague of emigration. Now the Albanian worker, specialist or peasant does not feel the need of emigrating to distant lands in search of earning his living as he used to do at the time of anti-popular regimes, or as is happening at present in Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy and elsewhere. There is work for all and an Albanian can now find his happiness in his own homeland. The surface and subsoil riches in our country are now exploited by our people themselves for the benefit of the laboring masses who

enjoy all the benefits and advantages which the socialist order of things provides them with.

HOW LONG IS A WORK-DAY?

In our country labor legislation entitles the workers to a given number of hours of work. Sanctioning by law the time limit for work and recess is a major victory of our working class. On one hand, it aims at securing the essential social work and, on the other, at guaranteeing the workers protection at work as well as at creating conditions for them to take as active a part in the political, cultural, social and other life of the country as possible. This became possible only after the establishment of our People's Power which does not only stipulate norms dealing with the time of work and of recess but provides also real guarantees for implementing them.

In anti-popular regimes our working class was subjected to most ruthless oppression and exploitation. A worker had to work twelve hours a day and, in many mines, he worked from 14 to 16 hours a day. In some occupations like coffee-houses, restaurants, bakeries etc. workers did not only work without a fixed number of hours but had not even a free day a week.

It was after liberation that the dream of the working class to work for a fixed number of hours up to 8 hours a day became a reality. This is set down in Article 18 of our Labor Code which reads: «The normal time of work for workers and employees is 8 hours a day». Taking into account the fact that night jobs are harder than day jobs, the time limit for night work is set at 7 hours (without a cut in wages), while for workers and employees engaged in work at difficult tasks or in sectors of work injurious to their health, it is left to the

competence of the Council of Ministers which fixes the categories and kinds of work of reduced time limits without a cut in pay.

Our work legislation stipulates special treatment for teen-agers who have not completed their 16 years, for workers who attend night or correspondence courses of study as well as for pregnant women or mothers who suckle their babes. For teen-agers under sixteen it is not allowed that their work-time should exceed 6 hours a day but they receive a payment equal to 8 hours. Workers who attend night courses at secondary schools profit three work hours a week while women who suckle their babies up to 9 months old enjoy a recess not less than half an hour after every three or four hours of work so that they may suckle their children, this time being calculated from the distance of their place of work from their home, benefitting in this way more than 6 hours a week. Workers who pursue their higher studies in evening upper institutes work only 7 hours a day during the period when classes continue while the workers who continue their studies for degrees without a break in work, work 6 hours a day. In all these cases they are remunerated for 8 hours of work regardless of working at reduced hours.

In special cases, labor legislation in the People's Republic of Albania envisages the possibility of workers to work beyond the normal work schedule especially when the needs of work and production demand it, provided the consent of the workers themselves has been received. This depends on the higher sense of duty of the workers. Such extension work is allowed when it is a question of raising the workers' sense of duty, when it is a question of doing work for the defense of the People's Republic of Albania or of repairing damages caused by such calamities as epidemics, fires, floods,

earthquakes and others, when it is a question of doing temporary work of repairing machines, installations or work centers without a timely repair of which a large number of workers would have to stop work, when it is necessary to take steps to protect social property which may be in jeopardy for various reasons, etc.

The law prohibits over-time work for pregnant women or mothers who suckle their babes, for teenagers below 16 and for ailing persons who have doctor's reports. This is due to the fact that by working over-time a worker may jeopardize his health or physique. Therefore, the law prescribes the total amount of time a worker can work over-time, which does not exceed 180 hours a year.

HOW IS THE RIGHT OF PAID LEAVE GUARANTEED?

Concern about the life and health of workers is reflected in the stipulations of the law which guarantees the right of payed leave to them. A worker is entitled to a weekly recess lasting not less than 36 hours without interruption except in cases when work goes on by continuous shifts in which case the weekly recess cannot be less than 24 hours. As a rule, the weekly leave with pay in the People's Republic of Albania takes place on Sundays. But in urgent cases of work or in enterprises where production can not be interrupted the worker may take his leave on another day.

The workers of the People's Republic of Albania enjoy also days off on official days of festivity like the Day of the Proclamation of Independence, the Day of the Proclamation of the Republic, May Day, the Day of the Liberation of the Fatherland (National Holiday), the Day of the Great October Socialist Revolution and

New Year's Day, all being the most outstanding dates for the Albanian people. When a worker has been on his job on official holidays he is entitled to another day off. This shows that days off work are actually taken by every worker leaving no room for working on supplementary remuneration.

The Labor Code stipulates also a yearly vacation for every worker or employee. This vacation lasts 12 days and is enjoyed by every citizen employed on a job as well as by those who start work for the first time, provided they have been on a job for 11 months in succession. The worker or employee is entitled to a full vacation also when he is transferred from one enterprise or institution to another. The enterprise or institution to which a worker has been transferred is obliged to accord him a full year's vacation also if he has not completed the 11 month period prescribed by law for beginners. Teen-agers under sixteen are entitled to a year's vacation of 24 days and are recommended to spend most of it at rest homes set up at the best health resorts of the country. Whereas, workers on more than 70 hard jobs like mining, metallurgy, leather processing, handling tobacco, cement, glass, bricks, working in printing presses, working in medicine, treating contagious diseases and psychiatry, working in educational, cultural, scientific institutions and others, are entitled to a supplementary leave of absence with pay ranging from 6 to 36 days a year. According to law, the time necessary to entitle a worker or employee to a yearly vacation is calculated as follows: a) the time he has actually spent on a job, b) the time he has not spent on his regular job because of having been assigned to social or state functions, c) the time of temporary incapacity to work for which the enterprise or institution has been obliged to keep his post unoccupied, d) the time

he has attended school or courses of study provided he has been assigned to them on orders by the enterprise, institution or organization. In a similar way is calculated the time a worker or employee spends away from his job if he has been illegally dismissed and the competent authorities have ordered his return to his old job.

All those who attend night or correspondence courses of study enjoy special vacations. They are accorded a yearly vacation with pay which lasts from 10 to 30 days, according to the category of studies, to prepare for exams. Our labor legislation stipulates special treatment for mothers-to-be and mothers who suckle their babes. A woman worker or employee who expects or has given birth to a child is entitled to a leave of absence with pay lasting from 12 to 15 weeks.

In our country, yearly vacations are spent under most favorable conditions. Albania is known by all those who have visited it as a country of rare beauty. Its mountains are covered with pine, fir and oak trees and lakes of glacier origin and of crystal-clear waters. The rivers which run westward to the sea have their sources on these uplands. All along the coastline of the Adriatic Sea lie extensive beaches of fine sand, health resorts 'par excellence'. In the south, on the Ionian coast stretches the marvelous Albanian riviera full of contrasts where mountain and sea climates intermingle and along which grow citrus and olive groves, pine and cypress trees creating an unparalleled landscape of natural beauty.

It is here where rest homes for workers and children as well as hotels for tourists are built. Such institutions did not exist before liberation. Nor were the workers entitled to the right of work and of rest then.

Tens of thousands of workers, children and pensioners spend their vacations every year in these rest

homes run by the Trade Unions. Albanian workers, who spend their vacations in these rest homes, enjoy very good food and pay only 22 per cent of the expenses for maintenance. The other 78 per cent of the expenses are paid for by State social insurances which spend considerable sums of money for this purpose.

The social insurance law provides for aid to be accorded to workers who are in need of extra days off work for purposes of resting in health resorts, sanatoria and spas.

The Trade Unions have set up tourist centers in the most picturesque parts of the country attracting thousands of excursionists from city workers at every season of the year. The right to be employed at work and to enjoy vacation is a major victory that the Albanian working class have won since the establishment of People's Rule in our country.

IN WHAT DOES THE DEMOCRATIC NATURE OF STATE SOCIAL INSURANCES CONSIST?

State social insurances are one of the important victories the working class has achieved with the establishment of People's Rule. They constitute a whole and all-round system which is based on the principle that every worker and his family are insured materially against all cases of incapacity to work.

At the time when feudal and bourgeois cliques dominated, Albania was the only country in Europe where no insurance of any kind ever existed. When afflicted by any ailment, a worker, far from being paid, was obliged to pay out of his pocket all the expenses he incurred when confined and treated in a hospital or any other health institution. If he happened to become incapable for work, his family would be left without any

support of any kind. No matter how long he had worked, a worker would receive no remuneration of any kind when getting old and incapable for work.

No law to protect workers ever existed in Albania at that time. Only State employees received old age pensions but, in fact, they had insured themselves for they were obliged to deposit a certain percentage of their monthly salary for that purpose. This state of affairs underwent a radical change when the people took the reins of State into their own hands. Immediately following the liberation of the country, social insurance was established and workers were provided with the necessary means of subsistence when they were incapacitated for work; they were given medical assistance free of charge and women workers were entitled to a paid leave of absence at pregnancy and child-birth, etc.

Social insurance kept pace with the development of the country's economy.

State social insurances in Albania cover all sectors and the aid accruing from them is enjoyed by all workers and employees, by the members of the handicrafts cooperatives and, in a number of foreseen cases, by those attending vocational schools and courses, by students of upper institutes of learning, by soldiers serving their term of compulsory drilling as well as by the invalids of the National-liberation War. The families of the insured benefit also from this aid. Thus, it turns out that a very great part of the population of Albania benefit from social insurance. This is an expression of the profound democratic nature of our system of social insurance.

Wide is the scope of social insurance. In addition to free medical service given to all the citizens of the People's Republic of Albania without exception, it includes aid in cash for temporary disability for work in

cases of illness, accidents, quarantine, leave of absence with pay for pregnancy and childbirth aid, for health protection and medical treatment in sanatoria and prophylactoria, in health resorts or spas, aid for nourishment at diet kitchens, for recuperation of workers, employees and their children at rest homes, aid to develop physical culture, to promote tourism and to carry on out-of-school activities with children, aid in cash to make disabled workers fit for work, in cases of childbirth and for burial expenses. State social insurances include pensions for old agers, invalids, family pensions, for signority at work and for special merits.

The social insurance fund is made up of contributions from enterprises, institutions and state and social organizations employing workers as well as from the state budget. Workers and employees pay nothing themselves. Regardless of whether these contributions have been made or not, the right of workers to social insurance is realized for such a thing has been guaranteed by the state itself.

The amount of remuneration for insured workers depends on the amount of work turned out by each, on seniority, on how hard the work is, etc. In fixing the amount of pensions it is proceeded along the principle of higher percentages to lower pay, guaranteeing a minimum limit for lower pay and a maximum one for higher ones.

As a rule, the right to social insurance begins at the moment the juridical relations of employment have been created. The worker or employee who quits work benefits from social insurance even when no more than thirty days have elapsed from the day he has quit work. For cases when work relations cease to be, not for the fault of the worker, benefits from social insurance continues even after these relations have been severed.

The highly advanced system of the state social insurances in our country is a proof of the great concern our People's Rule shows for our workers and their families so that they may have the material means of subsistence in all cases.

Social insurances in the People's Republic of Albania go a long way to raising the material and cultural level of our workers, to protecting their health. The number of insured people and the funds spent have continually been on the rise in direct proportion with the development of the economy and culture, with the increase of the national income of our country.

Our system of social insurance is very favorable for our workers both as regards the kinds of insurances, aids and pensions and as regards the high percentages on incomes and conditions of profiting from them as well.

WHAT AID DOES A WORKER RECEIVE IN CASE HE BECOMES TEMPORARILY INCAPABLE FOR WORK?

The law on state social insurance entitles the citizens employed in work to and guarantees them the material means of subsistence when they are rendered temporarily incapable for work. Those of a seniority at work up to 10 years receive 70 per cent of the average pay of the last month and, in case of a seniority over 10 years, receive 85 per cent. The workers who work continually in sub-terranean mines and who have a seniority at work up to 5 years, when rendered incapable of work receive an aid from social insurance amounting to 80 per cent while those of a seniority over 5 years receive 95 per cent of their average pay.

At this rate, that is, 95 per cent of the average

pay of the last month, are paid also the worker or employee invalids of the National-liberation War of the 3d and 4th groups; the law stipulates no limitation for this category of workers; they receive this aid all the time they are incapable for work regardless of their seniority at work.

The workers employed for seasonal work who have been on their job for at least three out of the last twelve months but who have become incapacitated for work, receive 60 per cent of the average pay of the last month.

When a worker has been incapacitated for work due to an accident or professional disease he receives 95 per cent of the average pay of the last month, regardless of his seniority at work.

Whereas the worker who works in mines receives, in this case, 100 per cent of the average pay of the last month during all the time he is incapable for work.

Also the worker or employee doing temporary or seasonal work benefits from this aid up to 95 per cent regardless of seniority.

The law on social insurance protects and aids the woman worker employee in a particular way. While enjoying the leave of absence for pregnancy and child-birth she receives 75 per cent of the average pay of the last month when she has a seniority at work up to 5 years and in case her seniority at work is above 5 years she receives 95 per cent of that average pay. The leave of absence for pregnancy and child-birth lasts from 12 to 15 weeks.

The law envisages also temporary transfer of workers and employees to lighter jobs when they are not fit for the work assigned to them which would jeopardize their health if they continued at it. Transference

to lighter jobs may be recommended also for pregnant women. Reduced hours of work may also be recommended. In both these cases the worker is entitled by law to receive aid from social insurances in order to make up for the pay she used to receive for the former job.

WHO BENEFITS FROM PENSIONS OF INVALIDITY, UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS AND TO WHAT AMOUNT?

Special concern about invalids runs through the law on state social insurance. Pension of invalidity is given when invalidity is a consequence of chronic disease or of sore wounds received in the National-liberation War, of an accident occurring at work or of a professional disease, of general ailment or of an accident not connected with his work. The invalids are divided into four groups corresponding to the degree of incapability for work:

In the first two groups are included all the persons who have become totally unable to do any other work while the other two groups include persons who are able to do lighter work or work at reduced hours of work in line with the recommendations of the medical and worker committee of experts.

The medical and worker committee of experts determine the causes of invalidity, the time it began and designate the group of invalidity to which each case belongs.

Pension for invalidity are paid regardless of seniority at work of each worker or employee if invalidity has been caused during the National-liberation War or

by an accident at work, or a professional disease. The invalids who have been incapacitated for work as a consequence of an ordinary disease or an accident not connected with their jobs, receive their pensions according to their seniority at work.

The amount to be paid out as a pension of invalidity depends on the group and is reckoned at the following percentage on the average monthly pay: for the first group — 85 per cent, for the second — 70 per cent, for the third — 60 per cent and for the fourth group — 40 per cent.

The invalids of the National-liberation War and those who have become invalids as a consequence of an accident at work or of a professional disease, are entitled to a 10 per cent supplement on the pension of invalidity.

Pensions of invalidity are paid not only to workers and employees who have become invalids during the time they are employed at work but also to the worker whose invalidity is manifested within 30 days of the calendar after he has quit work or also within two years if his invalidity is a consequence of an accident at work or of a professional disease which has occurred before his departure from work.

For certain persons who had not been employed in work before but become invalids doing useful social work, the pension for invalidity is a fixed sum taking into account the groups of invalidity they belong to. This category includes students of vocational courses and schools and students of the higher institutes of learning who become invalids due to the practical part of their school curriculum; it includes persons who become invalids during the time they carry out special state or social tasks to which they have been assigned by state organs or social organizations or while doing their duty

in defense of our socialist order of things, while saving the life of man, protecting socialist property or doing social work in building socialism in the country: it includes persons who become invalids while doing their military service or receiving military training.

All the persons of these groups receive pensions of invalidity according to the conditions and to the amount fixed for workers or employees, if they have been employed at work before.

Old age pensions occupy an important place in our system of social insurances. These pensions are an expression of the great concern of our People's Rule for the life of the laboring masses. A worker or employee is entitled to old-age pension when he reaches the age-limit and seniority at work according to the category to which he belongs. On the basis of hardship each job presents, the workers are divided into three categories. Those who tackle hard jobs receive their old-age pensions at a lower age and of shorter seniority at work. Jobs of the first category are mining, a number of jobs in factories which refine copper and chromium ore, in chemical plants, etc.

Persons who engage in work of the first category receive their old-age pensions when they have completed their 50th year of age and 20 years of seniority at work; those of the second category, 55 years and 25 years of seniority. In each of these categories women receive their old age pensions of 5 years less in age and seniority than men. The persons of the third category receive their old-age pensions: men when they have completed 60 and 25 years seniority and women when they have reached 55 years of age and 20 years seniority. A worker or employee is entitled to old-age pension of the first or second category if he has completed at these categories not less than half of his seniority in work.

Calculated as general seniority in work valid for pension is all the time a person has effectively been employed in work and payed as a worker or employee in enterprises, institutions and organizations as well as by private employers from November 28, 1912 (when the National Independence of the country was proclaimed) and onward regardless of breaks in work.

Calculated as seniority in work is also the time a person has taken part in the ranks and partizan detachments of the National-liberation Army or in the ranks of other clandestine fighting units of the National-liberation Movement, as well as the work done during the war in the National-liberation Councils and in the other organs of the People's Power or in various social and political organizations with the sole condition that he or she has continued his or her activity without interruption up to the liberation of Albania.

In seniority at work is reckoned also the time spent in political exile, in jail or in concentration camps by the persons that have taken part in the National-liberation Movement and have been persecuted by the former antipopular regimes. Likewise, the time spent in jails, deportation or political exile before April the 7th 1939 for the persons who have taken part in the progressive and democratic movements and, for this reason have been persecuted by the former reactionary regimes.

This time is calculated as double seniority at work for the persons who have fought in the ranks of the National-liberation Army and in other armed units in towns and in the countryside either as members of the Albanian Communist Party or as distinguished activists of the National-liberation Movement and of the revolutionary movements abroad.

Women workers or civil servants that have given

birth to and reared six or more children up to 8 years of age are entitled to old age pension if only they are 50 years old and have a seniority at work of 15 years. Likewise the dumb, the deaf and other people who, before engaging themselves in work activities, were invalids of the first or second group are entitled to old age pensions — the men at the age of 50 years with a seniority at work of not less than 15 years and the women at the age of 40 years with a seniority at work of not less than 10 years.

The law provides that, alongside with the full old age pension which is granted when the two conditions set by law are fulfilled — the required age and seniority — some people may be entitled to partial pensions, too, in cases when they have attained appertaining age but not seniority at work to be entitled to a full pension. This sort of pension is given to the workers or the civil servants if they have achieved a seniority at work — the man of 12 and a half years and the woman 10 years — during the time elapsed after the establishment of People's Rule. To be entitled to a partial pension men should have attained 60 years of age and women 55 years of age.

The amount of the pension varies according to the pay and the seniority at work of each worker. The pension is reckoned on the basis of the average monthly pay which is deducted from the general amount of the pay received during the last twelve months of work activity or, with the request of the worker or civil servant himself, it may be calculated on the basis of the pay received during successive three years within the span of the last ten years of work activity. The worker or the civil servant can choose the pay which suits him best through all the above-mentioned time span. Pensions are fixed at 70 percent of the average monthly pay. Ne-

vertheless, old age pensions cannot be lower than 350 leks and higher than 900 leks monthly.

WHAT ARE THE FAMILY PENSIONS AND WHO BENEFITS FROM THEM?

An important place in the law of State social security is occupied by the family pensions. Family pensions are accorded to family member unable to work who have been under the care of a worker or employee, in case their bread-winner dies while he or she is employed or within two years of his leaving his or her job. Family pensions are also accorded to those disabled dependents who have been under the care of a pensioner or a martyr fallen during the National-liberation War. The law puts on a par all families who lose their bread-winners, regardless of the cause of death, be it of an accident or common disease.

Family pensions are also received by family members who are unable to work and who have been under the care of parents who die while carrying out special State and social tasks discharging any task defending socialist property, working for the country's socialist construction, serving in or being trained for the Army and so on. To receive family pensions are also entitled the children and grand-children, the adopted and their own children under 16 years of age. The age limit is extended to 19 years if they are attending the middle school, or 25 years if they are attending any higher school. This right is enjoyed by the adults unable to work or by brothers and sisters who are under the same conditions and whose parents cannot work, by parents, adopters, couples who have reached the required age — men 60 years old and women 55 years old — or even if they

are under this age, provided they are not able to work, by the foster mother and father who have reached the retirement age: men 60 and women 55 years of age, if they have been in charge of any foster-child for not less than 10 years; by grand-parents who have no person who, by law, is obliged to maintain them.

Apart from these people, to a family pension is entitled one of the parents or the couple, irrespective of their age and ability to work, provided he or she does not work and is in charge of the children, grand-children, the adopted children or their children, of the brothers and sisters of the dead who have not reached the age of 8 years.

When it comes to decide on the amount of the family pension, the socialist principle: to the family bread-winner according to his or her work, is applied. Besides this, the number of the family members unable to work he or she is in charge of is also taken into consideration.

The amount of the family pension is set according to the monthly average pay the family bread-winner received or according to the wages on the basis of which the pension had been estimated. If the family of the worker who dies is made up of 3 members and more, the pension it receives amounts to 65 per cent of the average pay of the family bread-winner, if the family consists of two or one members, the pension amounts to 50 and 40 per cent respectively.

The law on State social security protects especially the children. The child is entitled to receive family pension when one of his or her parents dies even if the other parent has a job or is accorded a pension. As for the children whose parents die without fulfilling all the conditions for receiving pensions or received themselves pensions, family pensions are assigned according to the parents' wages.

WHAT ATTENTION IS PAID BY PEOPLE'S POWER TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS?

The question of providing protection at work and of safeguarding the life and health of the workers has been looked upon by People's Power as one of the fundamental principles of the socialist organization of Labor, as an integral part of the economic State plans, aimed at further improving the working conditions, making the work easier and avoiding accidents and professional diseases.

Along with many other measures aimed at raising the wellbeing of the working people, People's Power in Albania attaches great importance to and applies a series of measures about safety at work. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, the Labor Code, Government decisions and regulations and their practice, have created such working conditions for our men and women as to give full play to their professional and cultural abilities while ensuring the highest possible labor productivity and the least possible spending of the worker's energies and avoiding or restricting all cases of chemical or mechanical damage to the worker's health.

By means of huge funds put at the disposal of the enterprises and organizations, our State gives real guarantees to vigorously effect the measures for protection at work; it has also sanctioned by law the responsibilities of the people whose duty it is to see to labor protection at work.

Not a single law on labor protection existed in our country before liberation. Casualties were frequent and en masse, especially in mines. Not long after getting a job, many people fall ill with tuberculosis, many others with rheumatism. The feudal and bourgeois regime of King Zog paid no attention at all to provide protective means at work.

Quite the opposite is occurring, today. The provisions safety at work spring from socialist ideology itself. To avoid all factors endangering the lives, health and clothes of the working people proper measures have been envisaged. Machines and mechanisms that are dangerous due to the lack of protective means are prohibited. Dangerous machines or work places must be isolated with protective devices such as wire meshed screens, thick rubber coated planks if necessary, so that the attention of the worker be not divided between the working process and the transmission belt, the electric saw etc., to protect himself. Plants, factories and their workshops are designed, built, re-built and put into exploitation according to the regulations on technical, sanitary and hygiene safety regulations. The enterprises, institutions and organisations should see to it that the protection at work be as efficient as possible. For people working in great noises, gas and in other surroundings endangering their health the Labor Code and the regulations on technical security provide for measures to reduce the noise of the machines, to regulate the air-conditioning system, to supply them with gas masks, soap as well as various antidotes such as milk, edible oil, butter and sugar, etc. Divers, miners, foundry and other workers are supplied with special suits or individual protective equipment at the cost of their enterprise, institution or organisation. People working in water and muddy places are equipped with high boots, while those working in open air, in rain and snow are equipped with high boots, waterproofs, etc. Those working at furnaces are supplied with protective clothing, those whose eyes may be endangered are given goggles, masks, etc. Some categories of workers with clothes getting dirty or wearing out quickly are given from their enterprises, institutions or organisations equipment and clothes, free of charge. Overalls are given to

all mechanics, lathe workers, the street cleaner, etc. Those who are engaged in trade and health services are equipped with smocks in conformity with set regulations.

Protection at work does not imply only creating of conditions, not endangering the lives of the workers, that is, observing the regulations on technical security, the sanitary and hygienic norms, but also stipulates that the workers be not overburdened with work, which should be also a source of inspiration for innovations and rationalisations, etc. That is why we must see to securing convenient conditions for the workers to rest when off work, to have sufficient time to participate in the political, social and cultural life, to develop themselves culturally, to raise their technical and scientific level. Likewise some categories of working people, for physiological reasons, for example, women, young people under 18 years of age, as well as those possessing medical certificates, are prohibited from working underground or doing heavy jobs harmful to their health.

In order to supervise the application of the provisions on the protection at work, the regulations on technical security, the sanitary and hygienic norms, State organs vested with a wide range of competences, such as Work Inspectorates, Technical, Sanitary and Security Commission, Working class Control Teams, etc., have been set up. Besides this, it is the right and duty of every worker and of their mass organisation — the Trade Unions — to control the application of the regulations on the protection at work and to demand that the persons in charge should strictly abide by them.

**WHY ARE THE ROLE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY OF THE
WORKING MASSES INCREASING IN OUR SOCIALIST
COUNTRY?**

The great revolutionary impetus at work of our working masses for the complete construction of socialism is a clear testimony to their growing role and creative activity. They are promoting the cause of socialist construction in all fields, overfulfilling the targets of the State plans, deepening the technical and scientific revolution, endowing the homeland with new productive capacities and erecting new production lines, workshops, factories and plants by relying on their own forces. In important branches of production, it is envisaged to achieve in 1968 the technical and economic indices set for the year 1970.

In all aspects, socialism is the work of the broad working masses. This is clearly seen in the example set by our country. The participation of the masses in the building of the new socialist society is taking unprecedented proportions.

There are many objective and subjective factors that make such a phenomenon possible:

The people's revolution in Albania abolished the rule of the bourgeoisie. The role of the working masses was greatly enhanced in the period of socialist construction in our country because they enjoy full freedom, enjoy the fruits of their labor, because the factories, mills, mines and other riches are in their hands. The establishment of socialist relations in production, social ownership over the means of production, the abolition of the exploitation of man by man, the implementation of the socialist principle: «from each according to his abilities, to each according to his work» — all this taken as a whole creates unprecedented possibilities for the

development of the creative initiative and activity of the working masses. In the struggle for the construction of socialism, the working masses see for themselves that they are no longer working for the capitalists but for themselves, for the new society they are building themselves.

The role of the masses of the people is considerably increasing in socialism due to their conscious activity. Under socialism, they are not subject to spontaneous action as is the case with capitalism, they act consciously, for the means of production and political power are in their hands; they are conscious of who they work and fight for, and see the result of their work. Thus, only through their work for the construction of socialism, the working masses make their own history in a conscious way. The fact that in a relatively short period, Albania left its bitter past far behind, developed its own industry, agriculture, education, science at high rates, indicates how decisive has been the role played by the working masses in the construction of socialism, how wide a range has been their activity in this construction work.

In the period of the socialist construction, great importance is assumed by the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist principles of relying mainly on one's own efforts. The principle of relying on one's own efforts designates the internal forces, the material and human forces, the broad working masses as the decisive factor in the construction of socialism. Its great importance consists also in the fact that it arouses confidence in the energies and forces of the masses, enhances the determination to work and win in any circumstances; it eradicates the feeling of inferiority and passivity that the imperialists and their lackeys are zealously seeking to inculcate into the minds of the peoples by alleging

that, without their help, the liberation and development of the other countries is impossible.

Besides this, the role of the masses of the people in the period of the construction of socialist society is enhanced also because the level of the organization of the working masses is considerably raised. As parts of the system of socialist democracy the numerous social organisations rally the broad masses, educate and draw them into practical activities in the economic, political and cultural fields. For instance, the Trade Unions called «schools of Communism» embrace all the working people employed by the State, the working people of the social organisations, etc.

Under socialism, the cultural and educational and technical and professional level of the working masses is ever on the rise. This factor exerts considerable influence on the development of a wide, all-out and creative initiative on the part of the working masses.

Socialism brings about the real emancipation of women who constitute a great force, half of our population. In our country, socialism has raised the woman from a disparaged, oppressed, backward and passive state in the economic, political and social life to the level of a citizen enjoying full and all rights, to the level of an active builder of the socialist society. In pre-liberation Albania, the number of women workers in the urban areas was 668 all told, while today, they number many thousands.

HOW IS THE PRINCIPLE OF PUTTING PUBLIC ABOVE PERSONAL INTEREST REALIZED IN ALBANIA?

One of the main questions of the communist education of the people is the attitude towards the general interest, placing general above personal interest.

The young girl, Shkurte Pal Vata, from the Northern

Highlands of Albania, like thousands upon thousands of our country's young people, went on her own free will to work for building the Rrogozhina-Fieri railway in Central Albania. «I have come here», she used to say, «because the interest of the Fatherland and socialism commands me to do this». She fell heroically while working on this project of socialist construction.

Her father, Pal Vata, an ordinary highlander, suppressed his parental pain and replaced his daughter in the railway construction site «so that the front of the socialist construction», as he put it «would not be vacant even for a while».

The example of this young girl of the Highlands aroused the younger generation of our country. Thousands upon thousands of young people expressed their readiness to replace her at the railway construction site and to work wherever the interest of the Fatherland required.

The youth Fuat Çela, an ordinary cooperative member from the mountainous region of Skrapar, though blind, refuses to live at the expense of others. He works on all fronts of agricultural production, no matter how difficult they may be. He volunteered to work for the building of the Rrogozhina-Fieri railway.

The earthquake of November 30, 1967 bereaved the family of builder Mustafa Elezi from Berat city. His son Agron, who served in the army in a border unit, fell victim to the earthquake while carrying out his task of vigilant guard of the Fatherland's frontiers. The family deeply felt the loss of Agron. However, placing the high interest of the Fatherland above all, they decided that the other son, Mehmet Elezi, should join the same unit where Agron had served to replace him by standing guard on the sacred borders of the Fatherland.

The Dibra and Librazhdi districts were seriously

stricken by the November, 30 earthquake. All the working people expressed their brotherly solidarity with the population of these districts. In bitter cold, thousands of specialists went to the help of the damaged areas. In less than a month, they got over the effects of the earthquake.

Nowadays, the campaign to help the newly set up agricultural cooperatives so that they may strengthen their economy in the shortest possible time is taking larger proportions. Many agricultural enterprises and cooperatives offer their help to the agricultural cooperatives in the mountain regions to accelerate the development of their animal husbandry and to become great resources of meat, milk and butter, as our Party points out.

The year 1968 is the first year of the application of the historic task for the electric reticulation of all the villages of Albania due to be completed by November 8, 1971, on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania. This action has become the concern of all the working masses. Everywhere, the collectives of the various enterprises have voluntarily pledged to introduce electric light in many villages, to train electricians, to design hydro-power stations, high tension transmission lines, to set up new production lines, workshops and enterprises for making electric equipment etc. All the districts of the country are contributing to the electric reticulation of the villages of the mountainous districts. The school youth have expressed their readiness to work voluntarily during the summer vacations to introduce electric light into the villages. On their part, the collectivized peasantry have pledged themselves to help with their timber and their work.

In all the cities of our country, work is pressing forward for the construction of new dwelling houses. All the people are working on a voluntary basis to speed up the solution of the housing problem. The vo-

luntary contribution made by the masses in the construction of new flats will make attainable a quicker solution of the housing problem as compared with the time-limit set by the five-year plans.

These are only some examples speaking about the grandeur of our new man who sees his happiness not from the viewpoint of a pettybourgeois but from that of a revolutionary, who places general above personal interest, who devotes his life to the supreme interests of the Fatherland, people and socialism.

As a matter of fact, the priority to be given to general above personal interest stems from the very nature of socialism as a system basing itself on social ownership over the means of production, on collectivization. However, the creation of the objective conditions still does not mean that the question has been solved completely in favor of socialism. Personal interest has taken deep roots in the people's consciousness during the centuries — old existence of the private ownership. In the epoch of socialist construction, it clashes with general interests. Giving free play to spontaneity, worshipping personal interest as the Khrushchovite revisionists are doing, means to move backwards, to undermine socialism.

Our Party consciously leads the struggle to educate the working people like true revolutionaries in being ever ready to put general above personal interest. As a result, the Albanian working people have taken a series of initiatives on this line. Such are the initiatives to abolish and limit some of the material incentives, to cut down higher wages, the initiatives to make a gift to the State of the state bounds, the campaign of the collectivised peasantry to reduce their individual plots of land in favour of the collective property and that of the working people of the Agricultural State Enterprises to give up their individual gardens. All these initiatives indicate that

our working masses are eradicating all remnants of the old norms of the exploiting classes, of the old bourgeois ethics resting on private ownership which divides the people and encourages selfishness, individualism, the tendency to draw profits for oneself to the detriment of society. The Albanian working people look at the present with a view to the future, ever seeing to it whether their actions fit up with the socialist order and the development of revolution. This is a sure guarantee of the construction of socialism in our country.

While putting general interest and moral incentive first, the Party of Labor of Albania does not underestimate material incentives and personal interests. On the contrary, under the conditions when the social property over the means of production is prevalent and keeps continuously strengthening, possibilities are created for correctly combining personal and general interests, so that the wellbeing of the people, that of the individual included, is constantly on the rise.

Correctly appraising personal interest, the People's Power has always fought for the principle of remuneration according to the quantity and quality of work to be applied with the greatest care. The system of norms, wages and other material incentives has times and again been regulated to correspond to the principle of remuneration according to the amount of work. Our Party has fought any petty-bourgeois manifestation and tendency of equalisation and standardisation looking upon it as alien to socialism. The Party of Labor of Albania has stressed that placing general above personal interest leads to socialism, while placing personal above general interests leads backwards, to the private ownership, to the destruction of socialism and the restoration of capitalism, as is happening in the countries where the revisionists have come to power.

ALBANIAN AGRICULTURE ON THE ROAD OF ITS SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT

WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF OUR LAND REFORM?

Before the liberation of the country, the Albanian peasantry suffered all-out exploitation by the landlords and the rich land proprietors through the land rent which sometimes covered half of their production, by the feudal-and bourgeois State, through its tithe system, by the merchants through their non-equivalent exchanges of agricultural and industrial products, by the usurers through their high interest rates on loans incurred to by the peasants. In 1938, forty-five percent of the total grain output was taken from the working peasantry (about 70 per cent of this quantity was appropriated by the exploiting class without any payment, while the remainder was purchased by the city merchants and speculators at low prices).

Feudal and semi-feudal relations were prevalent in the Albanian countryside. Agricultural production was very low. Land was tilled with primitive tools and methods.

The Albanian peasantry waged a stubborn struggle against oppression and exploitation. Over the centuries, they have shed their blood for their rights and their land. On many occasions, this struggle has compelled the ruling circles to resort to manoeuvres promising the application of the land reform. But these promises were only empty talk. The working peasantry were still exploited in the most brutal way.

Right after liberation and the establishment of People's Power, the application of the land reform was on the order of day.

Measures to ease the situation of the peasantry, to free them from exploitation and oppression had been taken even during the National-liberation War. At that time, in every area liberated, the grain depots of the land-owners were confiscated, rent and debts were cancelled. In the early post-liberation days, our State took measures to collect the grain in order to avoid speculation, did away with the tithe system, limited rents and annulled the debts incurred to by peasantry. These measures prepared the conditions for the application of the land reform.

This reform, carried out in the 1945-1946 period in a very short time, within 14 months, was the first revolution in the social and economic relations of the Albanian countryside. The main feature of this revolution was the abolition of the remnants of feudalism in the economy, the liquidation of the landlord class, the distribution of land to the peasantry free of charge, according to the principle «the land belongs to the tiller». With the land reform, the general redistribution of land was accomplished. All the land plots not directly tilled by their proprietors were expropriated without compensation. Nearly half of the country's population, mainly landless or poor peasants were given land and draught animals. With the prohibition of land purchase and sale, rent and of the appropriation of land by another person, People's Power considerably limited the polarisation of the peasantry into poor and rich. Land reform in our country was carried out in fierce struggle against the class enemy: the landowners, the kulaks and their hangerson. In carrying out the land reform People's Power was actively helped by the masses of the working

peasantry who formed «Poor Peasants Committees» which took part in the distribution of land.

The successful implementation of the land reform was a very important factor for a further promotion of the alliance between the working class and the peasantry, the solid basis of the system of people's democracy in our country. The land reform made the peasant master of the land he tilled, enhanced his interest in developing agricultural production and created the preliminary conditions for the collectivisation of agriculture, for the transformation of the small producers privately owned property into socialist property through cooperation of agriculture.

WHAT DOES THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF THE ALBANIAN AGRICULTURE CONSIST IN AND WHAT ARE ITS MAIN FEATURES?

The socialist transformation of the Albanian agriculture is a great victory for the policy pursued by the Party of Labor for a correct solution of the agrarian issue and the construction of socialism in the countryside. The people's power inherited a backward almost totally extensive agriculture, only about 10 per cent of the area was under cultivation. Land was tilled with wooden ploughs. The only draught power was provided by animals. The yields of the agricultural crops were very low and unstable. True, land reform eradicated any basis of the remnants of feudalism in the countryside, but it was not yet a reform of a socialist nature. It was clear to the Party of Labor of Albania that the only road to socialist construction in the countryside in a country with fragmented peasant economies was the collectivisation of agriculture. Any other road, outside that collectivisation leads inevitably to the development and restoration of capitalism in the countryside.

Collectivization of agriculture was dictated also by the need of solving the contradiction between socialist industry, the basis of which is social ownership over the means of production, and the small peasant economy the basis of which is the private ownership over the means of production. Socialist industry was being supplied with advanced technical equipment whereas the small peasant private economy was based on primitive technique and manual labor. Industry developed at higher rates, while small peasant economies could not attain high rates of development. Industry was centralised and developed according to a unified general State plan while the small peasant economy was fragmented and developed spontaneously. Political considerations, too, made the collectivisation of agriculture imperative. As is known, in cities, the liquidation of the bourgeoisie and of the capitalist elements is linked with the creation of socialist industry (where the social ownership over the means of production has been established), while in the countryside, private ownership generates capitalism every moment, hour, spontaneously and in ever larger proportions. Our socialist State could not base itself on two different economic bases for long because, in the final analysis, this would lead backwards to capitalism.

Only the collectivization of agriculture could root out the economic basis of the contrast between towns and the countryside. The collectivisation of agriculture was the second revolution, the most radical revolutionary turning point in the social and economic relations of the Albanian countryside. The private property of small producers in the Albanian countryside was transformed into socialist property through the cooperation of agriculture. The peasants united their land and means of production and set to work together. Production was distributed according to the workdays put in. The coope-

orative movement was not abandoned to spontaneous development. One Party of Labor carried out a great political and educational activity among the masses of the peasants to unite them in big socialist economies. But it looked to it that the collectivization of agriculture be effected not by administrative methods but out of the free will of the working peasantry. The real basis of the cooperation was the confidence of the peasantry in the superiority of the collective over the private economy in agriculture. People's Power never forgets that to successfully settle the great problem of completing the socialist transformation in the countryside not only the political but also the economic support of the socialist State is needed. At the beginning the latter came to the help of the peasantry with the mechanized means of the Machine and Tractor Stations which were used on a large scale in big collective economies. It also helped boost up production in the agricultural cooperatives by according them agrarian credits on very favourable conditions, supplying them with selected seeds, chemical fertilizers, improved stock, insecticides etc. [Thus, in the big collective economy, favorable conditions were created for the application of modern agricultural technique.

The first agricultural cooperatives, set up on a voluntary basis by the peasantry in 1946, soon displayed the irrefutable superiority of big collective economies over the individual ones. The agricultural cooperatives began to increase at a relatively rapid rate. This process went on through a fierce class struggle, in struggle against the former rich peasants. People's Power continuously applied the policy of isolating the «kulaks» politically, of imposing economic restrictions on them through taxation and exposing their political activity while relying on the poor and middle peasants to carry out this struggle.

Taking into account the concrete conditions of the development of our country and the Leninist teachings on the cooperation of agriculture, People's Power, during the first period of collectivization (1946-1955), issued the directive that in this matter it was necessary to proceed with caution, in conformity with the slogan: «neither to hurry, nor to mark time».

Proceeding along this path, at the end of 1955, our agriculture had made important strides and the conditions were ripe for accelerating the rhythms of collectivization. The Second Five-year Plan (1956-1960) assigned as main task to agriculture the conclusion of collectivization in the lowland zones. This task was accomplished one year ahead of schedule. The Second Five-year Plan has gone into the history of our country as the five-year period of collectivization of agriculture. At the end of 1960, the number of cooperatives rose to 1,482, as against 318 in 1955 and 90 in 1950. Furthermore, the cooperatives now included 85 per cent of the surface of the peasants' land, as against 14,4 per cent in 1955 and 5,2 per cent in 1950. Along with collectivization the process of enlargement and invigoration of the agricultural cooperatives was carried out.

After the Fifth Congress of the Party of Labor (November 1966) collectivization was extended to the mountainous zones, too. Within three months, 500 new agricultural cooperatives were set up. At the end of 1967, in Albania there were, 1,208 enlarged cooperatives representing 99 per cent of the land surface and including 98 per cent of the peasant families. In this way, all our agriculture was set on the path of socialist development.

«The development of agriculture and the experience of socialist construction in our countryside» — Comrade Enver Hoxha stated at the Fifth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania, — «demonstrate the importance and

universal value of the teaching of Marxism-Leninism to the effect that the only way to build socialism in the countryside, in countries with split peasant economies, is the collectivization of agriculture. Any other path, different from that of collectivization, leads only to the development or restoration of capitalism in the countryside».

The process of the socialist transformation of agriculture in our country has got its own peculiarities and characteristics. Collectivization among us was arrived at without the intermediary forms of cooperation, passing directly from the small private economy to the agricultural cooperative. In the matter of the socialist transformation of the countryside, the Party of Labor put the lie to the viewpoints of the modern revisionists about «specific paths» and the «new», «primary» and «preparatory» ways of collectivization.

We achieved cooperation without waiting for the construction of the material and technical basis of large-scale production, but simultaneously with the building of this basis. Cooperation was completely realized on the principle of absolutely free volition, gradually, without zig-zags and without withdrawals by the cooperative members from the established cooperatives.

This is an expression of the great faith of our peasants in the just line of our Party of Labor.

The collectivization of agriculture in Albania was implemented without waiting for the conclusion of the country's industrialization, because, otherwise, an unjustified loss of time would have ensued and this would have injured the interests of building socialism, in general, and those of building socialism in the countryside, in particular.

The collectivization of agriculture constitutes the most radical revolutionary turn in the social and economic

relations in the Albanian countryside. The substitution of small production in the village with large-scale socialist production created favourable conditions for a general progress on socialist lines. The triumph of socialism in the rural areas led to the liquidation of the «kulaks» as a class, it strengthened still more the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, it assured the economic and material basis of People's Power in the countryside and it even changed the very nature of the working peasantry. Instead of the individual peasants, a new class was born - the cooperative peasantry.

Agriculture began to develop on the same (socialist) basis as industry. Thus, one of the deepest contradictions of the period of transition from capitalism to socialism, namely the contradiction between big socialist industry and the small economies of private farmers, was settled. New relations were established between the city and the village—relations of reciprocal cooperation and aid between two friendly classes with common interests and common basic aims.

The cooperative order, even after collectivization, could not remain static. On the contrary, it has undergone continuous development and perfection. During the process of collectivization, the agricultural cooperatives in our country were created in each separate village. But, since our villages were small, the cooperatives formed were relatively small, too. Most of them had, or still have 100-200 hectares of arable land. This situation was perfectly acceptable for the period when the cooperative order was still in the process of being perfected, when modern means of production and the premises for the intensification of agriculture were still limited and when the directing cadres of the cooperatives had not yet gained the necessary experience to organize and direct large-scale production.

However, the relatively small proportions of the cooperatives no longer suited the requirements of a further development of the productive forces in agriculture, nor the further intensification of agriculture, nor yet a profitable use of the modern technique of the State Motor and Tractor Stations. Therefore, it became necessary to enlarge and strengthen the cooperatives by uniting them. When they had become organizationally and economically strong enough, the enlargement of the cooperatives by uniting them became a matter of immediate necessity. This process started by the end of 1958, primarily, in the lowland regions. The absolutely lowland cooperatives comprise 500 hectares of cultivated land each, whereas in the lowland-hilly zones — about 300 hectares. Larger cooperatives, with from 700 to 1000 hectares of land, were also created.

The voluntary enlargement of the collective economies through the unification of small cooperatives, carries great importance for the future of our countryside and for socialist agriculture. Being enlarged by uniting, the agricultural cooperatives are able to become stronger, to develop quicker and to become socialist economies capable of giving higher yields.

In the enlarged economies, possibilities were created for a better utilization of the reserves provided by the socialist system of agriculture for a better combination of the development of the various branches of agriculture, for a more reasonable allotment of capital investments for the development of economy, for a more rational distribution of man-power and work tools, for curbing the excessive expenses incurred to by the small cooperatives (for administrative and other needs).

With the collectivization of agriculture, socialist relations were created both in the urban as well as rural areas. A single, socialist system of economy was created.

The exploitation of man by man came to a definitive end. Besides, greater possibilities were created for the increase of plowed and irrigated areas, for the mechanization of various processes both in agriculture and in animal husbandry, for increasing crop yields and for cultivating new species of agricultural plants.

WHAT PRINCIPLES ARE THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES BUILT ON?

The agricultural cooperatives are voluntary unions of working peasants on the basis of collective ownership over the means of production and collective work, where the exploitation of man by man is excluded. With the creation of collective property, the coordination of interests with collective interests and of collective interests with the interest of society as a whole was made possible, always giving precedence to the interests of society and of the collective.

In the cooperatives the farmers have voluntarily united their lands and their principal means of production. Optional participation in the cooperative constitutes one of the basic principles upon which the cooperatives are created and which has been most strictly observed during all the process of collectivization of agriculture in Albania. With exception of the land, all the property handed over to the cooperative is estimated by a special committee (the committee of estimation) appointed by the General Meeting of the cooperativists (the Assembly). The interested farmer also takes part in this committee. The price of the draft animals is paid for in full within a period of six years.

All the lands united in the cooperative become its collective property, all pre-existing boundaries are re-

moved and the united block of lands belonging to the cooperative is thus created. From this collective land, to each member family is given a parcel to cultivate as personal patch of ground in addition to the homestead area. The size of the personal plot is decided upon by the General Meeting of the cooperative members, but in the Statutes they are fixed at 1 dym (1000 m²) for the lowlands and 1,5 dym for the mountainous zones. When the cooperative families are numerous (3 or more married couples and their respective children), personal land plot may be increased up to 3 dym.

Besides the land, the cooperative is handed also all the farm implements and means of transport, all the draft animals, the dairy cattle and the bees (except the hives left to the cooperative families for their personal needs), the seeds required for the collective sowing, the fodder for the animals that are handed to the cooperative, the buildings needed by the cooperative and the workshops serving to process the farm and dairy products.

The dwelling houses, the animal sheds and the few tools needed by the cooperative families to cultivate their personal gardens do not become collective property. Every cooperative family is allowed to keep cattle and sheep or goats, pigs and bees to the number approved by the General Meeting in accordance with the conditions of each cooperative, but always bearing in mind that the maximum limits set by the Statute are not to be exceeded. According to the provisions of the Statute, the lowland farmer has a right to keep 1 cow or 10 sheep; for the highland cooperative members these figures are 1 cow and 10 sheep or goats, whereas the members of the recently formed mountain cooperatives are permitted to keep 1 cow and 20 sheep. The cooperative may help its member families in plowing their household gardens

with its collective animals, or it may give them any other possible aid.

Democracy is one of the basic principles upon which the cooperatives are erected. This is reflected in the right enjoyed by the members to take a direct part in the solution of all problems connected with the cooperative's economy, the right to elect and be elected to all the directing organs of the cooperative, the right to call to account the directing persons and organs of the cooperative and to exercise control over their actions, the right to dismiss before the expiration of their term of office on any time persons appointed to the directing organs of the cooperative if they have not deserved the confidence given to them by the cooperative members, if they have neglected to fulfil the duties assigned to them.

The highest organ of the cooperative is the General Meeting of its members (the Assembly), in which all the cooperative members take part. In the interim between two General Meetings of the Assembly, work is carried on by the cooperative's Executive, elected by the General Meeting of its members. For conducting the daily work, the Assembly elects the Chairman of the Cooperative who is, at the same time, the Chairman of the Executive Committee. All the work of the cooperative is executed in conformity with the Statute, the laws, the decisions, the ordinances and the instructions of the State organs, coordinating the interest of the cooperative with those of people's economy in general, always led by the common aim of serving the cause of building socialism. The coordination of the personal interest of the members with the general interest of the collective is one of the fundamental principles through which the cooperatives carry on their activity for an impetuous and all round development of collective economy, for the continuous increase of the collective pro-

perty and for fulfilling their obligations towards the State on time.

The basis for improving the economic status and cultural level of the cooperative members always remains the collective property and the efforts to strengthen it, whereas the land plots and the cattle left to each member family for private use serve only to satisfy their needs for fruits, vegetables and dairy products. As a result of the improvement of their welfare and incited by their socialist conscience to put general interest above personal interest, the cooperative members have diminished their household plot of land entirely of their own free will. This was an unprecedented initiative of particular principle, ideological and economic significance. It determined in a revolutionary manner the attitude of the cooperative members towards collective and private work, towards general and personal interests, always giving priority to the sentiment of collective property and collective interest over private property and personal interests. The care of the cooperative members is directed mainly to safeguarding and increasing collective property, which is the real source of their income.

In the cooperative, everyone is remunerated according to the amount of work that he or she does, hence the person working more gets more. Our socialist peasantry have recently taken another step forward with respect to the socialist organization of work. They are shifting from individual to collective quotas of work, which serves better the aim of getting educated in the spirit of teamwork and reciprocal socialist aid, as well as of maintaining a more consistent socialist stand towards common work.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF COLLECTIVE SOCIALIST AGRICULTURE

The socialist system has now already demonstrated its indisputable superiority over the small peasant economies. The agricultural cooperatives constitute the main basis for the utilization of machines and tractors in agriculture.

With the creation of large collective economies, the fences and ditches that mutilated the fields disappeared, wide cultivated areas were created, in which large-scale agro-technical measures can be applied. For the mechanization of agriculture the State has created, in all the districts of the Republic, Machine and Tractor Stations, with the implements of which many farming operations are carried out. Albanian agriculture today disposes one tractor for every 50 hectares of tilled land. The primitive plough used to be the chief tool for land tilling in the split private economies, whereas the cooperatives today carry out with the mechanized means of the Machine and Tractor Stations: 95 per cent of the plowing, 80 per cent of the sowing, 56 per cent of the reaping and 85 per cent of the threshing. Meantime, mechanization goes on increasing continually. While in capitalist countries the use of machines in agriculture is ruinous for the farmer, for our collective farming it only facilitates the work of the farmers and it improves their welfare. With the creation of large collective economies, the working peasantry is able to profit largely by the drainage and irrigation works set up by the State, as well as by the State aid in the form of credits for the development of agricultural production, or in the form of selected seeds, chemical fertilizers, etc. Besides the big annual investments in this direction, the State gives considerable material and technical aid to the coopera-

tives for building reservoirs themselves to irrigate their fields. During the Third Five-year Plan (1961-1965) alone the cooperatives built more than 140 such reservoirs.

The cooperative order assured a considerable increase in agricultural production and made it possible for agriculture to continually increase its products for the market, a fact which is very important for furnishing the country with foodstuffs and agricultural raw materials.

For instance, the cooperative of Pirgu (district of Korça) last year got 40 quintals of wheat per hectare, that of Spileni (district of Lezha) 30.5 quintals of wheat and 20 quintals of stubble corn per hectare, that of Tamara (district of Shkodra) got 37 quintals of corn, etc. The cooperative of Kavaja got last year — as against 1961 (when it was created) — 3 times more wheat per hectare, 6.8 times more rice and 2.5 times more milk. Last year it has succeeded in getting 80 quintals of rice per hectare in 60 hectares of land planted with this crop, whereas in special parcels have been got as much as from 80 to 100 quintals per hectare.

The above examples are not rare nor isolated phenomena. A proof to this effect is also the following fact: In the districts of Mati, Librazhdi and Kuksi, which are the most mountainous regions of the country and where a number of agricultural cooperatives were formed only year the latter raised about 40 per cent more corn and over 35 per cent more wheat than in 1965. Many Highland villages, which in the past produced cereals to last them only for 3-4 months a year, now not only fulfil their own needs with food grains but also sell surpluses to the State.

The large collective economies have greater possibilities to develop their production in all directions. They produce not only cereals but also vegetables and

industrial crops, they engage in cattle and fowl breeding, fruit-growing, apiculture and viticulture. Collectivization brought about a great turn in Albanian agriculture. It passed from an extensive agriculture, which it was before liberation, to an intensive one. Agricultural production is now three times greater than before the war. The income per capita of the cooperative members from their collective economy increases every year. In 1967 it was 26 per cent more than in 1962.

The union of forces has created great possibilities to undertake projects, which are impossible to be realized by private small and split economies. Thus, for example during 1967 alone the population of the Dibra district, extended irrigation to another 3,000 hectares of land under cultivation by building 23 reservoirs and 15 big and small irrigation canals while 20 agricultural cooperatives have planted entire blocks with fruit trees.

The actions for reclaiming virgin land, for systematizing and irrigating the fields, for creating fruit-tree blocks, etc., are another testimony of the great force of collective work. The cooperative economy completes within the year 1968 the duty of reclaiming virgin land to the amount calculated for all the Fourth Five-year Plan as a whole.

The cooperative system creates great possibilities for scientific experiments on large areas of land, for the application of crop rotation, for the propagation of progressive experience, etc.

The development of cooperative economy assures the growth of the welfare of all the cooperative members. Collective property has brought them to a status of equal relations with respect to the means of production, which belong to all the collective. The exploitation of man by man does not exist in the cooperative and is prohibited that some should get more means of production and

others be deprived of them, as happens where private property exists. In the collective economy, the exploitation of another's work is excluded. With regard to work and the pay resulting from it, in the agricultural cooperatives is applied the principle: «From each according to his abilities, to each according to his work». The cooperative members are paid according to the number of days they have worked during the agricultural year. The differences in their incomes have got nothing to do with the economic or social condition of the peasants before enrolling in the cooperative, but are directly connected with their work in the collective economy and with the value of the workday, which goes on increasing as the economy of the cooperative strengthens.

The establishment of the cooperative order procured for the Albanian peasantry the necessary conditions for a beautiful and cultured life. Today, about half of the peasant families live in their new houses constructed after the collectivization of agriculture, with the money gained by working in the cooperatives and with credits accorded them by the State on most privileged conditions. Before liberation, the Albanian villages have been very much scattered, whereas after collectivization and especially with the creation of the enlarged cooperatives formed by the union of two or more small ones, new economical and administrative centres have sprung up. In the agricultural cooperatives new houses not only private but also social, cultural and educational institutions have been built, new roads have been opened and electricity has been brought to the villages. The cooperative centers are assuming more and more the appearance of small towns. As a significant example may be taken the «Stalin» cooperative of Krutja which, 22 years ago, right after the agrarian reform laws were adopted, was the first to embark on the road of collectivization of agriculture

and to serve as a spark for spreading the big flames of collectivization all over the country. At the beginning it included only 26 families with 116 farm-hands, 26 teams of oxen, 212 hectares of plowable land and some primitive farming tools. Today it numbers 600 member families with 1,200 farm-hands, 2,400 hectares of land, 1,300 cattle and a reserve fund of 8 million leks. This cooperative realizes over 10 million leks of income annually. During the third Five-year Plan it produced 54 thousand quintals of cereals and over 16 thousand quintals of milk, besides other products, whereas it is foreseen to produce 150,000 quintals of cereals and 35,000 quintals of milk during the present five-year period.

The increase of production exerted a direct influence on the improvement of the welfare of the cooperative members. In place of the old, sooty cottages, new houses have sprung up with electric lights and radio sets in them. All the villages composing the cooperative are connected by automobile roads. The cooperative has 6 infirmeries, 1 maternity house, two 8-grade schools and a gymnasium with 1,100 students and 42 teachers, 80 per cent of whom are natives of Krutja. In every village there are culture hearths, a large network of social catering units and artisan shops, all of which facilitate the fulfilment of the needs of the members in their own village.

WHAT ROLE DO THE STATE AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS PLAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIAN AGRICULTURE?

The State Agricultural Establishments are large economies based on State ownership over the means of production. They are equipped with a powerful agricul-

tural technique, which assures a high output of work and the increase of products for the market.

The State Agricultural Establishments are many-branched economies; but, in conformity with the land and climate conditions, they specialize in one particular branch of production. Thus, for example, there are agricultural establishments which practice chiefly the cultivation of cereals; others, being near cities or big industrial centers, specialize in fruit and vegetable growing; whereas still others have livestock breeding for their special profile.

The remuneration for work in the State Agricultural establishments is done in cash, according to the socialist principle of distribution.

The State Agricultural Establishments play an important role in supplying the cities with food products and industry with raw materials.

The output of the State Agricultural Establishments has increased very rapidly. If we take the produce of cereals in 1950 as 100 per cent, then this figure grew to 430 per cent in 1955, to 740 per cent in 1960 and to 22.5 times more in 1965. The output of milk has also increased at a rapid rate: In 1960 it was twice the amount produced in 1955 and in 1965 again two times as much as in 1960.

Being the highest form of socialist organization of agriculture, the State Agricultural Establishments have had to fulfill a very important mission in the process of the socialist transformation of the countryside. Their mission was to serve as strong footholds of socialism in the countryside, as brilliant examples demonstrating to the peasantry the undisputed superiority of large-scale planned, mechanized and advanced economy over the split economies of private peasants. And life has proved that the State Agricultural Establishments have honorably

discharged this mission to the benefit of the construction of socialism in the countryside and of convincing the peasants of the profits that large-scale socialist production unfailingly brings to them.

At the same time, the State Agricultural Establishments have helped the cooperatives and private farmers with selected seeds, pedigree cattle and various other farming materials.

In Albania, the State Agricultural Establishments, which are dependencies of the Ministry of Agriculture, were first created in the year 1945, starting with some former «State farms», with the possessions of some foreign companies, with the lands confiscated from big local landowners and capitalists, with the nationalized olive groves and flocks and, later, with lands reclaimed from draining the large swamps. Today there are 32 of them. Thanks to the State investments, these enterprises have grown up every year, becoming large agricultural centers, strong bases for furnishing the market and industry with agricultural and livestock products, centers for the application of the achievements of modern science and technique, hearths for acquiring and spreading progressive experience, and main sources for helping the agricultural cooperatives with selected seeds and high breed cattle.

The first indication of the development of the State Agricultural Establishments is the yearly increase of their areas planted with farming crops. In 1967 they planted 82,190 hectares, of which 62,920 with field crops and 19,270 with fruit-trees and vineyards. In their work they apply the availabilities of progressive technique. The use of chemical and organic fertilizers in the required proportions and of high quality and selected varieties of seeds, together with other such relevant measures, have created the conditions for a continuous increase in the

yields of food crops. But a parallel increase is also to be observed in the other crops. Compared to the average of the years 1951-1955, the output of cotton has during 1961-1966 period, increased 60 per cent, of sugar-beets 73 per cent, and so on. The incessant growth of agricultural products in the State Agricultural Establishments is closely linked with the mechanization of the agricultural operations. For each 100 hectares of land, they have 3.1 tractors (of 15 Hp each) at their disposal.

When first created from the nationalized possessions of the landocracy, the State Agricultural Establishments had a total of 11,700 fruit-trees, 239,000 olives and 63 hectares of vineyards. Entire hilly zones, once covered with age-long bushes and hedges, have now been transformed into beautiful hills planted with fruit trees. Vast plantations of fruit trees have been created in Dvorani (in the Korça district) with 113,000, in Peshkopia with 198,000, in Uznova (of Berati) with 211,000 fig trees and in Stiari and Vrina (South Albania) with 90,000 and 76,000 in citrus trees each. Extensive olive groves have been created in Elbasan, Vlora, Lushnja and Berat. The vineyards planted on the hills of Tirana, Shkodra, Durrës and Lushnja occupy 3,369 hectares of land.

The dwelling centers at many of the State Agricultural Establishments have been transformed into small agricultural towns, which develop according to proper urbanistic schemes. Thus, for instance, in the «29 Nandori» «29th November» — Albania's Liberation Day State Agricultural Establishment now live over 8,000 people; in that of Sukthi — over 7,000 etc.

With their good example, the State Agricultural Establishments have exerted a positive influence on the improvement of work and methods of production in the agricultural cooperatives. They have become vast schools where the cooperative members learn the technique of

systematizing their field areas. They learn there the best ways of turning the hills into large plantations of orchards, olive groves and vineyards, and get acquainted with the technique of growing vegetables in hotbeds. The State Agricultural Establishments, as State farming and livestock concerns, stand as vanguards of our agriculture in constant development.

WHAT ARE THE MACHINE AND TRACTOR STATIONS AND WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY?

The Machine and Tractor Stations are State socialist enterprises of agriculture possessing tractors, combines and other farming machinery, with which they come to the aid of the agricultural cooperatives in the mechanization of the various farming operations.

The Machine and Tractor Stations were born out of the necessity to remove the contradiction between the large collective economy and the primitive material and technical basis inherited from the small private economies, placing the producing activity of the agricultural cooperatives on the rails of modern technique. The aim of these stations is that, by mechanizing the farming operations, they help the continuous and uninterrupted increase of agricultural production, the increase in the out-put, and facilitate the farmers' work.

From the beginning of the process of collectivization, the People's Power devoted particular attention and took the necessary steps to the effect that the agricultural cooperatives should be aided with advanced technical means. But it is selfunderstood that the cooperatives could not, by themselves, face the very great expenses of procuring these means. Therefore, our State itself undertook to help the collective economies with new

technical means. Thus the first four Machine and Tractor Stations were created in our country in 1947. From that time, until the complete collectivization of agriculture, their number and their material and technical basis have steadily and continually grown. Today, we number 30 Machine and Tractor Stations with 9,000 tractors (reckoned at 15 HP).

The increase in the number of Machine and Tractor Stations and of their respective technical capacities, made it possible for an ever growing number of agricultural economies to depend on their tractors and other machinery for carrying on their producing activity. During the first years of their creation (1947-49), their main task was to plow the fields of the agricultural cooperatives, of the State Agricultural Establishments and of the peasant economies damaged by the war.

During the second phase of their development (1950-1955), the principal task of the Machine and Tractor Stations was, in the first place, to come to the aid of the agricultural cooperatives and private economies that planted industrial crops. By this time, the Stations began to play a better role in strengthening the cooperatives economically by helping them more and more to mechanize the farming operations and to increase the yields of their agricultural products.

From the year 1955 onward, which constitutes an important period in the development of the Machine and Tractor Stations, their main task has been to increase the mechanized operations in agriculture. Now they have become a decisive force in performing the farming operations at a high degree of perfection and within the best suited time limits, as well as in the application of advanced agro-technical methods.

During the first years of their existence the Machine and Tractor Stations did not perform more than 10 kinds

of work, chiefly plowing, while now they perform more than 70 different kinds of farming operations: from deep plowing and reaping to mechanized shearing of the sheep.

According to the conditions agreed upon in the contracts signed between them, the agricultural cooperatives pay the Machine and Tractor Stations for their work either in farm products or in money.

The workers of the Machine and Tractor Stations and the members of the agricultural cooperatives collectively contribute to the realization of high crop yields by using the modern means of production which are the common property of all the people. Thus, the Machine and Tractor Stations constitute one of the highest forms of economic ties in production between the working class and the laboring peasantry. They play a decisive role in strengthening the alliance between them. The Machine and Tractor Stations are a special form of the great financial and economic help which our State has given to the peasants in an organized manner for the invigoration of the new cooperative order in agriculture.

Besides, the Machine and Tractor Stations have given to the cooperatives an all-round aid in the organization of work in the planification of production, the application of modern agricultural technique, in strengthening the sector of accounting, in training cadres to be good mechanics, etc. The Machine and Tractor Stations have been the State's most important lever in preparing the premises for the general collectivization of agriculture. They have been a great political and organizational force, which has helped in all direction to persuade the laboring peasantry of the superiority of the big collective economies aided by the use of modern agricultural machinery through their own example.

The Machine and Tractor Stations have played and

will continue to play a decisive role in procuring the material and technical basis of our socialist agriculture. The concentration of the main farm implements at the Machine and Tractor Stations is the only means of assuring high rates of increase of cooperative production. They are a powerful lever for developing, strengthening and intensifying socialist agriculture.

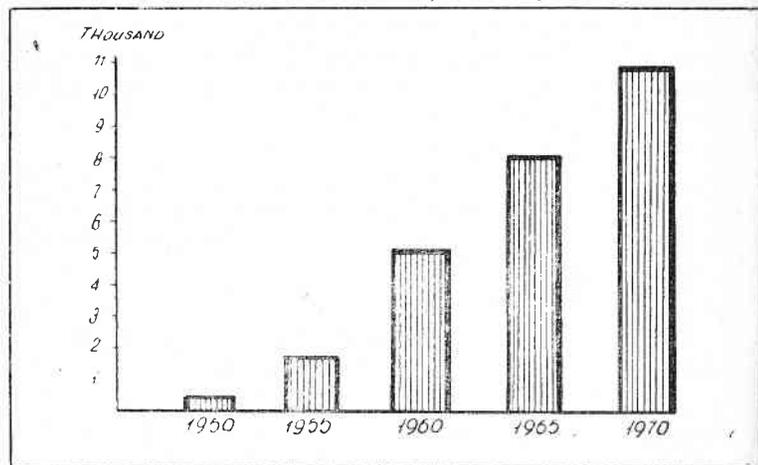
The indispensability of the existence of the Machine and Tractor Stations is dictated by three main factors. Firstly, because the principal means of production, in agriculture as in the other branches of production, must remain in the hands of the State, which represents the interests of the whole society. Secondly, because technique does not mark time but develops continually and becomes more perfect. Old technique is superseded by new technique involving high expenses or the investment of considerable sums of money. These big investments to the benefit of agricultural production can successfully be undertaken only by the State. Thirdly, because, having the means of production managed by the State, all the cooperatives in the districts and zones where agricultural machinery operate can be aided as equally as possible, paying special attention of course, to the economically weaker ones.

WHAT DEGREE OF DEVELOPMENT HAS THE MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE ATTAINED IN ALBANIA?

In the past, the principal device for tilling the land was the primitive plough. Now the situation is radically changing. Albania, which before liberation had less than 30 tractors, reckoned at 15 HP has today about 9,000 of them, or 1 tractor for every 50 hectares of tilled land, besides hundreds of combines and self-propelled combines,

reaping machines, sowing machines, mechanical sieves and ventilators, ensilage chopping machines, spraying apparatuses, automatic shears, cow-milking machines, etc. While before liberation agricultural machinery represented only 0,8 per cent of the motor power used in farming, today it represents 85 per cent. And all this was achieved in little more than two decades of People's Power. This powerful technique has brought large profits to our economy: plowing is done very much quicker than in the past and in the best suited time, besides being of a high quality; deep plowing is practiced on a large scale and it is performed quickly and cheaply; sowing is concluded within short periods of time, etc. Today, 95 per cent of the plowing in areas where the tractor can operate are mechanized, as well as 80 per cent of the sowing, about 70 per cent of the reaping and threshing, and so on.

NUMBER OF TRACTORS (IN 15 HP)



Differently from the capitalist countries, where agricultural machinery is owned by wealthy proprietors, landlords or capitalists, who exploit the working peasants by using them as farmhands or by setting high prices for the mechanization of farm work, in our country, where the Power belongs to the workers and laboring peasants, agricultural machinery is widely used by the entire peasantry. The Machine and Tractor Stations work the farmer's lands for very little pay. This reflects the great interest and care shown by the State for the development of agricultural production and, consequently, for the increase in the incomes of the farmers themselves.

During the years of People's Power, the basis for mechanizing agriculture was created and is continually being strengthened. In the various districts there have been and are being opened regional workshops for tractor repairs and, during recent years, a modern factory for producing spare parts for tractors has been set up in Tirana. It is some years now that our mechanical industry produced the first threshing machines of Albanian make, as well as a series of other mechanisms which previously were imported.

By facilitating the work and decreasing the need for man power, the further mechanization of agriculture creates possibilities for the development of other sectors of production in the agricultural cooperatives, which have embarked on a many-branched economy.

Now the cooperatives have mechanized the processes that required many farm-hands, such as the reaping of corn and sunflowers, the planting and digging of potatoes, the digging of sugar beats, the stripping and shucking of corn ears, the various works in the vineyards (as, for instance, spraying), the weeding of plants, the processing and conservation of forage crops, the conveying of the ensilage to the cattle sheds, etc.

Agricultural machinery is not being used only during the sowing and reaping campaigns, but all the year round. Tractors are now used also for uprooting trees in constructing reservoirs, in building terraces on slopy lands, etc. Maximum mechanization of agricultural operations in the lowlands, during the coming 10 years, will set free a large number of farm-hands, who might well be used to contribute in the development of the mountain regions, where broad areas of virgin land are being reclaimed and the cultivation of cereals and the breeding of cattle has begun. Mechanization is becoming a powerful and efficient lever for further intensifying agriculture in Albania.

WHAT PROPORTIONS HAVE THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION WORKS TAKEN?

In Albania, a vast program for an intensive development of agriculture is being realized. Great importance in this direction has been given also to drainage and irrigation.

Our country is very mountainous. Besides this, before liberation, 150,000 to 160,000 hectares of arable land were occupied by swamps or undrained areas, while a good part of the cultivated lands fell a prey to floods and droughts. The area of the irrigated fields was very much limited — only 29,000 hectares. In these conditions the solution of the problem of drainage and irrigation of the fields was of great importance to the development of agriculture. Otherwise, the full, rational and efficient exploitation of the land by the cooperative economies could not be thought of, nor could any serious and steady growth be attained in the output of farm crops or in the volume of production.

The peasants could never solve this problem all by themselves. Therefore, the State came to their aid and invested large funds for this purpose.

In the post-liberation period, our Party and People's Power undertook and accomplished such outstanding works as those of draining the Maliqi and Terbufi lagoons, of draining and irrigating the Korça, Kavaja, Myzeqeja, Mursia, Vurgu, Fieri, Roskoveci, Thumana, Lezha, Mati and other plains, the drying of the Tërbufi lake. These works turned regions which used to be lagoons, swamps and marshes into socialist agricultural economies from which to receive bountiful products. The drainage and irrigation works performed by the State have been an important means to strengthen the economic ties with the peasantry in the sphere of production. They created very favourable conditions for the peasants to get more plentiful and more stable farm yields.

As a result of the work accomplished, up to now, 30,000 hectares of virgin land have been gained, while another 120,000 hectares have been improved. The extent of irrigated areas has increased 8 times compared to the pre-war period. Today, about half of the cultivated fields are irrigable, — an indicator this, which is among the highest in Europe.

But these levels will go higher during the Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970), which constitutes a vast program for an intensive development of agriculture. The investments which the State has decided to allot for the construction of hydro-technical works for agriculture during this five-year plan amount to about 20 per cent of the total funds of capital investments, whereas the volume of the work for swamp draining and increasing the areas of irrigable land will be 80 per cent more than that of the Third Five-year Plan, or equal to the whole volume of this kind of work done during the first 17 years of People's Power.

In order to realize these ends, intensive work is being carried out in a number of drainage and irrigation projects. The plans drawn by Albanian engineers to drain the remaining swamps are being successfully executed. Important efforts are also being made to improve the water system of the large plains in northern and southern Albania; 1967 saw the completion of the draining, systematization and irrigation of the Bregu i Matit plain (bordered by the Mati river), which stretches to the northern part of the country and occupies an area of 7,000 hectares. The greater part of the irrigation network was constructed on rocky and mountainous ground.

After completing this task, the drainage workers started on another important project namely, that of draining the Kakariqi swamp further to the north. 2400 hectares of land will be reclaimed here.

In the mountainous north-eastern zone in the Dibra district, an irrigation canal, more than 1,800 m above sea level has already started being used. It stretches for more than 21 kilometres over a difficult and mountainous area.

Large-scale work is going on in draining the Dropulli plain, in southern Albania and in irrigating more than 6,000 hectares of land. In the south-eastern region, the complex drainage of the Hoxhara marsh and plain is being carried out over a surface of 22,000 hectares. To drain the swamps the State uses the most modern devices. Thus, for instance, at Hoxhara a system of electropumps with a capacity of 24 cubic meters per second has been installed. This is one of the biggest and most modern of its kind in Europe.

Of great importance for the increase of crop yields, especially in the hilly and mountainous zones, are the hundreds of reservoirs being constructed in various districts of the country, from north to south.

In compliance with the tasks of the vast development

of agriculture during the Five-year Plan, the State has invested large funds for drainage works — about double those of the Third Five-year Plan. The funds for the hilly and mountainous zones are 6 times greater.

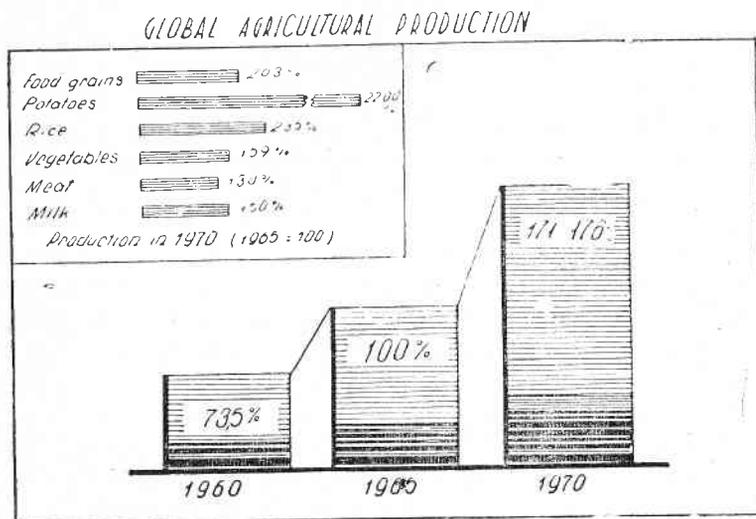
The Albanian workers, technicians and engineers are gaining a rich experience in drainage construction. They are demonstrating remarkable ability and taking courageous initiatives in complex hydro-technical constructions, surmounting all natural obstructions. They prospected and built big earth dams, dozens of meters high, which involved the solution of a series of complicated technical problems.

The State does not only build drainage and irrigation works itself (swamp drying, irrigation canals, electro-pumping stations, art works, etc.), but it also gives to the cooperative peasantry an allround aid to build minor works of this kind themselves. The State gives them the materials and specialized cadres, while awarding them cash credits in very favorable terms.

The drainage works carried out have brought about profits in two directions: On one side, new farm lands have been gained and, on the other, a more suitable atmosphere has been created for the plants because the principal agricultural zones of the country suffer both from excessive summer droughts and from excessive rainfall. Thus, for example, in Zadrime the average output of wheat was doubled after the plain had been drained and systematized. In Myzeqeja, after the draining of the plain, the wheat yields increased to the amount of 4 quintals per hectare, of corn 5 quintals, of cotton also about 5 quintals, and so on.

WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR THE INTENSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE?

The Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-1970) is the period of a general drive to intensify agriculture. It foresees the increase of agricultural production, especially as regards food crops, at a speedier rate than the previous five-year plans. In 1970 the production of food crops will be more than double that 1965, that of potatoes 22 times, of rice 2,3 times, of sun-flowers 5 times, etc.



The realization of this major task is closely linked up with that of producing all the food grains the country needs, of building socialism and of strengthening the country's defensive power. The struggle for producing our own bread at home means fighting for socialism. This task assumes greater importance especially today, when

our population is twice what it was before liberation, when the various branches of the light and food-processing industries require raw materials from agriculture, when the export demands for our agricultural products have increased and when the imperialists and revisionists have set a blockade around our country.

The intensive development of our agriculture relies on a material and technical basis which grows stronger every day.

Applying fertilizers to the land is of major importance. In addition to organic manures our peasants apply today on an ever increasing scale such chemical fertilizers as those produced now at the Fieri nitrate plant and at the Laçi superphosphate one, both of which started turning out such fertilizers during the early years of the Fourth Five-year Plan period.

Special stations of scientific research work not existing in the past have been set up to test corn, wheat, cotton, tobacco, sunflower, sugar beet, rice and forage plant seeds. Fruit-tree saplings are supplied from State nurseries. Stations of research work in the field of zootechnics, to improve the breed of cattle, have also been created after liberation.

Special importance is attached to the protection of plants from diseases and insects. Besides furnishing them with insecticides, the State gives to the peasants the necessary technical aid through competent specialists. The same thing is true as far as the protection of animals from diseases is concerned.

The decisive factor in the great transformations undergone by our agriculture after liberation is and remains MAN — our new Man of a socialist conscience and a high revolutionary spirit. He has become a great force in pushing production forward. Everywhere, in fields and mountains, work goes on enthusiastically for

snatching from the land as much produce as possible.

The socialist system of agriculture creates unlimited possibilities to the effect that progressive experience and the results of scientific research should be widely spread all over the Republic.

Embracing everything new and progressive and discarding the old conservatory methods and concepts, the agricultural workers of Albania are pledged to accomplish the tasks assigned to them by the Fourth Five-Year Plan with regard to the increase of productivity and output before schedule. In order to realize this in the best way possible, the large masses of cooperative peasants are acquiring scientific notions and successfully applying the basic rules of the agrotechnical code. Scientific experimentation has become a concern of all the working masses: Not only the special cadres directly connected with agricultural work, but also the masses of cooperative members and the workers of the State Agricultural Establishments are doing experimental and scientific research work.

Albania has got today its own centres for training the necessary cadres for carrying on scientific research and studies. An important center of this kind is the State Upper Institute of Agriculture at Tirana, where, along with the preparation of high cadres in agronomy, zootechnics, sylviculture, etc., a vast activity is developed in the field of scientific studies and experiments. During the years of the People's Power, the number of high cadres for agriculture has increased 30 times as compared to the pre-war period. Vocational schools and courses majoring in agriculture and agricultural technique have also been increasing from one year to another.

During the school-year 1967-68 alone 1,500 agrotechnical courses and 350 lower agricultural schools were

opened which are attended by thousands of rural workers.

As a result of the great work going on for the development of agriculture, total agricultural production in 1967 was 26 per cent above that of 1965: that of food crops 47 per cent more, of potatoes 4 times, of sugar beets 84 per cent, of sunflowers 113 per cent, and so on.

HOW IS THE SLOGAN: «LET US TAKE TO THE HILLS AND MOUNTAINS AND MAKE THEM AS BEAUTIFUL AND FERTILE AS THE PLAINS» BEING PUT INTO EFFECT?

Albania is a place where a mountainous and hilly relief predominates. Agricultural lands occupy only 42 per cent of the surface, of which 19.3 per cent are under cultivation. Although, compared with the past, the cultivated surface has almost doubled, nevertheless it is still too limited. The arable land is only 0,37 hectares per capita of the population of the agricultural cooperatives. Therefore, the task for the present is to see to it that the increase in the production of food crops and the development of all the branches of agriculture should be accomplished by harmonizing the development of agriculture in depth with that in width. For the rapid development of agriculture, along with the endeavours to render it more intensive, the reclaiming of virgin lands is also being practiced. Great reserves in this direction are to be found on the hills and mountains. In connection with this, the Party of Labor, in its Fifth Congress, launched the slogan: «Let us take to the hills and mountains and make them as beautiful and fertile as the plains». During the Fourth Five-year Plan, 115,000 hectares of virgin lands will be reclaimed. This is twice what it was during the

previous five-year plan. Furthermore, this result will be achieved in 1968, that is two years before schedule. A great aid in this undertaking is being given by the young people of the cities and of the lowland cooperatives, as well as by the soldiers of our People's Army. Moreover many mechanical means of the Machine and Tractor Stations and of the State Agricultural Establishments are being used for this purpose. The hills and mountain slopes, which were covered with shrubs, are now being formed into terraces and turned to orchards and vineyards.

The peasants of the mountain districts have proclaimed winter a season of intensive work to snatch from the mountains and degraded forests their fertile lands which had never been exploited before. In battle with rocks, cold weather and snow and working in a high revolutionary spirit, they are grabbing from nature span after span of valuable land. Thus, the hills and mountains are changing their usual appearance. Thousands upon thousands of hectares of slopy land have already been reclaimed and formed into terraces. Barriers have been constructed to protect these reclaimed lands from erosion. Entire zones have been turned into large plantations of orchards and vineyards. During the third five-year period 3,3 times more olive trees have been planted on the hills surrounding the city of Berat than this whole region had before liberation.

IN WHAT PROPORTION HAVE FARMING AND FRUIT GROWING DEVELOPED?

During the years of People's Power and, especially, after collectivization our agricultural economy has proceeded and is systematically proceeding along the path

of a many-branched development. Up to 1938, the main agricultural revenue (about 51 per cent) came from the livestock sector and only about 43 per cent from farming, while fruit-growing and forestry taken together, yielded no more than 6 per cent of the agricultural produce. The proportion between the farming and animal husbandry production, in reality, gave the country a decidedly livestock breeding character. During the years of People's Power, the ratio between these two principal branches has radically changed. Now the specific weight of crops is higher than that of livestock breeding. In 1970, the specific weight of farm crops will be about 61 per cent. At the same time, the branches of agriculture mostly neglected began gradually to develop, too. Thus, in 1965 the specific weight of fruit-growing and forest exploitation taken together has increased 2,7 times as compared with 1938. Compared to 1950, in 1967 industrial crops occupied an area twice as much, vegetables 2,2 times, forage crops about 5 times, and so on.

During the years of the fourth five-year period, agriculture occupies the chief place in the development of our people's economy as a whole. During the fourth five-year period the rate of increase in agricultural production will be higher than that of industrial production. The total volume of agricultural production, for all this five-year period, will be 41-46 per cent above that of the third five year period, with an average annual rate of growth of 11.5 per cent, as against 6.4 per cent which it was during the third five-year period. In 1970, the total volume of agricultural production will be 71-76 per cent higher than in 1965, the production of field crops being about 115 per cent greater.

Farm crops now occupy first place among the products of the main branches of agricultural economy. In 1938 they represented 43 per cent of all agricultural

production, whereas in 1965 — 50 per cent. The output of field crops after liberation has increased at a higher rate than the areas planted with them. Thus, while in 1965 (as against 1938) the area planted with field crops was 91 per cent larger, the yields were 179 per cent higher. While in 1950, in all the Republic, the cereals occupied 67 per cent of the area planted with field crops, in 1967 they occupied only 60 per cent of the area but, in spite of that, the output of food crops for the same period was more than doubled. This demonstrates that, after liberation, our agriculture has steadily proceeded on the path of continuous intensification, of increases in output, of getting more and more agricultural products from each unit of tilled land. New plants have been introduced into our agriculture and they have considerably increased the values of the total agricultural production. While the specific weight of the food crops in 1965 (as against 1938) fell from 67 per cent to 39 per cent, that of the industrial crops rose from 5 per cent to 23 per cent; of the vegetables, potatoes and leguminous plants it rose from 10 to 13 per cent. This came about because the outputs of the other plants have grown at a quicker rate than those of the food crops. Thus while cereal yields for the year 1965 (as against 1938) increased 61 per cent, the corresponding increase for industrial crops was 15 times; for potatoes, vegetables and forage crops — about 3.5 times, etc. In conformity with the needs of the people's economy, the proportions between the various kinds of industrial crops have continually changed too.

While before liberation, the industrial crops raised were only tobacco and cotton (even these in much limited areas), after liberation other new industrial crops were introduced, namely sugar beets, sunflowers, etc. In 1965, industrial crops occupied 15 per cent of the area planted with field crops.

The above-mentioned changes bear witness to the correct trend to be observed in the development of our agriculture after liberation. It has gradually turned into an agriculture from which the striking disproportions have disappeared and in their place, better proportions have been continually established between the main groups of field crops, the specific weight of some of them being lifted and of some others lowered.

During the years of the fourth five-year period the field crops will mark an even higher degree of development. In 1970 they will yield 115 per cent more than in 1965. Their specific weight in the total agricultural production will be about 61 per cent as against about 50 per cent which it was in 1965.

During the Fourth Five-year Plan, about 91,000 hectares of reclaimed virgin lands will be utilized for field crops. But the greatest increase in their production results chiefly from higher yields per unit area. Thus, for instance, 82 per cent of the increase of cereals will come from a corresponding increase in yields per unit area. Likewise, all the increase of tobacco, cotton and sugar-beet products, as well as 62 per cent of the increase of sunflowers will be due to the same reason. The increase in output per unit area depends on two important factors: on the application of progressive experience and on the further strengthening of the material and technical basis of agriculture. During the Fourth Five-year Plan, the volume of mechanized operations of work will increase 35 per cent, the capacity of irrigation 38 per cent, the use of chemical fertilizers about 10 times, etc.

As a result of these measures, there will be an increase of production in all field crops mainly cereals and potatoes. In 1970 the production of food crops will be doubled and that of potatoes will grow about 22 times what it was in 1965.

WHAT CARE HAS BEEN SHOWN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRUIT GROWING?

Albania enjoys favorable conditions for growing many kinds of fruit trees, from the varieties of the high mountainous zones to those of the sub-tropical climate: the olives, the citrus trees etc. For the period before liberation, with the exception of certain massive blocks of olive trees planted in olden times in the regions of Vlora, Berat, Elbasan and Tirana, we may not even speak of the existence of the fruit sector. Only after liberation, and specially during the last decade, fruit growing in Albania has marked a high degree of development. Suffice it to mention that, in the year 1965, the area planted with fruit trees was 3.8 times as large as in 1938. The number of fruit trees has increased 3.5 times, that of olive trees about 2 times, of the citrus trees about 10 times, and the area of the vineyards about 5 times.

Fruit growing has developed both in depth and in width, both the fruit production and its specific weight in the total agricultural production have increased. Fruit growing has today become an important branch of our agricultural economy, yielding large incomes to the farmers. Thanks to the development of fruit growing, the market today is supplied with sufficient fruits of all kinds during almost, all the seasons of the year. Fruit growing supplies our food-processing industry with the necessary raw materials for the preparation of stewed fruits, jams, marmalades, fruit juices, refreshing drinks, etc.; it supplies the oil industry with olives; the wineries with grapes, etc.; and, in the meantime, it fulfills ever better the demands of the foreign markets.

The specific weight of fruit production in the total volume of agricultural produce has risen from 6 per cent

(which it was in 1938) to 12 per cent in 1965. The explanation for this is that the rate of the increase in fruit production, as compared to the increase in the general agricultural production, has been higher. Thus, fruit production in 1965, compared with the period before liberation, had grown 4.2 times, whereas the volume of total agricultural production — 2.3 times. During the same period, the area planted with fruit trees has increased 3.8 times, whereas the total area of land under cultivation only 1.7 times.

During the years of People's Power, the structure of the main component branches of fruit growing has also changed. In 1938 the principal place — 62.1 per cent was held by olive groves, whereas the fruit-trees occupied only 12.4 per cent of the total area dedicated to fruit growing. After liberation, especially during the last decade, the rate of fruit-tree planting has been higher than for the other trees belonging to the fruit growing branch. Thus, fruit trees in 1965, as against 1938, have increased 12 times, whereas the area planted with olive groves 2.5 times and with grape-vines about 3.1 times. Consequently, the orchards now occupy 38.2 per cent, the olive groves 40.9 per cent and the vineyards 20.9 per cent of the entire area allotted to fruit growing.

Fruit growing will mark a high degree of development during the fourth five-year period. 26,500 hectares will be planted with fruit trees. In 1970, as against 1965, the area planted with fruit trees is estimated to be 43 per cent larger and the specific weight of this area, compared to the total surface of arable land, will grow 14 per cent, as against 12 per cent in 1965. Precedence will be given to the planting of olive trees. Of all the new area to be planted with trees of the fruit species, 70 per cent will be occupied by olive groves. The plan foresees a planting of four million and two hundred thousand fruit

trees three hundred seventy-five thousand of which will be citrus trees. The vineyards occupy 1,100 hectares, and so on.

The production of fruits in 1970 will be 75 per cent higher than in 1965, that of olives 21 per cent, of citrus fruits 180 per cent and of grapes 120 per cent greater.

WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK?

Albania has old traditions in livestock breeding. But, due to lack of interest on the part of the antipopular regimes, this branch had remained in poor qualitative state, rendering low yields.

During the post-liberation years, thanks to the measures taken by the People's Power for the revival of animal husbandry neglected and heavily damaged by the war, conspicuous results have been achieved in the increase of the number of animals, in the management of herds and flocks and in increasing dairy products.

A good impetus to the development of animal husbandry was given by the socialist transformation of agriculture, by the creation of the State Agricultural Establishments and the agricultural cooperatives and by the organization of livestock farms in our large socialist agricultural economies.

For the qualitative improvement of livestock we practiced the method of the large-scale cross-breeding of local breeds with pedigree animals of high yields. A particularly important work was accomplished for the improvement of the local sheep with rams of the «Merinos» and «Cygaya» breeds. To achieve this, great efforts and considerable funds were required for acquiring the

rams and other necessary means and for training specialists.

This work started, all over the country during the 1957-58 period and it is now yielding its results. In the process of improving breeds are included all the sheep and goats of the State Agricultural Establishments and more than 75 per cent of the sheep and goats of all the country. Now 45 per cent of the sheep of the State Agricultural Establishments yield wool of high quality. Careful work has been and is being done for the improvement of cattle, too. The local cow of a low yield predominated in Albania before. Now in the Agricultural Establishments and in the cooperatives there have been created large herds of cows of selected breeds such as «Jersey», «Osteritz», etc., as well as cows crossbred with them. Work for the improvement of cows began right after liberation. Two central stations for zootechnical research work were created for this purpose, and they have extended their activity all over the Republic.

During recent years work is going on for the improvement of the bred of swine. In all the State Agricultural Establishments swine of selected breeds are now raised and they give high yields.

As a result of these endeavours, the total amount of milk production during the third Five-year plan was 16 per cent higher than for the Second Five-year Plan, that of meat 19 per cent and of wool 23 per cent higher. The State Agricultural Establishments and the Agricultural Cooperatives, as large socialist farming economies, can and do adopt efficacious measures of a scientific character for the management of animal husbandry.

Animal husbandry will mark a high degree of development during the Fourth Five-year Plan. In 1970, the number of cattle will increase 12 per cent in comparison with 1965. Livestock products will increase as

follows: milk — about 50 per cent, meat — about 30 per cent, wool — about 31 per cent, etc. The Fourth five-year Plan foresees the increase of milk for each sheep to be 12 per cent and for each goat 13 per cent, whereas the increase of wool — 23 per cent for each one of them. The improvement of the breed of sheep will continue and steps will be taken for the improvement of the breed of goats also, especially in the sea-coast zones. The products of the ovines will increase 35 per cent. Special care will be dedicated to improving the breeds of cows, to increasing their member and to introducing them into the interior mountain.

IS THE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL AND DAIRY PRODUCTS GUARANTEED IN ALBANIA?

Our socialist agriculture is not prone to periods of depression or superproduction. Although production has increased 4 times as compared to the pre-war period, not a single grain of wheat has been wasted. The socialist State organizes the rational use of the products and raw materials of agriculture, guaranteeing to the peasants the sale of their goods.

For the purchase of the different products from the agricultural economies, special selling-and-buying cooperatives have been created by the State, which accumulate the products in conformity with the contracts stipulated between them and the agricultural economies. Thus, for instance, although the production of tobacco has increased 9 times in comparison with 1938, nevertheless, no difficulty at all arises for selling it. The State Accumulating Enterprises are obliged to buy from the agricultural economies the entire amount of tobacco, at fixed

set prices for each kind and quality of tobacco conformable to State standards.

The same thing is true also of cotton, sugar beets, sunflowers, etc. The peasants' only preoccupation in this midst is how to produce as much and of as goods quality products as possible, whereas to the selling of them they do not have to give a single thought, because it is a foregone conclusion. The State facilitates also the removal of these products from the countryside. For this reason, the State Accumulating Enterprises and the selling-and-buying cooperatives have organized special accumulating points, as near as possible to the producers, which come to the latter's aid by transporting the products from the countryside by their own means.

For further processing farm products, dozens of plants and workshops are set up, such as those for removing cotton seeds (cotton gins), for fermenting tobacco, for producing sugar, for extracting oil from olives and sunflowers, as well as many factories for various canned food. In this way, all the agricultural products accumulated in the countryside are processed and canned; then some of them (as, for instance, cotton, tobacco, etc.) are sent for further processing. Thus are satisfied the needs of the internal market and of exports. Special State Accumulating Enterprises and the selling-and-buying cooperatives accumulate a number of other items from the countryside, such as: olives, various fruits, grapes, vegetables, meat, milk, wool and other agricultural and dairy products. All these are bought in the village, without it being necessary for the farmers to abandon their work and go to the city to sell them. Thus, for example, although in 1967 great quantities of olives were produced, nevertheless, no difficulty at all arose in selling them. All the olives were removed within the time limit agreed upon. The same thing may be said of the grapes.

which, although its output increases every year, is removed in time and duly sold to the population or sent to be processed at the wineries, which have been set up in almost all the main vineyard zones.

Worth underscoring is the fact that the increases in the amounts produced do not influence on the level of prices of the agricultural products. They are bought by the State Accumulating Enterprises and the selling-and-buying cooperatives according to their quality and, for some of the products (such as fruits and vegetables), also according to the time of year in which they are sold. For the conservation of perishable foodstuffs (such as meat, fruits, vegetables, etc.) big refrigerators have been erected in some of the principal cities like Tirana, Shkoder, Korça, Durrës, Vlora etc, where these products, are duly deposited and then taken away whenever desired.

In addition to the agricultural and dairy products, the State accumulates from the agricultural economies a number of plants which grow freely in nature, such as sage laurel leaves, vallonina and other plants possessing tanning properties, as well as many medicinal herbs. For these plants, too, stimulating prices have been set, in order that the agricultural cooperatives may find it profitable to collect and hand them to the accumulating organs. As regards the prices paid to the agricultural economies for their farm and livestock products, they are established on the basis of a minute analysis of the time spent for producing them and not under the influence of spontaneous changes in market prices, as happens in capitalist countries.

WHAT PATH IS BEING FOLLOWED FOR NARROWING DOWN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN CENTERS?

The Party of Labor and the Government of Albania have undertaken a vast program embodying a series of measures for the gradual narrowing down of the difference between urban and rural areas.

The process of the final solution of the problems of the rural areas in our country passes through three stages. The first is the disappearance, once and for all, of the antagonistic contrast between the city and the countryside. This was achieved thanks to the liquidation of the political and economic basis of this antagonism.

The overthrow of the exploiting classes by People's Power and the passing of all the State functions into the hands of the working masses, with the working class at the helm, undermined the chief class basis of the contrast between the urban and rural areas and laid the foundations for the establishment of new relations between them. At the same time, the application of the Agrarian Reform Laws, the definite liquidation of the remnants of feudalism in economy, the elimination of the landowner's class, the distribution of the land to the peasantry according to the principle: «the land belongs to him that tills it», created the economic premises for the removal of the distinction between the urban and rural areas.

The other big step in the direction of abolishing the economic basis of the contrast between the urban and rural areas was the collectivization of agriculture, which in fact was the second revolution, the most radical turn in the social and economic relations in the countryside, for the development of the productive forces and the general progress of the countryside on socialist lines. On this basis, new relations were created between city

and village, relations of cooperation and reciprocal aid between two friendly classes having the same fundamental interests and aims.

The second phase, which we are living now, is the surmounting of rural backwardness or the narrowing of the essential distinctions between the city and the village. To this end, People's Power is adopting a broad program of important measures. The socialist industrialization of the country, the development of the cultural revolution, the great economic and financial aid given by the State to the countryside, — all these are component parts of this grand plan. But for the ultimate solution of this question still remains much to be done. The actual paths and practical measures for a further uninterrupted uplift of the economic, social and cultural level of the countryside are to be sought in the further development of agricultural production, in the perfection of the various aspects of the relations in production and in the strengthening of the socialist consciousness of the peasantry through ideological and political education.

Considering the further development of the producing forces and the increase of agricultural production as the principal way towards narrowing down the distinctions between the urban and rural areas, People's Power has intensified the rate of agricultural development.

The narrowing down of the distinctions in the level of development of the producing forces in industry and agriculture depends a great deal on the rate of this development. For the present Five-year Plan the rate of agricultural development is higher than that of industry. Agricultural production will grow at an average annual rate of 11.5 per cent, whereas industrial production — about 8.7 per cent. As a result agricultural production will increase to a higher degree than during any of the other five-year periods.

The Fourth Five-year Plan foresees the investments for the industrial sector to be 40 per cent above those of the Third Five-year Plan, while for the agricultural sector — 68 per cent.

As a result of the accomplishment of the tasks assigned by the plan, the Fourth Five-year Plan will make the disproportion existing between agriculture and industry and the distinction between the urban and rural areas still narrower, as will be made clear by the following table:

Nomenclature	Increase in percentage during the Fourth Five-year Plan (1966-70)	
	Industry (City)	Agriculture (Village)
Production	50-54	71-76
Average annual rate of increase in production	8.7	(about) 11.5
State investments	40	68
Real income per capita	9-11	20-25
New dwelling houses	5	11

The high accumulation quotas, have made possible the increase of production and the improvement, on this basis, of the peasants' welfare. The real income of the rural population in 1962 was 85 per cent more than in 1950 and in 1967 — 26 per cent more than in 1962.

During the present five-year period, the income per capita of the rural population will increase at twice as quickly as for the workers and employees or, respectively, 20-25 per cent for the peasantry and 9-11 per cent for the workers and employees.

Considerable efforts are being made in our country to smooth the disproportions existing in the development of the producing forces between the lowland agricultural cooperatives and those of the mountain zones. Our State helps the latter in various ways. For instance, the state funds for drainage works during the fourth five-year period will, in general, increase twice in comparison with the third five-year period; whereas for the hilly and mountain zones, in particular, the increase will be 6 times. In our country work is going on now for building 230 reservoirs, the greater part of which in the mountain zones. Our State helps the latter in various ways. For instance, the State funds for drainage works during the fourth five-year period will, in general, increase twice in comparison with the third five-year period; whereas for the hilly and mountain zones, in particular, the increase will be 6 times. In our country work is going on now for building 230 reservoirs, the greater part of which in the mountain zones.

The all-embracing development of the mountain regions has become the concern of all the people. The young cooperatives in the uplands are being greatly aided in this direction by their older sisters of the lowlands, which have already created a strong economy. They offer them their experience and cadres and have already donated to them 5,250 cattle, 36,795 sheep and 8,840 goats, etc.

Another way to narrow down the gap between the urban and rural areas is the perfection of socialist relations in production. For this reason, People's Power has perfected the system of distribution of products by rightly assessing the role played by distribution in production and consumption. It has created a rational system of accumulation, it has lowered the quantities of products falling under obligatory accumulation, it has altogether

cancelled this obligation for certain products and in certain zones, it has raised the prices of accumulated products, it has decreased the taxes, duties, etc., thus better harmonizing the general needs of the country with those of the development of the rural areas.

Of great importance in the matter of perfecting the socialist relations in production is the improvement of the ratios between the incomes from the collective economy and those from the individual household lots of the cooperative members. Collective work, several years' life in the cooperative and the continuous ideological lessons, have formed and strengthened among the cooperative members the conviction that basic for their life and for their work, the main source for assuring an uninterrupted improvement of their living today, and still more in the future, is their collective property, their collective economy and not their private property (the household lots) or the income derived from them. Prompted by their socialist consciences to put general above personal interest, the cooperative members most voluntarily reduced their individual lots. This was an event of great principled, ideological and economic significance. It determined in a revolutionary manner the attitude of cooperative members towards collective and private property, towards general and personal interest, ever more strengthening the sentiment of collective property and of giving priority to collective over private property and private interest.

The other way to narrow down the gap between the city and the village, to elevate the economic, social and cultural status of the peasantry, was to intensify the efforts to making the peasants more conscious ideologically and politically. This has got to do with the solution of the contradiction between the socialist way of production, which triumphed in our countryside, and the more back-

ward way of living. The level of the standard of living is closely linked with the concepts and world outlook of the people, with their mentality and psychology, with the customs and traditions, with the religious prejudices, with all the spiritual baggage which they have inherited from the past. The fate of the construction of socialism depends on the struggle against the symptoms and tendencies to put private above collective interest on the struggle for justly coordinating private interest and subordinating it to collective interest. The essence of this struggle is to educate the peasantry with the new, socialist stand towards the collective, the State and society as a whole. This is directly connected with the increase of production and the establishment of new, socialist relations, which are decisive factors for the elevation of the economic, social and cultural level of the countryside.

Good work is being done to eradicate regressive customs and traditions, religious prejudices and superstitions; to propagate scientific teachings and to inculcate a new world outlook. The barrage is especially directed against the customs, prejudices and superstitions that harm the people's health and their economy, that keep alive the old patriarchal relations of inequality in the family, that trample on the rights and liberties of woman, that lower her dignity and obstruct her active participation in all the political, economic and social life of the country. Of particular importance in this direction is the volunteering of youths and workers to go to the countryside to work for certain periods of time and the exchange of groups of persons from the upland to the lowland regions, from the north to south, and vice-versa. These movements are of great significance, for they serve to exchange experience, to do away with the old norms and habits, to spread the progressive new, to help in

the ideological education of the peasantry and to strengthen the unity of the people round the Party. Today the northern mountaineer, who had never left his stone building, feels at home both in the lowland regions and in the city.

In many city enterprises, different courses have been opened, where the cooperative women are taught various professions and are imparted valuable instructions for the advancement of the countryside and for a more cultured way of living.

Great importance for narrowing down the gap of essential distinctions between the urban and rural areas has got the propagation of education and culture, the spread of the cultural and health institutions, of commerce and artisanry, etc. Obligatory 8-year education has been extended to all the rural areas of the country. For the realization of this task, the network of primary, 8-grade and boarding schools has been enlarged.

Among the numerous measures taken and adopted by our Party and Government for narrowing down the gap between the urban and rural areas particular importance carries the decision of the Central Committee of our Party for the complete electric reticulation of all the villages of the country by the 8th of November of the year 1971, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania, i.e. 14 years in advance of the time calculated in the previous plans. This is a magnificent program and work is going on intensively for its realization.

Albania has, all in all, about 2,550 villages. People's Power, established on the 29th of November 1944, inherited nothing in the sphere of electric reticulation of the countryside prior to liberation, Albania was the most backward country in Europe in this respect. The electric light was missing even in a great many city houses.

The electric reticulation of the Albanian countryside, therefore, began only after liberation. To this problem People's Power has dedicated particular attention in the general plan of the electrification of all the country. The Party of Labor and the Government have seen to it that the peasant shall not only become owner of the land which he worked (through the application of the Agrarian Reform laws) and develop socialist production on the basis of large cooperative economy, but also that the electric light should go to the village. «Electrification and the degree of use of electric energy», — Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, — «are one of the most important indicators characterizing the elevation of the standard of living and culture in the village». After the country's liberation, the electric power industry developed rapidly, as a result of the erection of new hydro-power and thermo-power stations, and in 1967 the output of electric power was 129 times greater than in 1945. This made possible a considerable rise in the supply of industry and the cities with electric power gradually penetrating into the villages, too. By the end of 1967, 756 villages or 29 per cent of all the villages of the country received electricity. Thus, about 1,800 more villages remain to be electrified. According to a preliminary plan approved in 1960, it was foreseen that the complete electrification of the country's villages should terminate in the year 1985. But the successes accomplished in socialist construction, the creation of the proper material and technical conditions and the revolutionary onrush of the working masses to accelerate the rhythms of the construction of socialism, created the practical possibility to speed up also the electrification of the villages. Thus, it was decided that, by the 8th of November 1971, no village in Albania should remain without electricity. This, of course, is a daring and revolutionary undertaking but it is realizable and

of great ideological, political, social and economic significance.

Thus, our People's Power is sending the electric light to the most remote villages, in the deepest mountain zones, — a thing which has not yet been accomplished by states considered super-industrial and which embarked on the road of industrialization more than 100-150 years ago; The Party of Labor, which took this historic decision, considers the sending of electric light to every village, to every corner of the Fatherland, as an important revolutionizing element in the whole life of the countryside, as a necessity and means for both the political development of the countryside and its quicker economic development on the basis of the gradual electrification, in the future, of the farming operations, too. The electrification of the countryside is another new step towards further narrowing down the gap between town and the countryside. The working masses of all the country have received the decision to complete the electric reticulation of all the rural areas within four years (1968-1971) with great enthusiasm.

This has become an important State and social problem. The Committees for the electrification of the villages and their working groups, which have been formed everywhere at the People's Councils and the local Executive Committees, as well as in the Ministries and Central institutions, are organizing their work and solving a series of problems connected with the electric reticulation of the countryside. The district executive committees, in collaboration with the Directorate of Communal Economy, are drafting the plan and cost estimates. In collaboration with the specialists of the various enterprises, plans for the construction of hydro-power stations, Dieselstations and high and low tension lines are being worked out. Meantime, work has already begun in build-

ing electrical substations, transformer cabins and hydro-power stations, especially in the deep mountain zones, many of which will be electrified within 1968. The workers, technicians and engineers of industrial concerns have undertaken to produce, by their own forces and means, many electro-technical materials and equipments which were previously imported from abroad. For this reason they are creating new sectors, workshops and even special enterprises. Besides, courses have been opened at industrial enterprises to train electricians among village young men and women. The better developed districts, i.e. those possessing a more powerful technical capacity, are helping the other districts, especially the upland zones, with specialists and necessary materials. Meanwhile, the cooperative peasantry are helping with volunteer work for securing the timber and other requirements for the realization of the great electrification campaign. School children and graduate students are also rendering good aid. During the summer vacations, many of them will go for a month to the villages to help with electrical installations.

The numerous technical and organizational measures taken by the State and the revolutionary impetus of the working masses will make possible the successful accomplishment of the historic decision for the electric reticulation of all the villages. On the 8th of November 1971, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor the electric light — the light of Socialism — will shine over all our Republic, up to the remotest village.

Of great importance to the development of the countryside and to narrowing down the gap of the essential city-village distinctions, are the decisions of the third plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Party in connection with cooperation between industry and

agriculture, agriculture and animal husbandry, and the other sectors which will be created in the countryside: construction, artisanry, various services, etc.

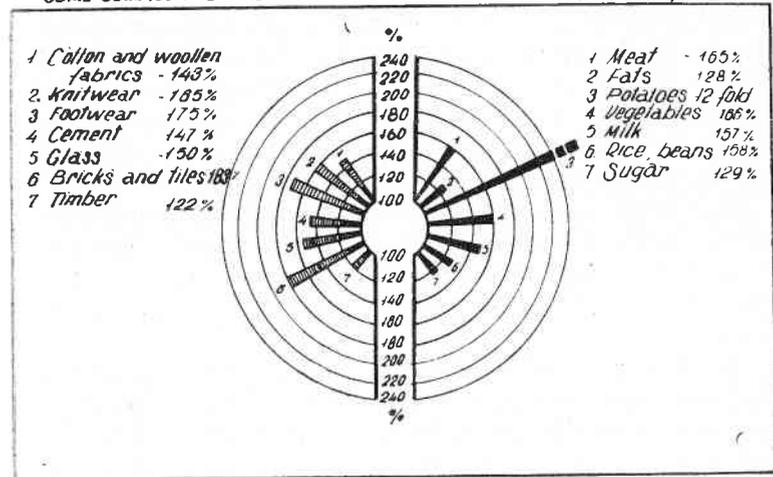
All these Party and State measures will make possible the passage, in the future, from the second to the third phase of solving the problem of the countryside namely, that of the disappearance of the essential differences between the city and the village.

**SOCIALIST TRADE AT THE SERVICE OF
THE PEOPLE**

WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF OUR HOME TRADE?

Socialist trade is the main form of distribution of the consumer goods between the members of society, the principal form of satisfying the ever growing personal needs of the workers.

SOME COMMODITIES TO BE SUPPLIED TO PEOPLE IN 1970 (1965 = 100)



Our socialist trade, from its very nature, differs radically from capitalist trade. It is commerce without capitalists, and the means of the trading concerns are social property. Our trade is at the service of the people and it develops in conformity with the requirements of the basic socialist economic law of fulfilling the ever increasing needs of society in the best way possible.

Socialist trade constitutes one of the economic ties between the city and the countryside, a vital link in the

system of economic relations between State industry and cooperative agriculture. It connects production with consumption. In the capitalist society this linking is accomplished by the spontaneous mechanism of competition; whereas with us, due to our planned development, commerce is able to coordinate, production with consumption in a planned manner.

Our trade relies both on the continuous extension of production and on the incessant increase of the needs and purchasing capacities of the masses. The planned extension of socialist production, the growth of the real incomes of the workers and the continuous reduction of prices of commodities increase the demand for goods. Thanks to these facts, our trade has not got to face the difficulties of furnishing the required goods nor does it have to cope with any trade crisis.

Our trade operates in these main forms: State, cooperative and peasant trade. The first two forms represent the organized market planned directly by the socialist State. The third form, the peasant market, is not an organized one.

To take possession of commerce has been one of the most essential aims of People's Power from the very early post-liberation years. In compliance with the actual conditions of the country, People's Power elaborated and adopted in this direction a policy which led, simultaneously, to the extension of the circulation of goods and to the gradual elimination of capitalist elements from circulation. This policy was adopted chiefly through the creation of a wide network of State and cooperative trading units capable of establishing socialist economic relations between the city and the countryside. Besides, it was adopted thanks to the application of a strict system of State control and the management of private commerce by the State.

As a result of this policy, today, the decisive role in trade (both wholesale and retail) is played, in the first place, by the State commerce and then by the cooperative sector. This has brought about a growth in the circulation of goods, which goes on increasing every year, as may be seen in the table below:

Total circulation of retail trade and social catering units, by sectors (according to prices of the respective years)

In million leks

The years	Total circulation	The sector			
		Socialist		Peasant	Private
		State	Cooperative		
1938	390	—	—	120	270
1950	742	239	333	80	90
1960	2514	1518	734	140	122
1965	2970	1754	1005	139	72

An even greater development has our trade attained during the years of the Fourth Five-year Plan, at the end of which the circulation of goods will increase 25-27 per cent. The supplying of the people with some of the main consumer goods will increase approximately in these proportions: meat — 65 per cent, fats — 28 per cent, potatoes — over 12 times, vegetables — 66 per cent, milk — 57 per cent, cheese — 49 per cent, rice and beans — 39 per cent, sugar — 29 per cent, eggs — 87 per cent, cotton and woollen textiles — 43 per cent, knitted goods — 65 per cent, shoes — 75 per cent, cement — 142 per cent, glass — 150 per cent, brick and tiles — 83 per cent, construction timber — 22 per cent and so on.

WHAT ARE THE BUYING — AND — SELLING COOPERATIVES?

These cooperatives are social economic organizations voluntarily created by their members. They carry on the trade of selling and buying goods in the countryside.

These cooperatives have given and are giving a valuable contribution to socialist construction in the countryside, to strengthening the alliance of the working class with the laboring peasantry, through selling and buying goods. Their aim is to help in the further elevation of the material and cultural level of the working peasants.

The cooperative selling-and-buying organizations endeavour to serve the peasants as best they can. They have dedicated particular attention to the extension of the trade network, especially in the deep mountain zones, and to its modernization and specialization. Today, about 1300 accumulation centres and deposits and over 738 workshops for processing the farm and livestock products have been placed at the service of the working peasantry. In this way, favourable conditions have been created to the effect that, even in the deepest regions of our country, the products of the peasants should be taken over and processed locally. In order that the best possible service should be assured, the trading network has been and is continually being equipped with a better material basis. At the stores of the selling-and-buying cooperatives a very rich variety of items is traded: consumer goods and articles of daily use, agricultural implements and equipments, construction materials, house furniture, cultural items, etc.

Compared with 1965, the laboring peasantry bought during 1967 36 per cent more cotton fabrics, 19.1 per cent more woollen textiles, 42.7 per cent — more ready more generals, 72.9 per cent — more knitted goods, 66.1 per cent — more stockings, 27.8 per cent more shoes, 39 per

cent — more furniture and utensils, 97.2 more porcelain products, 97.9 per cent — more glassware products, 50.6 per cent — more quilts and blankets, 186.4 per cent — more radio sets, almost 4 times as many bicycles and sewing machines and so on.

The selling-and-buying cooperatives have helped to create the material basis of our village. Only during 1967 (as against 1965) the volume of circulation in supplying the agricultural cooperatives increased 103.2 per cent, and to the countryside were sold: 237.6 per cent — more farm tools, 112.3 per cent — more cement, 43.5 per cent more nails, 101.2 per cent — more glass, 63.3 per cent — more bricks and tiles, 2 times as many plastics and so on.

The social food catering units are ever more spreading their activity. They are serving the consumers better and are facilitating the daily chores of our working peasantry. Dining-halls and restaurants have been opened, which are frequented by a large number of peasants.

The selling-and-buying cooperatives have considerably improved their work also with regard to the extension of the network of centers for accumulating and processing agricultural and dairy products. They accumulate and market the surpluses of potatoes, onions, fresh and dried fruits, eggs, milk and honey. They accumulate also: skins, wool, medicinal herbs, etc. After having accumulated all these agricultural and dairy products from the countryside, they organize their distribution all over the country, and process part of them for export.

Through the activity of these cooperatives the peasants and workers have established direct relations, reciprocally profitable to both parties. Applying the policy of prices practiced in all the Republic, the selling-and-buying cooperatives sell their goods, even in the remotest regions, at the same prices as in the cities and elsewhere,

while the accumulation prices for the agricultural and dairy products are built upon a just economic basis and on agreement between producers and consumers.

The participation of the working masses in the selling-and-buying cooperatives has continually grown and today they number more than two-hundred thousand members representing 75 per cent of the families of the localities where they exercise their activity. The members choose their Executives once in three years, and they take part directly in the solution of the problems of the cooperatives.

With the complete collectivization of agriculture, the network of selling-and-buying cooperatives for accumulating, supplying and processing agricultural and dairy products is being spread to the deep mountain zones, aiming not at profits but at the fulfilment of the needs of the rural population.

ARE PRICES UNIFORM IN ALBANIA?

The policy of prices, as an indivisible part of the economic policy of our State, is conducted according to the objective laws of socialism, and its aim is to help in the incessant development of our popular economy and the further improvement of the welfare of the working masses, in accordance with the actual conditions of our country.

The policy of fixed and uniform prices is a distinguishing feature of the socialist order. It eliminates the fluctuation of prices and guarantees their stability, it applies socialist discipline in production and distribution.

The just policy of prices has ever more strengthened the alliance between the working class and the peasantry, it has assured the uninterrupted development of pro-

duction in the various branches of economy and a normal circulation of currency and goods. People's Power follows the policy of periodic reductions of prices for consumer goods, thus strengthening the purchasing power of the population. With us, prices are fixed in a centralized manner: on the basis of a uniform policy for all the country, on the basis of the tasks assigned by the State for the development of the several branches of economy and the uplift of the material welfare of the working masses. With us, the enterprises do not have the right to determine themselves the prices for the things they produce. The products of our State enterprises are sold at uniform State prices both in the places where they are produced and in the remotest corner of the country, regardless of the distance of expenses. Speaking at the Fifth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha said: «We will not withdraw from regulating and fixing the prices in a centralized manner and on the basis of a uniform policy for all the country. This is the only way not to allow the free play of prices in the market, anarchy, competition and spontaneity, not to allow that the market — through the mechanism of demand and supply — should transform into a spontaneous regulator of production and circulation, as happens in capitalist economy and in the countries where the modern revisionists reign».

In fixing the prices, the needs and possibilities of supply are taken into consideration, in order to help the improvement of the structure of production of goods which the people and economy need. To bring about the substitution of imported goods with goods produced at home, differentiated, lower, prices have been applied for our own products. For instance, the leather and rubber shoes, the light overcoats of local cotton cloth, and a number of other articles have been favoured by reducing

their prices 10-20 per cent compared to those of the corresponding imported items. The retail sale prices for children's shoes, sandals and ready-made garments have been so arranged as to favour the parents of numerous children, thus helping to smooth the ratios of the incomes of different groups of the population. In like manner, favourable prices are also set for agricultural and other tools destined for the highland zones. Drugs are sold at very low prices, even if they are imported. In establishing the prices, this consideration is also kept in mind: whether a given article is a luxury item or one falling under the consumer goods category and, accordingly, lower prices are fixed for the latter.

The just policy of prices followed by our State has aided, and will aid in the future too, the development of industrial and agricultural production, as well as the continuous improvement of the welfare of our working masses.

WHAT ROLE DOES STATE MONOPOLY ON FOREIGN TRADE PLAY IN STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF OUR COUNTRY?

Foreign trade in the People's Republic of Albania is a State monopoly. All the operations connected with foreign commerce are exercised by the Ministry of Trade. They serve the interests of building socialism and are carried out according to State export-import plans, which are an indivisible part of the national economy plan. Monopoly on foreign trade is an indispensable condition for the development of our popular economy.

Foreign trade monopoly fulfils two main functions: First of all, it guarantees the economic independence of the country against the double encirclement of impe-

rialism and revisionism by safeguarding national economy and the home market from the economic blockades organized by the imperialists and modern revisionists. Secondly, it serves as a means for economic collaboration between the People's Republic of Albania and the other countries of the world.

The establishment of State monopoly over foreign trade, immediately after liberation, and the concentration of all foreign trade into the hands of the State, protected our economy from the influence and penetration of capitalist monopolies. People's Power demolished the economic basis of the feudal-bourgeoisie and liquidated the capitalist relations in all the economic sectors of the country, foreign commerce included. This turned into a system which actively serves the development of our country's economy. In all the stages of socialist construction, the tasks and activities of foreign trade have been linked with and determined by the development of our socialist economy.

Foreign trade monopoly has served as a sure safeguard for popular economy against economic aggression from foreign countries. It has played a prominent part in the realization of socialist industrialization by supplying the industrial enterprises with the necessary machinery and equipment.

In its relations with the brother socialist countries, the People's Republic of Albania is led by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism; whereas towards the countries with different social systems, it adopts a policy of peaceful coexistence, always bearing in mind the principles of mutual advantage, equality and non-intervention in the internal affairs of one another. Thanks to this policy, we have trade relations with 40 countries of the world. On their part, the foreign trade enterprises maintain trade relations,

with many world firms. Albania exports many goods to European, Asian, African and Latin-american countries. The geographical extension of our foreign trade has changed and increased in a measure bearing no comparison with the past.

Thus, the People's Republic of Albania has asserted itself in the international market as a sovereign State with its developed and independent economy, altogether different from what the imperialists and modern revisionists have hoped and labored for; to see Albania economically and politically dependent on them, so that it may bow to their dictates.

During the post-liberation years, the Yugoslav revisionists tried to impose on our foreign commerce organs the obligation to trade only with Jugoslavia, on the basis of home trade prices, to export its raw materials only to that country, and other such methods alien to the relations between socialist countries. In recent years, a hostile activity against our country was undertaken by the Khrushchovite revisionists. They unilaterally broke the economic and commercial agreements concluded between our countries and set on the economic blockade for undermining socialist construction in Albania. But their attempts failed. The just policy of the Party of Labor and of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania, as well as the economic development of our country according to the principle of relying on our own efforts, created the possibility of finding new markets. Thus, far from being interrupted, our foreign trade marched and marches always forward.

The ever growing development of our people's economy, the enlargement of the producing capacities of the existing branches and the creation of new branches of industry brought about the increase of the quantity and improvement of the quality of the traditional arti-

cles of Albanian exports, an increase in the nomenclature of exported goods, an alteration in the structure of exports and a growth of our exporting capacity. Year in and year out, the exporting capacity of our country has increased. At the end of the first Five-year Plan it was twice as large, in 1960 (the last year of the Second Five-year Plan) — 7 times as large, and in 1965 (the last year of the third Five-year Plan) 9 times as large as in 1938. The Fourth five year Plan (1966-1970) foresees a further increase of 36% over that of the Third Five-year Plan.

The dynamics of the growth of exporting power per capita of the population (taking the year 1938 as 1) has been: in 1955 — 1.5, in 1960 — 2.2, and in 1965 — 5.3. Along with the increase of the volume of circulation of foreign trade goods, during these five-year periods, the structure of the exported and imported goods has also changed. The specific weight of the processed or semi-processed goods has grown, while that of raw materials of mineral or agricultural origin has greatly diminished. During the ten last years (1956-1966) the specific weight of the industrialized and semi-industrialized goods was almost doubled. The alteration in the structure of exported goods has come as a result of the development of a many-branched industry.

The rate of import growth has not slackened, but the import structure has changed in conformity with the needs of economical development. Many articles have been cut out from the list of imports, and they are now produced by the country's own new industry. The increase of agricultural products has decreased the import of food stuffs to an amount of 28% (in 1965) as against the year 1961. An entire series of equipments, machinery and spare parts, previously imported, such as spare parts for tractors and vehicles, farming machinery, ballasts

conveyers, high tension panels, etc, are now produced in our country.

The specific weight of imported equipments, machinery spare parts, which in 1938 represented 9.1% of all imported goods, in 1961 rose to 37%, whereas in 1966 it was 42.8% of the total volume of imports. The People's Republic of Albania has continually attached great importance to the importation and erection of complete industrial enterprises.

The volume of exports has increased and increases at a quicker rate than that of imports. The Fourth Five-year Plan foresees for instance, that exports will grow about 36% while imports only 28%. Such a fact demonstrates that our economy becomes continually more powerful and that our country marches along the path of a continuous improvement of the balance of payments.

The People's Republic of Albania has today attained such an exporting capacity that, despite all the difficulties caused by the international political and economic conjunctures, it is in position to venture freely into the international markets. Our trade and production enterprises have taken upon themselves the task of reaching international standards without fail, so that the Albanian exported goods may compete and be sold at any time and in any market.

For the period 1966-1970 the volume of circulation of foreign trade goods will increase 31% in comparison with the previous five-year plan.

WHICH ARE THE MAIN ARTICLES EXPORTED BY ALBANIA?

As a result of the all-embracing and rapid development of our people's economy, Albania offers an ever increasing number of export articles to the international market.

In 1938 Albania exported 25 articles, chief among which — with respect to tonnage — was crude oil, followed by: fine skins, cheese, fish, eggs, beans, fresh olives, wool, natural bitumen and so on. Today, the nomenclature of exported goods has grown 7.5 times. An important place in Albanian exports is held by our mineral treasures such as oil, bitumen, chrome, iron-nickel, etc.

The creation of the wood-processing industry made it possible not only that the wood materials produced should be processed here, but that articles produced from wood should be struck out from the lists of imports and that, instead, our exports nomenclature should contain such items as: plywood, veneer, parket, etc.. The new factories for wood-shavings and fibre slates furnish the export with articles which, as far as quality is concerned, can well compete with analogous products in foreign marks.

The young textile industry eliminated from imports an item which represented almost 20% of all imported goods. Now Albania exports: cotton fabrics, blankets and bedcovers, velvet, cloth, and ready-made garments, light overcoats and others. The Knitting Works at Korça offer for export a wide gamma of articles that are in its line.

The development of the copper processing industry, not only increased the amounts of blister copper for export, but it also expanded the nomenclature of copper articles exported by adding to it cathodic copper and various kinds of copper wire. The erection, during recent years, of the big plants of chemical industry and building materials, has made it possible for Albania to become also an exporter of chemical fertilizers for agriculture and of high quality cement for the building industry. The creation of the asbestos factory at Vlora enabled us to export asbestos slates and pipes, too. The food

industry has long since produced for the foreign market various kinds of canned vegetables, canned sardines and other fishes, different stewed fruits, jams, brandy, fruit and tomatoe juices, fruit pulp, dried fruits, etc.

During the three five-year periods, agriculture too has made substantial progress. It has now become an export supplier, too. The export enterprises offer today to the foreign market many agricultural products, such as: cotton, tobacco leaves, early and late maturing fresh tomatoes, high quality table (dessert) grapes, good quality early potatoes, oranges and lemons, chick peas, lentils, dried onions and garlics, various fresh and dried fruits, and different vegetables. The specific weight of agricultural products for export has kept rising.

The artisans, too, give a valuable contribution to the increase in exports. The Albanian artisans are known throughout the centuries for their fine craftsmanship; Their carpets, rugs, brier-root pipes, silver fineries and pyrographic articles, their wood carvings and engravings, etc., have ever more attracted foreign clients.

The structure of the exported goods is changing in favour of industrialized or semi-industrialized products, which now constitute more than 50⁰/₀ of the exports. And this is how it stands now: mineral ores about 30⁰/₀, agricultural and dairy raw materials about 18⁰/₀, whereas ready-made and half-finished articles over 52⁰/₀.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE — PROPERTY OF THE MASSES

HOW WAS ILLITERACY WIPED OUT IN ALBANIA?

In spite of the great cultural traditions of our people, education was in a deplorable state due to the antipopular policy pursued by the reactionary regimes of the past. At that time, Albania was the country of mass illiteracy. In the last pre-war year (1938) more than 80 percent of the population of Albania were illiterate. In the countryside, especially in the remote mountain regions, the number of the illiterate made up 90-95 percent of the population. As a rule, one can safely say that there were over 90 percent illiterates in the countryside. Illiteracy among women was even higher. There were villages with hundreds of inhabitants among whom only two or three men and no women could read and write.

As a matter of fact the struggle against illiteracy began among the partisans and in the liberated villages and zones as early as at the time of the National-liberation War.

In the Resolution of the National Conference of the Albanian Communist Party in March 1943, the communists were recommended... «to spread culture in the countryside, to organize courses against illiteracy and other courses, in order to give our peasants the possibility to partake in the benefits of culture which the former reactionary regimes had denied to them». After the liberation, the struggle against illiteracy became one of the most important mass actions of our State and our

society as a whole. It was a two-front struggle: first, to teach reading and writing to all men and women up to 40 years of age and, secondly, to set up such a network of schools as to prevent the emergence of new illiterate masses.

Courses against illiteracy were opened in towns and in the countryside, at work sites and city quarters, wherever there were illiterate men and women. Every afternoon, three or four times a week, the illiterate men and women met together to learn the alphabet and elementary arithmetic. All the teachers of Albania, almost without exception, directed one or two such courses. The youth of the medium and higher education centers played an important role, too. The slogan of our Youth Organization was imperative: «Every young man and young woman should know how to read and write». The great Trade Union Organization carried out a wide activity in the ranks of the working class. Good work was done by the Women's Organization, too. Special program and texts were elaborated.

By a special law passed by the National Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania, all illiterate men and women under 40 years of age were obliged to frequent courses against illiteracy. Special education inspectors were assigned to the more important work sites to cope exclusively with this problem. It was then that the well-known slogan was launched to all our people: «In order to build we must acquire knowledge and in order to acquire knowledge we must learn».

Tens of thousands of former illiterates who had been through the courses, frequented night schools without detaching themselves from production work, graduating first from elementary, and then from seventh-grade schools. Some of them succeeded in accomplishing the work of secondary and higher schools as well.

As a result of an intensive 10-year work, illiteracy had been wiped out among all adult people under the age of 40 by 1955. Illiteracy was liquidated among older people, too. More than 345,000 men and women went through these courses. Realizing the danger that many of the illiterates who had passed through these courses against illiteracy might plunge anew into the darkness they had just succeeded in emerging from if they were not to practice reading and writing and on the initiative of the various social organization reading groups were formed at the schools of general education and greater importance was attached to establishing and expanding the night school network for adults. These forms of work continue to function, especially, in the countryside?

Albania has closed once for all the dark chapter of illiteracy. It remains only a relic of the past, a black spot bequeathed by the feudal and bourgeois regimes which ruled Albania up to the time when the Albanian people buried them for all times.

WHAT SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS ALBANIA ADOPTED AND WHAT ARE ITS AIMS?

The educational system in the People's Republic of Albania aims at the all-sided education of the younger generation preparing them to take an active part in the construction of the new socialist society. Its task is to impart to young men and young women sound scientific knowledge, to inculcate in them the Marxist-Leninist world-outlook, to give them professional skill and habits of work, to imbue them with the spirit of socialist patriotism and proletarian internationalism, ensuring, thus, their all-out moral, physical and esthetical education.

The school system in the People's Republic of Al-

bania includes pre-school education, general education, vocational education and higher education. Pre-school education is imparted at the kindergartens under the supervision of specialized educators. Institutions of this sort have been established in all the cities and work sites in the mining, industrial and agricultural areas. They impart to the children of 3-7 years of age the necessary knowledge to fit them for the primary school. For the children's maintenance in these institutions, where they get three meals a day, the parents pay only 1/4 of the expenses while the other part is paid for by the State.

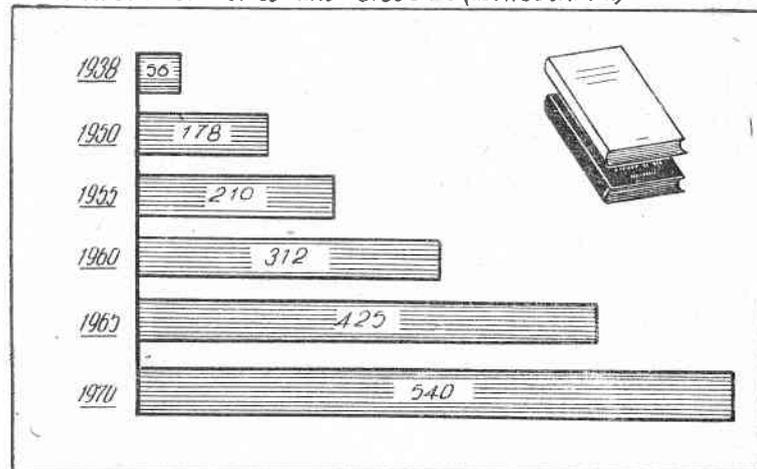
General education is imparted at eighth year schools and middle schools of general training. Eighth year schooling is compulsory. This is a great success achieved during the years of People's Power in Albania. With the 1946 educational reform carried out by People's Power, primary education was proclaimed compulsory for all children of school age, education was assured to all free of charge, the State character of the school, its completely laique nature, its general characteristics, the national principles it relies upon and the complete equality between the sexes were sanctioned once for all time. General middle school education underwent a great development after liberation. Nowadays middle schools are to be found not only in cities but in the countryside as well.

Vocational education is imparted at primary and middle schools of the technical and professional type. This sort of education, too, was greatly developed after liberation with the establishment of the various branches of industry, the development of agriculture on the basis of modern agrotechnique, the creation of a broad network of cultural and artistic institutions. There were set up for the first time after liberation vocational schools for

training specialists of medium training for geological research, mining, building construction, middle artistic schools, etc.

A big success of the people's education has been the establishment of the higher education for the first time in Albania. Now Albania boasts of its State University, of its High Agricultural Institute, of its High Institute of Arts and of other institutes of higher learning.

NUMBER OF PUPILS AND STUDENTS (in THOUSANDS)



In the educational network of the People's Republic of Albania is also included the educational system for adults who pursue their studies without detaching themselves from their jobs at the production centers or institutions. Through the night educational system (by shifts) and the system by correspondence tens of thousands of working people in town and in the countryside, have raised their educational and technical and professional

level without detaching themselves from work. In this respect, our State ensures great privileges to them: reduced work hours without a reduction in pay, supplementary annual leave to take examinations, etc. During the years of the People's Power, numerous former simple workers have succeeded in acquiring medium and higher education.

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THE NEW EDUCATIONAL REFORM?

In the further development of our people's education, an important role has been played by the re-organization of the educational system in the People's Republic of Albania, too. In 1960, the Central Committee of the Party of Labor and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania issued the theses «on linking school more closely with life and on the further development of the people's education». Immediately afterwards and on the basis of these theses broad public discussion took place for three years at a stretch about the problems of our education system. On this basis the People's Assembly passed in 1963 the Law on the re-organization of the educational system in the People's Republic of Albania.

After the educational reform of the year 1946, this re-organization was another big reform in the field of the education undertaken in the new conditions of its development.

The main purpose of this reform is to carry out the Marxist-Leninist principle of linking school teaching with actual life and work through all the levels of our school system. At the same time, the reform aims at the all-out development of our school as regards the qua-

lity of its teaching as well as a further rise of the cultural and educational level of the population, in general, and of the younger generation, in particular.

According to the new law, we are to pass over from the general compulsory seventh-grade to the general compulsory eighth grade schooling. Our new eighth-grade school is, in fact, a secondary school, though not complete, giving our school children the necessary preparation for life and work, turning them out to life more developed and more mature.

Within a quarter of a century, from a country with four fifths of its population illiterate, where only a third of the school age children could acquire education, Albania is being transformed into a country with mass education, where every young man and young woman is obliged to accomplish the work of at least the eighth grade school.

It is on the foundations of the eighth-grade school that were established all the other categories of schools — the lower vocational schools, the secondary general education and vocational schools, secondary schools frequented by the working people without detachment from their jobs.

In all categories of schools, including also the secondary school of general education and the higher schools, the school children and students engage in useful social and production work in line with the profiles of their preparation and are imbued with the spirit of love of work.

Our educational system has entered a new phase of its qualitative development. This phase corresponds to the phase of the complete building of socialist society in Albania.

The further revolutionization of our school and educational system brings about a further perfecting and

strengthening of those school links that ensure a better ideological and political preparation of our youth for work and life; it infers the revolutionization of the teaching and educational methods against verbalism, formalism, routine, etc., as well the revolutionization of the contents of the general educational and teaching work through a deeper party spirit and a revolutionary trend in education and culture.

Our teacher is not only a specialist of his or her subject but chiefly a political man or woman who lives with the pulse and with the problems of the people, merges with them, teaches them and is taught by them, raises continually his or her political consciousness.

Our teacher, having as his or her motto «Politics in command» and relying on the mass line, has become a fiery patriot, an invincible fighter for the cause of the people, struggling stubbornly to surmount all obstacles along the road towards his or her lofty mission. The great army of our more than 20,000 school teachers are waging an all-out battle to carry out the tasks for the further revolutionization of our school, to link it more closely with life and production.

The realization of this reform has raised the subject matter and the method of teaching, the close link of schools with life, with the problems of socialist construction to a higher level. Our school children and students are being better equipped with general and polytechnical knowledge, with work habit so that after leaving school they may have acquired enough knowledge to enable them to take an immediate part in production. The close link of teaching with actual production work is the main principle of the re-organization of our educational system.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REVOLUTIONIZE OUR SCHOOLS AND TO LINK THEM CLOSER TO LIFE AND PRODUCTION?

The mass line is being consistently carried out in revolutionizing our schools as well as in all other matters in our country. In the field of education, in actual school work, this principle finds its actual embodiment, for our people as whole are deeply interested in its further development. Along this line, in order to do away with shortcomings and to determine the ways through which our educational system should progress in the future, the masses of the teachers and students, of the parents and our entire public opinion, the mass organizations and the production workers, the specialists of all the branches of economy, culture, science and technology are taking an active part in nation-wide discussions.

The leading organs of education, beginning with the Ministry of Education and Culture, in close collaboration with the schools at the grass-roots and with their active support have organized a series of experiments in the framework of perfecting our national school system and revolutionizing its subject matter and its teaching methods. Experiments have been successful in admitting six year old pupils to primary schools; in setting up gymnasia where general education is combined with vocational industrial, agricultural and economic training; in establishing a closer link of the teaching of agriculture with actual farming work in eighth-grade schools in the countryside; in teaching a new school subject on «Civics» in the eighth-grade schools, in teaching rudiments of Marxism-Leninism in three grades of secondary schools, in the new program of combining gymnastics with military education; in the new program of teaching housekeeping common for both boys and girls, as well as in other programs and text-books. In

the field of teaching methods, efforts are being made for a creative organization of the recitation hour. All these experiments keep setting in motion the creative thought of thousands upon thousands of teachers, soliciting the revolutionary initiative of the teachers and of the student body.

These experiments are made deeper and more complete through the numerous actions and revolutionary initiatives by the students themselves in all the fields of school life. Political and ideological mass action is becoming a method of work. It has been successfully put into effect in the battle against religious prejudice, for the emancipation of the woman, for the assimilation of the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and of our Party.

The spirit of mass action has taken deep roots in the inner life of the school, too. First of all, it comes to the fore in the struggle for a high percentage of proficiency among students. The movement sprung among the students to get passing marks without exception is spreading from one school to another all over the country.

Revolutionary initiatives have affected also the question of subjects and methods of teaching and education. The students and teachers take a critical stand towards their programs and text-books, discuss their strong and weak points and make suggestions so as to make them more useful and valuable for the education of the rising generation. Concerning teaching methods, there have been taken a series of initiatives for organizing the recitation hour in a creative way, doing away with void schemes and stereotyped recommendations, for a higher activation of the students during the teaching process, for a more efficient and resilient use of marks, etc. Good results have been achieved in

fighting officialdom in the relations between teachers and students.

The revolutionary movement among teachers and students is being expanded out of school bounds, too, especially, in political and cultural activities with the masses. A series of concrete mass actions have been undertaken, such as the setting up of working cultural brigades made up of teachers and pupils, the management of the culture houses and hearths by village teachers on a voluntary basis, the mass action for spreading hygiene and cleanliness in the school and village, collective reading and discussion of books among the village masses.

Several actions and initiatives have been taken for a broader participation of the school youth in production work, for a closer link of the teaching process with actual productive work inside and outside the school.

One of the most important features of the new Albanian school is its polytechnization and the close link of teaching with productive work. In order to realize this important aspect of the communist revolutionary education of the young generation, we should always keep in mind the teaching of Lenin: «...the ideal of a future society cannot be thought of without linking the education of the younger generation with productive work; neither education and culture without productive work nor productive work without education and culture could be put at the height required by the present state of technology and scientific knowledge».

For this purpose, a great, consistent and stubborn activity is going on in Albania. The mass of our teachers as a whole are seeking ever new forms and methods in a creative way, in order to closely link teaching with actual work. By making wide use of their know-

ledge and experience as well as of the contacts they have with the production laborers and production itself, they are carrying out various experimentations, making suggestions to improve the school programs, text-books, laboratory equipment and teaching media, they are modifying and enriching them in order to better cope with these problems. All this material is observed, collected, studied, elaborated and spread by those that study these problems at the Ministry of Education and Culture. In short, for all these questions there is being carried on a broad co-ordinated activity leading to detecting ever new roads towards further perfecting the link of study with practical work.

In order to promote this activity, the State has put at the disposal of our schools expensive laboratory equipment which are partly produced by enterprises set up for this purposes, and partly imported. It must be said that the Albanian State leaves nothing undone for schools. Besides this, the teachers continue to find all-out support on the part of the enterprises, farms, cooperatives and work sites which give various equipment and let the students engage in laboratory work, teaching practice on their machines and equipment, organizing joint work of students and workers, joint excursions, etc. For this purpose, the enterprises have often put qualified workers, laboratory specialists, technicians and engineers at the disposal of the students. Today, numerous eighth-and twelfth-grade schools possess various sections with complete equipment for carpentry work, machine shop practice, electric installation and the cold processing of metals.

An important and very valuable initiative is that taken some years ago by the secondary and higher school students and teachers to take part in the construction of a number of important projects in the field of in-

dustry, communications, etc. where they work in close contact with the production workers for a period from one to two months. These mass actions of the young volunteers, among other things, have strengthened the love of work and socialist solidarity among our secondary and higher school youth.

In his Report to the Fifth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania which held its proceedings in November 1966, Comrade Enver Hoxha stated «while struggling to put into effect those forms of linking up study with actual productive work which better conform to the needs, conditions and availabilities of our country, encouraging and supporting the initiative of the school teachers and students themselves, we should also carry out experiments which will help us to solve within the shortest possible time in the future and in a more radical way the problem of linking up study with actual productive work according to the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and the concrete experience accumulated in our life».

In compliance with this important orientation, there are being organized consultations, seminars, various experimental schools and a host of other activities in order that, within near future, school may achieve a more complete linking up of study with work and actual life, this being one of the indispensable conditions for the edification of our socialist society.

All these mass actions and initiatives are the main basis on which a broad and concrete experience for revolutionizing schools is to be derived, they are a decisive link for deepening the mass line in the struggle for this revolutionization.

In the struggle for the revolutionization of our school the role of our secondary and higher school youth, as well as of the entire student body is being continually

enhanced in school life. They represent a great motive force in the whole process of the revolutionization of our school.

In the wake of the mass actions to revolutionize our school, revolutionizes also the army of our school teachers. It is in common mass actions with the student body that the conservatism, intellectualism and officialdom of the teachers and the erroneous sentiment of intellectualist superiority are combated. In this way favorable conditions are being created to establish correct revolutionary relations between teachers and students, to exercise an active revolutionary influence on the work of the teachers and to combat their bureaucratic and technocratic tendencies, as well as the alien feeling of intellectualist superiority.

TO WHAT EXTENT HAS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION SPREAD IN ALBANIA?

The People's Republic of Albania inherited a lamentable backwardness in the field of education. Before liberation, only one-third of the school-age children were able to acquire general primary education. In the countryside, the situation looked worse still: only one fourth of them could frequent school. All in all, there were only eleven general and vocational middle schools. Several of the primary and middle schools were privately owned or in the hands of foreign and religious organizations. There were no higher institutes of learning.

As a result of such a limited network of schools, only one out of 18 inhabitants could frequent school. After fascist Italy invaded Albania, in the field of education there was pursued the policy of italianization and fascistization of the school. Many of the existing schools

were closed. Patriotic, progressive and antifascist teachers were persecuted.

Our school was subjected to the alien influences of bourgeois pedagogical theories. Great weaknesses were noticed in the organization of the pedagogical process, since clearly defined programs and teaching materials and equipment were lacking.

Immediately after liberation primary schools were opened in all the corners of the country. It was then that the first 7th-grade schools were established and night schools were opened for adults to attend them without a break in their jobs. It was then that the school buildings damaged by war began to be rebuilt, that new school buildings began to be set up and teachers began to attend pedagogical courses of short duration. The call of the Party to go to the remote regions of the Fatherland to serve the people was responded to by thousands upon thousands of young men and young women teachers.

Boarding schools were opened in the principal cities of Albania and scholarships were granted, especially to students coming from distant regions.

The network of educational institutions was extended to proportions unseen up to then. The school doors were flung wide open to all our youth. At present one-fourth of the population of Albania frequent schools of various categories. In 1946, the second year of the establishment of the People's Power, primary education was made compulsory for all school age boys and girls.

In 1952 our people's education went through a new phase of its development. That year 7th grade, today 8th grade, schooling have become compulsory.

In the years of the People's Rule 12th grade middle-school education has gone through an impetuous development. In 1938 our country boasted of only 6 second-

dary schools with 817 students and 46 teachers. Today the number of 12th grade schools has risen to 61 and that of the students and teachers in them to 11,960 and 940 respectively.

Vocational education has been greatly expanded, too. Its organization was attached the greatest importance to immediately after liberation as a means to solve the problem of qualified man-power and that of the preparation of specialists and technicians of different profiles. Our country, as in other fields, had inherited a catastrophic backwardness in this field, too. In 1938 there were in Albania only 5 secondary vocational schools with 877 students and 34 teachers. After liberation, in the first stage of the establishment of vocational education, short term courses with or without break from work were opened throughout the country. Beginning with the 1948-1949 school year, there were set up a network of vocational secondary schools to train cadres for the principal branches of production. In the 1967-1968 school year, Albania had 20 different technicums with 8,500 students and 520 teachers. Teacher Training Schools turning out teachers for 8th grade schools will occupy an important place in this network of vocational schools.

We have now a whole network of middle vocational schools turning out technical cadres of medium qualification for the main branches of our industry, agriculture, economy and education.

Secondary vocational education could be expanded to such an extent due to the fact that, in addition to town children, these schools admitted many children from the countryside. For this purpose, our State granted numerous scholarships to country children. Suffice it to say that about 70 percent out of the total number of the

middle vocational school students have their maintenance and school fees paid for by the State.

After liberation lower vocational education was also organized and based on sound foundations, too. Besides the work done in this line by the different enterprises and institutions themselves, beginning with the 1950-1951 school year, the State opened schools of labor reserves for industry, agriculture, building construction, communications, trade, public health, etc. At the beginning, these schools admitted students who had been through 7th grade schools as well as relatively aged people who had not graduated from such schools. Later on, with the stabilization of the situation, they admitted only students who had accomplished the work of the seventh-grade schools. These schools range from 1 to 3 years duration, according to the branches of activity they are trained for.

After graduating from school, the student is immediately assigned to the place he is to work in. Thus, it is no problem for the new technician coming out to practical life to find a sphere of activity. He can still continue school. Alongside his work, all the doors of the various departments of the Tirana State University are opened to him.

The students of the schools of the labor reserves study all of them without exception, with State scholarships. After being through this two-year school they are assigned to work usually of medium category, in the town or region they come from. At the enterprise they work in they are given the possibility to take part in the various qualification courses to further raise their professional know-how, what is always followed by a rise in their salary. There are many cases in which former workers with or without a break in their jobs, thanks to their own efforts and the facilities assured to them by the State, have succeeded in becoming specialists of higher qualification.

HOW HAS HIGHER EDUCATION BEEN EXTENDED IN ALBANIA?

Before liberation Albania was the only country in Europe not to possess a university. All of those few cadres she had at that time had gone through foreign schools.

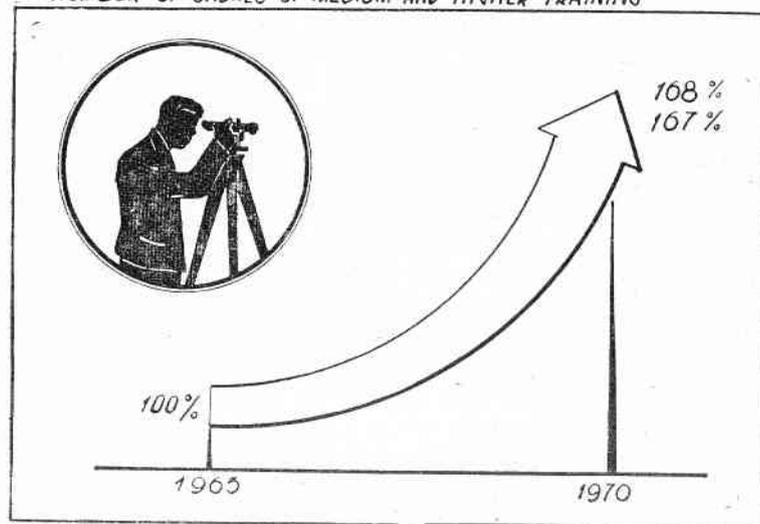
It is only after liberation that higher education began developing in Albania. In 1946 a Two-year Pedagogical Institute was inaugurated in Tirana. This was our first training center of teachers of seventh-grade schools. But our country was badly in need of numerous cadres of higher education. During the early years, a part of them were trained abroad on State scholarship. But in order to cope with the needs of the country for secondary school teachers, engineers, agronomists, economists, lawyers, etc., the organization of the higher education within the country was indispensable.

In 1951 the Four-year Higher Pedagogical Institute, the High Institute of Agriculture and the High Polytechnical Institute were opened. In 1952 the High Institute of Medicine and the High Institute of Economy were founded. Two years later the Higher Institute of Jurisprudence was inaugurated. In 1957 all these institutes, with the exception of the High Institute of Agriculture were merged together to form the Tirana State University which now possesses seven departments training young men and young women in 29 specialities. During these recent years branches of the University were established in Stalin City, Berat and Fier, where important projects of oil, chemical and textile industries are undergoing swift development. Later on, the State Conservatory, the High School of Dramatic Arts and the High Institute of Figurative Arts were founded. The latter were afterwards to be united into the High Ins-

tute of Arts. There exist now also a High Institute of Physical Culture in Tirana and a Two-year Pedagogical Institute in Shkodra.

In this way, with its institutes of higher learning, Albania is today able to train highly qualified specialists for the various branches of its economy and culture. Our high schools have now 20 departments of 57 different profiles with 12,000 students. Albania has today about 70 students per 10,000 inhabitants.

NUMBER OF CADRES OF MEDIUM AND HIGHER TRAINING



The high school network in Albania is meeting better and better the needs of the country in highly qualified cadres to work in various sectors of economy and culture and develop scientific research work in compliance with our actual conditions and the demands of our economy. The cadres trained in our schools are imbued

with a sound Marxist-Leninist world-outlook, with broad professional and scientific knowledge, with a high socialist consciousness, they are ever ready to serve wherever the lofty interests of the Fatherland call for. Our high schools institutions continuously strengthen their links with actual life, with the practice of socialist construction. In compliance with their plans of study, hundreds of students perform their labor practice at work sites every year. They go to factories and mines, electric stations and construction sites. State farms and agricultural cooperatives, health, economic and educationed institutions, take part in geological and archaeological expeditions, etc. Most of the theses on which the students receive their degrees deal with actual problems of socialist construction.

Our students take an active part also in the mass actions of our youth to build new projects of industry, communications, water conservancy and agriculture. They cut up terraces on hill and mountain sides, etc. This is considered by them as a school for their revolutionary tempering.

For the first time in our country, theses have been maintained at our high institutes of learning. Today at the various departments of our University there are professors and doctors, candidates of sciences, lecturers, graduate students, and correspondent members, who make more and more progress with each passing year and lead our young science towards ever greater successes.

A 15-year prospective scientific plan has been elaborated. Some important studies have been conducted according to this plan. Efforts are being made to construct a scientific laboratory for nuclear irradiations; a hydraulic laboratory has been commissioned. It will deal with the hydraulic and static modelations of powerful hydro-power stations. A center of electronic machines

applying mathematical computers for research in different fields of science and production and a seismic station will also be built.

The extension of high education has been so rapid that almost all of the students going through middle general education schools, some of those graduating from middle vocational schools and many others coming directly from production work and from the administration are going each year to the universities. Albania has now 2.6 times more cadres of higher qualification than in 1960, whereas in 1970 (the last year of the Fourth Five-year Period) it will have 67 percent more of them than in 1965. All cadres accomplishing school are sure to find work according to their speciality in the rapidly developing economy and culture. Every citizen of Albania enjoys the right to pursue to higher studies. Thanks to the continuous care taken, by the people's Power the material conditions of the students are being ever improved. About 75 percent of the students pursue to their studies on the State scholarship. Our State has invested huge sums in new school buildings, in enlarging existing laboratories, cabinets, departments, scientific research institutes, students' boarding houses, etc.

WHAT FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR THE WORKING PEOPLE TO CONTINUE HIGHER STUDIES WITHOUT A BREAK IN THEIR JOBS?

An evidence of the popular character of education in Albania is the organization of evening and correspondence courses for the youth of the towns and the countryside and for the working people without a break in their jobs. Evening and correspondence courses are an important means for spreading culture, raising the pro-

professional level of the working people, training production cadres at a speedy rate.

It was only after liberation that education courses for adults were set up. They began to take their actual shape during the 1946-1947 school year, when the evening school system for adult working people was established. Later on correspondence courses were organized, too.

A series of special decisions were taken in order to make the frequentation of school easier for the working people.

According to the Labor Code, the worker or the civil servant frequenting the evening or correspondence school is entitled to paid annual leave of absence to get ready for examinations. They have a right to three hours paid leave out of every working week through the whole period they pursue their studies in evening eighth-grade and secondary schools and to six hours paid leave in evening high schools.

Evening and correspondence courses function three days a week. The worker or civil servant frequenting school on these same days has to work only seven hours and will be paid in full by the enterprise, institution or organization at which he is expected to do a full eight hour day's work. On the other hand, working people frequenting evening high schools are obliged to work only six hours a day on three days of the week.

The Decisions of the Council of Ministers provides for far greater facilities for women having children and no one to look after them in their families. They have to accomplish only a six hours day's work in the week without reduction in their pay. All the women frequenting evening eighth-grade and middle school courses enjoy this right.

Thanks to the conditions created and to the interest shown by the working people themselves, education is

taking ever greater proportions. Suffice it to say that, in the middle school system, above 40 percent of the total number of students frequent evening courses without detaching themselves from production work, whereas they make up more than 45 percent in the upper educational system.

During the 1967-1968 school year, 55,137 people, or one fourth of all our students, frequent school without a break in their jobs. High schools, evening and correspondence courses alone are frequented by 4,300 students, whereas 10,700 and 8,000 students respectively are enrolled in evening and correspondence courses of vocational, pedagogical and 12th grade schools.

TO WHOM ARE SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED IN ALBANIA?

During the antipopular regimes of the past, the State granted a restricted and negligible number of scholarships, but even these were given, as a rule, to the sons of the agas, beys and merchants. It was quite an extraordinary thing for sons of the workers or peasants to receive a scholarship.

Today in Albania there exists a vast network of eighth-grade, and high schools. The greater part of the pupils and students pursue their studies in boarding schools. Most of them enjoy state scholarships.

In the school system of our country as a whole, more than 19,500 of the pupils and students live in boarding houses, 13,300 of the latter are entitled to full scholarships and about 3,500 receive half scholarships. In the medium, general educational and vocational school system our State has granted more than 8,100 scholarships, this figure being five times higher than the total

number of students who used to frequent these schools before liberation.

The State grants scholarships also to orphan children and to a category of pupils of the eighth-grade and general education secondary schools. As to the latter scholarships are generally given to peasant children living in regions where there are no such schools at present.

In order to train as many local cadres as possible, in assigning scholarships, especially for specialties most needed in the countryside, priority is given to peasant children, particularly to girls and, among them, to those living in remote mountain zones.

Besides scholarships meeting especially the students' needs in foods and lodging, the State gives some students books and clothing free of charge. Likewise, the State guarantees lodging in boarding houses free of charge to those pupils and students without scholarships coming from the countryside or from other towns.

As a rule, the Albanian pupils and students pay no tuition.

HOW ARE ALBANIAN YOUTH TRAINED THROUGH MASS ACTIONS TO LOVE WORK?

Albanian youth are very fond of taking part in mass actions. They were the first to join in the battle for the liberation of the country and, after liberation, they devoted all their physical and mental efforts to the cause of socialist construction. Numerous are the industrial and agricultural projects, railroads and highways built by our young volunteers.

Right from the first years after liberation thousands upon thousands of young men and young women went,

of their own free will, to build the new Kukës-Peshkopia highway in the north eastern part of our country. About 60,000 young men and young women took part in building the Durrës-Elbasan railroad. A year later they built the Durrës-Tiranë railway. Then, two thousand young volunteers went on to link the industrial zone of the capital to the railway network. About 5,500 young men and young women built the «Stalin» Textile Mills in Tirana, 2,000 of them constructed the «8 Nëndori» Sugar Refinery at Maliq in the Korça district; still others exerted their efforts in opening the tunnel through Mount Dajti near Tirana to build the «Lenin» Hydro-power Station. A great mass action arousing our entire youth was the construction of the first hydro-power station on the Mati River. More than 20,000 young men and young women opened the Road of Light and built the first dam on the Mati river. On this same river, «Karl Marx» and «Friedrich Engels» hydro-power stations are now supplying numerous towns and dwelling centers in our country with electric power.

The mass actions of the youth have not only their economic importance, but they exercise an educative, political and ideological influence, too. In glorious work at the service of socialist construction, our young men and young women are imbued with the lofty norms and virtues of communist ethics, they are tempered so as to become worthy citizens of our new socialist society.

At present, when the Albanian people have risen to their feet as a single man in the battle for the complete construction of socialist society, the actions of the youth have not only become traditional but massive, too. They have developed into actual schools for the revolutionary education and physical tempering of the younger generation. The voluntary participation in mass actions has become a matter of honor and pride for our youth.

During the 1965-1967 period, above 130,000 young men and young women volunteered to work at several projects of socialist construction. At these mass actions, our youth worked without remuneration under the slogan: «Le us think, work and live as revolutionaries».

The Fifth Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania, that held its proceedings in November 1966, called on our youth «to stick to the hills and mountains, to make them as beautiful and fertile as the plains». In a not very distant future the zones our youth are working in will be turned into regions of advanced agriculture and animal husbandry. From all the corners of Albania, from the villages of the plains, from work sites and schools, thousands upon thousands of young men and young women have volunteered to go to mountain regions, to help develop them. Many young men and young women have settled there for 2,3 and 5 years and, some of them, permanently. They live and work together with our mountaineers to raise the economic and social and cultural level of their villages. They assist them in ploughing up new land and take an active part in the social and cultural life of the village. In battle against backward customs and prejudices and for the triumph of the progressive ones, they spread the light of education and culture, the proletarian socialist ideology, carry out clarifying work for the complete emancipation of the woman, for her sacred rights in order to turn her into a major force for the construction of the new society all over Albania.

In February 1967, the Albanian youth set about an important mass action, they began building the 54 km long Rogozhina-Fier railroad in central Albania. This railroad is a major project of the Fourth Five-year Plan. Over 100,000 young men and young women immediately responded to the call of the Party to take

part in this action as volunteers. Their eagerness is still more incensed by revolutionary motives, determined as they are to do their uttermost for the complete construction of socialist society and the further strengthening of the socialist Fatherland. Our youth have pledged themselves to accomplish this mass action in two years' time as against four years foreseen by plan. The completion of this project is of greatest importance for the transport of minerals, of the output of our new industry of chemical fertilizers and farming products.

Youth are entrusted with another important mass action such as the building of the 75 km long Northern highlands Highway which will play a great role in the all-out development of this zone which was abandoned in its ages-long backwardness by the regimes of the past. This project is to be completed in 1968, too. In factories, mines, fields and in every other sphere of human activity our youth have become a huge force pushing ahead the development of production.

Our youth have embarked on numerous revolutionary initiatives to raise production in industry and agriculture, to further improve the quality of goods, to spread advanced production methods, they are taking an active part in the inventions and rationalizations drive, fighting for deepening technical and scientific revolution.

The future actions of our youth will contribute to their revolutionary tempering. In the People's Republic of Albania there is growing a younger generation educated in the spirit of the brilliant patriotic and revolutionary traditions, politically tempered, ideologically sound and morally pure. The Albanian youth are showing their high moral and political qualities by upholding with the interests of the Fatherland, of the people and of socialism. Marching along these lines, our younger gene-

ration will be able to take into their hands and further advance the torch of socialist revolution, will completely build socialist society and successfully strive for the construction of communism.

WHAT CULTURAL TRADITIONS HAVE THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE?

Archaeological discoveries, especially those made these recent years by our People's Government, bear testimony to the ancient cultural traditions of the Albanian people. Their culture is as old and luxuriant as the age-long history of our country. Most influential cultures of the ancient times have left their traces on Albanian soil.

The Albanians and the Albanian land inhabited as far back as the palaeolithic epoch have lived through the great events befalling the Balkans and South-eastern Europe for centuries at a stretch. The ancient Illyrians (the predecessors of the present-day Albanians), reached a high level of economic and cultural development. They created powerful states and the ancient history speaks of the energetic resistance they offered to the Romans. Early in those remote times numerous towns sprang up and thrived such as Buthroton, Apollonia, Dyrrachium (Dyrrachion) — at present Durrës, Amanthia, Phoinike, etc. Archaeological excavations going on in our country have unearthed many architectonic monuments, temples, statues, columns of various styles, theaters and stadia with thousands of seats, gymnasia, public squares, libraries, etc. Archaeologists have brought to light a great number of names, inscriptions and other objects of Illyrian origin, thus going to prove the existence in our land of a culture originating further back than ancient

Greek and Roman cultures, as well as the great influence of Illyrian culture on the latter which, surely, were the most advanced and prevalent cultures of antiquity.

Although hampered by the occupation on the part of foreign great Powers, the Albanian people have been able to develop their own culture and arts through the Mediaeval times, too. Architects, stone-hewers and wood carvers have left behind valuable works of art, while Albanian craftsmen proceeded on ancient traditions in their artistic work such as filigree, pyrography, embroidery, etc. Wars and foreign occupations have caused heavy material and cultural losses to the Albanian people, special mention to be made of the five centuries long Turkish occupation which left Albania in a deplorable state.

During the period of the Revival of Albania (from the second half of 19th Century up to the commencement of 20th Century) which is a revolutionary and democratic period of extreme importance in the history and literature of the Albanian people, the struggle for national liberation assumed great proportions. The men of our Revival, distinguished personalities with progressive ideas, revolutionary illuminists, brave and ardent patriots, fought with rifle and pen for freedom and independence, for the development of our national culture, for schools that would give education in Albanian language, for the defense of the cultural heritage of the Albanian people against the assimilating efforts of Turkish occupationists and Chauvinist cliques of neighbouring countries. A great number of Albanian patriots took the leadership of this movement and became torchbearers of the liberation struggle, such as Naum-Veqilharxhi, Jeronim De Rada, Konstantin Kristoforidhi, Sami Frashëri, Jani Vreto, Naim Frashëri, Andon Zako Çajupi and many others. Numerous societies and patriotic organizations set up within the country and

abroad promoted the idea of national independence among our people, wrote books and papers in the Albanian language and spread Albanian culture.

The struggle of the men of the Revival and the general uprising of our people succeeded in proclaiming our national independence on November 28, 1912. In later years, particularly during the 1920-1924 period, the cultural movement in Albania assumed a distinctly democratic, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist character. The Great Socialist October Revolution exerted a strong influence on the cultural life of the country with its ideas of social progress. Numerous clubs and cultural societies of this period became hearths for the propagation of progressive anti-feudal and anti-imperialist ideas.

In the period of the obscurantist regime of King Zog (1925-1939) the Albanian progressive cultural movement, led by communist groups and other progressive individuals waged a determined campaign against fascist, monarchic and decadent reactionary trends in the field of culture and arts. This progressive movement made the new socialist, anti-imperialist and democratic ideas popular and fought the reactionary policy of the feudal-bourgeois regime which didn't show the slightest attention for the cultural uplift of the people and had turned Albania into the most backward country of Europe where feudal relations prevailed and 80 percent of the population were illiterate.

A great number of material values of Albanian culture were appropriated by occupationists of all shades and foreign archaeologists or were sold off for almost no money by the anti-popular cliques ruling our country before liberation. However, in spite of the numberless wars and destructions through many centuries, there are still a great many monuments of the national Albanian culture left.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN MONUMENTS OF CULTURE AND IN WHAT MANNER IS THEIR SAFEKEEPING ATTENDED TO?

The Albanian people with their age-long history have left behind a great number of monuments dating from the remotest times of human history which are not only of great importance from the historical and artistic point of view but constitute also a source for educating the younger generation with the best traditions of our ancestors.

Albania, if its surface is to be taken account of represents the richest country of Europe in monuments of culture. On a surface of only 28,750 square kilometers there are to be found antique towns, 75 castles, more than 115 churches, monasteries and mosques, hundreds of dwelling houses, bridges and other characteristic buildings of great artistic value. All these make up the fund of archaeological, architectonic and historic monuments, a luxuriant cultural heritage of the past and a vivid attestation of the creative work of Albanian people and of their contribution to the world cultural thesaurus. Many foreigners, scholars and tourists, who have become acquainted with the historic monuments of culture of Albania have named our country as a «first-rate touristic park» of great interest to historians, archaeologists, ethnographers, musicologists.

A series of citadels once inhabited by Illyrians make up also a part of our cultural heritage. They are to be found in every part of the country: in the Shkodra district (Northern Albania), in the Tirana district (Central Albania), in the Vlora district (Southern Albania), etc. These citadels are surrounded by thick walls made up of big rough stones placed one over the other with no mortar to hold them together. All of them occupy strategic posts which dominate the surrounding plains

and valleys and are difficult to be seized by the enemy. With the economic development of Illyria and its consolidation the citadels became stronger too; they began to be surrounded by higher walls made of hewed stones and were equipped with towers, portals, etc. As early as the VII Century B.C. Greek colonists settled on the Albanian seacoast forming such famous cities as Durrachium (present day Durrës), Buthroton (Butrinti), Apollonia (Pojani i Fierit), Lissus (Lezha) which, with their architectural, sculptural and other monuments, are of great archeological interest. Parts of the high walls encircling ancient towns, big portals which represent beautiful architectonic works, relics of buildings of public and private character like temples, theaters, stadia, public baths, dwelling houses, monumental sculptures, reliefs and inscriptions, mosaic works of various colors, metallic pieces of money of ancient towns, productions of Illyrian handicrafts, particularly weapons and adornments for women have survived to this day. In the important archeologic center of Butrinti, South Albania, there is to be found a masterpiece of palaeochristian architecture — the baptistry, built of columns from ancient temples during the VI century of our era. The baptistry is composed of a circular mosaic floor of many colors with 16 granite columns forming two concentric circles, on which lay the roof. In Butrinti, in 1928, a marble head of Apollo was found which was donated to the chiefs of Italian fascism by king Zog. This exceptional masterpiece is now in Italy. In the recent years there were unearthed 29 pieces of sculpture in Apollonia of a special interest for the appreciation and studies of the art of sculpture of the Second and Third Century of our era.

There are also many other monuments of great value both from the architectural and artistic point of

view. A considerable number of artistic works of Byzantine and post-byzantine period go beyond the limits of national cultural values. Frescos of the great Albanian painter of the 16th Century Onufri and of his son Nikolla are to be found in churches of Central Middle Albania revealing their mastery in painting realistic figures with a rich spiritual inworld. There are also in Albania frescos by David Selenica, a man of great talents.

Dwelling houses of our people both in towns and in villages, particularly the «turrets» of North Albania, constitute another important group of monuments. Characteristic are especially the buildings in Berat and Gjirokastra where the traces of a unique characteristic architectonic evolution are preserved. Numerous buildings are built on hill and mountain slopes and they give the impression of being placed one upon the other. They are built in a daring style and one admires the artistic work of the stone hewers and wood carvers of these buildings. Monuments of culture, an important attestation of our people's creative activity, constitute an inexhaustible source for studying the history and cultural and artistic development of our country. Monuments of art and architecture serve not only as a means for asserting our culture but also as important sources of inspiration as they clearly reflect the skill of our craftsmen who have enriched and further developed popular artistic forms.

The preservation, protection and study of monuments of culture are closely connected with the creation of our socialist culture. The protection of our monuments of culture is now guaranteed by the State.

Entirely different was the state of our monuments before liberation: they were left at the mercy of time. At that time the Albanian monuments of culture were

excavated and studied by foreigners who received their instructions from and served the particular interests of their own states. Several objects of value were unearthed only to be embezzled by foreign speculators or ruined by lack of care on the part of the former feudal-bourgeois regimes. It is only after liberation and the establishment of the People's Rule that due attention was attached to our monuments of culture. Special State institutions were set up which were charged with the protection and, later on, with the upkeep and restoration of our monuments of culture. Laws and decrees issued for this purpose placed our monuments under State protection. Today, Albania boasts of a central archaeological and ethnographic museum in Tirana as well as a series of smaller museums in different districts where there are deposited a considerable number of cultural productions. A laboratory for cleansing and restoring objects of metal and ceramic has been set up at the Tirana State University, while a restoring workshop for archaeological monuments has done good work on many important monuments of material culture. Other ateliers have been built also in the archaeological centers of Butrinti, Durrës and some other towns of the country.

Naming some towns «museum towns» serves also the objective of protecting valuable monuments of our ancient culture. Such is the case with the towns of Gjirokastra and Berati in the Southern and the town of Kruja in Central Albania. In naming our towns «museum towns» and in declaring different objects as «monuments of culture» we have taken account of certain historic and archaeological requirements, in compliance with the task of best portraying the process of development of our architecture.

Meanwhile, archaeological expeditions have been organized every year for the purpose of unearthing other

monuments of culture which lay hidden in our subsoil. This has resulted in discoveries of other objects which throw light on the thousand-year old history of the Albanian people and their culture and arts. Large funds are allotted by our State to unearthing, protecting and upkeep of monuments of culture. Special care is devoted to keeping monuments in their ancient state as well as to letting none of them be damaged, as can be clearly seen in the case of the building of the new theater in Durrës. While digging out its foundations the remnants of an ancient bath were unearthed and the monument was not destroyed. Some deviation was made in the plan of the theater incurring an increase in costs. The citizen of Durrës or any visitor may enter the theater from the eastern side in order to see a new play, or he can go to the eastern side to have a look at the archaeological monument before entering the theater. Monuments of culture bear testimony to the great creative ability of the Albanian people who are now creating hundreds of new monumental works worthy of the socialist epoch.

WHAT ARE THE FOLKLORISTIC RICHES OF ALBANIA?

Albania is an inexhaustible thesaurus of folk dances and songs. In the course of many centuries the Albanian people have created an original music characterized by the wide range of its intonations, by its wonderful and touching melodies. The history of the Albanian people written with musical sounds is a long folk song, too. Confidence in victory runs through each song that our predecessors used to make use of when sounding alarm. This sort of songs have come intact to these days

and they keep on being chanted: in Northern Albania they sing them with one single voice whereas in the Southern part of the country their majority are performed with two, three or even with four voices, i.e. it is polyphony that prevails there. Wedding songs which occupy an important place in Albanian folklore are characteristic of their cheerful intonations, of their lyricism and optimism. Lyric, erotic, ritual and allegoric songs are sung with deep inspiration to true and sincere love.

Variiegated, full of dynamism and life are Albanian folk dances; they personify the fortitude, resoluteness and invincibility of Albanians. There are dances like those of the northern uplands in the North of the country, that are executed in silence, without music, following the rhythmic movements the dancers themselves improvise, there are also other folk dances, mainly those of the Southern regions, that are associated with songs that the dancers sing or with tunes coming out of folk musical instruments. According to different regions, folk dances are performed by one or two dancers, or by a number of them with two dancers in the lead. After the liberation the State Ensemble of Albanian Folk Songs and Dances was created with the aim of popularizing and cultivating folk songs and dances; it has scored success in its tours abroad as well.

The creative genius of the Albanian people is amply manifested also in the field of popular instruments. In spite of the small territorial space of Albania here one can come across all kinds of popular instruments: idiophones, aerophones, membranophones and cordophones. Some of them, as for example the drum, the tambourine derive their sounds out of vibrations of leather; others such as flute, bagpipes, etc., use vibrations of air, and some other such instruments like *çiftelia* (a two string banjo-like instrument), and lute use

vibrations of strings. The most popular of them is the flute: a metallic or wooden hollow cylinder with fingerholes along its length, generally 40 cm long. The bagpipe is a blowing musical instrument consisting of a double reed melody pipe and a drone pipe. Another most popular instrument is the *çiftelia*, especially common in the Northern Mountain regions where it is to be met with in almost every family.

Most abundant is likewise our vocal folklore with the ceremonials of birth, marriage and death rites. The cultural heritage of the people constitutes a broad and interesting field of study. But collection and study of our folklore in a systematic way and on a scientific basis began only after liberation. In 1947, along with the setting up of the Institute of Sciences, a special sector for collecting and studying the Albanian folklore was created. Materials of our folklore have been collected completely at more than 700 points all over the country and the collection goes on at other points. The collected material does not remain closed into the archives of the Institute but it keeps on being published systematically. During the 1951-1963 period there were published 14 volumes of miscellaneous pieces of folklore and three volumes containing folkloristic materials of the period 1635-1912, published on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of independence of our country. In 1963 a comprehensive study of our folklore was published in 20 volumes, divided into a number of series. In 1962, the sector of folklore at the Institute of Sciences turned into an Institute with three sectors; the sector of vocal folklore, that of musical folklore and the sector of choreography.

Now, cadres of experience are employed at the Institute of Folklore. New cadres trained at the University of Tirana as well as numerous collaborators from all

over the country are rendering their contribution to this new science in Albania.

Alongside with the work for the collection and systematization of folklore a great deal of work is being done at this Institute for a scientific treatment of this material. Mention should be made here of such studies as «The Question of Albanian Folk Tales», «The Cycle of Knights», «The Historic Songs», «The Morphology of Folk Music», «Humor and Satire in Our Folk Lyrics», etc.

The Institute of Folklore is in contact and carries on exchanges with numerous folkloristic institutions and foreign distinguished men the world over. Works of the scholars of this Institute have been given a place in the archives of Institutes of folklore in France, Austria, Germany, etc.

The Institute is member of the «International Folk Music Council». In order to strengthen the relations with the outside world, it publishes in French various materials under the title «Chansonnier Populaire Albanais».

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT COLLECTING AND CONSERVING ETHNOGRAPHIC TREASURES?

The Albanian folk possess a highly developed material culture which is proven by the great ethnographic wealth of the various Albanian regions. Numerous foreign scholars and other visitors, having seen the beautiful folk costumes of the Albanians, their silk embroidery, their carpets and rugs decorated with national motives, their highly artistic filigree and pyrographic objects, their interesting characteristic architecture, their rooms with carved door and window ornaments, their fireplaces, ceilings and cupboards and having been acquainted with the noble virtues of our people such as

their hospitality, courage and their traditional folk songs, have admiringly declared that «the Albanian people are a people of artists».

The Albanian ethnographic materials are of high scientific and artistic interest. Thus, for our northern women's garments bearing much resemblance to those of the ancient Mycenaean women's costumes, our shepherds' cloaks and our southern mountaineers kilts are of a very remote origin; the garments of our mountaineer women bear witness to their high artistic taste and their ornaments and jewels remind us of those of the ancient Illyrian women; the characteristic houses of Gjirokastra, Berat, Kruja and Shkodra stand for the great ability of the Albanian builders, of our stone and wood carvers; our artisans continue to develop their ancient traditions inherited from generation to generation.

The Albanian people stand among the other neighboring or distant peoples as a distinct national entity not only because of their language and anthropological features but because of their ethnographic traditions as well. All this could not help draw the attention of numerous scholars at various epochs. Descriptions of our ethnographic materials are to be found in different works of ancient Greek and Roman authors, in Byzantine chronicles, in several annals of trade and political agents who passed through our country, in documents and writings of various epochs, etc. But it must be said that these materials were not meant for purposes of study and scientific work, so they often are half-baked and superficial. They are of use only as auxiliary materials, as a source for a more profound scientific study.

A particular interest for our national ethnography was shown by the Albanian patriots, such as the ancient writers and students of the Albanian language Bardhi, Budi and Bogdani during the Sixteenth Century, by the

Albanian settlers abroad and, particularly, by our patriots of the period of National Revival in the Nineteenth Century who did fruitful work for the development of our national culture. But with all their good will, compelled as they were to work in difficult conditions, perpetually chased and persecuted by the invaders, their work still could not be but fragmentary and amateurish.

With the achievement of national independence in 1912, it was hoped that work for studying the cultural traditions of our people would take a big step forward and, with the care and assistance of the State, there would be set up a scientific institution which would organize a systematic research work in this field. But this did not occur for the good reason that the Albanian feudals and bourgeoisie, who had robbed the people's masses of their victory and established their rule, were altogether disinterested in our national traditions. But even in such conditions honest patriots persisted in their efforts, but their work was done only privately, without State sponsorship and without an organ to coordinate their activity. It was only after liberation, when the people, the sole authors of these national traditions, took the reins of state into their hands, that this work took a turn for the better.

During the first period after liberation, the Department of Ethnography was set up at the Institute of Sciences. At present this sector has been merged with the Institute of History and Linguistics. The collection, systematization and study of ethnographic material is the chief task of this sector which now possesses numerous specialized cadres. Albanian ethnographers went all over the country and collected very valuable material. This sector now possesses a great wealth of eleven thousand. Phonetics, files, drawings and archives ca-

binets have been set up, a specialized library as well as other departments have been constituted. In 1948, the Tirana Ethnographic Museum and, later on, eleven local museums were opened, each of them with its ethnographic department attending chiefly to collecting and conserving documentary material.

These institutions, which were set up for the first time after liberation, today constitute a good basis for developing further scientific work. The Tirana Ethnographic Museum has become a school of folk culture for the broad masses of the people. Thousands upon thousands of young men and young women visit it everyday and draw concrete and vivid knowledge about the past of our people and their material culture; various groups of men and women working in the fields of arts, culture and amateur activities get their inspiration from the artistic traditions of our people. The foreigners visit this museum also and are highly interested in it.

The Tirana Ethnographic Museum has extended its activity also beyond the boundaries of our country. During the years of its existence, it has organized numerous big ethnographic exhibitions abroad, such as those opened in China, Ceylon, Italy, France, etc. thus making it possible for those who visit exhibitions to be acquainted with the artistic traditions of the Albanian people.

The sector of Ethnography has made a series of interesting investigations about various problems of Albanian ethnography, many of which have been published in the Bulletin of the Tirana State University and in the magazine «Albanian Ethnography». The publication of illustrated ethnographic albums, such as «Folk Arts», «A catalogue of Folk Motives», «Albanian Carpet Patterns», «Handwork of Albanian Women», etc. deserves special mention.

ALONG WHAT LINES HAS ALBANIAN LITERATURE BEEN DEVELOPED?

Gjon Buzuku's «Missal», published in 1555, is the first book published in the Albanian language we know so far. The five centuries of oppression by the Ottoman invaders could not extinguish the great thirst of the Albanian people for art and culture. Alongside with their successive insurrections to regain their lost freedom, the Albanians made also ceaseless efforts to preserve their tongue and develop their national literature. An important role in this respect has been played by the Albanian writers and poets who have helped with their works not only to enrich our national culture, but also to awaken national consciousness, making the people rise in struggle against the absolutism of the military and feudal rule of the Ottoman Sultans. One of the brightest periods in the stormy development of our national culture was the one called «Albanian National Revival», which extended from the second half of the past century up to the beginning of the present one. During this period, distinguished writers and poets emerged who, by linking their creative activity with the burning problems of their times, with the people's struggle for national independence, created valuable works which soon became known even abroad. Such are the writers Naim Frashëri, Konstantin Kristoforidhi, Vaso Pasha, Filip Shiroka, Mihal Grameno, Foqion Postoli and tens of other writers and poets who were the forerunners of the contemporary Albanian literature.

After national independence was proclaimed on November 28, 1912, a new period of our literature began, known under the name of «Literature of Critical Realism», from 1912 up to 1940. The most prominent representatives of this period are the writers Ndre Mjeda,

Fan Noli, Millosh Gjergj Nikolla (Migjeni), Aleksandër Drenova (Asdreni). All their work is a fierce indictment against the feudal and bourgeois rule of those times, when every progressive feeling was mercilessly choked.

During the thirties numerous young writers and poets emerged who were to develop further their activity in the years of the People's Rule. The more than two decades long period after liberation, writes one of the brightest pages in the history of our literature both in regard to contents and artistic expression. The Albanian writers, adopting the method of socialist realism, have depicted in their works various periods of the history of the Albanian people: the efforts of our forefathers for freedom, independence and land, the National-liberation struggle — one of the most glorious periods in our history — and the recent efforts of our people to build up socialism.

Contemporary Albanian literature, as a literature of socialist realism, portrays our historic reality. Alongside with big social, political and economic transformations the process of our literary development was also completed.

The greatest value of our literature lies in the fact that it is closely bound with the interests of the people, it serves these interests and militates for them. That is why its themes are directly linked with the interests of the people. Our writers and poets are always trying to grasp our socialist reality in its broad manifoldness and view it from the angle of Marxism-Leninism, comprehending and perpetuating thus, whole periods of the history of our people. Works of wide scope have been created by the writers Dhimitër Shuteriqi, Shefqet Musaraj, Llazar Siliqi, Sterjo Spase, Andrea Varfi, Kolë Jakova, Ismail Kadare and many others, who have found warm reception not only amidst the Albanian readers

but, translated into foreign languages, among readers abroad as well.

The revolutionary spirit of our people in socialist construction, their struggle against imperialism and revisionism, their national pride and lofty principles of proletarian internationalism are widely treated in the works of our writers. They have always been guided by the method of socialist realism which does not wipe out the writers' individualities, as the bourgeois and revisionist aestheticians pretend, but, on the contrary, created undreamt-of possibilities for an all-out efflorescence of individual talents, manners and styles, as was the case with us. Socialist realism is understood by us neither as something rigid and unmovable, like some obsolete canons covered with the dust of ages, nor as a prescription for all cases in general. It is a living method born from historic necessity on strong social bases which leads our writers to representing reality and interpreting it in a revolutionary spirit, according to the dialectical materialist world-outlook. All this has enabled our literature to forge ever ahead and made its heroes to be beloved, to become intimate comrades-in-arms with our people as a whole. The ranks of the Albanian writers are continually swelled by new recruits. New literary workers who have come out of the ranks of the workers, cooperative peasants, soldiers, etc. have enriched the new Albanian literature with numerous works of prose and poetry treating actual problems. The heroism of the masses is at the center of the attention of our writers. In the years of the People's Rule there was founded in Albania the Writers' and Artists' Union with branches in the main districts of the country. The Albanian writers continually strengthen their ties with the masses. Many of them have gone back to their home towns and villages, even to the remotest mountain regions, in order to find

the most genuine source of inspiration for their literary works among their own people.

WHAT PROPORTIONS HAS THE PUBLICATION OF BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND DAILIES ATTAINED IN ALBANIA?

The great successes achieved in the development of the people's economy and culture have created favorable conditions for a stormy and unhampered progress of the people's culture and for the publication and distribution of books, periodicals and dailies among the masses of our people. As a result the list of books published so far is very long. Albania, once backward and plunged in the darkness of illiteracy, has now taken a big step forward in the field of publications. Within the first twelve years after liberation (1945-1957) there were published as many books as during the whole 400 years period from the first Albanian book printed in 1555 down to the year 1944. From 1800 to 1910, that is to say, in 110 years' times, including the period of our national awakening, there were published 282 different books all told, whereas in socialist Albania today there are published over 500 book titles a year. At present Albania publishes two books per capita of population and that is equal to the world average.

But the radical changes that have taken place in the field of publications are not manifested in the increase of their number and circulation alone. Far-reaching changes have been achieved also in their contents. Publications with us have a very wide character and aim at fulfilling ever better the needs of the working people of all strata, ages and categories. Books are no more, as they used to be in the past, a means for the enrichment of the owners of printing presses and publishing houses,

but a powerful lever to lift the cultural and educational level of the working masses.

Right from the liberation of the country, particular care was attached to the publication of political and ideological literature. Selected works by Marx and Engels and the complete works by Lenin and Stalin have been published.

Another very important chapter in this field is the publication of history works which aim at making the broad masses of the working people acquainted with the glorious past of our people. We can mention here, among other important publications, «The History of Albania», «The History of Albanian Literature», and other important studies on particular periods of the history of the Albanian people and, especially, of the glorious epoch of Scanderbeg. Besides these books, there have been published tens of booklets on distinguished men and women of our history, as well as numerous memoirs by the participants of the glorious epic of the National-liberation Struggle.

The publication of literary works, both Albanian and foreign, has been greatly expanded. In bibliographies of literary works there are now included hundreds of various titles with a total circulation of millions of copies.

It was only after liberation that children's literature began to develop in Albania. In the years of the People's Rule there have been published a great number of original works for children of the various ages by Albanian writers and the great masters of world literature who have devoted their talents to the education of children. At present, our young readers of all ages can read in their mothertongue books written by Andersen, the Grimm brothers, Tolstoy, Gaydar, de Amicis, Jules Vernes, Alexander Dumas, and many other writers of world fame.

These last years the publication of technical and scientific books has begun on a broader scale. All this bears witness to the fact that the number of cadres of different specialities has been greatly raised in our country. The publication of newspapers and periodicals has been expanded, too. From 15 periodicals and newspapers published in 1938, today there are published 34 periodical magazines and 13 central newspapers, without reckoning local newspapers.

If we judge from the number of books published, Albania is no longer a backward country, as it was before liberation; on the contrary, it can rank among the advanced countries. And if we take into account the high rate of development of our publications, in a near future our country will occupy a honorable place in regard to books published per capita of population, too.

HOW WAS OUR DRAMATIC ART REBORN?

Although our country possesses ancient traditions in the field of dramaturgy, during the rule of the anti-popular regimes, scenic art remained undeveloped. Albanian artists of world fame, such as Alexander Moisi, were obliged to display their talents in foreign countries.

Our people's theater was born together with our People's Rule. As early as the Permet National-liberation Antifascist Congress on May 24th, 1944, relying on the traditions of the past and on the actual theatrical activity developed by the freedom fighters in prisons, city quarters, villages and units of the National-liberation Army, there was taken the decision to set up a nucleus of professional drama. The rehearsals of partisan actors who held the play script in one hand and the rifle in the other, were of great help to the political education

and combative mobilization of the masses in the struggle for the liberation of the country. After liberation, this nucleus of professional drama, born in the heat of battle, took the features of an actual theater.

Partisan theater, irrespective of its lack of high artistic qualities, brought with it a new element: the figure of the man of the people, of a hero forgotten, oppressed and despised that far but who had taken to arms and was growing ever more conscious of the people's strength, determined to become master of his own destiny.

People's dramatic art, which was not born in luxurious halls or as a result of some dramatic school or method but which was the direct successor of the partisan theater, reflected in its scenes the glorious epoch of the people's revolution in a higher artistic form. On its stages came out a hero who was the embodiment of all the best qualities of the liberated people conscious of their own strength. Artistic maturity of this theater was becoming ever greater, so as to be able to stage in a worthy way great historic figures such as that of Lenin in the play «Kremlin's Hours» and of George Dimitrov in the play «The 1933 Leipzig Trial».

The main place in the repertoire of the Albanian theater is occupied by works of contemporary Albanian authors reflecting a host of various problems of our everyday reality, mirroring up clearly, acutely and emotionally the selfless heroism and revolutionary drive of our working masses in town and in the countryside, their efforts for building up a new life, the great reforms carried out by the People's Power, class struggle, revolutionary vigilance and other social and familiar problems. These problems enabled the People's Theater to acquire a national profile and a physiognomy of its own.

The artistic paths followed by the People's Dra-

matic Theater of Tirana, beginning with its first performances down to the staging of contemporary Albanian and foreign playwrights' works these last days, bear witness to the rise of the creative abilities of its actors, producers and decorators. The fact in itself that there have been staged major works of world dramaturgy such as «Otello», «Hamlet», «Love and Intrigue», «The Revisor», «The Bourgeois Gentleman», clearly speaks the great successes of Albanian dramaturgy.

Through its inspiring performances, our theater has rendered a valuable contribution to the political and esthetic education of the broad masses.

In addition to the People's Theater, a broad network of professional artistic institutions of various profiles has been set up and extended to all the regions of the country, to all main cities and dwelling centers during the post-liberation years. In 1938 Albania had no professional theater, whereas in 1967 there were 24 of them, among which 8 dramatic theaters, 15 variety theatres, one ballet and opera theater, one puppet show for children, one folk songs and dances ensemble, one army songs and dances ensemble.

In Tirana alone there are 7 artistic groups: the Ballet and Opera Theater, the People's Dramatic Theater, the State Variety Show Theater (with the nucleus of the future circus), the Army Variety Theater, the Children' Puppet Theater and two songs and dances Ensembles.

In the meantime hundreds of artistic collectives of young amateurs at work sites, villages, schools, army units and everywhere have been created. Theatrical Contests are organized every year on a district as well as Republic level.

ALONG WHAT LINES HAS ALBANIAN CINEMATOGRAPHY DEVELOPED?

One of the numerous measures taken in the field of arts and culture by the newly set People's Power immediately after liberation was the nationalization of all existing moving picture theaters and the setting up of a national cinematographic enterprise in 1947 which would deal with the importation of films of sound contents, with their distribution and with the administration of the moving picture theaters. Besides, right from the beginning, good work was done in setting up our own basis for producing artistic films in a not very distant future, that is to say, to establish the new Albanian cinematography.

Within a short period of time there began in Albania the production of the first chronical films representing various aspects of the political, economic and cultural life of our country.

The putting into operation on July 10, 1952 of the «New Albania» Film Studio equipped with all the necessary means and up-to-date apparatuses for the production of chronical and documentary films made it possible for all the processes of work for the realisation as well as for the development and stamping of films to be carried out in the new ateliers of the Studio.

The «Hearty Meeting» documentary film dealing with the visit by Comrade Enver Hoxha to the Northern Districts of the country was the first production by the «New Albania» Film Studio. In 1958 it turned out standard film «Tana» portraying socialist transformations in the Albanian countryside. This film was to the liking of Albanian spectators and of interest to foreign spectators wherever it was shown.

This was a great event and a step forward made

by our cinematography as our spectators were given the opportunity to see a film dealing with problems and themes directly linked with their life, expressing their interests and aspirations and speaking in their own language.

After that, a series of other artistic films of deep ideological contents and high artistic value were turned out, such as «Debatik», «Special Mission», «This Land of Ours», «The Commissar of Light», «Victory over Death», «Silent Duel», «The Early Years», «Open Horizons», etc.

Documentary films such as «The Dance of Eagles», «Resurrection», «Steeling», «Sword in Hand», «The City of a Thousand Windows», «In the Service of Health», «The Nr. 542 Oil well», «Migjeni», «Gjirokastra», «With Our Fishermen», etc. have been shown at various international festivals and have been awarded prizes, diplomas or honorary mention.

The production of our cinematography has kept rising with each passing year. Thus, for instance, in 1947, only one journal and two documentary films were realized, whereas from 1963 onwards there were produced 46 journals a year, that is to say one journal a week and about four documentaries a year, in addition to standard artistic films.

In its production through its realizations Albanian cinematography has set itself the task of reflecting the heroic path of our people, their rich traditions and customs, their aspirations and desires, their historic reality before and after liberation, their work for the edification of socialism under the guidance of the Party of Labor of Albania.

In films produced up to now, our young cinematography has dealt with the most important stages of our history, such as the struggle of the Albanian people under the leadership of Scanderbeg against the Othman in-

vaders, the relentless battles of our forefathers up to the achievement of the independence and the establishment of the first Albanian State in 1912 (the film «Sword in Hand»), the great National-liberation war of our people and the history of the founding of the Albanian Communist Party which led this victorious war (the films «The Hurricane», «Debatik», «Resurrection», «Steeling», etc.), the struggle of our working peasantry led by the Party for agrarian reform and the collectivization of agriculture (the films «This Land of Ours», «Tana», etc.), the revolutionary vigilance of our people in defence of the achievements of their socialist order against the plots and subversive activities of the enemies of our country (the films «Silent Duel», «Special Mission», «The Early Years», «The Border Guard»), as well as many other films dealing with the customs, folklore and cultural riches of our people.

Cinematography has become a powerful means of education and cultured recreation for our working people. Instead of 17 cinemas that were functioning before liberation, in 1967 there were 43 State owned cinemas, besides the cinema halls owned by the trade unions, enterprises and agricultural cooperatives and ambulant cinematographic installations.

IS OUR SOCIALIST CULTURE A POSSESSION OF THE MASSES?

In the years of the People's Rule, alongside with the general education system, culture has been greatly developed, too, a culture national in form and socialist in substance. Before liberation, there existed only 5 libraries and 17 moving picture theaters in our country. There were no theaters, no Culture Homes and no museums.

Today, the situation has undergone a radical change.

During the post-liberation period a whole system of cultural, artistic and educational institutions has been set up, the new socialist culture, arts and science have come to being.

In the first place, we have succeeded in making culture a possession of the masses and in putting it at their service. The network of cultural institutions already set up has served precisely this aim. All work done to spread culture among the people is characterized by its massiveness.

At present, Albania has been turned into a great culture hearth for the broad masses of the people. There have been set up thousands of cultural and artistic institutions which develop a wide range of activity together with culture homes and hearths, clubs, theaters and cinemas, libraries and museums, pioneer homes, etc.

For the first time in our country, a new type of cultural institution has been set up: culture palaces and clubs which are set up at the very places where the working people carry on their activities. Thus, in 1967 there were functioning 430 culture palaces and homes set up at the working centers in towns. An equally broad network of cultural institutions has been set up also in the countryside. 395 culture homes and 1,266 culture hearths have carried on their activity in villages during 1967.

This broad network of cultural and educative institutions deal with cultural and educational work directly at the places where the working people carry on their jobs and are one of the most powerful means of the People's Power and the mass organizations to make culture the possession of the masses, to put it completely at their service. In these institutions, our working people have the possibility of reading books, listening to concerts, speeches and lectures, watching films, taking part

in various artistic circles for the development of their talents, visiting exhibitions, assimilating cultivated habits in life and spending their leisure time in a cultured way. They have halls, recreation means, instructors, etc at their complete disposal.

With a view to developing the children's talents, there have been set up pioneer palaces and homes with numerous circles, sport groups, cinemas, etc. in all the cities of our country. Various artistic circles are functioning in all the schools of the country, in both primary and high schools.

Everywhere, both in towns and in the countryside, an all-out activity is being carried on to make the masses acquainted with the progress of science and technology, consultations for exchanging progressive experience are organized, sessions devoted to matters of science and technology, where the workers and cooperative peasants have their say, are held. Every year arts exhibitions are opened, dramatic contests and song and dance festivals are carried out. The number of libraries and museums is ever growing. Today, Albania possesses 29 libraries with 1,367,000 volumes, 24 museums and 25 museum homes, besides small libraries and «museum corners» set up at enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, schools and institutions.

Our socialist arts and culture rely strongly upon our motherland, our people, derive from the people and are put at their complete service, are clear and easily understandable to the people. Artistic and cultural creations in our country are characterized by a profound ideological content, revolutionary spirit, popular and national traditions, high artistic quality, they deeply touch the feeling and hearts of the people, inspire and mobilize them for big deeds in their struggle to push ahead the cause of revolution and socialist construction.

The popular character of our arts is reflected also in the make up of the great army of our artists, in their life. Our artists are sons of the people, sons of peasants and workers, to whom our People's Rule has ensured the possibility to develop their talents. Therefore, they do not spare their efforts to serve the people. Our dramatic groups, beginning with the Tirana Opera and Ballet Theater and down to the regional variety, give more than the half of their performances before the workers of industrial enterprises, construction sites, agricultural cooperatives, schools and army units.

Personal glory and luxurious life detached from the people are alien to our artists. They have merged themselves with the masses, they live and work with them. As all our people's intelligentsia, they take direct part in production work in order to get more closely acquainted with the life and problems of our working masses, get into closer contact with them, and draw inspiration from their everyday heroism. Albanian writers and painters, too, leave from time to time their cabinets and studios and go to work and live some years in the countryside where life may be seen at its best — the sole inspiration source for real and vivid literary work.

Our art-loving people follow with profound attention and assimilate art and culture with unquenchable thirst. Books, newspapers and magazines are today spread to the farthest corners of our country.

In 1967 alone our professional theaters and cinemas run by the State were frequented by over 7,500,000 spectators, without mentioning here tens of millions of spectators who had watched the performances by amateur groups or films shown in cinema halls run by the Trade Unions. Today films are sent to the remotest corners of our country. Films shown by ambulant film instal-

lations alone have been watched by over one million spectators.

In order to make it possible for all working people to follow the cultural life of their country, our Government has laid down symbolic prices for attending performances of professional troupes. A cinema ticket costs from 1,5 to 2 leks. But if people go there collectively, the ticket does not cost more than 0,50 leks. The ticket prices for theater visits, including those of the Opera and Ballet Theater, range from 2 to 5 leks at most performances whereas concerts at culture palaces and cultural homes are given free of charge.

All this has made our arts and culture to become a possession of the broad masses and serve their sound esthetical and ideological education, influencing, thus, the formation of the new man of our socialist society endowed with high moral and political qualities.

DO OUR SPORTS AND PHYSICAL CULTURE HAVE A MASSIVE CHARACTER?

In the years of the People's Power, physical culture and sports have made an all-out and rapid development. They have become the possession of the masses especially of the youth and serve to make them healthy and physically prepared for work and defence.

Before liberation there were only some clubs with about 1,200 members whereas today there exist in our country over 1,800 sports collectives with over 113,000 members. In the countryside alone there are 1,250 sports collectives with over 50,000 members.

The distinctive feature of our sports movement is its massive character. Tens of thousands of young men and young women are engaged in sport activities and

take part in various competitions and championship contests. Mass events, such as sports manifestations of schoolchildren and students, cross-country races, athletics and swimming competitions, touristic excursions, alpinism and chess tournaments have now become traditional. An encouraging factor in the development of our sports movement in depth and breadth is the participation of our young women. Before liberation there was not a single girls team in all our country, whereas today the number of young women participating in various sports attains the 95,000 figure. At present agricultural cooperatives also possess sports teams made up of young women.

Physical culture and sports in our country develop on a voluntary basis. The State sponsors them by appropriating millions of leks, in its budget to help the tempering and physical training of the people's masses.

Progress incomparable with the past has been made even in regard to strengthening the material basis and training cadres. Whereas before liberation the sports fields could be numbered on fingertips, today their number has risen more than tenfold. At every school, factory of work center, in every village and agricultural cooperative there have been set up playgrounds and stadiums where our young men and young women are passionately engaged in sports activities. Ten big stadiums have been built during the post liberation years, and this has played an important role in promoting sports. In the capital, besides the «Qemal Stafa» and «Dynamo» stadiums, there has been erected the «Partizani» Sports Palace, one of the most beautiful achievements of our People's Power in the field of sports.

If before liberation Albania had only 27 sports cadres, today this number has increased 20-fold, without taking into account voluntary trainers and other acti-

vists. The «Vojo Kushi» Physical Culture and Sports Institute in Tirana has become an important center for training highly qualified cadres and hundred of teachers of physical culture for our sports movement and, besides, it has turned out also tens of gifted sportsmen some of whom have even succeeded in receiving high sports titles.

The strengthening of the material basis and care attached to the preparation of cadres have contributed to raising the achievements of our sportsmen. The regular championship games that are organized for most categories of sports are followed with greatest interest by thousands of fans. Pre-war national records have been broken and replaced with new incomparably higher ones. At numerous competitions our sportists have achieved results of an international level in marksmanship, athletics, etc. The football players of our national team have won the Balkan Cup for national teams, whereas the «Partizani» team has been twice decorated with silver medals in the championship games of socialist armies in Leipzig and Hanoi. The «Dynamo» and «17 November» teams, too, have taken part in numerous international encounters and achieved excellent results. Many teams of the People's Republic of Albania have met with teams representing foreign clubs and countries and, in some games, have come out victorious. Over 3,000 sportsmen of our country have won high sportive categories and the title of «Master of Sports». 8 of them hold the honor title of «Merited Master of Sports».

Albanian sportsmen are members of numerous international sports organizations and our country is a member of the GANEFO Federation (the New Developing Forces) as well as of the International Olympic Committee. As a result of their international activities and their links with the sportsmen of foreign countries, the sphere of relations of the Albanian sportsmen is ever

widening. They have paid visits to numerous foreign countries and, on their part, foreign guests from all over the world have come over to Albania to take part in friendly encounters with our sports teams. Distinguished sportsmen of our country have won medals and diploms in numerous international meets.

WHAT HAS ALBANIA TO OFFER TO TOURISTS?

Small Albania is of great interests to the tourists. Foreign visitors have named it: «a touristic jewel», «a first class touristic park», «a multi-flowered garden», and so on. Beautiful and interesting is Albania to the painter and historian, to the linguist and ethnographer, to the musicologist and alpinist, indeed, to any-one desirous to make the acquaintance of a people small in numbers but who have lived, here on the banks of the Adriatic and Ionian seas, a glorious life during their millenary history and who are now successfully building their new, socialist life.

The People's Republic of Albania, due to its geographical position, possesses a number of very healthy climatic and balneal centers. Among the most important and most frequented of them are the beaches of Durrës, Dhërmi, Saranda, Pogradec, Shëngjin, Golem, etc.

The Durrës Beach, situated on the Adriatic sea-coast, is about 6 kilometers long and several meters wide, with fine sands rich in iodine. The initial depth here is small and it increases only gradually as we wade in the sea. This important balneal center is in the hot Mediterranean zone. After liberation, a number of rest houses for the workers and children, big tourist hotels, bathing establishments, playgrounds, social food and other catering units, were built here and a forest belt was planted.

The Durrës Beach is one of the best on the Adriatic coast and it, therefore, attracts many foreign tourists every year.

On the southern coast, where stretches the marvelous Albanian riviera, at the foot of the Çika mountain which rises abruptly over the Ionian banks, is situated the balneal center of Dhërmi, in the vicinity of the village bearing the same name. The beautiful beach, the corresponding beauty of Nature full of contrasts surrounding it, bestow on this center a rare attraction. The sea water is very transparent and with a temperature warmer than that of the Durrës Beach. The Dhërmi balneal center is one of the most beautiful, most picturesque and most preferred rest resorts on this side of the Ionian sea.

Other balneal centers, besides these to, exist on our sea-coast, such as the beaches of Shëngjin, Golem, Vlora, Saranda, etc. Among the more important is Pogradec — a balneal center situated in the country's interior, on the Ohrida lakeside whose beach stretches for some hundreds of meters. The water of the lake is very transparent. This center is at the same time a mountain climatic station. It is surrounded by hills and mountains full of fruit trees and it has got a healthy climate, with very pure air. It rises some 700 meters above sea level.

In Albania, numerous rest houses and tourist stations are situated in the most beautiful mountain places, amid lofty pines and crystal clear waters. They may be met with all over the country. Renowned is the touristic center of Theth on the northern Alps. The rest house here is built on the mountain slope and it commands the Theth field and homonymous valley. All around it loom mountains clad in secular beach and pine trees. Besides its natural beauties, the cool and healthy climate, the cold waters and the perennial snows capping the mountain peaks, make Theth a very much preferred place for

rest, tourism and alpinism. Other noted mountain climatic centres are: Lura, Qafë-Shtama, Dardha, etc., where during the years of People's Power many rest houses for the workers and tourist centres have been erected.

Considering the size of its territory, Albania is one of the first places in Europe with regard to cultural monuments of all epochs. Here are the great archaeological centers of Butrint and Apollonia, two renowned cities of the ancient world, in which marvellous works of sculpture have survived, up to our own days. In different districts of the country the tourist may see majestic castles, such as those of Shkodra, Berat, Gjirokastra, etc. Among others, the tourist may visit the castle of Kruja, once the center of Albanian resistance against the Turks, which is closely linked with the name of our great national hero Gjergj Kastrioti-Skënderbeu. In Albania the tourist may see other cultural monuments, such as: old churches, mosques, ancient bridges and typical houses, which hide in themselves great artistic values bearing witness to the talents of the Albanian people. The visitor in Albania may become acquainted with the city-museums: Gjirokastra, Berat and Kruja, which possess interesting histories and architectural styles. In Albania the tourist may also see the numerous objects of material culture exhibited in the country's museums. He may, at the same time, become acquainted with various work centers, with the construction sites of the gigantic projects of the five-year plan and with cultural and artistic institutions.

During the years of People's Power, tourism has made great progress. «ALBTURIST», the Albanian State Tourist Enterprise, was created in 1955. A number of hotels for tourists have been erected, chiefly on the beautiful and wide Durrës Beach, as well as in all the principal cities and balneal centers of the country. Soon

commenced the large-scale publication of prospects, placards, illustrations, dictionaries, guides and other printed materials, which made it possible for foreign visitors to become acquainted with Albania prior to visiting it.

From the creation of «Albturist», i.e. within a relatively short period of time, many tourist visitors have come to Albania every year to spend their vacations here and to get to know the country. The tourist groups, under the guidance and care of «Albturist», pursue their chosen programs, some spending a whole fortnight at the sea-shore, others practicing shorter stays and mobile itineraries: visiting the tourist centers and cities of the country. The touristic movement usually begins in March and continues through October and even November.

Several of the tourists, who had once passed their vacations in Albania, have again come for a second and a third time. Albania today has become well-known, and not only on account of its numerous and multiform natural beauties, but also as a consequence of the growth of its prestige in the international arena.

**EVERYTHING
FOR PROTECTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH
AND THEIR WELLBEING**

WHAT SUCCESSES HAS PUBLIC HEALTH ACHIEVED?

During the anti-popular regimes, no care at all was shown for protecting the health of the working masses. Suffice it to mention that King Zog's salary was almost as large as what was spent on maintaining all the health institutions of the country at that time.

In all the country there were only 10 hospitals with 805 beds, a maternity ward with 15 beds and 36 ambulances. These institutions employed 102 physicians, 136 nurses and 32 midwives. The stomatology sector employed 45 dentists and the pharmacies 107 cadres of medium and higher education. At that time there was only one doctor for 10,000 inhabitants.

Malaria, tuberculosis, syphilis and a number of other disastrous diseases played havoc in our country then. In many districts about 60% of the deaths were caused by tuberculosis, while 50% of the population were every year brought down with malaria.

After liberation the situation radically changed. The entire burden of caring for the people's health was shouldered by the State itself. This fact is embodied also in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, where it is stated that «the State takes care of the people's health». Accordingly, People's Power took a series of urgent measures which, just as in the other sectors, marked a real revolution in the sphere of public health. One of the first measures to help the people in

this direction was the liquidation of the inherited anomaly, caused by the concentration of the medical cadres in the principal centers, and their rational distribution to all parts of the country. Since 1945, ambulances were opened in very remote places. The nurse and physician went to the remotest zones, where they had never trodden in the past, and the necessary conditions were created for a better organized sanitary service.

During the years of the People's Power public health has developed at an unprecedented rate, both in width and in depth. Instead of 10 hospitals existing in 1938, today there are 97 of them, whereas the number of beds has increased 11 times. Instead of one maternity pavillion, today there are 113 maternity hospitals and wards. Instead of one anti-tuberculosis pavillion, which was attached to the General Civilian Hospital in Tirana, today there are: 5 T.B.C. sanatoria, 16 T.B.C. dispensaries (not including another 20 T.B.C. units without beds) and a T.B.C. preventorium for children. In order to meet the needs of the population, along with the extension of the curative institutions, a considerable increase has been accomplished also in the network of first and ambulances and polyclinics, the number of which has reached 1038.

In order to give an idea of the great growth of the network of public health institutions, we will bring as an example the Fieri district, in central Albania, where in the past the overwhelming majority of the population suffered from malaria and other diseases. Now there is a hospital, equipped with all the necessary apparati and medicaments, in the city of Fieri and 6 other operate in the different localities. Likewise, this district has now 7 maternity hospitals, 81 ambulances, etc. There are, besides, 60 rural consulting houses and 6 dental clinics. Today even the peasant of the farthest village

can be hospitalized in a nearby rural hospital without having to go to the city for this purpose. For protecting the people's health there are employed more than 50 cadres of higher professional education, besides many others graduated from secondary schools such as assistant physicians, midwives, dentists, druggists, etc. Or let us take the young industrial city of Laçi, in northern Albania, where the physician was altogether unknown in the past. Today only the sanitary network of this workers' city comprises a medical personnel of 34 pathologists, pediater, assistant physicians, midwives, etc.

The question of the medical personnel was solved in a correct, revolutionary way. Immediately after liberation, many courses and schools were opened to train nurses, assistant physicians, midwives and laboratory workers. A medical polytechnical school to train cadres of medium training was opened in 1947, in Tirana. The students of this school came from all the districts of the country and were intended to be sent back to their cities or villages to serve at the health institutions of their regions. Special schools were also opened for training midwives for the rural maternity homes.

The upper Institute of Medicine was opened in 1952. This was later incorporated with the State University of Tirana. This Institute alone graduates every year 160 physicians, or 1.5 times more than the total number of doctors employed before liberation.

As a result of this intensive work, in 1967 we had 10 times more physicians, 5 times more dentists and over 4 times more druggists than prior to liberation, not including here the physicians of the Ministry of Defense and of the Interior.

The increase in the number of medical institutions and cadres brought about a corresponding extension of specialized medical aid. In every district, specialized me-

dical services have been established: pathology, pediatry, surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, otorinolaryngology, ophthalmics, neurology, etc. New medical services have been organized in Tirana, such as: neuro-surgery and cardio-surgery. Work has begun for organizing the struggle against tumors and for the use of isotopes in medicine — telecobaltotherapy. The Oncologic Institute has already been opened and that of Epidemiology and Immunology is in course of being opened.

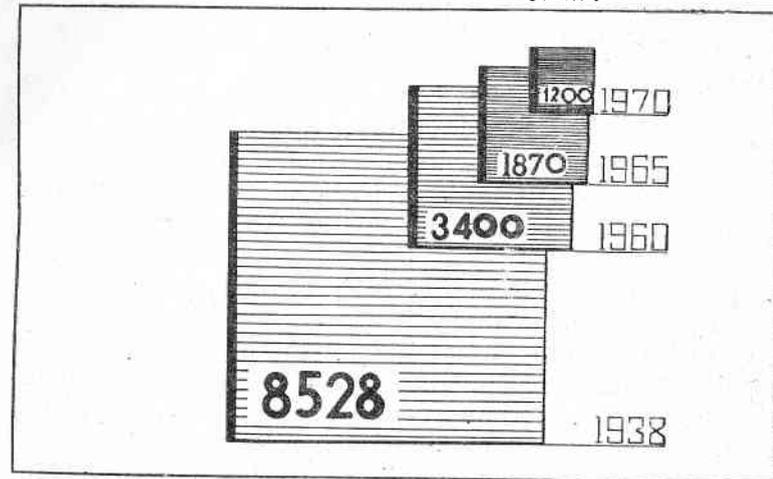
The State spends huge sums for health improvement. In the year 1965 (the last of the Third Five year period) the expenses for this sector were 180 times as during 1938. During the fourth five-year period, 145 percent more funds will be spent for this purpose than for the third. Among other things, 11 new hospitals will be erected, besides several new buildings to be annexed to the existing hospitals in order to increase their capacity and create the necessary conditions for organizing new specialized medical services. Hospitals for children (pediatry hospitals); will be opened in several other districts.

During the present five year period particular attention will be devoted to the spreading and strengthening of medical service in the countryside. In about 27 rural localities, there will be opened 27 medical centres with all kinds of ambulatory services: ambulances, stomatologic clinics, consulting houses for mothers and children, and maternity homes. By 1970 the number of beds in the country's medical institutions will have grown 23 percent above those of 1965.

In 1970 Albania will have one physician for every 1,200 citizens, as against one doctor for every 1,870 citizens in 1965.

One of the tasks of this plan is the improvement of ambulatory medical aid. For this reason, the number

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS PER PHYSICIAN



of physicians will be increased in the polyclinics, consulting houses and rural sanitary centers. With the increase of medical cadres, it will become possible for medical aid to be had, both in the polyclinic and at the patient's home, from the same physicians: in order that he (or she) may come to know, as well as possible, the general sanitary conditions of the population whom they serve.

WHAT PROPHYLACTIC MEASURES ARE TAKEN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION?

One of the main distinguishing features of our public health is its pronounced prophylactic character. All our health institutions carry on a determined struggle to warn against and prevent from various diseases. This constitutes the chief distinction of our public health today from that of the period before liberation, or from that

of capitalist countries where the physicians, interested only in drawing large profits for themselves, do not pay the slightest attention to prophylactic measures for preventing diseases.

The prophylactic service in Albania came into being only after liberation. In order to prevent disease from spreading, People's Power undertook a number of important prophylactic measures. One of them was the organized and preventive vaccination of all citizens. In spite of the serious lack of medical cadres, health control of all the workers began as early as 1946.

In 1948 centres of hygiene were organized in every city and their duty was not only to collect epidemiological data on the population but also to take adequate measures against any contagious diseases. Hygiene centers have played an important role in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of the cities and in health control.

Three years later, sanitary anti-epidemic centres were set up in which the entire prophylactic activity of the health organs was concentrated. Chemical laboratories were organized for all kinds of analyses of food products, drinking water, air, etc. A central laboratory for food products and microbiological research work was set up in Tirana, as well as bacteriological laboratories in the other districts, which give a valuable contribution to the struggle for eradicating contagious diseases, by preparing biologically immune medicaments. Very important steps have been and continually are being taken, at all centres of work and production, to guarantee the best possible hygienic and sanitary conditions to the workers. No worker can begin work without first going through a medical examination while for the workers of certain categories of hard labor detrimental to health, medical control is repeated continuously. By special Go-

vernment decree, permanent medical stations with physicians, assistant physicians and sik-attendants are set up at all major work centers.

Besides the working centres, the prophylactic service is spread also to the educational institutions of school and preschool children where an extensive and organized work is carried on for the physical development of the pupils and continuous control is exercised of their anthropometric conditions.

The public health organs concerned with the sector of prophylaxy play an important role also in planning the construction and development of cities and villages. The schemes and prospects of our constructions today must necessarily have the approval of the health authorities. Said prospects and plans must provide for the network of sewage canals. With the same criterion and methods of work, always under the control of the public health organs, are executed today the construction works in the villages, too.

For the application of the prophylactic measures, beginning with those for preventing contagious diseases vaccinations, disinfections, etc., for which the State spends considerable funds each year, and up to the numerous actions undertaken for the hygiene of cities and villages, besides the work of the proper health organs, a considerable help is given by various social organizations.

The above-mentioned prophylactic measures have made possible the protection of our people from numerous epidemics, such as were in the past the infective diseases of the intestine, as well as the eradication of malaria, syphilis, trachoma, etc., and the curbing to the maximum such other diseases as tuberculosis, polyomyelitis, diphtheria, etc.

HOW IS MEDICAL AID ORGANIZED IN ALBANIA?

The greatest victory in the public health sector is that of free medical service and treatment to all the people of the cities and of the countryside.

In the December 1963 decision of the People's Assembly on this matter it is stated that «State medical aid is given free of charge to all the citizens of the People's Republic of Albania, no matter whether they are employed to work for state, cooperative or social institutions, enterprises or organizations or not». No matter how long a sick person stays in a hospital and no matter what the expenses for his treatment are, the patient pays absolutely nothing. All the expenses are defrayed by the State. Such an action bears witness to the deep socialist humanism characterizing our People's Power and to the fact that, with us, man is considered the most valuable capital. At the same time, this great victory of the Albanian people testifies to the unparalleled invigoration of our people's economy. None of the capitalist states possessing great economic potentialities has ever accomplished, nor can ever accomplish, a similar humanitarian act, inasmuch as medical service with them is a source of income for professional profiteers, while the working masses are an object of oppression and exploitation.

Before this last measure was taken, free medical aid was given by State institutions to persons who were employed by the State and to their families, to people suffering from contagious diseases (tuberculosis included) and malign tumors, as well as to children under four years of age; whereas at ambulances all citizens, without exception, could be examined free of charge. By extending also free medical aid to all persons, without distinction People's Power took an important step towards better

protecting and further strengthening the people's health by guaranteeing to all citizens the right to be examined, hospitalized and cured without any pay to all.

First medical aid is given in ambulances. The ambulances of the city quarters, which dispose physicians specialized in pathology, pediatry and radiology, as well as special sections for surgery and injections, have all the inhabitants of the quarter under their surveillance. On his first examination a personal medical file is opened, in which the diagnosis of the illness and the treatment prescribed is put down. Guided by the data of this card, the physician is acquainted with the history of the case and is thus able to determine the new treatments to be recommended to the patient. When it is deemed necessary for a sick person to be hospitalized, then he is assigned to the pavillion recommended by the doctor.

WHAT CARE IS SHOWN FOR MOTHER AND CHILD?

The number of births in Albania is large, yet the percentage of the increase in population before liberation was very low. One of the main reasons for this was the high mortality rate of infants and the lack of care for the health of mothers and children. Organized service for protecting the health of mother and child was almost non-existent. The only sector of this kind, during the feudal and bourgeois regime, was the maternity ward with 15 beds, at the hospital of Tirana, where obstetrical aid was given only to women of the privileged classes. No other institution existed except this ward to take care of mother and child.

With the establishment of People's Power, a number of measures were taken for organizing the network of

Mother and Child health institutions. The obstetrical assistance was organized for all women, not only at child birth, but also during the pregnancy period. This was a great aid for protecting the health of mother and child. The network of Mother and Child birth and consulting houses began to develop at a quick rate all over the country. An extensive plan was prepared for building many maternity houses in all the districts of the country and, especially, in the remote regions, which in the past were left without any medical help whatever. Now the greater part of them make use of the local maternity home or go to the nearest town.

A great role in protecting the health of the mother and child is played by the prophylactic service at the consulting centers. The consulting centers, as important institutions in the practice of prophylactic medicine, keep under their control all pregnant women and children under 3 years of age. Their duty is to instruct the mothers with respect to the numerous problems connected with the correct upbringing and education of their children. They organize regular visits to the homes of expectant mothers, to women who have recently given birth to children and to all other women who are in need of gynecological assistance. This system of service has made possible the early detection and treatment of complications that might develop during the pregnancy period. The medical personnel of the consulting houses gather informations about the working conditions of sick women and see to it that the laws regarding the protection at work of women and expectant mothers are duly respected and applied.

The pregnant woman enjoys the right to a 35 days' rest before and 49 days after birth. During this period she gets regularly paid and does not lose her job. In cases of pathological births or when the working con-

ditions are difficult, the rest is prolonged to 98 days. Our laws prohibit that pregnant women or mothers with suckling children should work on night or difficult jobs which might exercise a negative influence on their organisms. Mother of numerous children is awarded either a «Heroine Mother», «Glory to the Mother» or a «Mother Medal».

Pediatric service has also made good progress in our country. Before liberation this service was represented only by a single ward of 35 beds at the Hospital of Tirana. On account of the lack of specialized medical service to children, the numerous diseases (especially those caused by summer diarrhea) played havoc and the percentage of infant mortality was high. In the city of Tirana alone where the service was relatively better than in other districts infant mortality, from 1933 to 1940, was 161 per 1000 births on the average.

The Pediatrics sector attained a high degree of development only after liberation. A pediatry hospital with 400 beds was opened in Tirana, while pediatry sectors of wards have been created at the other hospitals of the Republic. Pediatrics hospitals are being opened in some of these districts. In this way, the struggle for protecting the children's health was organized on a solid basis. Consequently, the cases of contagious diseases such as measles, diphtheria, polyomyelitis etc., have been reduced to the minimum all over the Republic. More than 400,000 of our children have passed through their infant age without suffering from measles.

A great success is the general vaccination against diphtheria and polyomyelitis. As a result, the cases of diphtheria are rare and limited; whereas, as to polyomyelitis, we are well on the way to liquidating it completely.

Much work is done for protecting the children from

T.B.C. Regular treatment of the sick and the continuous massive control at work centers, schools, kindergartens and crèches, have made possible the detection of forms of infection at an early stage, while the advanced forms of tuberculous infections in children are rarely met with now.

To fight rachitis, the State distributes the necessary amounts of Vitamine «D» through the consulting houses, kindergartens and crèches free of charge. Children under one year of age get all medicines free of charge even when the treatment is to take place at their own homes.

An important measure for protecting the children's health are the sanatorial and antidysenteric crèches for dystrophic children, as well as the care shown for the ordinary crèches and kindergartens, where all the necessary conditions have been created for the normal growth and development of the children.

HOW HAS HEALTH SERVICE BEEN EXTENDED TO THE ALBANIAN COUNTRYSIDE?

In the past, health service in our countryside was in a lamentable condition. In all the villages, where 80 percent of the entire population lived, there were only 14 ambulances with one sick-attendant each. This is why in the past the rural population were more susceptible to such prevalent diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, syphilis and trachoma. The inhabitants of the deep mountain zones not even knew the physician.

Immediately after liberation our People's Power took measures to improve the sanitary service in the countryside, aiming at assuring free medical service to the peasants and at creating health institutions as near as possible to their villages. In the year 1967, in the coun-

tryside there functioned 50 hospitals, 69 maternity homes and wards, 860 ambulances and 30 health centres, employing a total of 108 physicians, 240 assistant physicians, 455 midwives and 595 nurses.

Now the reorganization of the rural health service is being carried out, its aim being to bring medical aid as near as possible to the peasantry. Said aid must be complete, so that the peasant shall not have to go to the city for simple cases of illness which might well be dealt with at the village. According to this organization, in every locality center there is going to be a medical center or hospital. The medical center has a physician, an assistant physician, a midwife and a nurse at its disposal. The hospital has additional personnel proportionate to its capacity. The medical center or hospital directs and organizes all medical service at the locality. On it depend all the health institutions operating within the locality's jurisdiction, such as are the various rural ambulances and maternity homes. All localities now have already got their own physician, besides other personnel. In some of the localities with denser population or situated in remote zones, there serve two physicians.

From the very earliest post-liberation years, the following services were offered gratis to the rural population: hospitalization in maternity hospitals to all peasant women, hospitalization to all children up to 7 years of age, medicines to all sick children under one year of age who are treated at home, hospitalization, treatment and cure of all persons suffering from contagious diseases. Beginning with January 1, 1964 free medical service and hospitalization was extended to all the citizens of the Republic, the rural population included.

Along with the spreading of the health institutions, the pharmaceutical network is also growing. While before liberation there existed only a limited number of phar-

macies, today 117 pharmacies and drug agencies operate at the village ambulances.

For protecting and safeguarding public health in the countryside, a series of actions are being adopted aiming at a radical improvement of hygiene and cleanliness and at raising the standard of living of the peasantry. In several villages of the Republic many model houses have been set up, where an exemplary cultured life is organized and where the peasants of nearby villages go to get the necessary experience for improving their own living conditions.

The network of health institutions in the Albanian countryside goes on increasing from year to year. Now a great many such institutions are being erected, especially, in mountain villages and thus other strides are being made towards the protection and improvement of the health of the rural population.

WHAT MEASURES HAS THE PEOPLE'S POWER TAKEN WITH A VIEW TO INCREASING THE WELFARE OF THE WORKING MASSES?

The loftiest aim of the People's Power in Albania is to build Communism, the society of abundance, where each will work according to his possibilities and will be remunerated according to his needs. Hence all measures taken have in view the attainment of this ideal.

The whole activity of the People's Power is permeated by a spirit of revolutionary humanism, by a continuous concern about Man, who is considered the most valuable capital. It has no other interests at heart except those of the people, therefore it works incessantly in order to improve the welfare of the working masses, to satisfying their ever increasing needs.

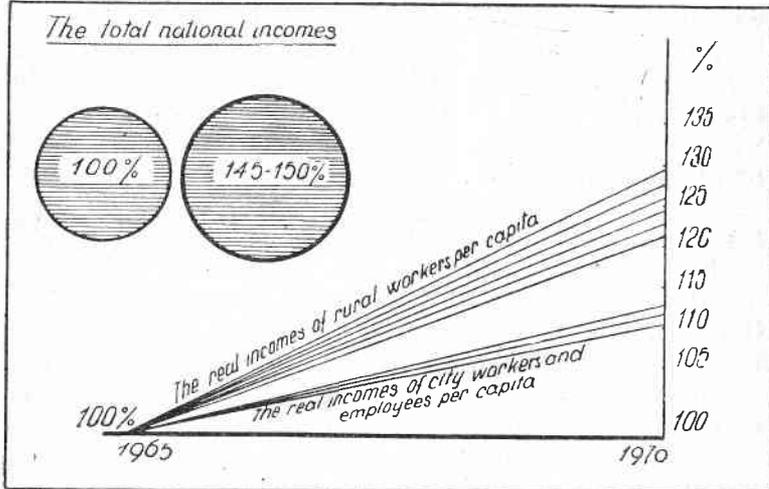
The building of socialism and the increase of the material and cultural welfare of the workers are, for the People's Power in our country a single and indivisible part of its daily policy and activity. The increase of welfare in socialist Albania is realized from revolutionary positions: as a welfare for all and not for some, for always and not for a time, for the present and for the future. The care of the People's Power has been, and it always is, that the improvement of the welfare shall embrace alike the urban and rural population and, within the countryside itself, both the workers of the lowland zones and those of the hilly and mountainous ones. It has struggled to harmonize the interests of the present with those of the future, the personal interest with those of society, the group interest with the general interests.

The People's Power, from its very inception, took a series of revolutionary measures to raise the level of welfare of the working masses. During the very first months after liberation, the banks, the mines, the factories and the means of transport were nationalized and became the people's property. The properties of the big, speculating bourgeoisie were confiscated and became property of the people too. Foreign concessions were abrogated. The debts of the peasants and of the working people were cancelled and the people were thus liberated from the speculators and usurers. Foreign trade became State monopoly. It was in this manner that the socialist sector of economy was created, enabling a proportional and harmonized development of the national economy, which is the main basis for increasing the welfare of the working masses.

Since the means of production in Albania are collective property and exploiting classes or the exploitation of man by man do not exist, production goes to the

benefit of the workers and there is no parasitic utilization of the goods produced by them. The national revenue, which has increased about 6 times in comparison with the pre-war period, is distributed in such a manner that the constant strengthening of economy and the continuous improvement of the people's welfare go hand in hand.

NATIONAL INCOMES AND INCOMES PER CAPITA



As a result of the just policy of the People's Power, a proper ratio is established in our country between the natural growth of the population, on one hand, and the increase of industrial and agricultural production, the growth of the national revenue and its utilization, the circulation of the consumer goods and the investments, on the other. This may be clearly seen in the following table:

Items	Average annual increase during the 3d five-year period (1961-1965)
1. Population growth	2.9
2. Total industrial production	6.8
3. Production of consumer goods ..	6.5
4. Agricultural production	6.4
5. Production of cereals	8.4
6. National revenue	5.8
a) for accumulation	6.2
b) for consumption	4.6
7. Circulation of commercial goods	4.1
8. State investments	8.7

In this way, the increase of industrial and agricultural production, the growth of the national income and the increase of consumer goods at a more rapid rate than the average annual growth of the population, guarantee, both the improvement of the living standard of the working masses, for the present, and the continuous increase of investments for bringing about the extended socialist reproduction, which determines the prospects of development of the producing forces that guarantee the continuity of the improvement of the people's welfare, for the future too.

The People's Power has shown and always shows particular care for the incessant steady development of the country's producing forces, for the development of enlarged socialist reproduction and for increases in the national revenue. It established just and rational proportions between the accumulation and consumption funds, as well as between the various headings of each of these funds within themselves. These proportions make possible a just coordination of present interest with fu-

ture ones: by harmonizing personal interests with those of society. The Party has fully achieved this goal: The accumulation fund always grows at a quicker rate than the consumption fund, social interests are put above personal interests, immediate interest are subordinated to future interests.

As a result of this policy production per capita of the population has kept growing from one year to another as can be seen in the table below:

The production of some articles per capita of population

I T E M S		1938	1950	1965	1967
Naptha	kg.	104	108	441	500
Coal	»	4	37	178	222
Chrome	»	7	43	167	166
Electric power	Kv/H	9	18	183	300
Cement	Kg.	9	13	72	112
Fabrics	Meters	0.3	0.9	13.3	16
Sugar	Kg.	—	0.5	8	9.2

**Production per capita of some articles in the year 1967,
as against the year**

I T E M S	1938 (in number of times)	1965 (in per- centage)
Naptha	9.1	119
Coal	117.8	131
Electrical power	63.2	172
Chrome	46.7	105
Cement	24.5	165
Fabrics	87.8	127
Shoes.	9.4	101
Sugar.	29.6 *)	120

*) Compared with 1950.

The rate of production per capita, for certain main articles, in Albania is higher than in the neighboring countries.

**Increase of production per capita of population for the
year 1966, as against 1938, in number of times:**

C o u n t r i e s	Electric power	Coal	Cement	Chrome
Albania.	25	51	8.0	25
Jugoslavia	11.5	4.1	3.0	2
Greece	8.0	39	9.6	1.3
Italy	4.7	0.6	4.4	—
Turkey	8.5	2.0	8.0	16
Bulgaria	34	9.0	9.6	—
Roumania	15.1	—	9.3	—

The rapid development of our economy on socialist lines, has opened wide fronts of work. Unemployment, from which suffered a great part of the able-bodied people at the time of the feudal-bourgeois ruling cliques, has disappeared once and for all from Albania. The number of workers today is 22 times as high as before the war.

Important factors for bringing about the increase of the real incomes of the workers are the advanced system of Social Insurance, the gratuitous medical aid and education to all, the periodic reduction of prices for consumer goods, the extension of the network of social-cultural institutions for the people (such as the creches and kindergartens, where the parents pay only about one-third of the actual expenses: the rest-houses, where the workers pay less than a fourth of the expenses) and

the low rents for dwelling houses (about 4 per cent of the average income of a workers), etc.

Of particular importance to improving the welfare of the working masses, are the fixing of uniform prices for all goods and the increase of the circulation of goods. During the last two decades (1947-1967) the volume of circulation of goods has increased 6.5 times. From year to year the population is supplied with more consumer goods. As against 1966, in 1967 the sale of milk increased 27.2 per cent, that of meat, fish and ham — 17.8 per cent, of sugar — 10.9 per cent, of cheeses — 8.4 per cent, of fats — 4.1 per cent, of beans — 6.6 per cent, of rice — 6 per cent, of fresh fruits — 18.4 per cent, of potatoes — 34.4 per cent, of cloth — 27.1 per cent, of fabrics — 10.4 per cent, of knitted articles — 9.1 per cent, of stockings — 27.6 per cent, of shoes of all kinds — 13.5 per cent, of cement — 96.6 per cent, of lumber — 7.2 per cent, etc. This year the plan of circulation of goods is 6.5 per cent above that of 1967.

During the years of the People's Power the prices have been reduced 11 times. With the reduction of the year 1967, the price for sugar fell 10 per cent, for jams 15 per cent, for velvet 20 per cent, for various cloths 20 per cent, for certain kinds of shoes 22 per cent, for light overcoats 22 per cent, etc.

An important role in the improvement of the people's welfare has been played also by the policy of taxation. The main revenue of the national budget is procured by the socialist sector of economy, while the specific weight of the taxes paid by the people have continually kept diminishing. Thus, while in 1955 the taxes paid by the people amounted to 8.1 per cent of the global revenue of the State budget, in 1960 they fell to 2.6 per cent, whereas last year they represented only 1.4 per cent of the budgetary income. In 1967 the duties on the incomes

from wages were removed for all workers, without exception, and for all employees whose monthly salaries do not exceed 680 leks. Thus, the 200.000 workers and a good part of the employees will no longer pay the State any duties on their monthly wages. This is a great success of the economic policy of our socialist State and an expression of the strength of its finances. Taxes were also removed from the personal plots of ground of cooperative members and from the newly-formed agricultural cooperatives of the mountainous zones. This is an encouraging measure from which all the peasantry as well as hundreds of young mountain cooperatives profit.

Exempting workers and employees from taxation, releasing the personal plots and the newly formed cooperatives in the uplands from any obligations and price reductions, involve an annual sum of about 90 million leks.

The People's Power has recently adopted a series of facilitating measures to the benefit of the newly-formed cooperatives of mountainous regions and to other that are economically weak: For instance, they will be given State credits without any bank interest at all. The older Highland cooperatives, too, will be exempted from bank interest. Whereas for the cooperatives, which have already received credits, the term for paying back is prolonged for another three years. State investments in the hilly and mountainous zones will be intensified, so as to make possible the overfulfilment of the tasks of draining and irrigating. Very important for improving the standard of living in the countryside is the decision of the fourth plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor for electrifying all the villages of the country by the 8th of November 1971, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor.

As a result of the measures taken by the People's

Power for improving the welfare of the working masses, in 1968, the real incomes of the workers and employees (compared to 1965) will increase 7 per cent, as against 9-11 per cent foreseen by the five-year plan for 1970: those of the peasantry 17 per cent, as against 20-25 per cent, foreseen for 1970. State expenditures for education, culture, public health and social insurances in 1970 will have grown 19-21 per cent. As a result of the increase of collective production, the national revenue in 1970 will increase 45-50 per cent. Thus, new possibilities will arise for increasing the funds of augmenting socialist production and consumption to the benefit of society.

The Fourth Five-year Plan foresees 5 per cent more investments than the third one for the communal sector, chiefly for building dwelling houses.

This five-year plan attaches major importance to public health. While in 1965 there was one physician for 1870 persons, in 1970 there will be one doctor for 1200 inhabitants. In 1970 the number of beds in the medical institutions will be 23 per cent more than in 1965.

National education, too, has achieved vast development. The number of pupils and students in 1970 will be over 540,000, or 117,000 more than in 1965. The increase will be especially great in the 8/grade schools, where the number of pupils will be almost double that of the Third Five-year Plan. In 1970, as compared to 1965, the number of cadres of higher education will be 67 per cent more and of those of secondary school education — 68 per cent.

The most synthetic indicator of the growth of the people's welfare is the increase of the average span of life of Man. While in 1938 it was about 38 years, it has now reached 66 years, and it keeps rising steadily. This is a colossal victory of our socialist country.

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