

NEW ALBANIA

1972

№ 2

YEAR XXVI

SCIENCE

Open Horizons for Physics

One sixth of the 2,000 undergraduates enrolled in the Department of Natural Sciences at the State University of Tirana major in physics. During the coming years of the 5th Five-Year Plan it is envisaged to increase the number of undergraduate and to expand this important branch of studies. Today, physics plays an important role in the whole development and progress of a country. Especially our country, which has inherited from the past a very backward state in the field of science, calls for higher rates of development. The rapid development of industry and agriculture, the introduction of advanced technique and methods in production, require the solution of many scientific problems including those of physics. But what we most need is cadres specialized in this field. All these require the further development of the branch of physics and the introduction of the up-to-date methods and equipments into all the scientific pedagogical activity of this branch of studies.

This department trains teachers for schools and specialists for the various fields of science and production. Among the subjects taught in the various courses are theoretical mechanics, thermodynamics, statics, electro-dynamics and, in the higher grades, quantitative, mechanics, atomic and nuclear physics. Students trained to become specialists in production and in scientific work follow a com-



plete course in the physics of solid bodies, in electronic physical chemistry and so on. Theoretical physics is accompanied by exercises.

Special importance in the programs is attached to the work in laboratories and in production. Students of the second and third grades follow a wide and complete program of experiments in laboratories of general physics while those of the fourth grade in special laboratories.

Work in production plays an important role in strengthening the scientific and educational formation of the student body. For two months at a stretch the students of the physics department engage in work of production and research in the major enterprises of the country. Work in production constitutes a very important element as well for their technical and vocational training as for endowing them with the habits of work as future specialists and teachers.

The students of physics stand out for their great love of and pride in their scientific vocation. They attend regularly the lectures and laboratory work, study zealously and engage in preparing themes which they take up for discussion in the scientific forums they have themselves set up under the guidance of their pedagogues.

There are a very large number of students of both sexes who stand out for their will-power and vivid and keen scientific intuition.



The future physicists.

In addition to their studies, all the students take active part in the life of the youth organization which organizes a wide range of artistic, sport and cultural activities. An important place in the daily life of the students is occupied by their school and out of school work for their physical culture and military training.

For the fourth time this year the State University of Tirana is turning out tens of graduates specialized in physics who will be employed by the various industrial enterprises of the country and by the various institutes of science and research. During the recent four years, about 100 students have received their degrees and are now employed either as teachers in the secondary schools of the Republic while the majority of them as physicists in various sectors of production.

As a result of the important steps the Party and Government have taken in further developing and deepening the technological and scientific revolution, more and more advanced scientific methods are being introduced into production and into the different branches of our industry. A very important role in this regard is, of course, being played by the application of physics in the study of the different processes. Our cadres trained in the Department of Physics are making perceptible progress in this direction and the prospects are

bright indeed. Let us point to some of the principal occupations in which our physicists are engaged.

In Tirana there has been set up the Institute of Research in the field of nuclear physics and a considerable number of its cadres have been trained in our university. The tasks and problems of this institute are many but its main objective is to introduce the new methods of study through radioactive rays in the most varied fields of the economy of our country like agriculture, industry, medicine for diagnosis and cure and so on and so forth.

The experience of these few years has shown that our cadres are doing good work in tackling the problems and overcoming the difficulties of scientific study in the field of petroleum extraction and have set hard at work in successfully solving the problems of physics linked with production.

Another field in which our physicists have begun to render a valuable contribution is that of geology and geophysics. The spectral method of analysing the mineral ores of the country and other methods of physics are being widely used based on the newest scientific findings.

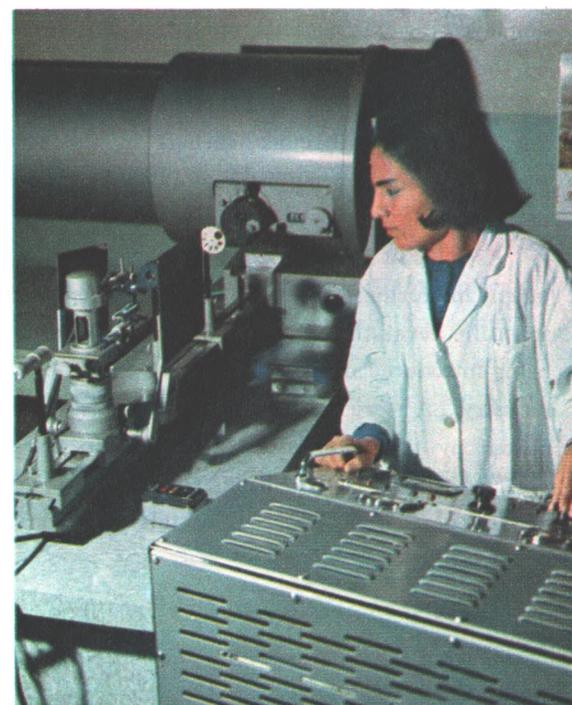
We can not neglect mentioning that the overwhelming number of pedagogues and assistants who teach physics in our university are



cadres trained by the university itself. In addition to teaching these cadres continue to follow specialized courses of qualification and all the pedagogues and assistants have also begun scientific studies in different fields of applied physics which will be of direct service to production.

In this regard the physics of solid bodies has a wide perspective. A group of physicists at the department of physics deals with these problems. Good prospects lie ahead also for the development of the chemical industry in our country. The introduction of advanced methods of physics in chemical processes is another important future task which our physicists will tackle.

And in solving these important and difficult problems side by side with the veteran cadres and workers, take part also the younger and gifted physicists and achieve good results.



⇐
Pedagogues of the Natural Sciences Faculty of the Tirana State University at the nuclear physics laboratory.



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The student of the fourth course of Physics Faculty Raimonda Meksi, during her practice work in the lab.



Experimentation in the laboratory.

"DAY IN DAY OUT"



At the village of Frashëri where brothers Abdyl, Sami and Naim Frashëri, distinguished men of our National Revival, were born, their house is being reconstructed to stand out as a museum. It is being rebuilt on the site where the old house stood and the excavations have unearthed the foundation, staircase and portal of the old house built some two hundred years ago.

The Troupe of the Opera and Ballet Theater of Tirana put on the stage the new ballet "The Fisherman Family" according to Suleman Pitarka's drama of the same title.

In the picture: A scene from the new ballet.



Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania paid a recent visit to the Mati District. In addition to the enthusiastic contacts with the workers of different professions, he visited also the kindergartens of the city of Burrel showing a keen interest in the life and work at these institutions.

The troupe of the Prishtina Regional Theater headed by Azem Shkreli visited our country and gave a series of performances in Tirana and in number of other cities. The performance of A. Qerozi drama "Erveheja" was loudly applauded by the Albanian spectators.



For the Tirana youth Sunday is a day of hikes and massive excursions to the best picturesque outlying districts of the Capital. This year's spring came early and it enlivened the touristic centers at the Dajti Mt. around the big lake and the historic town of Kruja.

Notes on the 5th Five-Year Plan

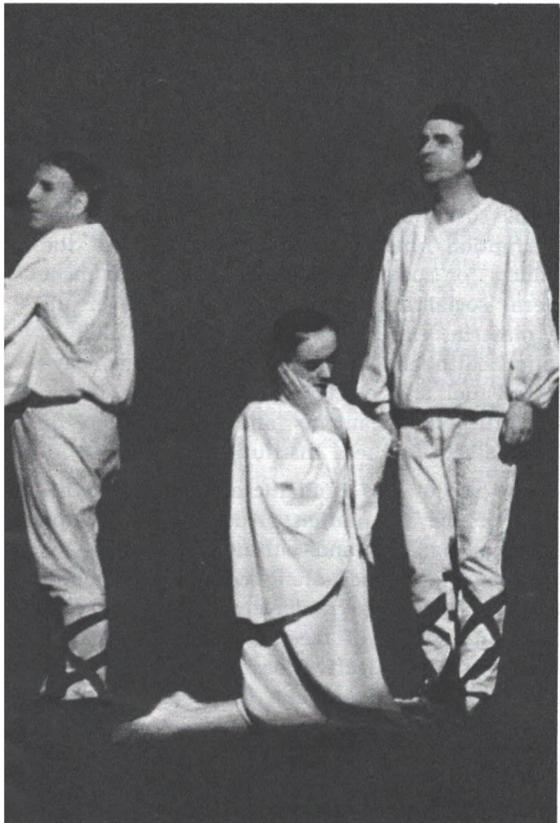
Work Productivity and Social Consumption



IN Albania, social production in 1970 increased 6.7 times above that of 1950 while the number of workers engaged in the sphere of material production increased only two-fold. Consequently, the increase of work productivity all along this period accounted for 2/3 of the increase of national incomes. According to estimated forms it turns out that the realization of national income at the 1950 rate of work productivity would have required an additional 1,200,000 workers. But such an increase of the working force in 1970 when the total population of the country was a little above 2,000,000 was impossible. This would have required the population of the country to have been at least 5,500,000.



For the economy of the People's Republic of Albania the uninterrupted increase of work productivity has been and continues to be the principal factor of its development. It is the decisive factor in increasing social production, in meeting the needs of extended socialist reproduction on time and at the proper level, in increasing national income as well as in further raising the standard of living and the cultural level of the working masses.



In line with these basic orientations, it is envisaged to raise work productivity during the 1971-1975 five year period at a higher rate than during the preceding five-year period. As against 1970, in 1975 the work output in total industrial production will increase by 26-28 per cent, in building construction 34-36 per cent, in motor transports about 15 per cent, in transports by rail about 46 per cent and so on.

Reaching the targets set for a higher rate of increase of work productivity will account for about 70 per cent of the increase of social production, about 56 per cent of the increase of global industrial production, about 90 per cent of the increase of the volume of work in building and installation, about 46 per cent of the increase of the volume of work done by motor transports and so on. It is calculated that an increase of work productivity in industrial production in 1975 alone will account for an increase equal to more than 1/3 of the volume of industrial production in 1970.

The uninterrupted increase of work productivity has been and continues to be the principal factor for the development of our agriculture. Just as our national economy as a whole so is Albanian agriculture characterized by the

degree of its intensification. During the period of the 5th Five-Year Plan it is envisaged to secure 4/5 of the increase of agricultural production from the increase of the yield of farm crops and animal husbandry. As compared with the 4th Five-Year Plan period, the same area of arable land during the 5th Five-Year Plan period will yield 50 per cent more food grain and 2.2 times as much cotton, potatoes etc.

At the present stage of Albania's economic development, of special importance to the increase of work productivity is the efficient utilization of the productive forces in action and the deepening of the technological and scientific revolution. The historical experience of building socialism has convinced the Albanian workers that full utilization of the productive capacities, especially their intensive utilization, express the direct uninterrupted increase of work output and the higher effectiveness of social production. This course provides society with maximum production with the same machinery, equipment, area of production, manpower and so on. The full utilization of the productive capacities in action will account for 70-75 per cent of the production of the 5th five-year period in the coal industry, 60-65 per cent in the chromium industry, 70-80 per cent in the petroleum and gas industry, heartily 100 per cent in the food-processing industry and so on.

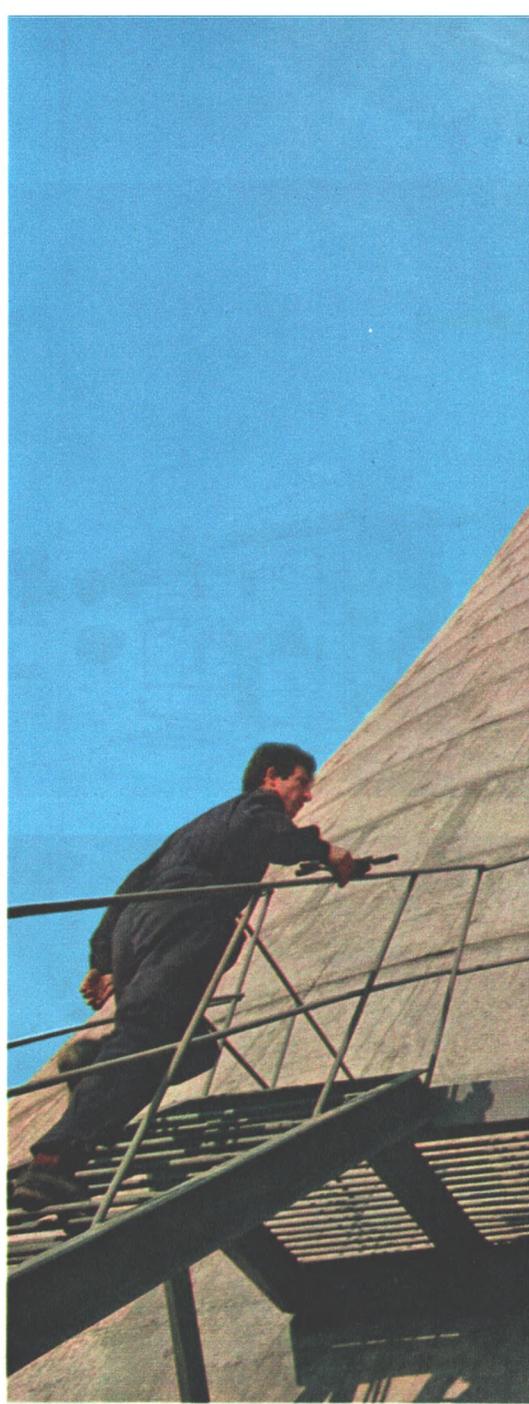
A very effective way to utilize the productive capacities in action fully is that of extending, reconstructing, modernizing and improving the technological processes in the existing enterprises.

The Albanian workers do not consider the degree of technical progress and the deepening of the technological and scientific revolution — important factors in raising work productivity — to be detached from the continuous improvement of the social forms and organization of work, from the improvement of the function of management. Experience goes to show that there exist a connection and independence among these aspects of economic-social activity. With a higher level of organization and management of production, even under conditions of a backward technique and technology, work productivity is higher than that realized with an up-to-date technique and technology but a lower level of organization and management.

The complex problems dealing with the continuous increase of work productivity are



At the computer centre.

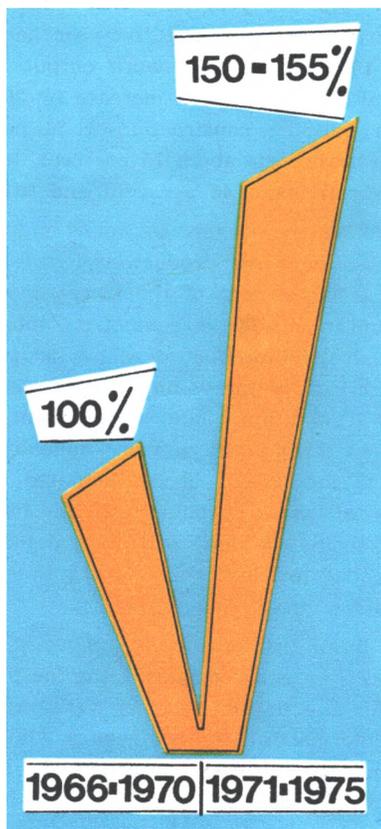


directly connected with the correct concepts about the value and advantage of work time in socialism. They are likewise connected with the application and enforcement of proletarian discipline at work, and, as such, they are not of a purely administrative and technical character but, above all, of a deep ideological political and social content. That is why, in addition to educating, persuading and uplifting the sense of duty of the working class, intensive work is being done to improve the system of work quotas, to establish technical work quota on as wide a scale as possible and to make the working class take active part in running socialist economy so that the principle may be fully applied that in socialist Albania the worker is the absolute master of the country, of the factory, of the work and the product derived from it.

Let us illustrate this idea with a few tangible examples:

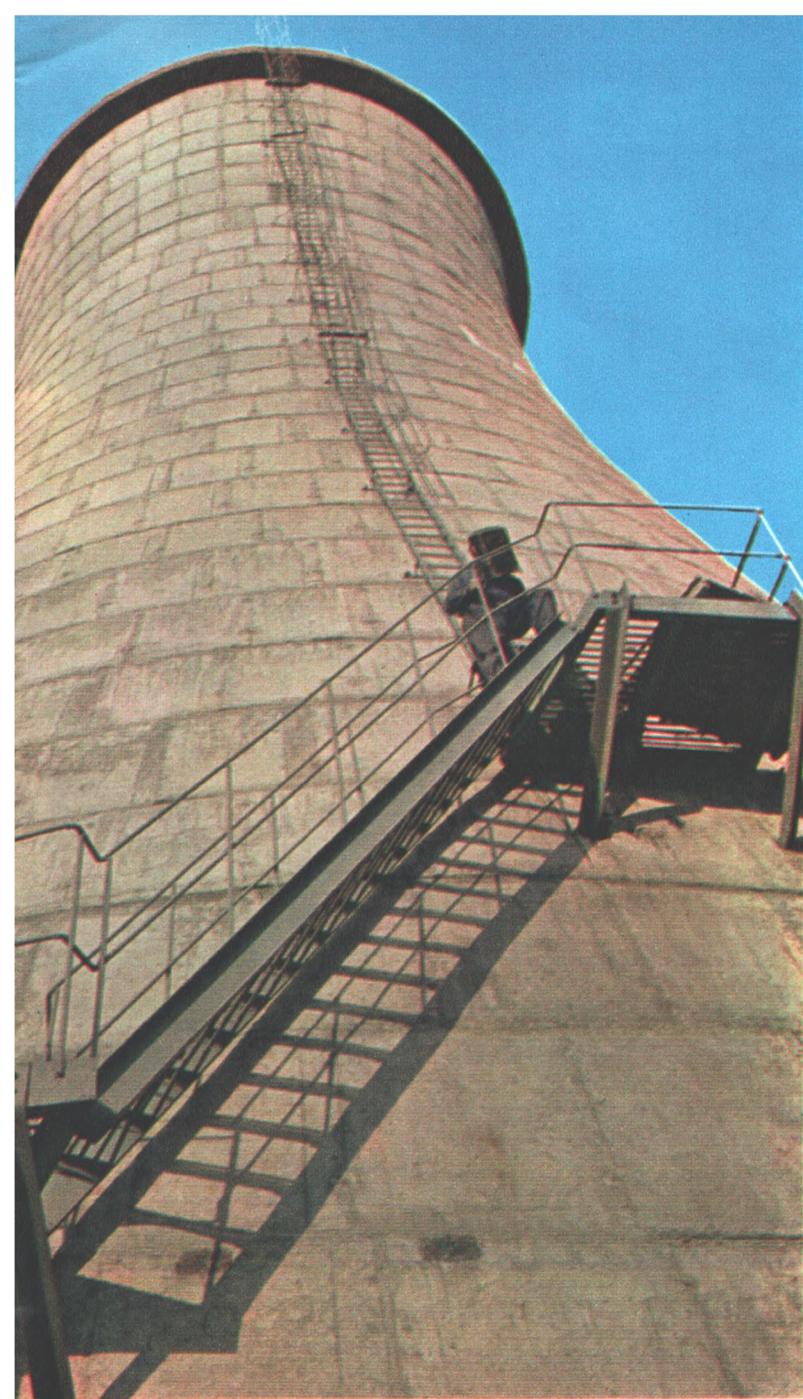
Prior to the establishment of the people's state power in Albania the national income was distributed as follows: 20% went to the labouring masses which made up 97.5% of the population while 80% were appropriated by the capitalists and large estate proprietors which made up 2.5% of the population and the foreign conces-

The fund of individual and social consumption in the national incomes.



sionaires. Now there is no private property of any sort in Albania. Whatever is produced goes to the benefit of all the workers. Besides, socialist accumulation which goes to capital investments for the purpose of strengthening our people's economy — the basis of general well-being — in our socialist country there exists an additional fund the aim of which is to finance various social needs. This is called the social consumption fund. This represents part of the products for society and which is used to meet general social necessities. This fund cover all the material expenses made for the upkeep of public health and educational institutions, paying for fuel and electric light, for food items, for clothes, medicaments and amortization of capital assets in these institution.

The use of this fund increases the real incomes of the population. Adding to it helps raise the material and cultural well-being of the labouring masses along correct and sound lines, strengthening the collective spirit and extend the sphere of meeting the needs of the workers on a collective basis. Therefore, the general tendency prevailing today is the rapid increase of the fund for social consumption. In order to grasp the proportions of this increase and to what extent the masses benefit, it



The thermoelectric station (TEC) of Korça.

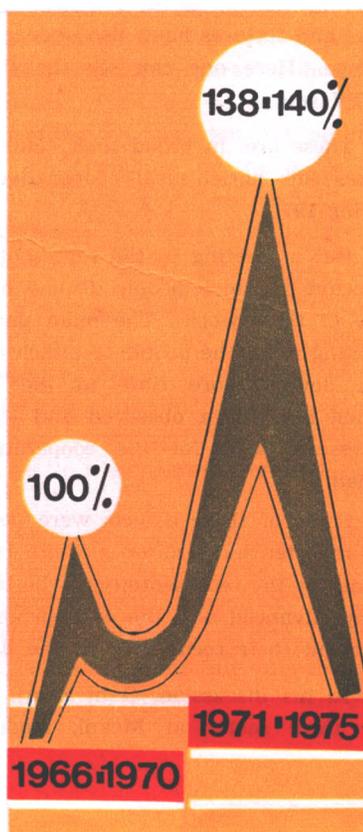


Women textile workers in the Mao Tsetung Textile Works, in Berat.

suffices to point out that in 1965 expenses for social and cultural measures ran up to 23.3% of the total state budget or 411 leks per capita of population on the average, in 1971 they ran up to 25.8% of the State budget or 657 leks per capita of population on the average. Over 2/3rds of the expenses for each child maintain in day nurseries are paid for by the State. The State spends an average of 8,500 leks for every bed in hospitals and maternity homes while for every patient hospitalized in Tirana the State spends an average of 816 leks. It is calculated that the State spends an average of 3,400 leks for everyday student and an average of 11,700 leks for every boarding student going through a secondary school while it spends 13,500 leks and 24,300 leks respectively for each student attending the higher institutes of learning.

In 1970, there were 1,283 ambulances in the country. 4,748,000 cases pass through these institutions for medical examination. The figure speaks a lot. Before liberation, the average time allotted to each inhabitant for medical examination was 7 years whereas now he or she can undergo medical examination twice a year. As a prophylactic measure against measles, cholera and typhus during 1970, the inhabitants were inoculated with 1,600,000 full

The volume of the mechanized work in agriculture.



doses of vaccine. The number of hospital beds for every 10,000 inhabitants has increased from 9.8 in 1938 to 70.8 in 1970. In order to create facilities for women to take part in work, the number of creches in 1970 was 2,262 with accommodations for 45,339 children. Add to these also the expenses incurred for municipal services, transports, education and culture. In Albania no taxes are levied for the use of wireless and TV sets.

During the period of the 5th Five-Year Plan, the individual and social fund in the national income will be 50-55% higher than during the preceding five-year period, exceeding the increase of population by more than three-fold. The fund of individual consumption in 1975 will make up 85% of the whole consumption fund in our national income, the difference going to the fund for social consumption. There will be an increase in the number of hospitals of hospital beds, of physicians, of the contingents of pupils and undergraduates. In the countryside alone in 1975 we will have 5,900 beds in hospitals and other insitutions, a figure which is 3.5 times as large as in 1970. Beginning with 1972, pensions will be paid also to the rural population.



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— Once a year the representatives of the combined agricultural cooperatives come together to analyse the work done during the preceding period and set the tasks for the coming period. Each representative is elected at grass-roots and represents 10 to 15 cooperative members.

This meeting of the representatives is the highest forum, the congress, so to speak, of the cooperative. Before being brought to this meeting, the problems are threshed out in lower forums, that is, in the meetings of the squads, brigades or sectors. Once every two years, the representatives elect the presidium of the cooperative which fills the executive functions during the 24 month period.



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Cooperative Members Discuss

WE have recently attended the meeting of the representatives of the combined agricultural cooperative of Hekali in the Fieri District. This is a hilly cooperative comprising the villages of Hekali, Remësi Mollaj and Klos.

From the report submitted by the chairman of the cooperative on behalf of the presidium it turned out that a number of important achievements had been attained during 1971. As compared with 1965 this cooperative nearly trebled its production of grain. Seven years ago the State had subsidized it with grain while in 1971, it turned over to the State its surplus of more than 12,000 qt or double the amount of grain it had turned over to the State in 1970. In 1971 the incomes of the members had been increased by 34 per cent as compared with the preceding year.

The strengthening of the economy of the cooperative has helped set up social and cultural projects and raise the standards of living of each member family. In comparison with a number of years before, the incomes of the cooperative members have doubled. In 1971, the income of each cooperative member was 12% higher than in 1970. By the end of last year,

many families received as much as to enable each one to build a new house. Now, the cooperative members are housed in brand-new buildings instead of the old shabby ones. Furnitures and fixtures have also undergone a radical change. Here one can see the first antennas of TV sets.

These are, in broad lines, some of the successes this agricultural cooperative has scored during 1971.

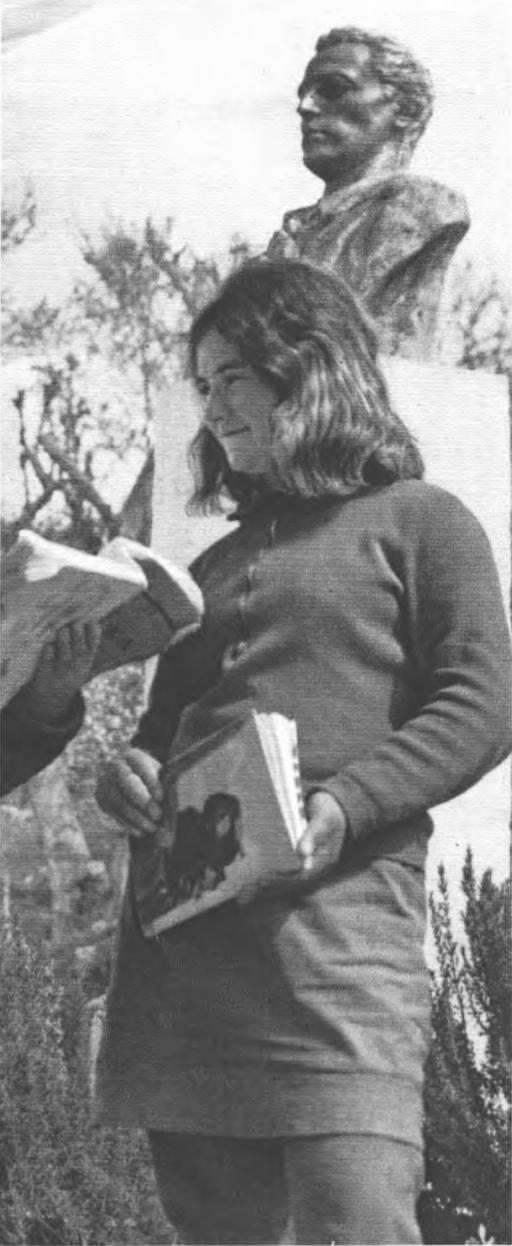
But a meeting of the representatives is not a forum in which people display only the good side of their work. The main purpose of this meeting is for the people to attach more concern and devote more time to the shortcomings which have been observed and to suggest the necessary steps for the cooperative to forge ahead.

Some of these defects were pointed out by the reporter and a number of others were pointed out by the representatives who took the floor. They advanced also the appropriate suggestions to avoid their recurrence in the days to come.

In his discussion, Gani Sulaj, in charge of the third sector at Mokal, made a detailed

analysis of the work of the brigades in his sector. He said that some brigades had come short of reaching the targets in yields. "This", he said, "is due to the bad organization of work while, in certain cases, it is due to the fact that certain members have not reported regularly to work. The second brigade", he added "works in parcels under irrigation, that is, in more favourable soils than the other brigades. Yet, when harvest time came, it did not receive the output the others did. This came about because it failed to apply the rules of agricultural technique". In order to come out of this situation, he suggested that the brigade, as a basic unit of the cooperative, should take more initiative and allow broader competences to the brigade leaders for independent action. In addition, it should apply with more rigour the existing rule that when, for one reason or other or another, a brigade leader fails to direct the work properly, the other members of the brigade should at once dismiss him from the job and appoint another in his place, just as some other brigades have done.

The member of the IX brigade, Xhema Bendaj, concentrated his discussion on the use



Their Problems

of the immovable assets of the cooperative. He said that, in general, these funds have been properly spent setting up many necessary projects like stables, bakeries, nurseries and others. But in this regard, he criticized the management for having failed to organize the work in completing certain projects which had already been started.

Dervish Dushku, leader of the first brigade of the village of Remës, centered his discussion on extending the range of field crops. He said that while the cooperative engaged, a few years ago, only in the cultivation of cereal crops and yet was unable to meet its own needs, now it turns over to the State food grains and such other crops as sunflower, cotton and others. He is of the opinion that with the reclamation of new land, the prospects for these crops are greater. Nevertheless, according to him, the output of cotton would have been higher if it had been planted on more suitable plots of ground.

Another problem referred to by many of those who took the floor was that of creating suitable conditions for a higher participation of

women in the work of the cooperative. Many opinions were expressed and suggestions made regarding this problem. Finally, the meeting upheld the proposal of Comrade Fatmire Kamberi, the accountant of the first sector. She expressed the view that the cooperative should extend the network of creches at definite points and set up another kindergarten. "In addition" she added, "the presidium of the cooperative should continually supervise these institutions so that order may be established and the services may be improved in them".

At such meetings people speak of their experience at work, express their different opinions, make suggestions so that the work of the cooperative may proceed at a better pace. Nearly all those who took the floor invited their colleagues to a competition on a sector or brigade level.

During the current year all the members have set to work to further strengthen their cooperative and raise its income 35 per cent above that of the preceding year. This will be a further step ahead towards fulfilling the tasks envisaged by the directives of the 5th Five-Year Plan.

- ① The chairman of the Joint Coop-Farm of Hekali, Gani Kapaj.
- ② Axhem Xhelilaj, driver.
- ③ Teki Musaraj, worker of the eighth production brigade.
- ④ In the Joint Agricultural Cooperative of Hekali, Fieri District, there has been opened a non-stop work agricultural professional middle school. From left to right: Peric Goxhaj, Zenepë Hamitaj and Sose Taraj are very good pupils and coop-members.
- ⑤ There are two 8-year schools with more than 1,000 pupils in Hekali Coop-Farm.

In the picture: During the lesson in the eighth grade of the school.

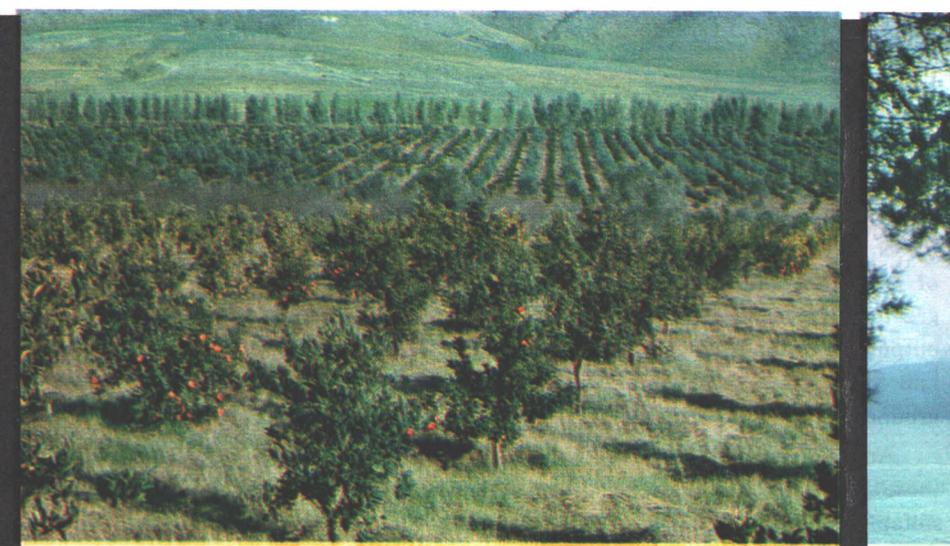
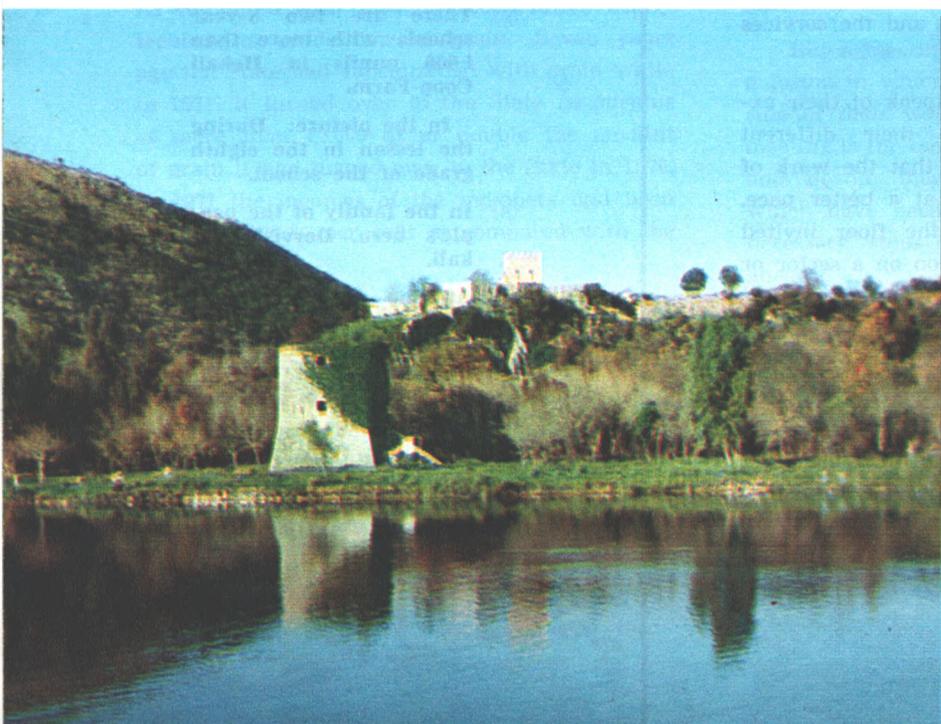
- ⑥ In the family of the people's hero, Dervish Hekali.

- ⑦ At the break in the "Dervish Hekali" 8-Year School in the Hekali Village.

Photos by S. Xhillari.



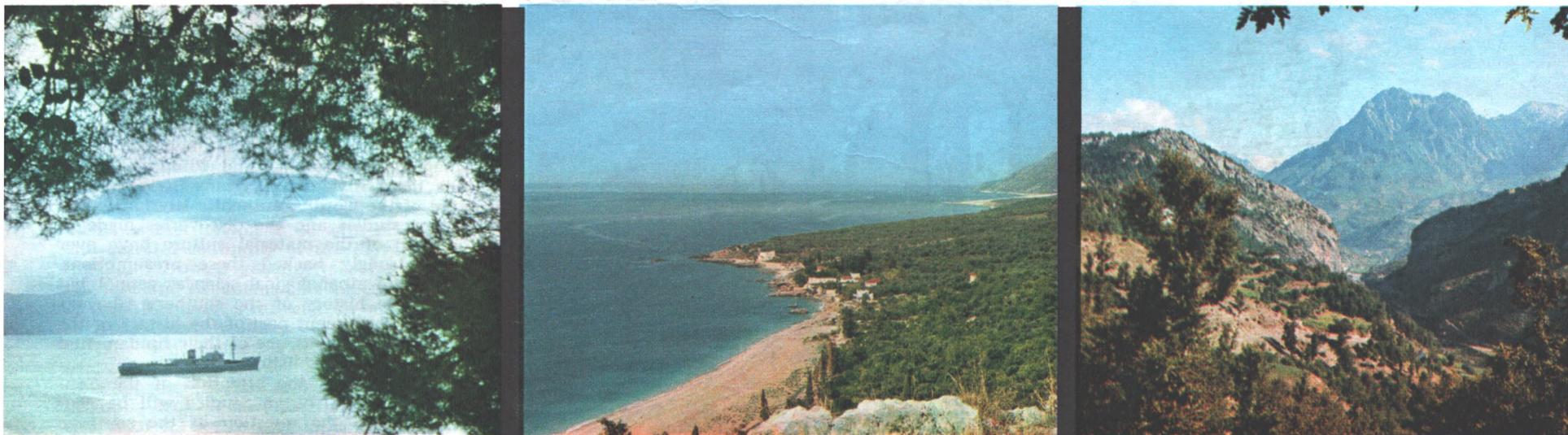
A warm meeting of Comrade Enver Hoxha with the mothers of the National Liberation Struggle martyrs.





On every celebration, pioneers stand on guard of honour at this memorial where the pioneer's revolutionary organization was founded during the National Liberation Struggle.

“TOURING ALBANIA”



THIS September there will be held in Tirana the First Conference of Illyrian Studies under the theme: *"The Illyrians and the origin of the Albanians"*. This important scientific undertaking is being sponsored jointly by the Institute of History and the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Tirana State University. This Conference will be attended by the Albanian scholars as well as scholars from abroad, historians, archaeologists, linguists, ethnographers etc. From the point of view of participation in it and considering the problems it will deal with the Conference will have an international character. Summing up the achievements made through investigations and historical-linguistic studies conducted in Albania during the 25 post-liberation years as well as the achievements made by the institutions of other countries in the realm of Illyrian studies, the First Conference of Illyrian Studies will aim at making a new scientific synthesis especially about the Southern Illyrians — on the uninterrupted development of their material and spiritual life up to the period the Albanian nation came into being. By making such a synthesis, this Conference will undoubtedly help in further deepening the studies on the Illyrians who are one of the most ancient peoples of Europe.

The picture one will get from the papers which will be read at the Conference will become more complete by the publications which will be issued on its eve, by a special archaeological and ethnographic exhibition and the possibility that will be created to the people to get a first-hand acquaintance with the main Illyrian sites discovered in Albania.

The world of science has long been dealing with the problem of the Illyrians — with their origin, their material, spiritual and political-social life, language geographical extension and their relations with the other ancient peoples of Southeastern and Central Europe as well as with these of the Mediterranean and Anatolian regions. But it must be said that, besides the scarce data complying with the historical truth, in the past centuries strange hypothesis prevailed about the Illyrians and the origin of the Albanians. The scientists' efforts to break through the darkness of ages became more successful at the end of the 18th and particularly the 19th century when humanitarian science began to apply widely in their research work historical principle and historical comparison between European languages and cultures. The great movements of thought like that of illuminism and romanticism gave an impetus to this scientific research. Among the distinguished scholars of the 18th century who showed special interest about the origin of the Albanian language and people was Gottfried-Wilhelm Leibnitz.

The Southern Illyrians and the Origin of Albanians in the Light of New Synthesis

View of the ruins of the ancient Sarde in the District of Shkodra.



Norbert Jochl — one of the most outstanding Albanologists of the first half of our century said: "Leibnitz's far-sightedness a century earlier before comparative linguistics had come into being could pierce through problems that ought to be connected with the study of the Albanian language, with the question of the kinship among the European peoples as well as the interrelations existing among the European languages in general. . . and finally the problem concerning the origin of the Albanian people. It was again his genius who created the methodological premises for giving an answer to the above and other questions like these; the necessary distinction to be made in the Albanian language between ancient native element inherited from the past and of the new, and borrowed one another important step after that made by Leibnitz was Johan Thunmann's work "Investigations on the History of the Eastern European Peoples" (1774) which marked the transition from the prescientific to the scientific treatment of the history of the Albanian people and of their ancestors. The problems J. Thunmann presented were actually a program of work for the European humanitarian sciences in this field. This author is to be credited with having induced among the later scholars the love and respect for the ancient peoples of the Balkans Peninsula. "Those peoples", he wrote, (referring to the Albanians and Vallahs) "are the main peoples, the main ancient and important peoples whom every historian must try to acquaint himself with the history of those peoples would fill in that vacuum which exists in the modern and ancient history of Europe. But. . . at present these peoples are groaning under the yoke of oppression, they are unfortunate and unhappy. And the historian, just like the man-in-the street, is often unjust when he looks down upon the one who lives unhappily".

During the 19th and 20th centuries science carried further and deeper its studies and research on the ancient Balkan peoples, the Illyrians and Albanians included. But a number of objective and subjective factors have hampered these studies causing now and then inaccuracies or contradictory and one-sided conclusions. After the Second World War, the historical-linguistic research work about the Illyrians and the origin of the Albanians and of their language entered a new more advanced stage. These researches represent now one of the most important fields of historical Balkanology. The characteristic feature of this stage is that the scientific hypothesis are supported by more accurate historical sources and data than ever before. This is due to the intensification of the research work done in the countries of Eastern Europe themselves where a number of institutions carry on the main activity in the field of Illyrian studies.

In these efforts to seek the historical truth, an ever more important role has been played by the researches and studies made during these 25 years in Albania which has already become one of the principal centers of Illyrian studies. In spite of the lack of scientific tradition after liberation we have reached a valuable result in this realm which change and add to the picture of the ancient history of our people and of the other peoples of the Balkans.

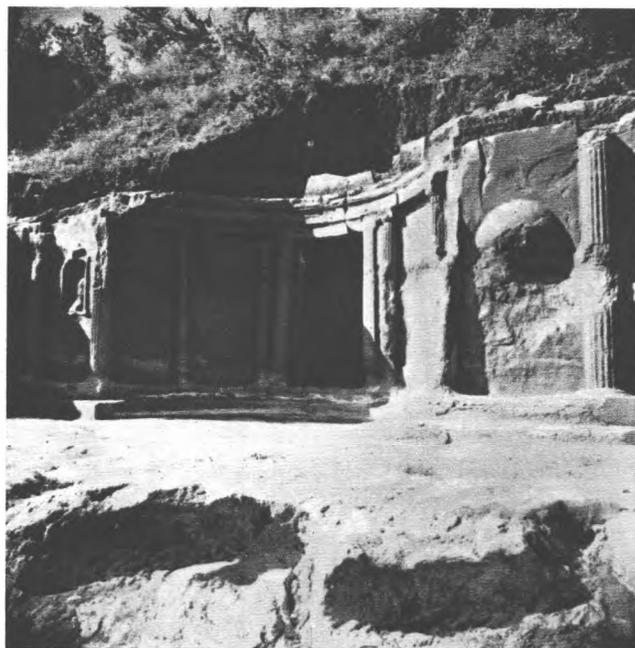
On the ethnogenesis of the Illyrians on their life and culture in various geographical areas and at various stages of their development there exist a series of hypothesis which sometimes are very contradictory. Nevertheless most of the scholars agree that the Albanians are the only direct descendants of the Illyrians. The ancient writers ranging from these of the 7th century B.C. locate the Illyrians mainly along the Ionian and Adriatic coast, that is in the areas inhabited by the Albanians at present, And Pliny the Elder calls these Illyrians "Illyrians in the proper sense of the word", "authentic Illyrians". The further studies and the discoveries made in the field of the material culture have ever more strongly backed these presumptions. Hence, the albanological sciences cannot but regard the history of the southern Illyrians which a component part of the history of the Albanian people, as one of their fundamental historical and linguistic problems.

That is why the attention of the Conference of the Illyrian Studies will be centered around the question of the southern Illyrians. By summing up the achievements attained in the course of many years of

View of the gate and of the wall in the castle of "Çuka of Apojë", in the District of Saranda.



The monumental tomb in Selce of the Pogradec District.



archaeological excavations and discoveries as well as the researches in the fields of history, linguistics, ethnography etc., the Conference will give to the Albanian and the international world of science a new synthesis of the history of the material, spiritual, cultural and social-political structure of the Illyrians and their language viewed in their uninterrupted process of development from pre-historical times up to the early middle ages when the Albanian nation began to take shape. Such a complex treatment of so great a theme will be possible through collaboration on the part of archaeologists, historians, linguists and ethnographers.

The Conference will hear a lot about the results of the recent research work done by the Albanian archaeologists especially during the last 15 years. To give an idea what these data mean in comparison with the previous state of affairs in this field suffice it to mention that while in pre-liberation Albania there were only about 25 archaeological centers of which only 8 or 9 were Illyrian, after liberation their number reached 200. Besides these centers there were found more than 15 other centers of early Albanian culture. In the light of the concrete material data discovered in these centers so far the Conference will be able to touch upon and elucidate a series of problems such as that of the formation of the Illyrian ethnos, of the social-economic and political-cultural development of the Illyrians, their links with the Mediterranean world in general and with Greek, Roman and other peoples of the ancient world, in particular. To the attention of the Conference will also be brought such problems as that having to do with the ethnical and cultural continuity of the Illyrians, with the uninterrupted genetic links between the Illyrians and Albanians and the ethno-genesis of the Albanians as reflected in our country's early mediaeval culture.

The critical analysis of the existing scientific sources and literature will make it possible for the Illyrian problem to be viewed generally from a historical angle and alongside with it, to bring to light the important role played by the state and political order of the Illyrians in the international develop-

ment and the latter's resistance against Roman invasion and romanization. From such an angle will be viewed also the social-historical conditions that led to the moulding and recognition of the Albanian nationality in the early Middle Ages.

Linguistically the Conference will treat the question of the place of formation of the Albanian language so as to explain the genetic links between the Illyrian and Albanian languages. To the elucidation of this problem will be devoted a series of papers which will base their arguments on the hitherto achievements in the field of etymology (among other things- the origins of the maritime terminology), historical grammar and phonetics, historical onomastics and the Albanian dialectology.

Ethnographers will analyse a number of phenomena connected with the material and spiritual culture of the Albanian people (i. e. elements of folk costumes, folk ornaments, remnants of cults etc) connected with occurrences of Illyrian culture and which, together with other facts from other fields, support the hypothesis of the uninterrupted links between the Illyrians and Albanians. Of special interest will also be the ethnical status of the southern Illyrians after the Barbarian invasion and the study of the ethnical aspect of the formation of the Albanian Nationality.

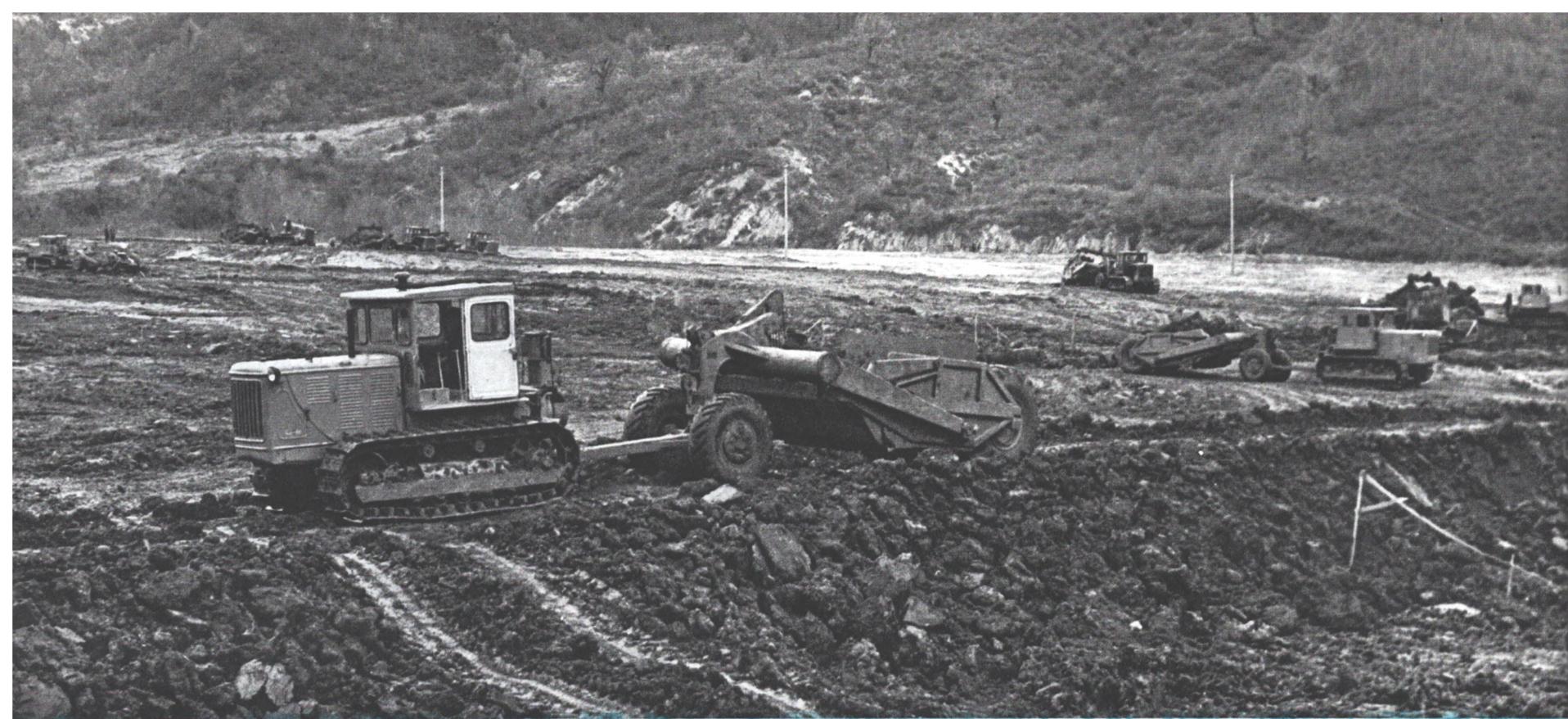
All these problems will be treated extensively in various reports whose aim will be to making generalizations on them. Tens of other papers will be read at the Conference dealing with other separate questions or aspects from the problems raised in the reports. New facts and data will be brought to the attention of the Conference, but what will really matter is the new interpretations and conclusions which will be made on the basis of the analysed material.

There is no doubt that, alongside with the Albanian scholars, foreign scholars attending the Conference will bring up interesting problems. This activity sponsored by our country's science will be not only a display of the views held by the Albanian students and scholars, but also a confrontation of their thesis with the achievements that have been and continue to be attained in many other

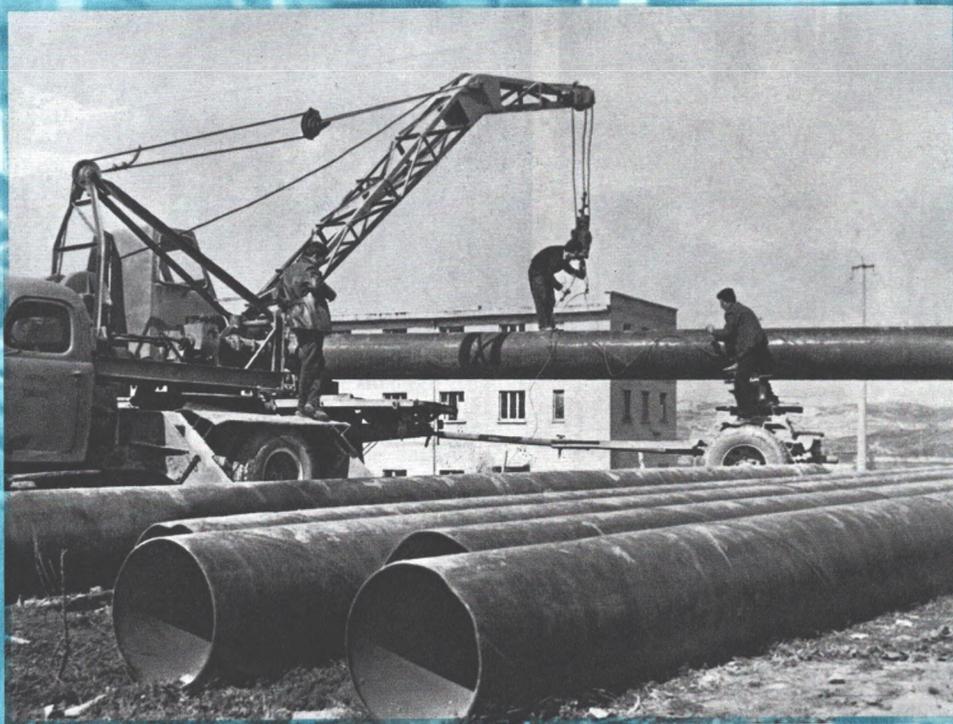
countries. The scientific discussions and arguments can not but result in a new contribution to the clarification of the historical truth. There have been and there still are scholars in the field of the Illyrian studies who approach the problems onesidedly. They often study the history and culture of the Illyrians in the function of the classical history, that is, they try to see only moments of "hostile" or "friendly" contacts with the Greek and Roman World. This one-sided approach is also to be noticed in the geographical aspect. In a number of cases the Illyrians' history and culture has been studied considering only the data obtained from a limited territory inhabited by the Illyrians, and this could not but lead to one-sided conclusions often unjustly attributed to the whole Illyrian world. What is more, in evaluating this culture historical principles have not always been observed. This has resulted in an overestimation of the Illyrian findings but most often in their underestimation trying to find the formation of a cultural and political entity where the social-economic development did not permit for such a thing. The objective application of the historical principle requires that the Illyrian problem be studied as a dialectical unity of the various stages bearing various features starting from the formation of the Illyrian ethnos to its disintegration, and, upon this ground forming new ethnical formations.

And the Albanian science has precisely set store by this side i. e. to the continuity of the ethnical element under different social formations.

The Conference of Illyrian Studies to be held in Tirana will open up new prospects for the future research work. It represents a vast area for studies and investigations. There are blanks on it, consequently the difficulties are many. One feels especially the lack of anthropological studies, whereas in the field of language, the lack of a writing or inscription the Balkans Illyrian represents a big obstacle. All these difficulties and obstacles must be overcome through tenacious and courageous efforts, through further intensive collaboration among cognate sciences, students and scholars of various countries.



The Deep Oil Processing Plant is being built here in Ballsh.



A new pumping station is being built in Ballsh.

AT CONSTRUCTION SITES



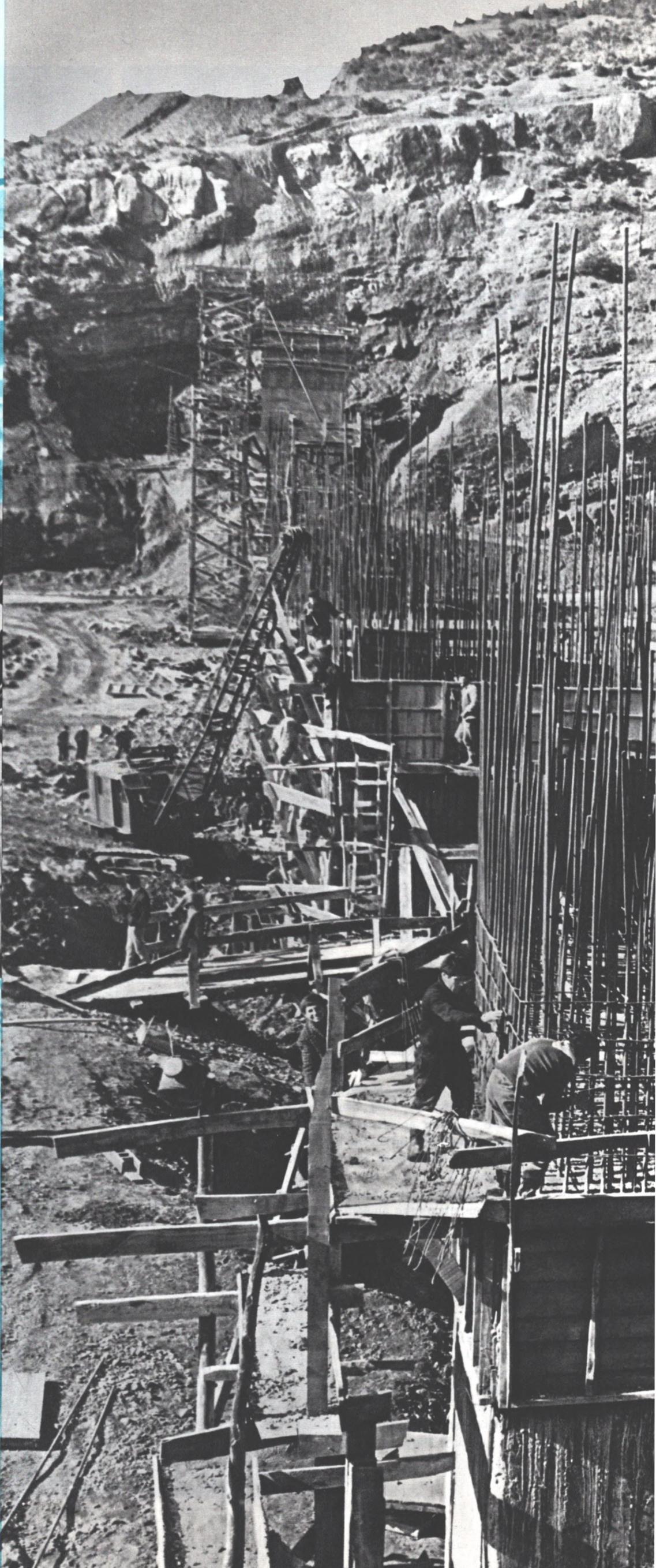
Partial view of the construction site of the Complex of Metallurgy in Elbasan.



The first Nitrate-Enriched Fertilizer Plant in our country is being built in Fieri.

There is being built on the Shkumbini River the bridge of the new Librazhd-Prenjas Railway line.

Photos: by P. Cici



GUN KESSE/JAN MYRDAL
**Die albanische
Herausforderung**

MÄRZ

Jan Myrdal on Albania

Robert Shvare

"The Albanian Challenge" a book by the Swedish writer of renown Jan Myrdal, first published in Sweden in 1970, came out also in German. The "Marz" Publishing House in Frankfurt—West Germany, published it towards the end of 1971.

In presenting the book to the reading public this Publishing House writes this among other things: "Jan Myrdal's book on Albania offers the first detailed reportage by a West European visitor, who must have had the opportunity to study in detail the problems and forms of socialist construction. Myrdal, speaking in concrete terms has examined from a near the problems and the real development there. Jan Myrdal's book can be truly regarded as one of the best actual political reportages".

This comment is well-grounded. Jan Myrdal's book shows that the author know Albanian history well and, above all he is very familiar with the present-day Albanian reality. As he himself puts, it he has travelled a great deal across the country, has heard a lot, has seen and talked with people . . . Then he has made studies. He has come back to Albania again touring the country all around.

His reportage of about 257 pages, illustrated with very interesting snapshots taken by his wife, Gun Kessle, is divided into 24 chapters. In these chapters the author gives a full and variegated picture of the long and arduous, but glorious road travelled by the Albanian people.

In drawing this picture he gives the reader a host of facts and data which are undoubtedly the result of an all-round study and investigation made by him on the subject. None of the important details escapes the writer. He examines many of the problems from a social-economic and political angle. So, when telling us about the ancient history of Albania Myrdal does not neglect to intersperse it with the interest of the foreign powers towards our country.

The principal idea of the whole of Myrdal's reportage is "the Albanian Challenge" to the numerous enemies with whom this country and people have been confronted. This question has been largely treated by him—with extreme clarity and political far-sightedness. The writer proceeds from the important idea that the enemies have found in the small Albanian people an unsurmountable abstacle. Today, the People's Republic

of Albania is a challenge to all the people's enemies—the imperialists, modern revisionists, chauvinists and reactionaries of every hue and colour. The author writes: "The Albanian challenge does not derive from the fact that Albania is a great power that threatens her neighbours. Albania is Europe's second smallest country . . . But Albania's very existence is a challenge The great powers have reached so many agreements to chop up Albania . . . but the simple fact that Albania continues to exist nowadays is a challenge in itself".

Jan Myrdal says, Albania does not base her independent policy on any powerful military machine . . . Nor does she rely only on its economic resources . . . Albania is not rich. She still bears the stamp of poverty inherited from the past. But in the Albanian frontier villages, one can see electric light in schools, industrial enterprises and dwelling houses, whereas in the villages across the broder darkness holds away dimly lit by kerosene lamps. But Albania is developing. . . The Albanian challenge has great dimensions. Its dimensions go far off. Not only have the people won independence and are defending it, not only are they developing their economy, but what is more, this small mountainous and poor country is becoming an industrial one. Albania is achieving this transformation through such objectives and methods which are regarded by the capitalist and revisionist personalities as utopian and economically impossible to be accomplished . . . Alongside the industrialization, bureaucracy is being fought against and the administrative apparatus is being reduced . . . Albania's enemies are strong, yet she challenges the world order. This country does not accept the division of the world by superpowers.

It is precisely the challenge to the existing world order that is of more importance than how the Albanians look upon miniskirts and beards!"

The present-day Albanian reality and the problems it brings up before our people and their Party of Labour while following the correct Marxist-Leninist course, has been treated objectively and optimistically in this reportage. And this is a marked merit of the author.

Jan Myrdal intends to revisit Albania and write a second book mostly on the country's all-round economic and industrial development during the last 27 years.

CHRONICLE

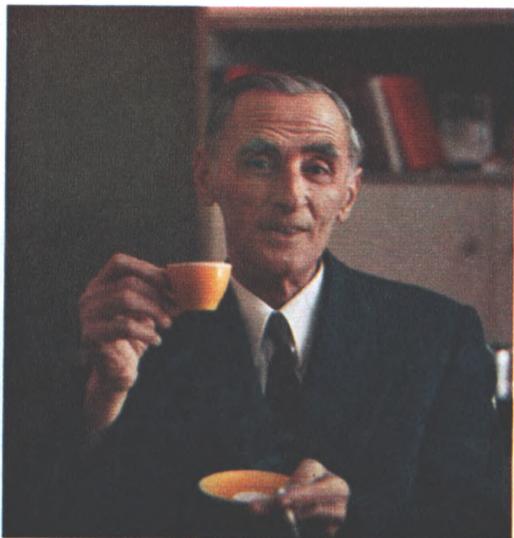
Nils Holmberg speaking at the Exhibition on Albania opened in Stockholm.

A group of Stockholm youngsters singing Albanian songs.

View of the Exhibition on the Reti-culation of Albania, opened by the "Austria-Albanian" Friendship Association in the "Palfy" Palace of Vienna.

The "Italy-Albanian" Friendship Association opened in Firenze an Exhibition About Albania.





The painter Abdurrahim Buza.

THE MAKING OF AN ARTIST

Andon Kuqali

— A visit to painter Abdurrahim Buzo in his studio.

The apartment house where Buzo lives with his family does not differ from the hundreds of hundreds of other apartment houses except for its studio for a painter and, of course, for its furnishings which makes it stand out as an artist's abode. It looks more like a writer's workroom were it not for its wide windows facing north, its humble easel at the corner, a table and an easy chair in which the painter sits and sketches his numerous paintings. In the studio are arranged in rows the tableaux which Abdurrahim Buzo has painted at different periods: portraits, landscapes, sketches from the former life of a village, allegorical compositions. These are paintings the value and richness of colour of which appear more distinct when viewed at close range: every dot of the brush sounds a new note, every movement of the lines is expressive. In addition, many books fill the shelves on the walls, a statuette or trinket on the mantelpiece, a mirror in a thick frame in one corner, objects which recall different epochs, various models which testify to the long career of the painter.

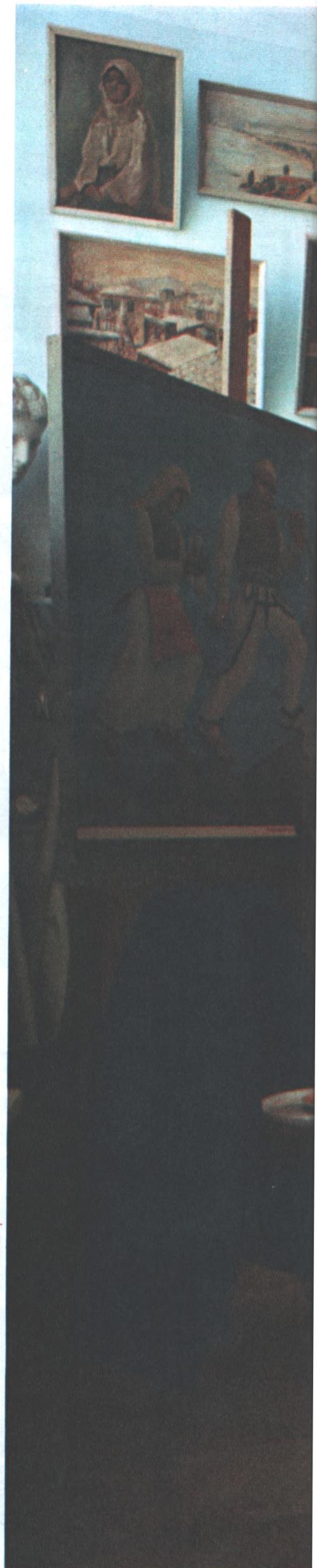
I paid a visit to his home in the evening. I was warmly welcomed by him, his wife and their son. Their son is a painter and art student and added a lot to our conversation.

"You are a native of Kosova, I presume" I started the conversation.

When I was a youngster, I delighted in making drawings of my native town of Gjakova, and in clipping pictures and photos from newspapers which portrayed scenes from the Balkan Wars, and mounted these clippings in small original tableaux giving a touch of paint with the brush over them. I was fond of admiring the figures that ice drew on the window panes and tried to copy. But my elders, particularly my uncle, often gave me a

In the studio of the painter, Abdurrahim Buza.

Photos by P. Kumi







Drawings by the painter Abdurrahim Buza.



rap on my fingers because they believed, according to Moslem prejudices, that birds and men whom I would paint would haunt me all along my lifetime.

Bajram Curri sent me and a number of other boys to pursue our studies in free Albania at the Teachers Training School in Elbasan. Andrea Kushi taught us drawing. During his recitation hours he often sent me out of the classroom for he suspected I would be doing the drawings for the other students. He used to give me assignments of drawing from nature and I have to this day kept some drawings of the typical houses of Elbasan".

In his colloquial Albanian preserving some Kosova words and accents, he began telling me of the years of study in Italy, first in Milan and then in Florence.

"My teachers" he said, "took special care that I should preserve my originality; they liked my drawings dwelling on each detail and were struck by my Albanian motifs.

After graduating from the Academy in 1932; I was appointed a teacher at the Tirana Technical School. I had been a partisan of Avni Rustem's Party in 1924 and had never reconciled with Zog's regime. They offered me 200 gold napoleons to paint a fresco in his royal palace but I refused it. My wife hails from Pogradec and whenever I spent some days there, they used to dub me "the bridegroom painter".

I used to do a little painting and some drawings and a portrait or other at that time but sent no exhibits to the organized exhibitions either during Zog's time nor during the period of Italian occupation.

The first time I exhibited my drawings in some show windows in Tirana was when the first anniversary of the February 4th massacres of 1944 was commemorated. I had drawn my fresh impressions of horror of that event on a placard.

I took part at the First Exhibition of Figurative Arts opened in Tirana on April 17, 1945. Ever since I have continually worked and exhibited my works at the Art Exhibitions.

I have painted all along and everywhere during my free time and my summer vacations. I have often visited market-places on market days and have sketched all kinds of picturesque national costumes. I have made hundreds of sketches during the opening of the Kukës-Peshkopia Highway, the construction of the "K. Marx" Hydro-Electric Power-Plant and later at the building sites of railroads by young volunteers everywhere.

With exception of portraits and some landscapes, I have painted the pictures in my studio from memory and imagination rather than in open nature.

I have been fond of painting landscapes and the stature of women and nymphs. Folk dresses have attracted me most of all".

Now that Abdurrahim Buzo is a pensioner, he works harder than ever and although he is over sixty years of age, his creative impulse shows no sign of abatement.

This year he has begun to work on a number of small tableaux as he has always done, depicting certain folk customs of Kosova. In reality these call up memories of his younger days. A principal place in these tableaux is occupied by wedding parties and the image of the bride.

"It is only once" he says "that I have seen a Kosova bride in my life, but my impressions of that age are still fresh in my mind, due, naturally, to my having watched the scene with perspicuity

I intend to open a personal exhibition with these numerous tableaux and drawings, landscapes and small sketches made all along these years".

The conversation turned on modern art.

"In the West, the youth engaged in the occupation of art are entirely dissipated. What they are doing is no art at all.

We should strive to make our drawings real drawings and our paintings real paintings understandable by the people but raised to an ever higher level of art".

The Trade Union Organization at the Oil Refinery

Mefail Pupuleku

THE Oil Refinery at Cërrik in the Elbasan District represents a small center of habitation with all the amenities necessary to the workers and their families, namely, catering units, two secondary schools, some 8th-grade schools, a club with accommodations for moving picture shows and public performances, a hospital, creches and kindergartens. This plant was set up and put into operation 15 years ago. During this period it has quadrupled its output.

The Trade Union organization plays an important role in the life of the people working at this plant. Its membership consists of all the workers. The Executive Committee of this organization is made up of 9 workers, 1 engineer and 1 employee, all working on a voluntary basis. The Chairman of the Executive Committee himself comes from the ranks of workers. The voluntary activists, about 70 of them, are divided into groups or commissions each headed by a member of the Trade Union Executive Committee. These groups are in charge of socialist emulation, of ideological and political education, of vocational training, of protection at work and the creation of facilities for the workers, of following up the proposals and suggestions by workers and matters pertaining to the scientific and technological progress and so on. The latter follows up the contests between various factories and sectors, posts the results of these contests



The skilled worker, Nevruz Kish-ta, of the Oil Refinery Plant of Cërrik, was elected delegate to the Seventh Congress of the Albanian Trade Unions.



A meeting of the Trade Union Committee of the Oil Refinery Plant.

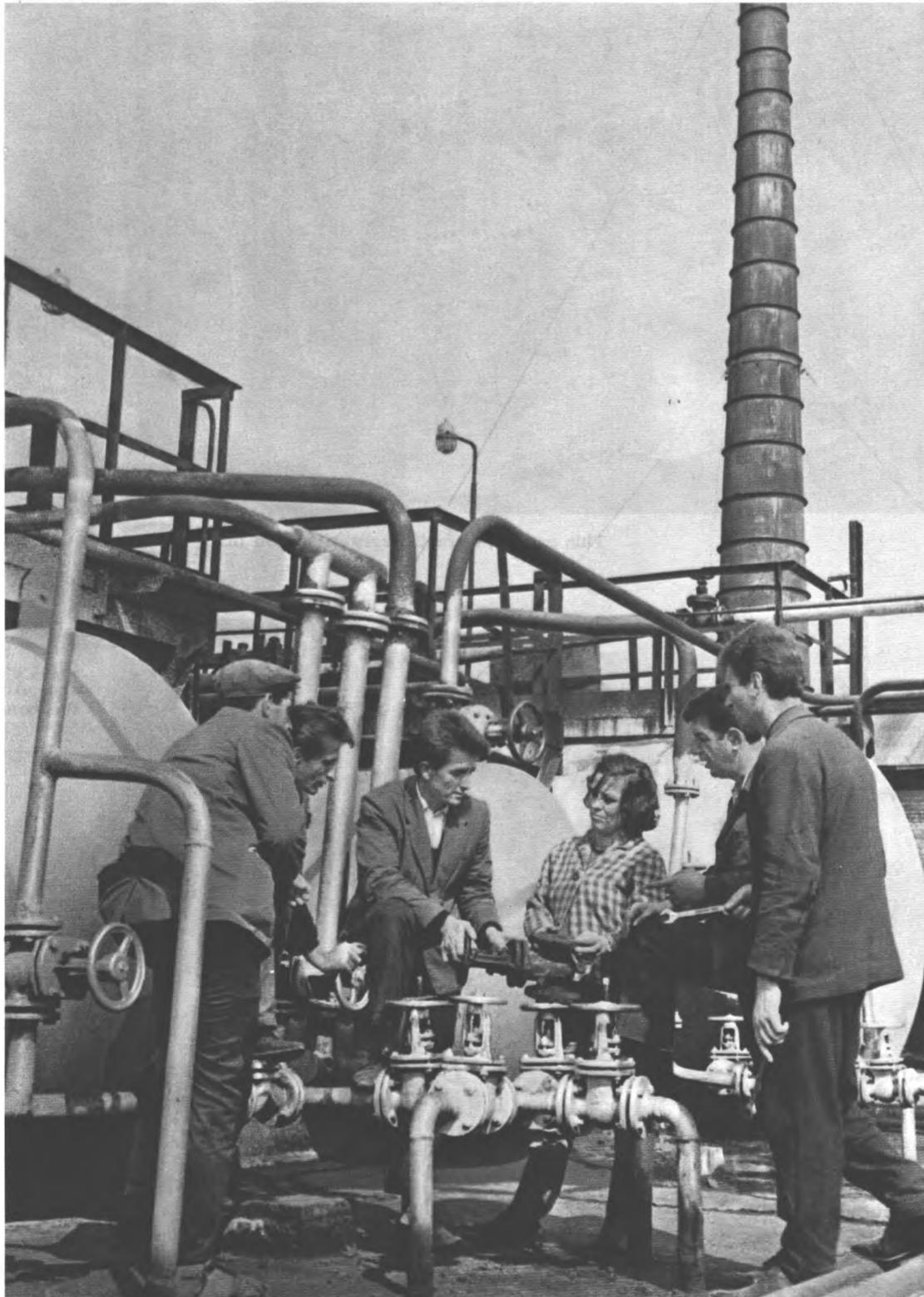
on the bulletin board, the photos of the distinguished workers, organizes consultations for exchange of experience, sums up the positive examples in a bulletin issued every ten days and so on. Transitory flags are given once every month.

An important role is played by the commission of protection of workers and creating facilities at work for the workers. The worker control commission is mobilized for this purpose. When cases are verified that the dispositions in force regarding not only the protection of workers at work but also other problems of the enterprise occur or when the proposals of workers are dragged along by the leading cadres of the factories and sectors, the worker control analyse them in detail, discover the causes and call the leading cadres together before the broad masses of workers and make them render account to them for these violations. The same course is followed when conflicts arise between the administration and the workers. Thus, every activity of the administration is subjected to the supervision of the masses. The meetings which the Trade Union organization calls to take up problems of this nature for discussion become very live ones. The workers criticize the shortcomings and weaknesses of the leading cadres and propose measures to be taken to correct them. When the workers are not satisfied with the self-criticism of the leading cadres or when they are convinced that their proposals will not be carried out, they propose the dismissal of the cadres from the posts they hold.

A wide range of cultural and sport activities take place under the guidance of the Trade Union organization of the Oil

Refinery. The working group charged with this task has gathered round it the best elements from each factory and sector. It has set up the groups of theatrical performers, of variety shows, football and volleyball teams and others. These groups of amateur artists and of sports have successfully competed on a regional level. The drama "Shtëpia në Bulevard" ("The House on the Boulevard") by playwright Fadil Pacrami put on the stage by the amateur players of the Oil Refinery was awarded a prize at the regional dramatic contest. The group of variety shows has also won many prizes.

Cultural and sport activities take place always on a voluntary basis during the spare time of the workers. Expenses for dress and other requisites are paid for by the Trade Union organization and special funds of the enterprise appropriated for this purpose.



A consultation meeting of the safety team of the Trade Union organization.
Photos by S. Xhillari.

PIONEERS IN THEIR OWN PALACE

The Pioneer Palace in Tirana, with its gardens and surroundings, is the most favourable place to the children. Hundreds of pioneers gather, play and learn there everyday

This garden, attracts every afternoon many little visitors.

The small concert-hall, Gitar-players Elza Kondi and Albana Zajmi during the concert.

"This is my first work in pyrography. Vojo Kushi throws the grenade over the fascist tank. . . But I have not finished it yet".



The mountain-climbers, Advices before setting out for the peak.

The little botanists and their experimental parcel.



"It seems as if it is alive. Will it remain like this?".

"My daughter Elide", says her father, "has selected her profession already in the Pioneer Palace".



The Editors Mail Bag

Shadriam Modesto — Cuba

It's ten years since I have been reading regularly your magazine, which acquaints me from far to near with the political, economic, social and cultural life of your country. . . . Through the "New Albania" Magazine I learn many interesting things about your people.

Lazaro Enrique Guillen Rendon — Cuba

I am a habitual reader of your magazine "New Albania". Its forty pages material and its beautiful and well selected illustrations, give a true picture of the Albanian reality, of your experience as well as of your struggle for a better future.

I would be much pleased if in the following issues of your magazine, you would write more about your archaeology and your ethnology and the life of the Tirana State University.

Gux Benamou — France

Allow me to sincerely congratulate you on the high quality of your magazine, both from the point of view of its presentation and its articles and photos. I rejoice at the achievements of your country which are the best guarantee for new successes in the future.

Ivan Ivanov — Canada

The "New Albania" Magazine helps me follow the industrial and agricultural development of Albania. Through it, I have learnt

the constant improvement of the living standard of the Albanian people.

I know, it is not easy to raise the living standards all at once, but I am confident it will be far better in the future.

Maurizio Mirra — Italy

I am very happy indeed to have the opportunity of reading in Italian the "New Albania" Magazine which spreads information about the Albanian reality.

Costanzo Salvatore — Italy

Dear Comrades,

I am very pleased to receive your "New Albania" review. I like it, for it reflects the reality of your nation, beautifully and in an expressive way; and it is amply illustrated.

Traore Fanta — Mali

Dear Comrades,

It was very glad to receive from you the "New Albania" Magazine and the pamphlets about the life of the Albanian people. I fail to find words to express my thanks for the material. . . . I admire the valiant Albanian people for the great work they perform on all fronts. A great many people here are very interested in and fond of the content of your magazine and we want to learn as much as possible about Albania.

Auditallan Brahim — Algeria

Through these lines I send you my love and the high consideration I have for the militant Albanian people who fought and

won and who today build successfully the happy life.

I love your country. I send my greetings to your great leader, Enver Hoxha, as well as to your heroic people. The support of Albania for the peoples fighting colonialism and imperialism, is based on the principles of proletarian internationalism. . . . The strengthening of the links of your people with the Arab peoples is necessary, because in doing so we build a strong bulwark against the malicious nature of the brazen enemies. Albania's just stand towards the Palestinian question brings us closer to you and makes us love you more.

Franco Monopoli — Bari — Italy

Taking advantage of the opportunity offered to me, I warmly thank you for your magazine which I receive regularly. I send you all fraternal greetings wishing you all the best and successes in the construction of socialism.

Olando Pierre Roland — Brazzaville — P.R. of the Congo

Dear Comrades!

I highly admire your beautiful country for the valour and the correct policy of your new State Power.

Bianco Costantino — Italy

A friend of mine and I are two friends of Albania. We have a great sympathy for your reborn Albania, for your leaders and for the correct policy pursued in the international field. We listen re-

gularly to the Radio-Tirana broadcasts.

Vilvoi Viorel — Rumania

I want to inform you that your magazine is much liked by the youth of my country. As for myself, I sincerely say I'm deeply impressed by the achievements of your people under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania. I know a lot about your heroic people, about the struggle of the Albanian communists against Hitlerism. Many Albanian films are on the screen in our country. I will never forget the film "The Eighth in Bronze" for it impressed me very much.

Francois Meyroune — France

Last year I spent a fortnight in the PR of Albania and I can say that I was very enthusiastic about the all-round successes achieved by your working class and people under the leadership of the PLA headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Mansour Rachid — Algeria

I send you this letter proceeding from the high esteem I have for your beautiful magazine written in very understandable Arabic. Through it I have formed a clear idea about the constant progress of Albania and about its revolutionary truth. "New Albania" Magazine and Radio Tirana express the great support of your country for the African and Arab countries.

We congratulate the glorious Party of Labour of Albania and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Asdreni's Centenary

IN April 1972 Albania commemorated the centenary of the birth of Aleks Stavre Drenova well-known by his pen name Asdreni, one of the most eminent figures of the Albanian Revival, an outstanding figure in his propagating, organizational and publicizing activity in the service of the movement for national independence and democracy, as well as one of the prominent writers of the Albanian literary heritage who rendered an innovating contribution to the Albanian poetry of the post 1900 period

Asdreni was born at the village of Drenova, in the Korça District, in southern Albania. Having finished the first grade of the gymnasium, at the age of 17 he together with many of his fellow-countrymen, emigrated to Rumania in search of work so that he could be of help to his family in dire need under the feudal regime of Turkish domination.

There he graduated from the Rumanian-Albanian Teacher Training School, pursued his higher studies in the Faculty of political science and distinguished himself as one of the main activists of the Albanian colony, which at that time was the epicenter of the Albanian movement for National Liberation. After the year 1900, Asdreni's name became well-known as a patriot, democrat and poet through his poems and articles which filled the columns of Albanian press of the time; he distinguished himself also as one of the main organizers of the Albanian societies in Rumania, keeping a regular correspondence with the main centers of the other Albanian colonies abroad as well as with the Albanian fighters who were fighting against Turkish occupation in their motherland.

Even after the proclamation of the Albanian National Independence in 1912, Asdreni vividly exerted all efforts to strengthen the independence and the Albanian State fighting against foreign enemies and home reactionaries for a democratic regime in the independent Albania.

Asdreni's more than forty-year-long activity mainly as a poet contributed a great deal to the new Albanian literature and since the eminent works of the great Arbëreshi writers De Rada, Dara, Serembe and others were not yet become public, Asdreni was considered the third great Albanian writer next to Naim Frashëri, and to Andon Zako Çajupi, who turned out with a wide range of literary productions.

As the author of three poetic works: "The Sunrays" published in 1904, "Dreams and Tears" 1912 and "The Psalms of the Mouk" 1920, as well as of one fourth work entitled "The Bell of Kruja" and of many other poems of the latest period, alongside with other literary works published in the various organs of the Albanian press, Asdreni won a great popularity as a poet as far back as the last decade of Albanian Revival, 1900-1912, and also after the proclamation of National Independence, with his poems occupying a good place in school texts.

Asdreni's poetic works remained a romantic production with symbolic and expres-



Asdreni (right) together with the distinguished Albanologist prof. Jokle.

sionists influences both as regards the way of perceiving and reflecting reality and in the artistic way of expressing it. At the first stage of his first two works, when his poetry was inspired mainly by the ideals of the Albanian movement for freedom, where the poet himself militated, and when he expressed himself clearly: "... Every movement in society has begun with literature and politics in close cooperation" and "... literature exercises its own influence over the social and political state of a nation", his romantic poetry acquired a dynamic and militant character with his lyrics, hymns (Asdreni is the author of the Albanian national hymn "The Pledge to the Flag") and with his marches like "Forward", "Now is the Day", "The Voice of the Flag", etc in which he launches the call for struggle and freedom. Asdreni's poems became also the spokesman of the progressive and revolutionary thought at the time of the 1910-1912 uprisings. His verse contains the strong protest of the rank and file against the rich and the traitors to the struggle for independence, he predicted the overthrow of the state power of the "blood-suckers of the whole world".

His poetry was the first to introduce socialist ideas into the Albanian literature. Asdreni's creativeness is also a pleasant and romantic lyric for nature in general and for

the Albanian nature with its special colours in particular. Very well-known have become especially his lyrical poems an seasons and months: "Winter", "Spring", "Autumn", "the Coming of Spring", etc which are remarkable both for their selected description of the peculiarities of the Albanian environment and for their metric harmony.

Asdreni is one of the Albanian poets who has sung most to love, to the love of country people for their rural environment.

After his first book, the poet studied hard to deepen his knowledge in the domain of world literature starting with antiquity up to the contemporary trends of the time. The study of the world literary culture opened new paths to Asdreni's creativeness in giving full shape to his creative talent, and in bringing new values to Albanian poetry in regard to the enrichment of the inspiration and the poetry with new features. Asdreni's art, closely bound with the Albanian life and its problems during the fierce battles against the invaders and the feudals, inspired by the love for the Fatherland and the people and the Albanian tradition, is in essence an original art. His works are published and republished time and again, and he enjoys a wide popularity among the Albanian working people.

Dhimitër Fullani

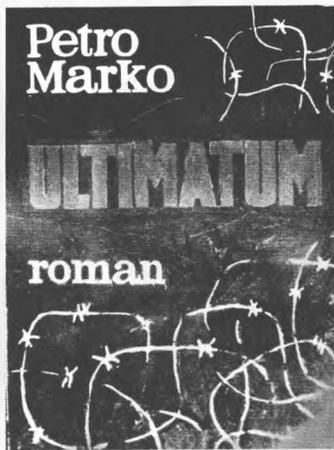


***IN THE PEOPLE'S
CREATIVENESS WORLD***

Folk dances and costumes of the Librazhdi District.







Albanian literature is being daily enriched by new works. While treating the great topics of the time, our writers do not neglect treating historical themes as well. In his new novel "The ultimatum", author Petro Marko takes his theme from the liberation war of the people of Vlora and of Albania as a whole waged in 1920 against Italian imperialism which intended to keep Vlora and its surroundings under its occupation. The Albanians who had risen in arms sent an ultimatum to the commander of the Italian troops, General Piacentini, demanding their immediate retreat but he failed to comply with it. The only alternative to rescue the country was to resort to war. Under very adverse conditions, the Albanian patriotic forces, fighting with heroism and enjoying the backing of the Italian proletariat, succeeded in compelling the imperialist forces of occupation to abandon Vlora.

Here is a fragment of this novel.

THE ULTIMATUM

ONE wonders why the passes and hills look so different to Mehmet Selimi today! The random wild pear trees which he used to see on the roadside as he came down to the city of Vlora seemed to make no impression on him now! Even the random wild pears seemed to him like rare ornaments of the soil. . . "Under their shadows people rest. . . and children fill their bellies with wild pears. . . "He cast his glance all around as he rode on his white steed on the gallop. The wind blowing in a northwestern direction, filled the wide funnel-like sleeves of his white shirt as well as the dense plaits of his kilt which, when blown up, revealed the long white sock reaching to the ankles of Mehmet Selimi's legs of an athlete, who kept his head erect and moved only his eyes from left to right in order to see the Italians who moved to and fro in squads. In one hand he held the reins of the horse and, in the other, a white flag.

"They are many, damn them!" he thought to himself, "and they bear arms the devil himself does not know what they are called. . ." And when the guard or an officer happened to stop and ask him where he was headed for, he repeated "General Piacentini! General Piacentini!" pointing his white flag the size of a handkerchief towards Vlora.

He turned his gaze on the Drashovica hillsides and then watched the river wind its way westward. Now and then, the horse neighed as if to accompany its rider's thoughts who urged the horse on with spurs. "There are many, devil take them!" He watched the barracks, pitched tents, bivouac, encampments, soldiers, horses, mules, trucks. . .

And how could the soldiers seeing Mehmet ride his white steed know what that letter contained which he was taking to General Piacentini! That letter's name was an ultimatum. Mehmet himself had learnt that name only the day before. It was the day before that he had heard it pronounced by Murat and Halim, by Osman and all the members of the Committee. Ultimatum a new word! The other peasants also heard it pronounced for the first time. Some of them emphasized the last syllable; Some others stressed the syllable before the last just

as Mehmet himself pronounced it: "Ultimatum!"

Trock, trock — the clatter of the white steed's hoofs accompanied Mehmet's candid thoughts. The latter turned his gaze towards the Babica hills. Everywhere soldiers, rifles, barracks. Tents, Trucks. Horses. Mules. Italian donkeys taller than mules. Army donkeys!

"They are many, devil take them!" But this ultimatum is not less imposing. It will penetrate into their blood like smoke into a beehive and they will fly off pattering-scatter. . . the devils of devils!

Trock-trock-trock — the clatter of the hoofs of the white horse of the white rider holding a white flag in his hand and a fiery ultimatum in his pocket, accompanied Mehmet's fiery thoughts as he watched the Qishbardha hillside. Everywhere soldiers. Rifles. Army barracks. Pitched tents. Trucks. . . Horses. Mules. And Italian donkeys taller than mules. Army donkeys. . .

An officer ordered him to halt and spoke to him through an interpreter. He answered with head erect:

"Take me to General Piacentini!"

"To General Piacentini?"

"To General Piacentini!"

But General Piacentini was very busy those times. He used to call in officers, agents, spies. . . Listened to what they were to report then issued orders. And when he had some moments to spare he turned his eyes on the big map behind him on which hanged a large portrait of Victor Emmanuel III and gazing on the centers murmured to himself: Tepelena, Gjormi, Kota, Drashovica, . . . Kanina. . . Logora. . .

He turned his head towards the door for he heard a knock. He looked very tired. His jacket was moist under his arm pits. And sweat ran down his face. "What is it?"

The colonel, a fat, olive-colored, black-eyed and thin-lipped man, wearing a trimmed mustache, opened his mouth and showed a set of shining regular teeth:

"Sir! We can't capture them. . ."

"What?"

"They had fled!"

"And where had they gone to?"



Illustration by Zef Shoshi

Fragment of the novel by
Petro Marko

"After their meeting they had dispersed... According to what information we could get, they have joined the guerrillas".

The colonel stood at attention. The General began to pace the floor of the large room. It was a hot day. That is what the early days in June are like in Vlora. The General stopped at the window. He saw an army truck on the march leaving behind huge columns of white dust floating in the air.

"Take a seat!" he said to the colonel still standing at attention. "That is, your information is accurate, eh?"

"Accurate!"

He sat down too, pulled out a package of cigarettes and offered one to the colonel who sprang to his feet in order to offer a light to the General first. Both of them puffed at their cigarettes at once. But the General fixed his eyes on the colonel before puffing the smoke out through his nostrils and mouth. And looking at him intently, understood something. The colonel was keeping something from him. Piacentini was suspicious of him. He was not confidential with him... and at times he hated him for his wit and keenness. He wondered how this colonel could pick on the right agents who served him faithfully, while he himself had hardly succeeded in picking his. For instance, the General had picked on Sirri Bey as his informer and agent. But where could Sirri Bey get his informations, for he never came out of his residence and from what the General had got a hint of, Sirri Bey was a type of man who could win neither friends nor companions and that is why, whenever the Vlora people saw him on the street, they shirked him.

"Were there many of them?"

"Some say there were a hundred fifty of them! But they may be fewer than that. But that's not so important. The important thing is that they were delegates from all the villages... And persons who enjoyed the confidence of the peasantry..."

The General tried to restrain himself. But in vain. The colonel sized him up from top to toe. Two wrinkles where his black eye brows meet betrayed his indignation.

"What is your opinion, colonel, about this movement of theirs?"

"I have already expressed my opinion..."

"You mean, you are certain they will

attack us".

"Yes!"

The General sprang to his feet. Cast a furtive glance on the map and, pacing the floor, murmured:

"Attack us, how? Like the guerrillas?"

He came nearer; placed his elbows on the table:

"We made a mistake... Why did we not try to buy off the guerrilla leaders? For how much? At whatever price they set... They are outlaws and if they had come to see some bags of gold, they would have left us in tranquility... we would have even offered them prominent jobs. What do you think about it?"

"We have tried that form, too".

"You have, have you?"

"On four occasions."

"And we have offered large sums, especially, to Sali Murat..."

"And they have refused it, eh?"

"Not only have they refused but they have also threatened the go-between, warning him that if he ever dared to make such proposals he would risk his head".

There was a knock on the door. The General rose and went to his desk, stretched his neck to fit the collar of his jacket and took a serious posture. He ordered the man to enter, and the officer in charge said that an Albanian insisted on entering to see the General by all manner of means.

"I loathe seeing them!" the General said.

"He may be one of our agents!" the colonel butted in.

"I loathe to see them, too!"

"Without them, our life would be at stake..."

The General did not want to prolong his discussion with him. He knew the man before him. "How can I match him?"

"Let him in!" the General ordered.

The two men kept silent. Each one brewed his own thoughts in within him. It was up to the colonel to persuade the General that General Ferrero's instructions were to show magnanimity, to draw the people nearer to them and even to distribute free food to some schools. And even to distribute free quinine pills especially now in summer when malaria wrought havoc. While General Piacentini looked askance at the colonel and his suspicion of him grew when their eyes met.

Mehmet Selimi stepped into the room. He held his body erect and his cap cocked to one side. His mustache was twisted at the top and he twisted it again before entering and then again as soon as he stepped into the room. This gesture was a further cause to irritate General Piacentini.

"My name is Mehmet Selimi..."

"Parlate Italiano?" the colonel asked.

"I am Mehmet Selimi from Mallkeqi and came here..."

"Non parlate Italiano?" the colonel asked him again and signaled him to wait. He rose, opened the door and spoke in his language. Mehmet did not understand what he was after. Very soon a man in civil clothes entered. He spoke Albanian, and said to Mehmet to speak slower so he could translate it for the General.

"O.K. Are you an Albanian?"

"That's of no importance." the interpreter answered.

"Of no importance, you say?... But then, what is of importance according to you? I want to know, man, are you an Albanian or an Italian?"

The interpreter told the two high ranking officers what words had been exchanged between him and Mehmet. Then the General spoke and the interpreter transmitted his words to Mehmet and Mehmet's words to the General.

"Here is the Italian Command; What are you here for?"

"I am Mehmet Selimi from Mallkeqi charged with handing you an ultimatum."

"Who has given you the ultimatum?" the General asked.

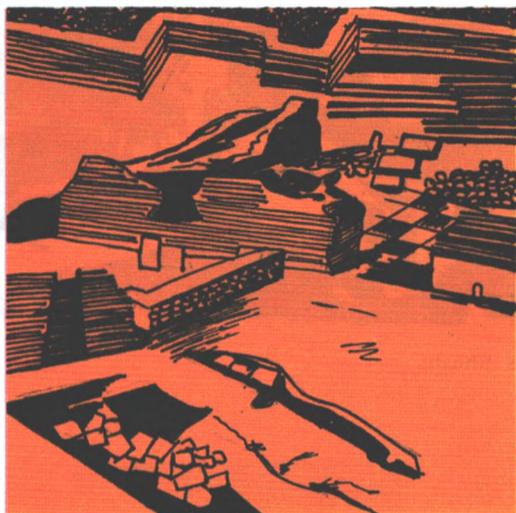
"The Albanian people!" Mehmet replied.

"Hand it to me!" the General said and rose, extremely irritated.

"That's what I have come here for" Mehmet replied sticking his hand into the inner pocket of his gold braided vest and pulling out a closed envelop which he handed to General Piacentini.

While Piacentini opened the envelop and began reading the ultimatum written in two languages, Albanian and Italian, Mehmet pulled out his tobacco pouch, rolled a cigarette and then applied a piece of punk to his flint and started kindling it.

Illustrations by Niko Progri.

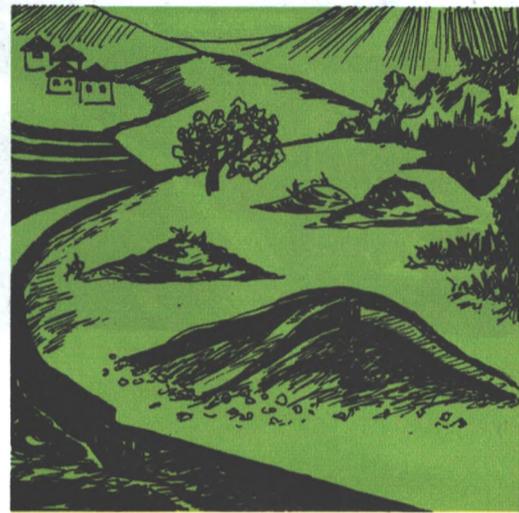
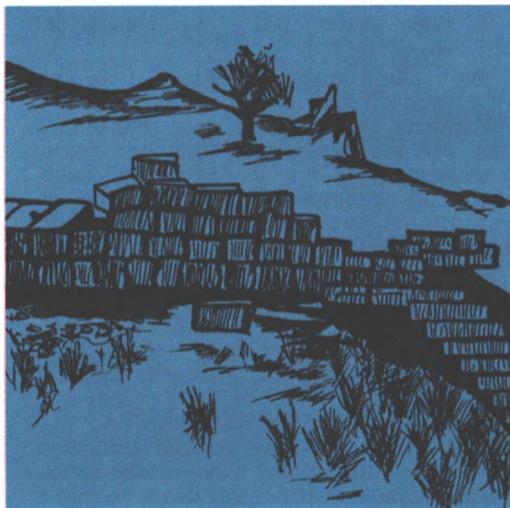


The Durrës Amphitheatre

It is known from archaeological data that, during the reign of Emperor Hadrian (117-138) in Durrës there were built the aqueduct and a number of other projects. Apparently the construction of the amphitheatre must have begun at this time. Structurally, it comprises three principal sections: the radial and elliptical walls and the staircase. The materials used for its construction are the usual ones namely, bricks, lime and sand. Most of the stones may have been taken from the ancient city's encircling walls.

Illyria's Largest Cities

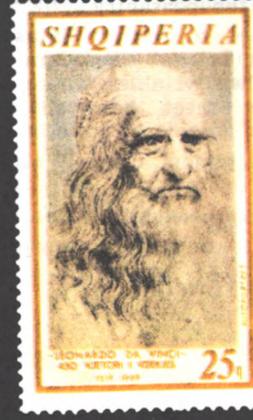
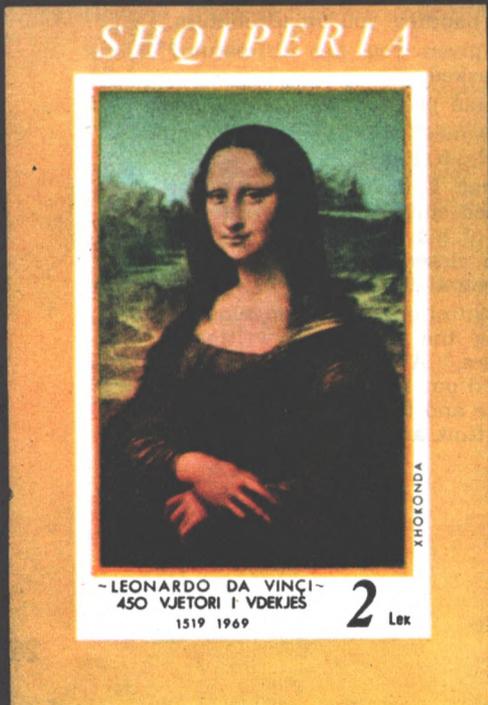
At the climax of their prosperity, the Illyrians — the ancestors of present-day Albanians — built a number of cities. Those cities were real urban production centers, the relations in production being those of the slave system. The largest Illyrian cities were Shkodra — the capital of the Ardiaean state, Amantia (situated in a mountain area of present-day Vlora) built on the terraces of hillsides where an ancient stadium has been discovered, Bylis the remains of which are to be found in Gradishta-Hekal of today's Mallakastër. Dimali — an Illyrian city in Kretina of Berat, Antigonea and Feinike-Finiqi of Delvina — which has been described by an ancient historian as the richest, strongest and the best fortified city of Epirus.



Where History Remains Silent

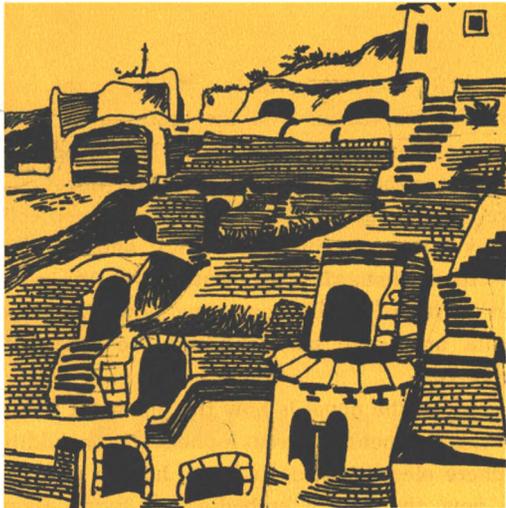
Archaeology begins to speak where history remains silent. The historical data about Illyrians are scarce, that is why history is relying on archaeology which during the post-liberation years, has made and is making a major contribution in this respect.

Like other peoples the Illyrians too had their rites. They are known to have used the rite of burial in tombs. The Illyrians believed in life after death, hence their care to place in the tomb various equipment of the dead, particularly his weapons, ornaments and other things. It is precisely these findings that add to the scientific value and interest of these tombs. Our country is very rich in such tombs. The first testimony to this were the excavations made on the Mati Valley where about 70 tombs were unearthed. They threw light on the Illyrian tribe of Pirusts, on their war-like character, economic development etc.



Philately

New Postage Stamp Issues



Public Baths — Testify to the Ancient Civilization

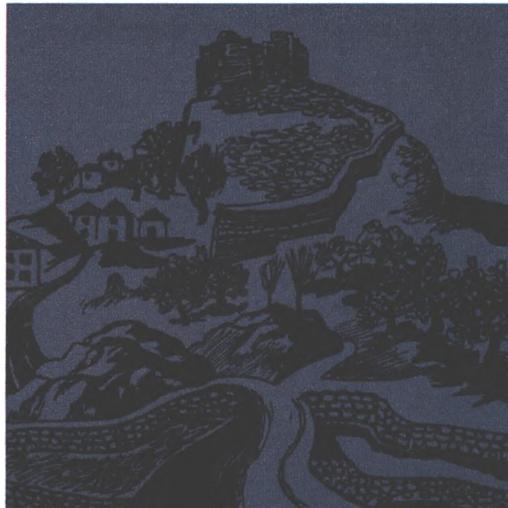
Public baths are one of the indication of urban development and express the cultural level of a country.

The tradition of the building of hygienic baths and hot spring baths is well-known in Albania since ancient times. Of this speaks the discovery of the ancient public baths in Durrës and Bradashed (Elbasan) constructed in the early centuries of our era. This tradition was further carried on. We see baths preserved from the old times in the cities of Tirana, Elbasan, Shkodra, Kruja, Gjirokastra, Çorovoda and Lezha.

The public baths were mainly built in the center of the cities or at the cross-roads, near inns creating with the other buildings around an attractive architectural ensemble.

The Capital's Archaeological Ring

A number of ancient sites have been discovered on the hills around Tirana. Such are the Illyrian castle and settlement of Vila, near the Petrela Village, that of Dores near the village of Preza, and that of Zgerdheshi in Fushë-Kruja. The fortresses of Petrela, Tujani, Dajti, Ndroqi, Lalmi and Preza — all in the vicinity of Tirana, belong to more recent times — to the Middle Ages. Traces of ancient rural centers were also those discovered in Valias, Yzberish, the Ndroqi locality, Shtish-Tafina, Kashar as well as on the hills surrounding our capital city. Among the findings are earthenware, ornaments, grave stones, remains of houses etc. . . . Of special interest is the discovery of a vineyard on the Tirana hillsides while work was going in opening up new land and planting a new vineyard.



Shtjefen Gjecov's Walking-Stick

In the Museum of Shkodra they keep Shtjefen Gjecov's walking-stick. Shtjefen Gjecov (1874-1929) was an archaeologist, ethnographer, folklorist and a dauntless patriot. His walking-stick resembles a snake whose body winds along it, its head being carved on the handle.

Inscribed on the stick one can read all of Gjecov's itinerary in search of "Lek Dukagjini Canon" the code of all the customs in power in the mountainous regions of the north up to the day of Albania's liberation and the establishment to people's state power. Gjecov's walking-stick is a sort of biography; it is a bit of history. On the handle one reads 1896-1920 which signifies that period when Shtjefen Gjecov went all around Albania in order to gather and study the material and spiritual culture of his people. About twenty-five names of the regions he travelled are clearly written on the stick.

In Albanian philately, art themes have been treated as far back as 1967. Postage stamps have been issued every year bearing reproductions of the best productions of our paintings, of the mosaics of antiquity unearthed in our country from the ancient Illyrian dwelling places as well as reproductions of Albanian sculpture.

In addition, there have been issued also reproductions of world art like the issue devoted to the 450 anniversary of the death of Leonardo Da Vinci. The commemorative issue is made up of five stamps and a block, representing the reproduction of the famous painting *Giaconda* in polychrome kept in the museum of the Louvre (France). While stamps reproduce Leonardo's famous "self-portrait's," "The white lily" and the "portrait of the noble woman" — all worked in carbon. Another stamp bears "Beatrice's portrait" in oil, stamped in polychrome and the fifth stamp represents the sketch of a helicopter designed by the ingenious Leonardo.

In the same way, a commemorative set was issued on Beethoven's 200th anniversary. The series of 6 stamps presents 4 portraits of Beethoven, the house where Beethoven was born and a scene from the opera *Fidelia*.

Both of these issues have their edges notched at 12½, while the *Giaconda* block is printed on sheets not indented 95 × 65.



"A CHRONICLE IN STONE"



"A Chronicle in Stone" is the recent novel by Ismail Kadare, author of "The General of the Dead Army" and of "The Castle", the well-known Albanian poet and publicist.

The years 1943-44. War time. A child who sees old and young people round about him, who sees the war approaching, who, unable to understand it through to the end, feels the approach of a new world. This child speaks of his native town, an ancient Albanian town which cannot be thought of without its stone, its stronghold and the inroads of foreign invaders made into it. The child's story chronicle of an historical moment for the Albanian people when history is prepared to take not an ordinary step but a leap and a cataclysmal overthrow in time. This overthrow can be brought about only by revolution. And our people had the power to do it. This is way the author returns to the enlargement of the idea of the vitality of our people, an idea which dominates sofar Ismail Kadare's works in order to show that the moment chosen was an objective necessity.

The movement of stone and time, of centuries, is refracted in the world of people, in the personages of the novel to their life and death, to their joys and worries, to their hopes and disappointments, to their aspirations to become part and parcel of the world at large and not its victim,

to the inborn intelligence of the rank and file, to the tragic and the comic, to the serious and the grotesque. Behind this world of men there always stands the iron logic of the class struggle, the dynamics of history. The novel gives a real picture of the years 1943-44 not in their objective historical outlay but in the people's mental and emotional synthesis. In these thoughts and emotions, in the people viewed as an entity of generations, live now the snipers of the guerrilla units, the partisans and the son of the people Enver Hoxha.

The key point of the novel is how the historical thought is coming at this moment of great upheaval. In addition to the atmosphere electrified in air, land, human mind and emotion, the new thought is embodied in living figures who have "emerged" from that old work, the heritage of centuries, but who no longer belong to it, who have become "strange" but not alien to that world. Their thoughts and emotions are those of the young who bedevil centuries.

A book of rich material from life, a work of prose filled with associations, hyperbolas, parallelism, contrasts, personages placed in dramatic and environmental situations, just as the war itself is, with powerful epics and lyrics; the living rhythm of a work of prose which conceives life in continuous movement. "The Chronicle in Stone" is a further contribution to Albanian fiction.



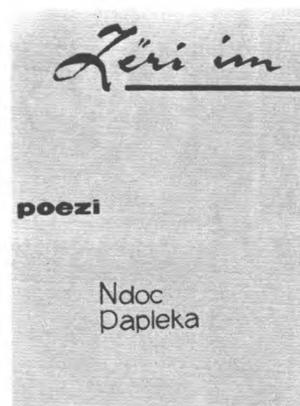
"Tracks in Time"

In present-day Albanian letters there are still not enough works devoted directly to the adolescent age. "Tracks in Time", a novel by Agim Cerga, one of the writers of prose formed during the last decade, is a book filled not only with young personages but also with a youthful atmosphere whose source lies in the knowledge of that which is essential in the life of the younger generation in Albania: their open horizons, wide participation in social life, all-round formation and education as a major force who, while taking active part in building socialism, raise also their personality and their spiritual world to the level of the time.

For some time Agim Cerga has served as a correspondent of the "Zëri i Rinisë" ("The Voice of Youth") Newspaper at the work site of the Regozhina-Fier Railroad which

our youth began and finished as a voluntary mass action of their own.

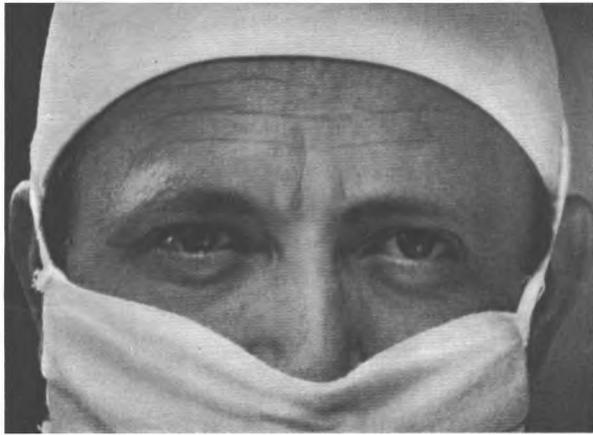
"To this mass action" the writer says in an interview granted to the correspondent of the literary periodical "Drita," there come the young who, for me, are the most interesting, imbued with powerful passions striving to assert their personality, eager to realize something tangible in their life, alive, heroic. . ." It is precisely these features of the present-day Albanian youth that make up the leit-motif of this novel. The energies and vigour of Youth find a vantage ground to be manifested at work, in relations based on the spirit of collectivism and solidarity, of love and respect for their fellow men. It is at work that the young assert their personality and the main interest of the prose of this novel lies at this process. By certain light lines of lyricism, the author creates special personages, not yet strong types for their are still in the making and that's why his attention is drawn more to certain aspects of the character and temperament of youth.



"Zeri Im" ("My Voice")

Ndoc Papeleka is most likely the best gifted poet of the Albanian younger generation. His work "My Voice", is a young voice in the new Albanian poetry, giving the echo of the rich mental and spiritual life of the present Albanian youth always engaged in living social actions. The poet's lines in concrete figures and dynamic rhythm reflect both the contemporary concern for progress and further revolutionization of life and the national poetic tradition ranging from Migjeni before the war to the best Albanian poets of the 60's. The young poet gets his inspiration from his mountaineer and student contemporaries, from the beauti-

ful girls he catches sight of, from the bitter past of the oppressed mountaineer, from the popular rejoicing when meeting our leader. The voice that comes out of his writings is pathetic and optimistic at the same time. Whether by quiet poetic diction or by antithesis, he inserts into his poems the organic popular spirit. He looks like a young mountaineer who, having pursued and completed his studies at the university, enjoys upholding the new and crushing the old order of things. Far from being moralizing, the poetic thought of his lines is expressed in concrete images or the underlying poetic text he creates, a thing which is the merit of his individuality, in the making. His poetic thought and emotion are as individual as they are social and national. It is, thus, an integral and new part of the best Albanian poetic genius of the last decades.



The doctor Tahir Duro during an operation.
Photo by Agron Kurti

He Regained the Power of Speech

"O, now I feel very well!" He uttered these words distinctly. His pronunciation was normal. And these were the first words Xhafer Kadiu pronounced after 17 years of muteness. Of course, the pronunciation of these words impressed those around him. But more deeply impressed was the 35-year-old worker who was surprised to hear his own voice after 17 years, since he had had an accident that had fractured his lower jaw.

Last year Xhafer Kadiu came to one of the hospitals of the Capital. Putting his trust in our men of medicinal science he applied to stomatologist Tahir Duro. A rare case: bilateral ankylosis in the temperamandibular articulation. In the clinics of the hospital a study began on this kind of ankylosis. The conclusion was reached that only a surgical intervention might save the patient. The specialists are aware of the fact that such an operation is a very complicated one. But stomatologist Tahir Duro, with courage and confidence in his ability and the direct assistance of his colleagues, undertook to make this operation. The operation took seven hours and twenty minutes. He cut off a bony outgrowth 2.5 cm thick. They patient's mouth opened up to 2 cm. It was necessary to make another operation on the left side where the broken arch prevented articulation. So far so good. Now it was necessary to transplant a piece of bone 12 cm in size from the seventh rib on the lower jaw. This problem was also successfully solved by the gifted physician assistant by the physicians Luan Guva, Besnik Budo and narcotizer Mihallaq Prifti.

"Thank you, doctor, thanks to all of you". . . workman Xhafer Kadiu said the morning he left the hospital. His lips shivered somewhat and his enunciation was not it had been before. But all realized that this was due to his emotion; to the deep feeling of gratitude and respect to all those who enabled him to express in words what he felt in his innermost.

Three Fifths of the Population Are Under 30 Years of Age

Albania stands out for its high birth-rate. The birth-rate in our country today is 35 for every 1,000 inhabitants. The death-rate per capita of population is lower than the average for all Europe (7.5 per thousand of population). In 1970 the population of the People's Republic of Albania was 2,145,600. Three fifths of the population have been born during the years of People's State Power, hence they are under 30 years of age. Meanwhile, as a result of low mortality the average span of life has been prolonged from 38 years during the prewar days to 68 years now. A higher birth-rate has brought about an increase in the specific weight of the population for work. This important index will be further improved in the days to come since the percentage of the population of young age is continually on the rise.

The number of different public health institutions today is more than 1,400 as against 51 in 1938. There are also hundreds of maternity homes and wards with 164 times as many beds as before the war. As compared with 1960 the number of consulting stations today has increased 24-fold. Work is going on in our country to provide every village with its own maternity home. The number of midwives has also increased 4-fold as compared with 1960 and will further increase this year. Assistance given by the State to mothers as well as its contribution for the maintenance of children in nurseries and kindergartens have also been increased.

A Kindergarten at Every Village



A kindergarten at Laçi.

During the period of the 5th Five-Year Plan, the network of pre-school institutions will be greatly extended especially in the rural areas of the country. In 1970 our kindergartens were attended by 47,000 children while by the end of 1975 this figure will be doubled.

During the period of the 5th Five-Year Plan every village will have its own kindergarten. In addition to the work of raising the cultural level and pedagogical qualification of the educators of these kindergartens, there will be published the pre-school pedagogical and psychological textbooks as well as the teaching methods used for different subjects in these institutions. Handbooks will also be printed to help the educators in teaching songs, games, dances and other pastime activities with children.

Opening a kindergarten at every village will create greater opportunities for village women to raise their cultural and educational level and take more active part in a wider range of jobs.

A Museum at Every Village



At the Petrela Village Museum,
Tirana District.

Every village in Albania will have its own museum. This step has been taken in order to create favourable conditions for collecting, keeping and popularizing every material which throws light on the events of the struggle the Albanian people have waged for freedom.

From 1970 to this day, museums have been set up at 12,000 villages which make up half of the villages of the country. These museums have been set up mainly in those houses which have served as headquarters of the National Liberation War, in the house of the Heroes or Martyrs of the People, in schools or in buildings specially put up for this purpose.

These institutions have been set up by the cooperative peasants themselves. A large contribution to fitting them up has been rendered by the veterans of the struggle and the teachers and other individuals who have enriched them with valuable objects and memoirs.

The museums have been visited by the cooperative peasants who get acquainted with the history of the village as well as with the brilliant patriotic traditions of the whole district.



“La Bohème” on the Stage at the Opera Theater of Tirana

“La Bohème” by Italian composer Giacomo Puccini continues to be put on the stage at the Opera and Ballet Theater of Tirana.

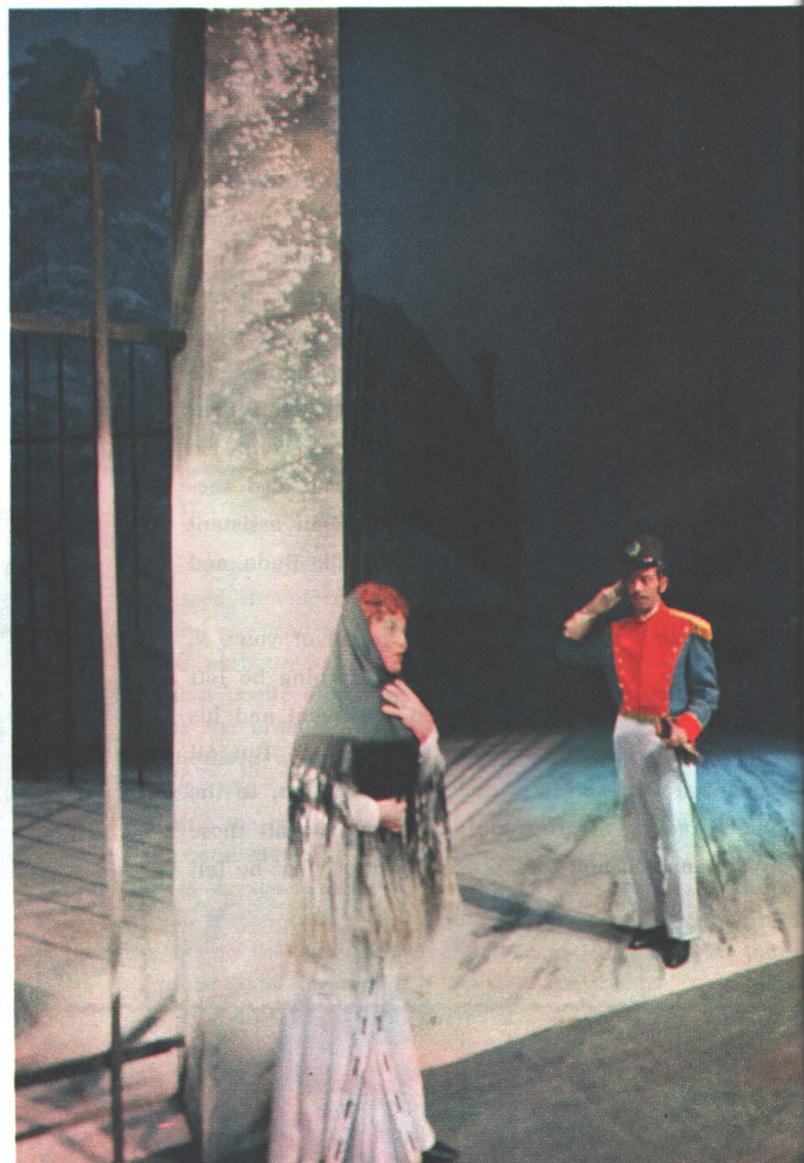
Puccini is ill at ease about the plight of the heroes of the rank and file in bourgeois society. He writes with sympathy about their worries and pangs, their quest for happiness in a society where there can be no happiness for them. The troupe of the Opera and Ballet Theater of Tirana tries to bring out this idea of the composer.

Merited artist Rifat Teqja who directs the orchestra interprets aright the musical dramaturgy of the score, both as regards the lyrical as well as the tragical emotions and directs the ensemble with skill.

Tenor Gaço Çako — merited artist — interprets the role of Rudolph. He gives a forceful portrait of his hero both through his brilliant voice and persuasive scenic motions.

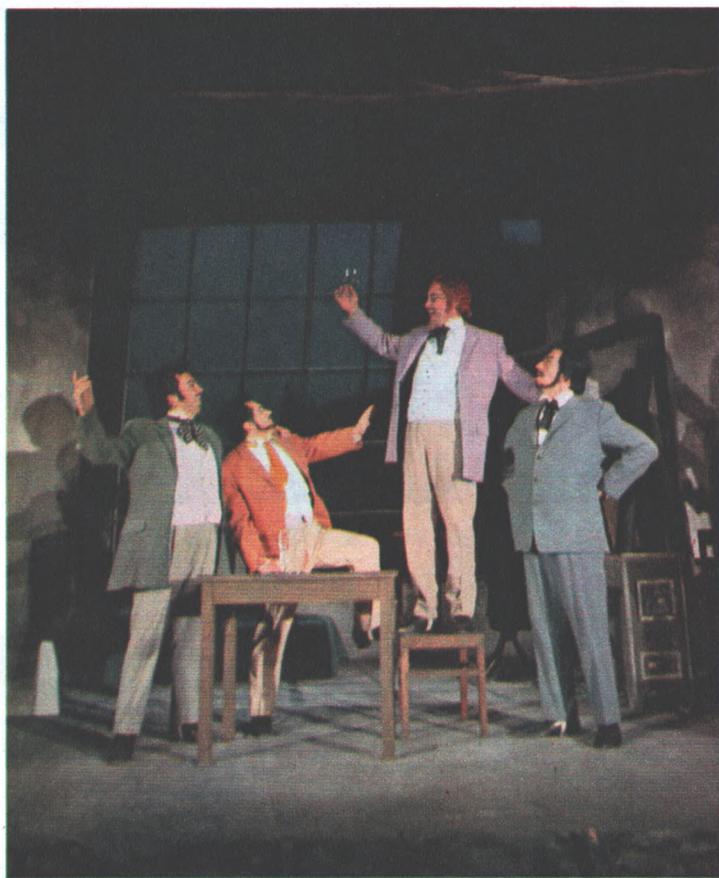
From different angles of vision, the soprano Nina Mula and Leonora Pejo have played the role of Mimi. While the former gives rather a lyrical-psychological portrait of the heroine, the young singer L. Pejo gives a stronger interpretation of the idea of the drama under all situations, in the intimate as well as the broad scenes.

The portraits of the other heroes are interpreted by artists R. Kovaçi, B. Spahiu, Gj. Athanas, K. Tinko, L. Papa, M. Mullaj. The producer is L. Gurakuqi, for the decor Shaban Hysa who has drawn a laconic decor which constitutes an active element in creating spectacular emotions.





Snapshots from the opera "La Boheme".
Photos by S. Xhillari.



Festival of the Shkodra folk song. In the picture: The singer Naile Hoxha.

The Shkodra Folk Songs

The Shkodra folk songs are very popular and sung far and wide in our country. They stand out for their rich lyricism, humour and sweet melodies. In order to keep them live and fresh in our days and among our younger generation, the Shkodra House of Culture and popular recreation organized a series of concerts in which singers of these songs competed.

Participating in these concerts, which were followed with keen interest by the audience, were many young singers from the ranks of the pioneers, of our young pioneers, working, school and other youth. Many veteran singers of folk songs were invited to sing at these concerts "hors de concours".

The 21 songs sung at these concerts were accompanied by the orchestra of the house of culture and public recreation.

During these concerts one could notice the good work done in elaborating these songs and adding a new note of optimism to them.

The first prize at these concerts was awarded to young songstress Valdete Hoxha.



①



③



②

SPORTS

- ① Snapshot from the football match between our teams "Partizani" and "Dinamo".
- ② 1 to 0 for the "Dinamo" team.
- ③ In the final for the Basketball National Championship "Partizani" defeated "17 Nëndori" team.

Correlation with 350 Public Libraries Abroad

Our correspondent learnt that our National Library has widely extended its relations with the public libraries, research institutions and scholars of the other countries these recent years. The exchange of books and periodicals has greatly increased on the basis of the principle of mutual interest and advantage. So has increased also the borrowing of books, be they in microfilm or xerography, which treat technological and scientific topics.

Whereas before liberation our National Library possessed a limited number of publications and maintained no relations with foreign institutions, now it corresponds in various forms with more than 350 central and university libraries, research and other institutions in more than 70 countries and sends 750 subscriptions to periodicals in Albanian to foreign libraries. It also maintains correspondence with nearly 70 eminent Albanologists and scholars in 16 different countries.

Through the direct contacts it has established with the public libraries and research institutions abroad it has recently succeeded in extending its relations with them. Thus, during the current year, it has signed two-partite agreements to receive 827 periodicals in foreign languages. Our National Library receives an average of about 3,000 volumes a year on the basis of exchange from the libraries abroad.

The objective of carrying out these mutual exchanges has always been to provide our readers, engineers, physicians, scholars innovators and rationalizers with as many reference books on mainly technological and scientific subjects as possible.

Careful Work is being done by the collective of this library in order to meet the growing needs of the foreign research institutions and scholars for information about the economic and cultural development of our new socialist Albania and of the past history of our people.

Our National Library has greatly enriched its fund of publications of Albanian and Balkanological nature. Efforts have been exerted to draw valuable publications regarding the past of our country from foreign libraries. Thus, in recent years we have brought from abroad hundreds of books dedicated to our National Hero Gjergj Kastrioti, alias, Scanderbeg as well as other publications.

In the National Library of Tirana.



NEW ALBANIA

1972
2

YEAR XXVI

IN THIS ISSUE:

Luan Dibra — "Open horizons for physics"	
— Day in day out	4
Priamo Bollani — Notes on the 5th Five-Year Plan	5
Sahban Vani — The Cooperative members discuss their problems	8
Prof. Androkli Kostallari — The Southern Illyrians and the origin of the Albanians in the light of a new scientific synthesis	12
— At the construction sites	14
Robert Shvare — Jan Myrdal on Albania	16
Andon Kuqali — The making of an artist	18
Mefail Pupuleku — The trade union organization at the Oil Refinery	20
Piro Naçi — The young pioneers at their palace (Photoreportage)	22
— The editor's mail bag	24
Dhimitër Fullani — Asdreni's centenary	25
Petro Marko — "The ultimatum"	28
— Mosaics	30
— New postage stamps	30
— Literary corner	32
— "La Bohème"	34
— Correlation with 350 public libraries abroad	37

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