

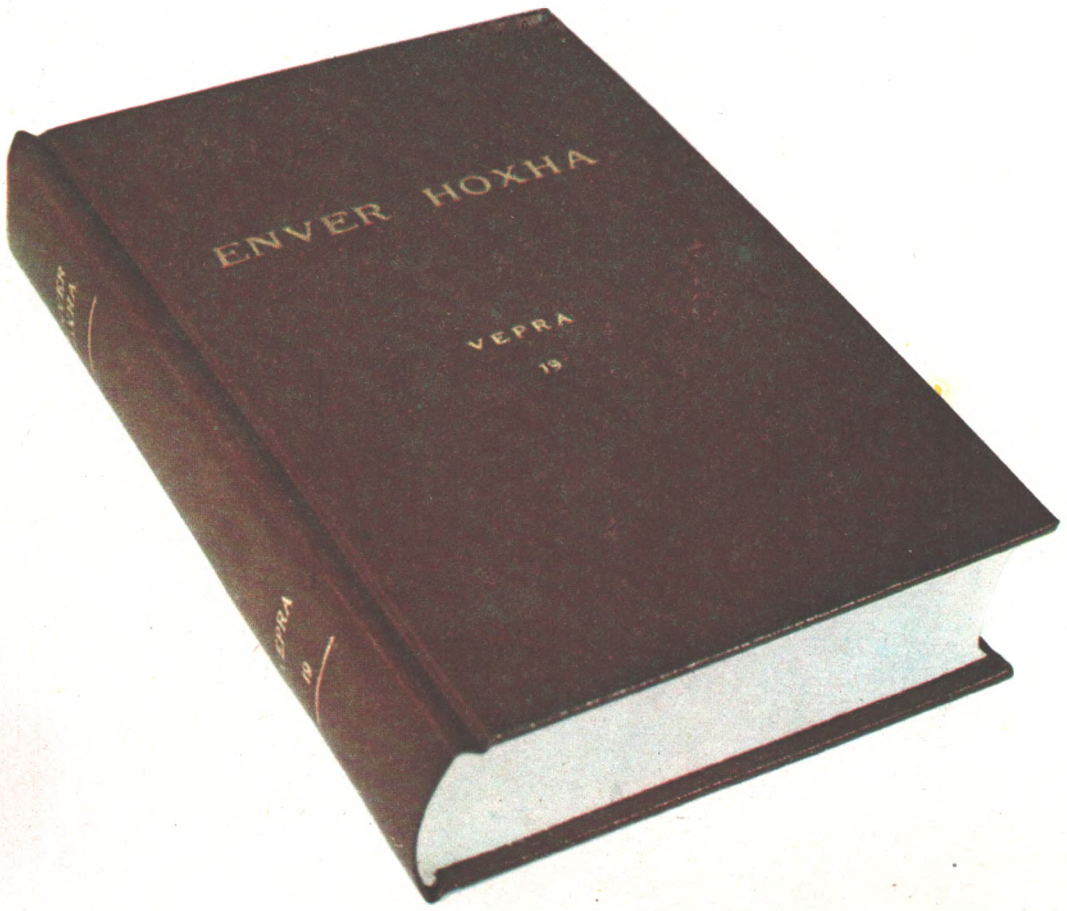






# NEW ALBANIA

6
1975




# VOLUME 19 OF THE WORKS OF COMRADE ENVER HOXHA

Volume 19 of the works of comrade Enver Hoxha has just come off the press. Most of the documents of this volume are published for the first time and are of special importance. They are of the period from June to December 1960. This is a very complicated period when profound ideological and political differences had arisen in the international communist movement and in the relations among certain parties. As is stressed in the preface to this volume, at this time the Party of Labor of Albania had to take decisions of special responsibility and to stand up openly before the whole international communist movement to defend Marxism-Leninism from the new and dangerous trend which was being crystalized within its ranks, namely, Khruschevite revisionism.

The main space in this volume is devoted to the documents in which the strategic and tactical line of the Party of Labor of Albania was worked out against the spread of modern revisionism and, especially, against the anti-Marxist divisive activity of the Soviet leadership headed by Khruschev. Up to that time the Party of Labor of Albania had informed the Soviet leadership of its opposition and reservations about a series of incorrect theses and activities. But facts showed that the Khruschev group was stubbornly, continuing on a wrong course fraught with danger for the international communist and workers' movement, a thing which was particularly clear in its organisation behind the scenes at the Bucharest Meeting in June 1960. This volume gives a clear picture of the consistent struggle waged by the Party of Labor of Albania both at the Bucharest Meeting as well as the Moscow Meeting of 81 parties in November 1960. At Bucharest, the Party of Labor of Albania refused to pass judgment on the alleged mistakes of the Communist Party of China or to condemn it on the basis of materials full of slanderous accusations trumped up by the Soviet leadership without allowing the Communist Party of China the time and possibility to read this material and present its own views. At the Moscow Meeting, our Party voiced its views with revolutionary courage and before international communism, openly criticised the wrong line of the Soviet leadership on a series of major issues of principle. The Party of Labor of Albania did not made any concessions on principles and refused to follow the revisionist line of the Khruschev group. A series of documents published in this volume, including reports, speeches, discussions and talks, are vivid testimony to this. Also published in this volume are a number of radiograms and letters sent from Tirana to Bucharest, Moscow, Peking, and New York, which carried the directive and revolutionary line of the Party of Labor of Albania.

The ideological struggle between the Party of Labor of Albania and the Soviet leadership became more abrasive after the Bucharest Meeting when the Khruschev group launched a severe attack on the Party of Labor of Albania to force it to submit and follow the revisionist line. At first, the Khruschev group used two main methods, threats and demagogy. But it also acted through the Soviet Embassy in Tirana which carried on hostile and diversionist activity against the Party of Labor of Albania and its leadership. The Khruschevite Soviet leaders tried «to take the castle from within» but their attempts to make our Party adopt a revisionist line failed. The materials of this volume bring to light not only the activity of our external enemies but also that of the internal enemies, and the class struggle which the Party of Labor of Albania waged against them to defend its steel-like unity, its crystal-clear line, and the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

This volume contains comrade Enver Hoxha's reports, speeches and contributions to the discussion at the four plenums of the CC during the second half of 1960, as well as his letters addressed to the Party branches. There are also a number of his contributions to the discussions in the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the Central Committee. These materials deal with problems to do with raising the leading role of the Party, with the ever greater strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat, with the further tempering of the unity of the people around the Party, with its revolutionary education, political and ideological vigilance, and fighting readiness to defend the Homeland. The time required further enlivenment of the work of the Party and its uninterrupted revolutionization.

The works of volume 19 constitute a valuable contribution to the revolutionary theory and practice of our Party, in the great treasury of Marxism-Leninism.

# NOVEMBER 29TH - THE DAY CROWNING THE GREAT VICTORY

Albania won its independence on November 28, 1912, following five centuries of Ottoman occupation. But before it had completed thirty years as an independent state, it fell prey to the Italian fascists on April 7, 1939.

Although betrayed by the ruling clique, who opened the way to Italian fascism, the Albanian people met the aggressors with armed resistance. Bloody battles were waged at the ports of Durrës, Vlora, Saranda and Shëngjin. The fascists paid in blood for even the first steps they took on Albanian soil. But this was only a spontaneous resistance. The king fled almost before Mussolini's black shirts had really landed. The government was in disarray. The army was left without officers, without weapons and ammunition. The events of April 1939 profoundly shook the Albanian people. Their very existence was at stake. The fascists aimed to turn Albania into an Italian province. Salvation could not be expected from the king, from the bougeoisie or from any external power. It was the people themselves who had to solve this vital issue. In the first place a leadership for action was called for. And they found this leadership among the communists. Two years after the invasion, on November 8, 1941, to be precise, the Communist Party of Albania was founded, underground, in the capital, Tirana. Although newly set up and numbering only 200 members at that time, the Party took upon itself the great historic task of leading the Anti-fascist National-liberation War. And it accomplished this task with success. Comrade Enver Hoxha, who was then only 33 years of age, as elected to the learder-ship of the Party, at the head of its Central Committee.

The National-liberation War passed through several stages. The Party was able to combine the political struggle with the fighting activity of the masses in a masterly manner. Throughout the country, the Party set up its organizations as staffs of the war against the invaders. First and foremost it was necessary to expose the real features of fascism, to unmask its designs for the elimination of Albanian people. And the traitors to the country, who had placed themselves in the service of fascism, had to be exposed along with the invaders. This the Party did by utilizing all the legal and illegal forms and possibilities.

Parallel with the political struggle, the armed struggle was organized and extended further. The guerrilla units in cities were the nuclei of that powerful army, which, together with the people would take the country to complete emancipation. From the guerrilla units the army «developed to partisan and volunteer çeta, to battalions, groups, shock brigades, up to divisions and army corps.

The first victories of the liberation war placed on the agenda the question of uniting the people in a single front without distinction as to class, political beliefs, religion or region. For this purpose in the liberated zone of Peza (southwest of Tirana), what is known as «The Albanian National-liberation Conference» was organized. The Conference was organized on the initiative of the Communist Party, and nationalists of various trends took part in it. In the political platform submitted by the Communist Party and approved by the Conference, a number of fundamental issues were raised about the anti-fascist war, such as the uncompromising fight against the invaders; the unity of the people would be realized only in the fight; the creation of the National-liberation Anti-fascist front; the setting up everywhere of national-liberation councils as organs of the unification and mobilization of the people in the war and as organs of the People's State Power, and so on.

The fascist invaders with all the means in their power strove to stamp out the national-liberation movement. They perpetrated monstrous massacres. The jails and concentration camps were filled with patriots. The fascist army launched a wide range of military operations in various liberated zones like Peza, Mallakastra, Dibra and Skrapar. They burned and destroyed whole villages. However they failed to achieve their objective. On the contrary, the national-liberation war continued to develop towards the people's general uprising. On July 10, 1943, the General Staff of the National-liberation Army was set up. One month later saw the creation of the First Shock Brigade.

After the capitulation of the Italian fascists in September 1943, their place was occupied by the Hitlerite troops who attacked Albania from all directions. The new invaders were met with armed resistance at Barmash, Konispol, Vlora, in the Tirana and Dibra districts and everywhere. No demagogy of the enemy could weaken the fighting will and determination of the people. Some traitor organizations, which the enemy tried to exploit to deceive the people, were forced to show their real features as organizations in the service of the Hitlerite invaders. With a view to crushing the National-liberation Army, the Hitlerites organized major offensives with the forces of two army corps (the 21st and 22nd) during the whole winter of 1943-44. Nevertheless, the National-liberation Army, supported by the people and guided by its General Staff, emerged stronger from the heat of battle. By spring 1944, it had seven shock brigades in addition to tens of battalions and partisan groups.

In May, as a result of the triumph of the spring offensive of the liberation army, it became possible to hold the First Anti-fascist National-liberation Congress in the liberated town of Përmet. The Congress was attended by delegates elected from all parts of Albania, both the liberated and the unliberated zones. The Congress took decisions of major historical importance. It elected the Anti-fascist National-liberation General Council as the supreme Legislative and Executive body in Albania, while it elected the Anti-fascist National-liberation Committee with the attributes of a provisional People's Democratic Government.

The Congress decided that «the new popular democratic Albania» must be built in accordance with the wishes of the people... that exking Ahmed Zog would be prohibited from returning to Albania; that no other government that might be set up within or outside the country against the wishes of the Albanian people would be recognized; that the war against the Hitlerite invaders and traitors to the country would be intensified until they had been completely destroyed and the people's democratic state power had been established throughout the country. The Congress decided, at the same time, to annul all the political and economic agreements which Zog's government had concluded with foreign states. The Congress expressed the profound gratitude of the Albanian people towards Red Army under Stalin and all the forces which fought against fascism.

The Hitlerites launched another large-scale operation all through Albania in June 1944, but tasted the bitterness of defeat. Atfer this operation they were driven back into their garrisons in cities and fortified points, a target of the repeated attacks of the National-liberation Army. The National-liberation Army freed extensive zones including some cities. The First Division advanced into the zones of Central Albania, completely upsetting the plans of the enemy. The Anti-fascist National-liberation Committee held its second meeting in the liberated city of Berat. At this meeting it was decided to turn the Antifascist National-liberation committee into the **Democratic Government of Albania**. The biggest battle at this stage of the war was the battle to liberate Tirana. After 19 days of bloody fighting, the partisan brigades wiped out the remnants of the defeated Hitlerite troops. Twelve day later, on November 29, 1944, with the liberation of the city of Shkodra, the liberation of the whole country was completed. Thus, the legendary anti-fascist national liberation war of our people was crowned with complete victory. Albania was liberated in its entirety by its own sons and daughters, by its National-liberation Army, created, educated, and led by the Communist Party of Albania, headed by comrade Enver Hoxha.

What was the balance sheet of this heroic war?

Our people of about a million inhabitants nailed down in the war more than fifteen Italian and German divisions, and put out of action about seventy thousand enemies killed, wounded or captured. As an active participant of the anti-fascist coalition, Albania carried a relatively heavy burden on its shoulders. During the war seven hundred thousand fascist soldiers trampled the twenty-eight thousand square kilometers of Albanian soil, inflicting terrible damage on the people. Albania comes near the top of the list in losses of lives and, especially, in the field of the economy. Twenty-eight thousand martyrs fell in battle and about twelve thousand were left invalids. 62.475 houses were destroyed, hundreds of thousand of livestock were plundered, agriculture was ruined, the bridges, seaports, mines, electric powerplants, etc. were all blown up.

November 29, 1944, stands as a great day in the annals of our people, as a great historic turning point which marks the anti-fascist victory on one hand, and the beginning of a new stage, the socialist construction of Albania, on the other.

Thirty one years have now gone by since that day. Within three decades our people have built a new socialist Albania. In the encouraging atmosphere which the socialist order creates, the inexhautible energies of our people are constantly on the upsurge. They have established up-to-date socialist industry of many branches like mining, the extraction and processing of oil, the metallurgical, electrical, chemical, textile, and other industries. Agriculture has been placed on a socialist basis and agricultural production has increased more than threefold. In our country all taxes have abolished, the electric reticulation of the whole country has been completed, a broad advanced network of schools has been set up, medical service is free of charge to all the citizens. The system of social insurance has been extended to all the working people of towns and countryside. Culture, the art, and science are developing rapidly. The standard of living of the workers is rising continuously: Along with all this, the defence potential of the country has been strengthened. Today Albania enjoys indisputable authority throughout the world. Under the leadership of its Party of Labour, Albania has become a living example, which demonstrates that when a people fights resolutely for its progress and well-being, it is invincible.

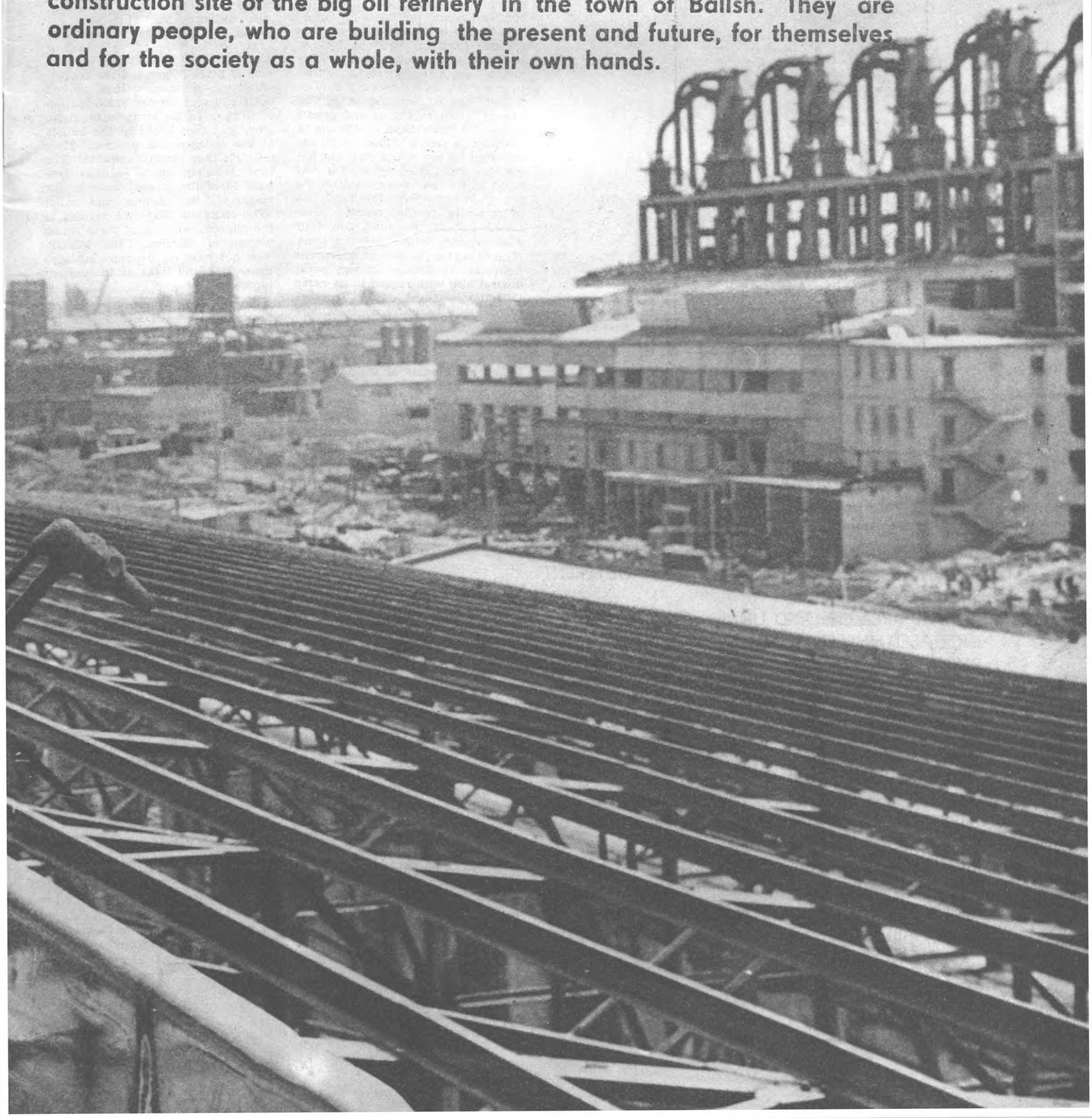
# AT THE HEIGHTS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLANS



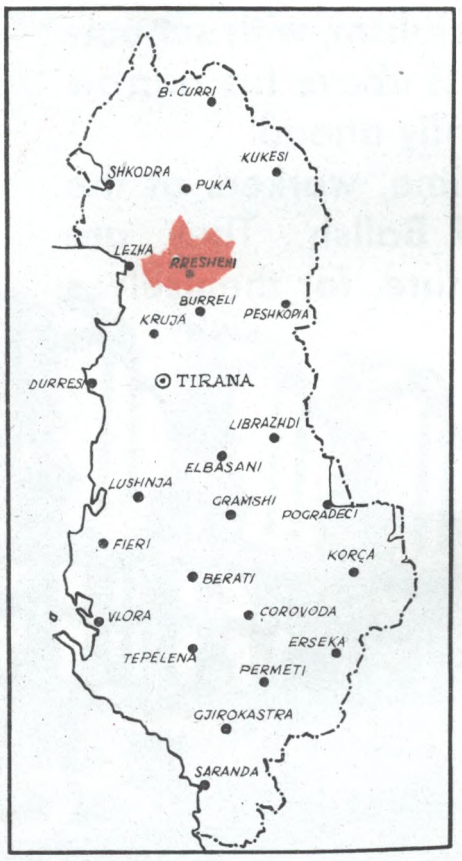
*Photo by: P. KUMI*

The socialist order opened up horizons and raised the Albanian people to new heights. Within a few five-year plan periods, Albania has been transformed from a backward country to one with an advanced economy and a very active political and social life. During the years of People's State Power, a new, multi-branched industry has been built, agriculture has been placed on a socialist basis, socialist science and culture has been developed, the defence potential of the homeland has been strengthened. But among all the achievements, the most important is the formation of the new man, with the revolutionary ideology of socialism, with schooling, a conscious worker who places the general interest above his narrow personal interest and is determined to march constantly ahead.

In this picture you see two young men of our time, workers at the construction site of the big oil refinery in the town of Ballsh. They are ordinary people, who are building the present and future, for themselves and for the society as a whole, with their own hands.



# MIRDITA




MIRDITA, ONCE A BACKWARD MOUNTAIN DISTRICT IN ALBANIA, TODAY PROVIDES OUR HOMELAND WITH 50% OF ITS COPPER ORE, 45% OF ITS BLISTER COPPER, AND 100% OF ITS REFINED COPPER. TODAY THE WORKING CLASS COMPRISES 76,5% OF THE TOTAL WORKING PEOPLE OF THE DIFFERENT SECTORS.

THE AREA OF LAND UNDER CULTIVATION HAS INCREASED THREEFOLD AS COMPARED WITH THE PERIOD BEFORE LIBERATION, WHILE THE PRODUCTION OF BREAD GRAIN IS NEARLY FIVEFOLD.

MIRDITA WITH 30.000 INHABITANTS HAS 58 EIGHT-GRADE SCHOOLS, 5 SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 8.953 PUPILS AND MORE THAN 400 TEACHERS. TODAY THE 8-GRADE SCHOOL OF JUST ONE VILLAGE HAS MORE TEACHERS AND PUPILS THEN THE WHOLE MIRDITA DISTRICT HAD PRIOR TO THE LIBERATION OF THE COUNTRY.

THERE ARE 3 WELL-EQUIPPED HOSPITALS, 8 MATERNITY HOMES, 49 OUT-PATIENT AND CONSULTATION CENTRES. THERE IS A DOCTOR FOR EVERY 750 INHABITANTS.

LIFE EXPECTANCY HAS RISEN FROM 38 YEARS BEFORE LIBERATION TO 70.

IN THE PAST, MIRDITA HAD ONLY ONE NURSE WITH NO HOSPITAL.

SHABAN VANI

Light seems brighter when it cuts through darkness. And we have seen this in one of the districts of our country which bears the name Mirdita. The past left backwardness as the heritage of all Albania, but Mirdita was the symbol of darkness. In the whole district there was not one town or even one factory. It had only one motor road, 20 kilometres long, and one itenerant nurse. In every hundred persons, only 4 or 5 knew how to read and write. The rule of tribal chieftains and priests had cast a black cloak on the life of the Mirdita people. Blood feuds, encouraged by the rulers, wrought havoc. No day passed by without the blood of its sons being shed on the soil of Mirdita. Over this land rich in minerals, people roamed barefooted, hungry, dreaming. And they died together with their dreams. Mirdita was a paradox in the twentieth century Europe. It was paradoxical also with regard to its name (Mirdita = Good day). Together with such a beautiful name, it bore on its back a life of such gloom.

The rifle was the constant companion of the man of Mirdita. He had linked his dreams of freedom with it. Even before he had handled the plough, the Mirdita boy learned how to use the rifle, made friends with it. But the rifle became his real comrade only when the war for liberation began. With the rifle he drove out the invaders and the chieftains... And there came the day of which generations on end had dreamed. The loopholes of the houses were extended and became windows. Young children began to play and grow up in the light of the sun.

But tasks no less difficult still faced the people of Mirdita. The inherited darkness had to be fought in every village, on every pathway, in every home. The best sons and daughters of Mirdita led the way. Ndrecë Ndue Gjoka, the first man in charge of education in the Mirdita district, proposed to open fifty schools. Many others backed him. But skulking in the scrub lay hidden reactionary elements incited by the clergy, as well as agents dropped into our territory by parachute. One morning when Ndrecë Ndue Gjoka had just completed twenty seven years of age, a hail of bullets cut him down on his way to a village school. They were the bullets of those who hate the light. But Ndrecë became a torch of light. Today, even little children, know his name and his life. One of our feature films «The commissar of Light», is dedicated to Ndrec's fight to bring schooling to the people of Mirdita.

His torch was taken up by others. Mrikë Lokja, Marta Tarashi, Prenda Trazhi, and Shkurte Cara were girls, too. They lived in different villages of Mirdita, but fought for the same objective — to do away with the old, backward customs and spread the new, spread light. All four of them set the example: they joined the mass actions to build the first railway lines. When they went, they were illiterate, but when they returned they ran courses against illiteracy to teach the young women of their villages. Backed by the organs of State Power and the organizations of the masses, they worked heart and soul for the emancipation of women. In the struggle for light, they, too, were killed by the bullets of the enemies of progress. They fell, but they remain immortal. The first Albanian opera «Mrika» (see page 33 of the present issue of our magazine), the drama and ballet **«The Mountain Girl»** are devoted to the patriotic activity of these young women of Mirdita. Thus, Mirdita won not only its freedom but also knowledge and light at the cost of bloodshed.

Since those days nearly thirty years have passed by. People see how far their district has advanced today, how life has changed under every roof, and make a calculation. They try to work out how long it would have taken the people of Mirdita to achieve what they have achieved today if they had proceeded at the preliberation pace. It would have taken whole centuries!

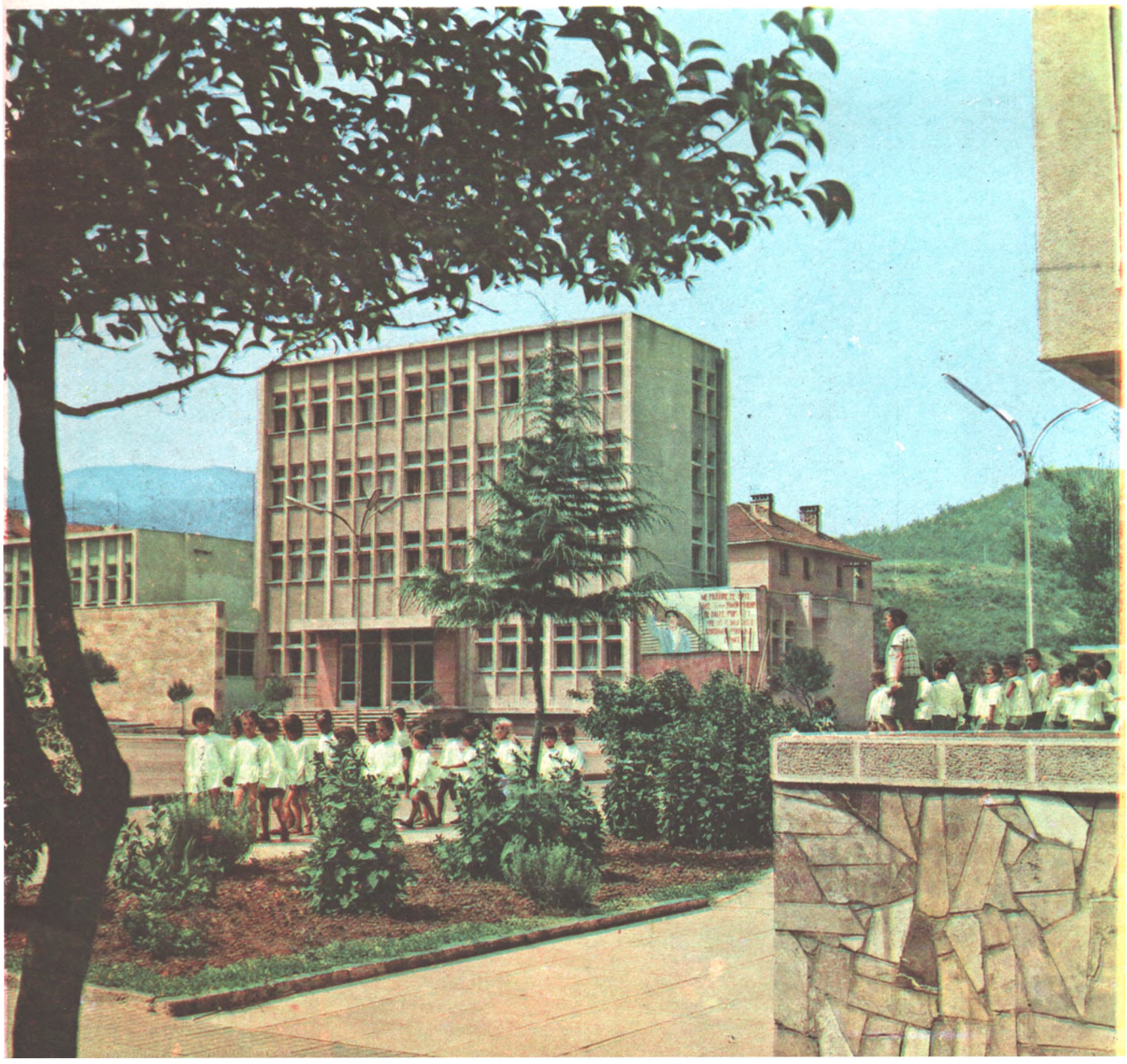
On the map of this district we see some red stars, dark colored squares and many red lines which look like the arteries of the body. They represent the towns built during the years of our People's State Power — Rrëshen, Rubik, Kurbnesh — the mines and plants opened and the countless roads.

Today, Mirdita as an administrative district extends over one-fortieth part of the territory of Albania with a population of 30.000. It has a mountainous relief with an average altitude of 670 meters above sea level. 70 per cent of the population live in the belt up to 500 meters above sea level. As a result of the increased birthrate and improvement of living conditions the population of the district has risen to two and one half times that of 1938, thus it occupies one of the first places in the Republic with regard to increase of population. In 1973, the density of population per square kilometer had risen from 17 before liberation to 42. Mirdita has 49 villages. The administrative centre of the district is Rrëshen which stands on a surrounded plateau with green. It is a small, clean town with buildings usually five storeys high. Dominating the entrance to the town is a sculptural ensemble of the four heroines of Mirdita whom we men-

(Continued on p. 8.)

The town of Rrëshen, the main centre of the Mirdita district does not appear on maps before liberation. As a new town built after the triumph of our people's revolution it bears the characteristics of a socialist town — beautiful apartment buildings for the workers, wide streets, institutions for political, economic, cultural and social life, greenery and exemplary cleanliness.

In the picture (above) View of the town (below). Children of a kindergarten in environment of the town.



The increase in the number of births and the improvement of living conditions have brought about the increase of the population of the district of Mirdita to two and one half times greater than in 1938, giving it one of the first places in the Republic regarding the increase of population. In 1973, the density of population had increased to 42 inhabitants per square kilometer from 27 in the preliberation period

(Continued from p. 6.)

tioned above. Right in the centre stands the Palace of Culture with its hall for performances, its library and halls for recreation. Artistics groups bring this institution to life. In addition to other institutions, the city has a secondary school and a museum, where a modest attempt is made to portray the past and the present of Mirdita.

To the east of Rrëshen lies the town of Kurbnesh, which is called the miners'town. It stands on a flat between the mountain ranges. One of our copper mines lies here while the copper one enrichment plant is built on the mountainside. In this town there are, among other institutions, technical schools for mining and agriculture, and a club where artistic activities take place.

West of Rrëshen lies Rubik, or, as they call it here, the metallurgists' town. About two thousand workers live here. It is built on the banks of the river Fan. It began as a miners' town, but now a copper metallurgical plant has been built here, which makes this the predominant activity in this town. Here there is the 8 grade school, a technical school for metallurgy and a cultural club. One of the earliest strikes of our working class against the foreign capitalists who were exploiting the copper mine is linked with the name of this town. At that time Rubik was a very small work center. Further north of the district lies Rrepës, a tiny center which, within e few years, will claim a place for itself on the map with the full rights of a town. A copper ore enrichment plant has been built here, too.

Today Mirdita has become a symbol of copper for it provides the homeland with fifty per cent of this ore, 45 per cent of blister copper, and one hundred percent of its refined copper. As compared with 1970, total industrial production in 1974 increased by 28 per cent. Today the working class makes up 76,5 per cent of the total working people of the various sectors.

The hedges and small plots have given way to broad fields, where the tractor works instead of the wooden plough. The hills once covered with scrub, have now been turned into terraces. The area under cultivation here is more than three times as large, and the production of bread grain is nearly five times as high, as before the liberation of the country. In 1974, the amount of wheat alone was 2,3 times greater than the total quantity of bread grain produced in 1938 in this district.

While there was not a single agricultural specialist throughout Mirdita before, today every agricultural cooperative has its agronomists and veterinarians. As compared with 1965, the number of agronomists has increased tenfold.

From 4 primary schools with 8 teachers and 175 pupils, which Mirdita had in 1938, today in the towns and in every village it has all-told 58 8-grade schools, 3 secondary schools and two agricultural technical schools with over 400 teachers and 8.953 pupils. The village school of Ndërfusha alone has as many teachers and pupils as the whole of Mirdita had prior to the liberation. For the education and recreation of the working people of town and countryside there are 8 houses of culture and 60 public libraries. Every village has its cultural centre. As against the one itinerant nurse which Mirdita had before liberation, it now has 3 well equipped hospitals, 8 maternity homes, 49 out patient and consultation centres, 5 dental clinics, and so on. There is one doctor for every 750 in habitants. The average life span has now reached the 70's as against 38 years before liberation.

The beautiful name the district bears expressed the desire of the people of Mirdita for a good and happy life. This name and that beautiful dream have been handed down from one generation to another. But it was only after the liberation of Albania that this name and the reality were made to match each other. It is only now, when the light of progress has entered into every nook and cranny, into the life of everybody in Mirdita, that this beautiful name is really applicable to this district.



**Revolutionary songs, visits to museums and historical places, literature and the arts, endow the children of Albania from their earliest years with the lofty virtues of communist ethics.**

In the picture: **Children at the monument to the four heroines of Mirdita.**

**Defence of our socialist homeland is the duty above all others of every citizen of the People's Republic of Albania. Every worker in our country strives to become a good soldier, a worthy defender of socialist achievements.**

In the picture: **Mirdita girls training on the rifle-range.**



# ON DRAWING UP THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The Third Session of the Eighth Legislature of the people's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania was held in mid-November 1975.

The main theme of the proceeding of this Session was the discussion on drafting the new constitution of the People's Republic of Albania. The Assembly elected a committee of 51 members to produce the draft of the new constitution. Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, was elected chairman of this committee.

The report on drafting the new constitution was submitted to the Assembly by comrade Hysni Kapo, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania. The Report stressed that the need to draw up the new constitution at the present stage of the socialist development of our country is dictated by the major social and economic transformations that have taken place during this 31-year period of the existence of the socialist State Power in our country.

With the liberation of our country and the triumph of our people's revolution on November 29, 1944, a new and brilliant page was opened in the history of our people. For the first time, Albania gained its real independence, putting an end to the fascist occupation as well as to the long period of submission to foreign powers. The exploiting classes were overthrown and the old State apparatus in their service was destroyed to its very foundations; a new state was set up which, immediately after the liberation of the country, carried out the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat; a State apparatus, entirely new both from the stand point of its structure and from its class content, method and style of work, was set up throughout the country.

The existing constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on March 14, 1946, It was the first really democratic and revolutionary constitution in Albania, the first constitution which the people themselves drew up immediately after they had taken power into their own hands. In that constitution the first social and economic transformations of a democratic and socialist character were reflected, for example the abolition of the domination of foreign capital and the plunder of the resources of the country, the expropriation of the capitalists and large estate owners, the transfer of the principal means of production into the hands of the people and the turning of the mines and underground resources, waters and natural resources, forests and pastures, the means of communication, banks and so on into common property; the proclamation of the monopoly of the State in foreign trade and its control over internal commerce; the carrying out of the land reform which gave the land to those who tilled it; the process of the socialist industrialization of the country and the establishment of socialist economies in the countryside through the collectivization of agriculture. The constitution sanctioned the democratic rights and freedoms of the citizens. The significant feature of the constitution in this regard was that it was not confined to proclaiming these things, but, as a constitution of a socialist State was concentrated on the real possibilities of exercising and guaranteeing them. Finally, the constitution not only sanctioned what had been achieved during that short period, but it also contained programmatic elements. From this standpoint it served as a constitutional basis for the further development of the country along socialist lines by sanctioning the future objectives and activities of the State and society. The approval of the 1946 constitution was a major political triumph for our people and our Party. «Its importance», says comrade Enver Hoxha, «lies in the fact that it legalized that profound and revolutionary turn which was made in the life of our society as a result of the triumph of our People's Revolution, sanctioned from the juridical standpoint, all the great political, economic and social victories the people had achieved with their heroic war and opened clear prospects for other revolutionary transformations on a socialist basis in all the spheres of life.»

But, the period which this constitution served, has now passed. The profound revolutionary transformations which have taken place in our country during this period under the leadership of the Party in all the fields of social life, mark a whole historical period which has been left behind. The economic base of socialism has long been completely built. The multiform economy has been replaced by the single socialist system of the economy, private ownership has been replaced by socialist ownership of the means of production and, on this basis, socialist relations in production, have been completely established both in town and countryside.

In approving the report submitted on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Assembly gave the main directions which must be taken into account in drawing up the new constitution. First of all, the new constitution must fully reflect the line of the Party of Labour of Albania, embodied in our revolutionary practice. Our Party's correct Marxist-Leninist line during the uninterrupted development of the socialist revolution, the construction and defence of socialism has brought our people brilliant successes, will find complete reflection in the constitutional norms, just as it is in reality, a clear, principled, consistent, Marxist-Leninist line.

The new constitution will present the true features of socialism. It will be a further affirmation of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, especially in the field of the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as well as of the defense and creative application of these principles in our country. This is of major importance especially under the conditions of the present struggle to expose all the distortions and falsifications which the modern revisionists make of the theory and practice of scientific socialism. It will affirm, once again, that there can be no socialism without the undivided leadership of the proletariat party, which is a concentrated expression of the leading role of the working class in socialist society and an indispensable condition of the very existence of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

As was stressed at this session of the People's Assembly, the new constitution of our State will reflect the present stage of the socialist development of our country which is the stage of the complete construction of socialist society, and will mark a new reality with the major social, economic, cultural and defence changes which have been made during these 31 years.

The socialist order, the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat has been established in our country. The working people themselves, headed by the working class, are, in power. Everything is done in their name, and in their interest. Not only are their rights and democratic freedoms sanctioned by law, but the necessary guarantees are provided for the practical exercise of them. This is a radical difference between our socialist democracy and the bourgeois and revisionist so-called «democracy».

As the fundamental law of our state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the new constitution will express the truly democratic nature of our socialist social order, it will be a clear, simple document easily understood by the broad masses of working people.

The draft of the new constitution will be subjected to extensive discussions by the people and then it will be submitted to the People's Assembly for approval.



**The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha, met a group of artists of the «Liaonin» Song and Dance Ensemble of the People's Republic of China, and had a very warm and friendly conversation with them.**

# THE «LIAONIN» SONG AND DANCE ENSEMBLE OF THE PR OF CHINA IN ALBANIA

The «Liaonin» Song and Dance Ensemble of the People's Republic of China came to Albania in October 1975. It gave a number of concerts in Tirana and other cities of Albania.

The members of the «Liaonin» Ensemble brought our people the beautiful and revolutionary art of the fraternal Chinese people. That is why they were given a hearty and enthusiastic reception wherever they went. The chinese soloists interpreted Albanian and Chinese songs with exquisite skill, winning the admiration of the audiences. This combination of the songs of our two peoples was like a beautiful shaking of hands, like a warm embrace of true friends.

The troupe of dancers displayed marvellous technical skill, harmonious interpretation filled with lyricism and dynamism. The Ballet Troupe executed the wellknown Albanian dance «Great Festival in the Highlands» for the art-loving public of the capital city. In this technically difficult dance, the participants presented the Albanian world to perfection.

At the 19th October performance of the «Liaonin» Song and Dance Ensemble along with the workers of the work and production centres of the capital were the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, Enver Hoxha, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mehmet Shehu, and other leaders of the Party and the State.

During the interval, the beloved leader of the Party and the Albanian people, comrade Enver Hoxha, had a very warm and friendly talk with the chairman of the «Liaonin» Song and Dance Ensemble, comrade Bi Ven Tin, the Ambassador, Liu Djen Hua, and a group of artists. Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated the Chinese artists on their beautiful performance and wished them further success.

The whole concert was a powerfut manifestation of the triumph of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution which made Great People's China a bastion of socialism and its art powerful and militant.

The «Liaonin» Ensemble visited many cities of Albania and scored complete success. Before departing, a joint performance by Chinese and Albanian artists was organized in the «Partizani» Sports Palace. It was a manifestation of the revolutionary friendship which links the People's Republic of Albania and the People's Republic of China.

**The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, comrade Mehmet Shehu, and other leaders of the Party and of the State mounted the stage to congratulate the Chinese artists on their beautiful performances.**



# THE DAY OF INDEPENDENCE

The geographical position and natural resources of Albania have always aroused the greed of foreigners. For centuries in succession Albania has been the prey of foreign invasions by the Romans, Normans, Goths, Slavs, Turks, down to the fascists. After nearly twenty-five years of heroic fighting resistance during Skanderbeg's time — the latter half of the XVth century — Albania was occupied by the Ottoman hordes. Five centuries of bondage, five hundred years of oppression and enslavement. Nevertheless our people did not forget their nationality, did not forget their mothertongue, their customs, culture and history, did not forget their identity. They never lost their self-reliance, their confidence in the future. They resisted, they fought with courage, and finally won their independence sixty three years ago, on November 28, 1912.

Independence was not handed to the Albanians as a gift by any one. It was not granted as a boon by the Sublime Port in Istanbul nor by the congresses and conferences of the European politicians. The independence of Albania was the outcome of hundreds of years of struggle by Albanian people, of their struggle on all fronts, political, cultural, and military. Following the death of Skanderbeg (1468) uprisings in Albania never ceased. The people resisted oppressive measures, resisted the ruthless economic exploitation — taxes and indemnities, the plunder of the resources of the country. The struggle of the Albanian people for freedom and independence assumed new strength especially during the XIXth century. By the end of that century, the movement had reached a very high level and was embodied in that great complex movement which is known in our history as the «National Renaissance».

This brilliant stage of our history includes the great uprisings in all the districts of Albania, the efforts to establish the Albanian written language, to open Albanian schools, to develop Albanian culture on the basis of the traditions of the country and in the interests of the people. The Albanian colonies ranging from the Albanian settlers in Italy and Greece, to Rumania, Bulgaria, Egypt, The United States of America, and elsewhere, formed various societies for a single purpose, namely, to help the enslaved homeland in the struggle to win freedom and independence. Dauntless fighters, courageous thinkers, outstanding Albanian politicians and diplomats, devoted all their energies to the cause of the independence of their homeland.

In 1843, a major uprising broke out in the Shkupi, Tetova and Dibra districts, which lasted up to 1845. During the same years the activity of the albanian patriots to spread progressive ideas and elaborate the Albanian language began to appear. About 1857, an Albanian patriotic society was set up at Istanbul. The years of the 1860's were characterized by a number of uprisings and revolts in Dibra, Mirdita, Shkodra, and all the Northern Highland. During the same decade, publications appeared which comprise some of the great wealth of our folklore, for instance those by G.Dara, Dora d'Istria, and others. The 70's of last century mark a rapid increase of uprisings all over the country, intensive political and cultural activities both within and outside the country. All this activity was crowned by the historic Prizren Meeting in June, 1878. This meeting was in fact a major congress to which representatives came from all over Albania. It set up an organization known as the League of Prizren, which played a very important role in the Albanian movement for independence in subsequent years. During the 80's and 90's, the struggle for national awakening, for unity in the struggle to detach the country from the Ottoman Empire, became more intensive and successful throughout Albania. There appear great patriots like Frashëri Brothers, other patriotic societies are set up; newspapers and magazines are published, school texts are published in Albanian, the first schools teaching in the Albanian language are opened. The first decade of our century was one of stormy events in the Balkans and throughout Europe. The Ottoman Empire was in complete disintegration; Albania was in danger of being partitioned between its neighbours aided by the Great Powers. These were the years which would decide whether Albania would win independence or would pass from one bondage to another.

The efforts of our people, their centuries of struggle did not go in vain. The patriotic forces were able to combine the activities on all fronts: on the fighting front, on the political and diplomatic fronts. The great patriot, Ismail Qemali, together with all the other patriots knew how to act in a masterly manner at the most appropiate time. When the Serbian, Montenegrian and Greek chauvinists had invaded nearly all of Albania, the group of patriots headed by Ismail Qemali, after carrying out extensive political and diplomatic activity in Europe, landed at the Port of Durrës on the 21st of November 1912. It was decided to act at once, to raise the Albanian flag in Durrës and proclaim the independence of Albania. The Turkish authorities and foreign agents managed to prevent the realization of the objectives of the Albanian patriots in Durrës. Whereupon the old man, Ismail Qemali, together with the representatives of Durrës, Shijak, Tirana, and Kruja set out for Vlora, overcoming many difficulties in Kavaja, Lushnja and Fier, and arrived at their destination on November 25th. The people of Vlora welcomed the delegates with great demonstrations. The next day Ismail Qemali began his work, In the first place measures were taken to provide an armed force. In the meantime, the Serbian army was advancing on Kruja, Tirana, Elbasan and Durrës. The situation was critical. Because of this on November 27 it was decided to act at once without waiting for all the delegates to come from the various districts. The National Assembly was opened in Vlora at 2 o'clok on November 28, 1912. The Assembly elected as its president Ismail Qemali, who, in his opening speech, raised the question of proclaiming the independence of Albania. His proposal was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. The national flag was raised in Vlora.

The proclamation of independence was a brilliant historical victory for the Albanian people, a victory which would be consolidated by a still greater victory some decades later, on November 29, 1944, with the liberation of the country from the fascist invaders and the establishment of our People's State Power.




**The Monument of Independence in Vlora, in the square where the national flag was hoisted and the independence of Albania was proclaimed in 1912.**



*The Albanian women have been charged with responsible tasks in all fields of political, economic and social life. You find them as workers and engineers on the building construction sites, you find them as ordinary members and heads of agricultural cooperatives, you find them as directors of State Institutions, surgeons, army cadres, and representatives to the People's Assembly, tractor drivers or writers. At the same time, they are worthy wives and loving mothers. Heroine of Socialist Labour, Themie Thomai, is one of them. Today she is chairwoman of the Këmishtaj Agricultural Cooperative in the Lushnja district, an economy of several thousand hectares and one of the most outstanding in the whole country for high yields in agricultural crops, especially, grain.*

# WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ALBANIAN COUNTRYSIDE?

■ The population of the countryside of the People's Republic of Albania comprises about 67 per cent of the total population of the country. As compared with the period before liberation, the population in the countryside has increased nearly twofold while agricultural production has increased fourfold.

■ The whole Albanian countryside has been collectivized.

■ Electric light has reached every village household.

■ With very rare exceptions, motor roads run to all the villages.

■ By the end of 1973 every village was connected to the telephone system.

■ At present, over 45% of the village population live in newly-built houses.

■ During the period from 1950 to 1973, the peasant economies alone built 135.143 dwelling houses.

■ Socialist trade has been organized in every village. At the end of 1973, there were 2,6 trading units for every 1.000 inhabitants.

■ In 1938, Albania as a whole, had 45 agronomists, zootechnicians and veterinaries of higher training all told, and they were employed by the State administration. Today about 47 thousand specialists of various professions, 16 thousand of whom are specialists of production are employed in the Albanian countryside. The village intelligentsia comprise about 13 per cent of the rural workers and about 35 per cent of the intelligentsia of the whole country. About 35 per cent of the rural intellectuals are women.

■ Eight year schooling is compulsory for all the village children. Village schools employ 18 thousand teachers as against 700 before the triumph of the people's revolution. Pre-school education has been organized in all the villages. As against 1960, the number of pre-school institutions has increased 3,7 times and the number of children attending them has more than doubled. Secondary schools, which are attended by thousands of the sons and daughters of the villagers, have been built in many rural regions. Hundreds of other village youth continue their studies at the University on State bursaries.

■ The health service has been organized even in the most remote villages. No village is without its out-patient centre and maternity ward or home. Before liberation, not a single village had its own doctor, assistant physician, or midwife. Today, over 5 thousand health specialists work there. The health service



**Thousands of kilometers of drainage and irrigation canals traverse the fields of Albania making them ever more productive. The flourishing plant life has brought flourishing life for the people, too.**

In the picture: **(above) Children taking a walk. (below) The youth picking tobacco.**

and treatment are free of charge. Malaria and syphilis which once afflicted a large part of the peasant population have been totally wiped out. The average life expectancy of the peasants has increased beyond all comparison. In certain districts it is above 69 years. which is average of the Republic as a whole.

■ The system of social insurance has been established for all the peasants.

■ In comparison with 1960, the number of houses of culture in the rural areas had increased threefold by 1973, whereas, compared with 1950, the number of cultural centers and house-museums had increased 11 and 22 times respectively. Thousands of amateur artistic groups have been set up in the countryside. In the 1973 Folklore festival alone about 2.000 groups with 45.000 singers, dancers, musical instrumentists and others took part.

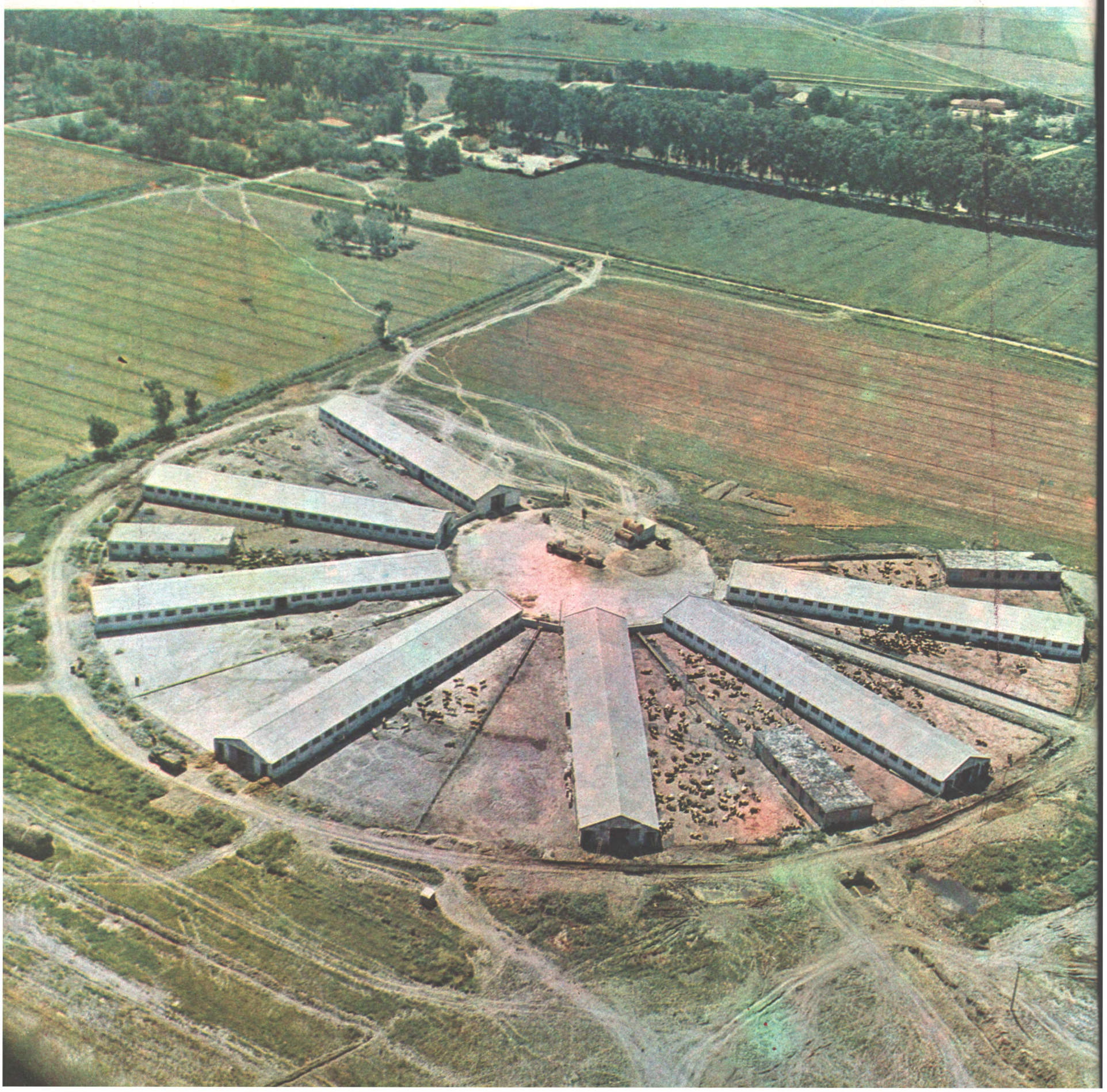
■ The daily papers and periodicals are distributed daily to all the villages. The village families without a radio are few, while TV sets are becoming more widespread.



# TOWARDS THE INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

**VIKTOR PUKA & ZENO ÇELOALIAJ**
*Specialists in Animal Husbandry at the Ministry of Agriculture*







**As a result of the increased number of cows, herd improvement and better management, the production of cows milk has increased about 6 fold. In the picture: (above) A pedigree herd at Uznova State Farm in the Berat district: (below) A complex of stalls for cows in the Tirana district.**

From the past, Albania inherited primitive livestock farming, with limited herd numbers and unimproved breeds. The technique of animal husbandry was at a low level. This situation reflected the feudal and bourgeois relations which existed at that time in Albania.

The Second World War drove livestock farming even further down the road to ruin. Thousands of animals were wiped out or seized by the nazifascist invaders.

The devastation of the war had still not been repaired when our new people's State Power took a series of steps to speedily improve the state of things. The veterinary service was reorganized, herd improvement stations were opened with favorable conditions for the landless and landpoor peasants. One year after the liberation of the country, the land reform began doing way once and for all with the old feudal relations of production, the early state farms were set up and, later, the small peasant economies were united in agricultural cooperatives.

The large-scale agricultural economies created major advantages not only to increase agricultural production, but also to improve livestock farming. Today modern livestock farming has been established and continues to develop, based on correct technological and scientific criteria, the main characteristics of which are the harmonious and proportional development of all kinds of livestock, breed improvement, and the organization of specialized units.

In contrast to the tradition of the past, the number of cows, pigs and poultry have increased enormously, especially during the past ten years. As compared with 1938, cows have increased more than 70%, while the amount of milk they yield has increased nearly sixfold. The number of pigs has increased tenfold. The cow has now become inseperable from intensive agriculture and has become an important source of milk and meat. Whereas twenty-five years ago only 3% of the cows were of improved breed, now 75% of them are of modern breeds — friezian, jersey and Valbona on their crosses. Thus, for instance, the state farms of Kamza, Tirana, Maliq, Lushnje and Thumana have 2.000 cows each. A number of agricultural cooperatives have from 600 to 1.000 cows. Many State Farms and cooperatives specialize in raising pigs or have considerable herds of sheep and goats.

In recent years a number of farms have been organized to raise large numbers of cattle for meat. The cattle-raising enterprises at Maliq, Lushnjë, Lezha and others are of this type.

The flocks of poultry and herds of pigs are entirely at highly productive breeds, and are usually kept in economies with high grain production. There are also some economies with very large flocks, like the Tirana poultry enterprise, which produces over twenty million eggs and a thousand tons of meat, at Elbasan and other places. The economies and sectors specializing in the production of pork, each produce from 8.000 to 9.000 quintals of meat per year.

The breeds of all kinds of livestock are continually improving. Artificial insemination of cattle and sheep has been introduced in all the districts of the country. As a result of the favorable conditions in our country, sheep and goats are still increasing in number and improving in breed. In many economies flocks of high productivity in meat, wool and milk have been established.

Research work on animal husbandry and, especially, the improvement of breeds of all kinds of livestock, is run by the Institute of Animal Husbandry Research. The veterinary service has been improved. The Institute and the diagnostic laboratories in the districts guide the veterinary work, primarily in the direction of prophylaxis. Today vaccination of animals in our country is 27 times greater than in 1938. Today we turn out scores of kinds of vaccines and the work of further improving them continues.

In conformity with the concrete conditions of each economy, a system of food supplies for the animals has been established in which priority is given to the cultivation of forage crops. From year to year, the production of silage for stock food has been extended, especially with maize, sorghum, and spring crops. On all the agricultural economies, suitable modern complex stalls have been built and centers where dry feed and agricultural byproducts are processed and fermented.

Most of the livestock workers have completed or are continuing to attend secondary vocational schools or one to three year courses of qualification. All the economies employ specialists of higher and middle school training in zootechny and veterinary science.

***The Large-scale agricultural economies have created great avantages not only for increasing agricultural production but also for developing animal husbandry. Today, there has been created in Albania a modern, complex animal husbandry based on correct technological and scientific criteria, the main characteristic of which is the harmonic and proportional development for all kinds of livestock, the improvement of breads and the organization of specialized units***

# «ALL FOR ONE AND

## - How the consequences of the

**SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF SOCIAL LIFE IN ALBANIA. THIS WAS POWERFULLY MANIFESTED ONCE AGAIN IN THE DAYS OF FOLLOWING THE HEAVY EARTHQUAKE WHICH RECENTLY STRUCK A ZONE OF SOUTHERN ALBANIA. THE EARTHQUAKE DESTROYED 117 HOUSES, 322 OTHERS WERE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED, AND MANY OTHERS MORE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED. THE ORGANS OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE POWER IMMEDIATELY TOOK URGENT MEASURES TO AID THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY THIS NATURAL DISASTER. FROM ALL DISTRICTS OF THE COUNTRY, SPECIALISTS WENT AS VOLUNTEERS TO THE AFFECTED ZONE. ALL THE COSTS OF REBUILDING AND REPAIRING THE HOUSES WERE MET BY THE STATE. THE FAMILIES WHO WERE AFFECTED CELEBRATED THE NEW YEAR, 1976, EITHER IN REBUILT OR IN NEW HOUSES.**

On the 22nd of November 1975, a heavy earthquake struck fifteen villages of Saranda in Southern Albania. The epicenter of this earthquake was in the village of Dhiver. Movement was also felt in two neighbouring districts, Gjirokastra and Tepelena, but no damage was caused. An immediate on the spot inspection revealed that there were no victims, but 117 houses were destroyed, 322 others were seriously damaged while 255 other buildings were slightly damaged. A number of social-cultural buildings were damaged, too.

Man has still not managed to master earthquakes, but the socialist order provides boundless possibilities so that the people of zones hit by earthquakes do not suffer the consequences. This is what happened with the inhabitants of the village hit by the earthquake of the 22nd of November. Only a few hours after the earthquake they heard the roar of trucks, coming in from Saranda, loaded with tents, clothing, food, and building material. The leading cadres of the Party and State of the district immediately came to the zone. The Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers were immediately notified.

The Radio and Television reported the immediate measures which were being taken. The entire country rose to its feet. In those difficult moments, the inhabitants of the stricken zone received the letter sent to them by the beloved leader of the Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha. At once, they felt the warm care of the Party and the People's State power, the atmosphere of the socialist solidarity of the working people of the whole country.

In his letter Comrade Enver Hoxha writes:

«Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In these days, when all our people to a man are hard at work to ensure the joyful celebration of their great November festivities with the fulfilment of the tasks of the final year of the 5th Five-year Plan, unexpectedly we received the grievous news of the earthquake which affected your villages and families. The damage and pain which this natural misfortune caused you, now, on the verge of winter, has deeply moved the Party and the whole Albanian people, all over the country.

All our people, the Party, and its Central Committee, in these difficult moments, feel themselves near you, and, as in good times and joys, we share with you all the upset caused by the earthquake.

As soon as I received the sad news about what had happened I gave the order to the Government to send you immediate aid, and at the same time ordered that measures be taken so that within December all the destroyed houses be replaced with new ones, while the damaged buildings must be repaired within the same period.

The gloomy times when, on such occasions the people affected by grave misfortune were left in life-long poverty and misery have gone




**On the occasion of the completion of the rebuilding and repair of all the buildings damaged by the earthquake, a meeting was organized in the village of Dhiver.**

**This is one of the new sections of Dhiver village rebuilt within a few days. The picture was taken two weeks after the earthquake, when the buildings were approaching completion.**

# ONE FOR ALL»

## earthquake were overcome -

once and for all. The Albanian people overthrew the feudal-bourgeois order once and for all, and set up their own statepower which they are strengthening day by day, and defending against any enemy.

On this occasion, I send you all dear brothers and sisters, young people, and children of the families effected by the earthquake, the warmest greetings of the Central Committee of the Party and my own personal greetings, and I assure you that until the completion of the construction of the ruined and damaged houses, we will be with you in mind and heart.»

In implementation of the instructions of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Council of Ministers of the PRA, took the decision that all the houses and the social cultural institutions damaged by the earthquake would be completely restored within the month of December 1975. All expenditure for the rebuilding and repairing of the houses and institutions would be met by the State. The Council of Ministers appealed on other districts to help in this direction with specialists as a sign of solidarity with the population effected by the earthquake. The central institutions were charged with taking all measures to help eliminate the consequences of the earthquake as quickly as possible.

In 1967, too, a powerful earthquake struck the regions of Dibra and Librazhd. Then too, under the leadership of the Party, the entire country rose to its feet and went to the aid of the inhabitants of the stricken area. The same thing happened in 1969, in several zones of Southern Albania. Our people have now learnt how to cope with any natural calamity with courage, determination and solidarity. At one time such misfortunes brought permanent disaster to the population affected by the blind forces of nature. Whereas now, «those times have gone once and for all». Now, in Albania, under the leadership of the Party, everybody works and lives under the motto, «All for one and one for all».

The month of efforts to liquidate the consequences of the earthquake has been a month of battle. During this month the zones affected by the earthquake were transformed into one gigantic building site. The press correspondents sent out daily reports reflecting the great work and the powerful socialist solidarity of the workers. In Dhiver, Cerkovic, Shendre, Memoraq and in other villages of the stricken area, there is a special liveliness. People of all ages are on the job rebuilding. From all over Albania people stream into the district. In Dhiver and other villages, specialist volunteers arrived from Tirana and Shkodra, Korça and Burrel, Vlora and Librazhd, in short, from all over the country. While working together in the harsh conditions of winter, they strengthened their fraternal ties, their socialist solidarity, and the unity of our people around the Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. The



**On the 12th of December, 1975, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania Mehmet Shehu, visited the zone hit by the earthquake of the 22nd of November (Saranda region- southern Albania).**

**In this picture: Comrade Mehmet Shehu talking with members of families who have just gone into new homes.**

Party has taught our people that they must never give up in the face of misfortunes and difficulties, but with work, will, and persistence, they must turn the bad thing into a good one. The struggle against the consequences of the earthquake taught the people that they can overcome every difficulty and achieve their aim, through the method of concentrated mass actions so that within one month all the inhabitants can go into new or rebuilt houses. The sorrow of the first days quickly turned into joy and enthusiasm. The people are now working with even greater energies, because, on this occasion, too, they saw clearly that every success in socialist construction is a victory for the entire people. By increasing the prosperity of the Homeland, increasing its defence potential, every worker is assuring his future and the future of his family. The slogan of the Party, «One for all and all for one», on this occasion, too, found its concrete expression in life.



**Such preschool institutions for children have been set up in town and villages. Compared with 1960, there are now three times as many. They have become centres, for the healthy and happy upbringing and education of children.**

# WHAT IS INDIRECT INCOME?

*In response to questions asked by some of our readers on the indirect income of the workers in our country, we turned to Qimo Kocani, Chairman of the Committee for Labour and Pay, who has given the following information:*

The constant rise of the standard of living of the working masses in our country is due to the continuous increase of the funds of personal and social consumption. The increase in the funds of consumption is based on the rapid development of social production and national income. If we draw a comparison between 1973 and the prewar year 1938, we find that the national income in Albania has increased 10,7 times, while income per capita 4,8 times.

Special attention is attached in our country to keeping a correct proportion in the division of the national income into the fund of accumulation and that of consumption. This is done for the purpose of accomplishing the tasks arising from the needs of the rapid development of the process of extended socialist reproduction, the strengthening of the defence potential of the



**Care for the child begins before its birth. A large number of educators, doctors, nurses and others are employed in both urban and rural centers to ensure the raising of healthy children.** In the picture: **The pediatric clinic at the hospital of the town of Rrëshen.**

homeland as well as for the steady and continuous raising of the material and cultural level of the working people of town and countryside.

In dividing the overall fund of consumption into the fund of personal consumption and that of social consumption, the organs of our People's State Power are guided by the principle that the well-being of the masses must be raised for all, and not only for a few, that it must be raised both for the working people of the towns and for those of the countryside, that it must be raised not only for the time being, but also for the future. In accord with these guide-lines, the fund of social consumption has not only kept pace with, but has been raised more rapidly than that of personal consumption. In 1970 as compared with 1950, the fund of personal consumption has increased 370%, while the fund of social consumption 395%. While the fund of personal consumption is distributed on the basis of the principle «to each according to his work», the fund of social consumption goes to meet the needs of society as a whole. This concurs with the very nature of socialist relations, with the existence of social ownership of the means of production, as well as with the tasks that arise from the development of our society on the course of the complete construction of socialist society. All through this period the objective has been to narrow the differences between the incomes of the working people while preserving the principles of payment according to the work done, and to extend the fund of social consumption, from the use of which everyone benefits on the basis of criteria which contains elements of communist distribution.

Social consumption includes the current expenses which the State incurs for developing education and culture, for safeguarding the health of the workers, for their recreation and vactions, for child-care institutions and so on. The real incomes per head of population are increased in this way. In 1971, social and cultural expenditure per head of population made up more than the average monthly pay of a worker.

In Albania schooling is free of charge; the working people pay no tuition fees for their children to attend shcool. Moreover, when workers in employment attend part-time schools, they enjoy a series of benefits like reduced working hours without loss of pay, supplementary leave with pay for sitting examinations, etc.

(Continued on p. 26.)



**Lec Shkreli:** «September 1942»

**On September 17, 1942, the patriotic women of Tirana, led by the Communist Party, held a big demonstration in front of the Tirana prison demanding the release of the sons and daughters of the people, imprisoned by the fascist invaders. The fascists opened fire on the demonstrators killing Mine Peza, a patriotic woman, who is commemorated in songs.**



Liliana Çefa **«Youngsters visiting the museum».**
**Educating children in the revolutionary tradition.**

Abdulla Cangoni: **«The Fierza Brigade»**
**The big hydro-electric plant on the Drini river in construction.**



# THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CARTOONS

Within the framework of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the League of Writers and Artists of Albania as well as the 30th anniversary of the publication of «Hosteni», a magazine of humour and satire, The National Exhibition of Cartoons was opened in Tirana.

Like all the other genres of art and letters, this genre, too, has found in our socialist order appropriate conditions to develop and become a powerful weapon to attack what is bad, reactionary, and ugly.

Included in this National Exhibition are cartoons published by the clandestine press during the National-liberation War gibing at the fascist occupationists, the traitor organizations and turncoats, who became tools in the hands of the oppressors of the people. In the works of the period after the liberation and the triumph of the people's revolution, all the negative social phenomena which hamper our progress and all the activity of the external enemies against Socialist Albania came under attack.

The works of the merited artist, Zef Bumçi, one of our highly gifted cartoonists, stand out for their clear political content. His response to contemporary issues is immediate and incisive as he devastatingly exposes the aggressive activities of the two super-powers, US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. The works of other gifted cartoonists like Bardhyl Fico, Enriko Veizi, Dhimitër Ligori, and so on are also outstanding for their high' artistic level and biting satire. The younger artists also, have made a valuable contribution to the development of the cartoon.

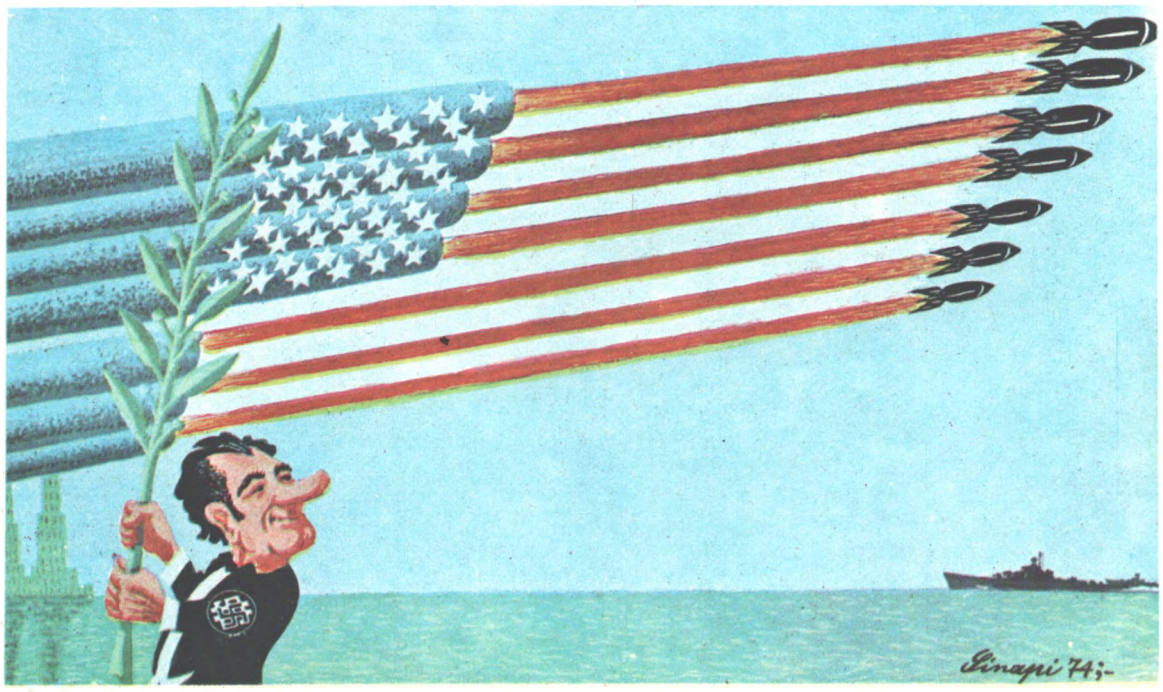
Our working people have seen most of the works exhibited here published in our press organs, especially, in the magazine «Hosteni», from time to time. But when they are seen combined in an exhibition, the power of this genre of our graphic art in the revolutionary education of the masses can be appreciated better.

The very nature of the cartoon is to negate the bad, the ugly, and the reactionary and in its stead to assert the progressive, the beautiful and the revolutionary. The people, who have visited this exhibition have observed, with satisfaction that our cartoonists have performed their task very well, standing on sound ideo-aesthetic positions with clarity and political farsightedness. In their work they have always been guided by the revolutionary spirit of our Party, by the self-denying work of our people for the construction of socialism, by the revolutionary struggle of the peoples of the whole world against the ruthless imperialist oppression and exploitation.



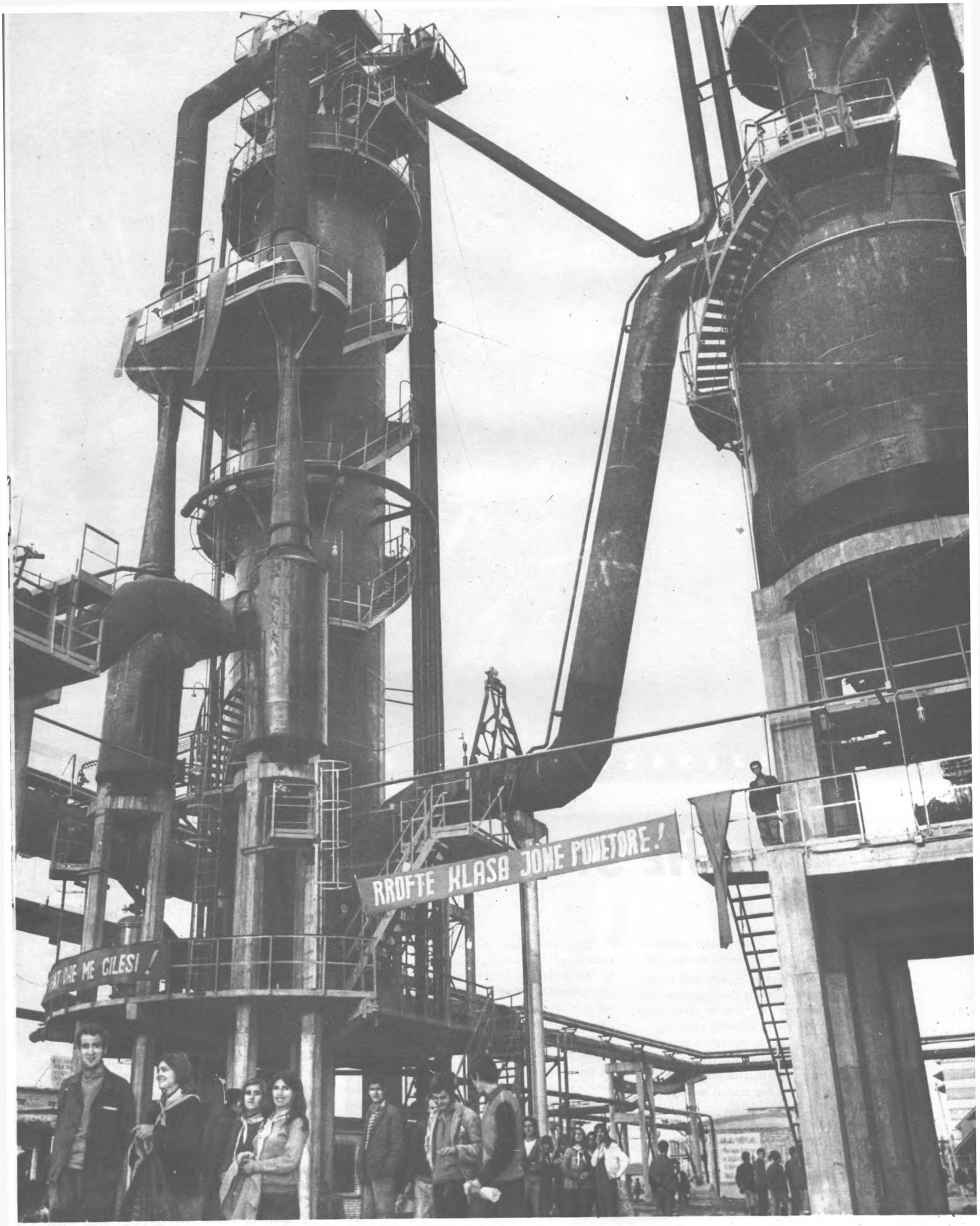

Dhimitër Ligori: **«The Rubbish of History.**

**Panajot Vasili: «Greetings from USA to the peoples fighting for freedom.»**



The artist and writer in our country strives to be in constant contact with the life of the working masses, not only through study, but also by working and living cheek by jowl with them. By remaining close beside the builders of the great works of socialism, our cartoonist has formed the correct concept-that what is typical in our socialist life is the vigorous progress of our society on all fronts. The negative phenomena and elements are only manifestations of a world in decline, or of the survivals of the bourgeois and revisionist ideology which can find no place in our socialist life. In addition to their revolutionary content, clarity of ideas and efforts for the highest possible ideo-artistic level, the works displayed at this exhibition have succesfully introduced into cartoon the positive hero, the cristalization of styles and creative individuality, and many other distinct features of the art of socialist realism.

The exhibition is a synthesis of the tireless efforts and fruitful outcome of our Albanian cartoonists.




# THE FIRST BLAST FURNACE

**For more than four years the Metallurgical Complex in Elbasan (Central Albania), the first of its kind in our country, has been under construction. The builders of this complex have recently achieved an important success: they built the first Albanian blast furnace. This means the completion of the iron smelting line by the end of 1975, while the entire first phase of the complex will be completed in 1976.**



# «AT THE START OF SUMMER»

**LUAN DIBRA**

This is one of the ten feature films produced by the «New Albania» Film Studio during 1975.

**«At the Start of Summer»** is dedicated to the years of the Albanian People's war against the Italian fascist invaders. The events take place in a seaside city which is seething with revolt and the fighting actions of guerrilla units and the people led by the communists. The main and most dramatic episode is that of organizing the action of blowing up a big munitions depot of the fascists. (This episode is historically true). All the work of preparing the action involves, at the same time, the process of the awakening, and growth of the political consciousness and revolutionary formation of the masses and heroes from various strata of the people.

The symbolic title alludes to that period of the National-liberation War when the Albanian Communist Party, while explaining, convincing, and organizing the people in a steel-like unity issues the call and is preparing for the general armed uprising.

The film centers on the great idea of the awakening of the consciousness of the masses by the Party and launching them into the people's revolution. This is a rapid awakening which takes place in the heat of the war, a gigantic life and death struggle with the fascist occupationists and their tools within the country. The Communist Party leads the fight not only with its revolutionary ideas but also with the brilliant example of its sons, the members of the Party who stand in the front line of battle and wherever the danger is greatest. The Party emerges as the conscience of the nation, as the worthy representative of the noblest traditions, qualities, and aspirations of our people. Mali (merited artist D.Hyskja), Secretary of the Regional Party Committee, is the embodiment of valor, wisdom, coolheadedness, revolutionary acumen and humanity, and, at the same time, gentle and unaffected, a worthy representative of the people and the Party which have raised and educated him.

Alongside the figures of the communists, that of the young revolutionary, Shpëtim (A. Çarava) son of the working class is realised with great mastery. He immediately embraces the ideals of the revolution and in the heat of battle, gains the class consciousness, is formed as a fighter, and when the homeland calls, he goes serenely, with full awereness of what he is doing, to make the supreme sacrifice. Shpëtim is blown up together with the depot of the fascists in order to serve the cause and save his comrades.

A character realized in the film with exquisite skill is that of Jaho Labi (merited artist S. Prosi). Jaho, a poor and famished peasant goes to the town in search of a job to earn a crust of bread for his chidren.

The atmosphere of the city is charged with the spirit of revolt and uprising. Jaho finds himself, inadvertently, among the fighting people who are preparing for the big action. Courageous, wise, and honest, Jaho who had taken part in the battle of Vlora, joints the finest sons of the homeland, becomes a valiant figh-



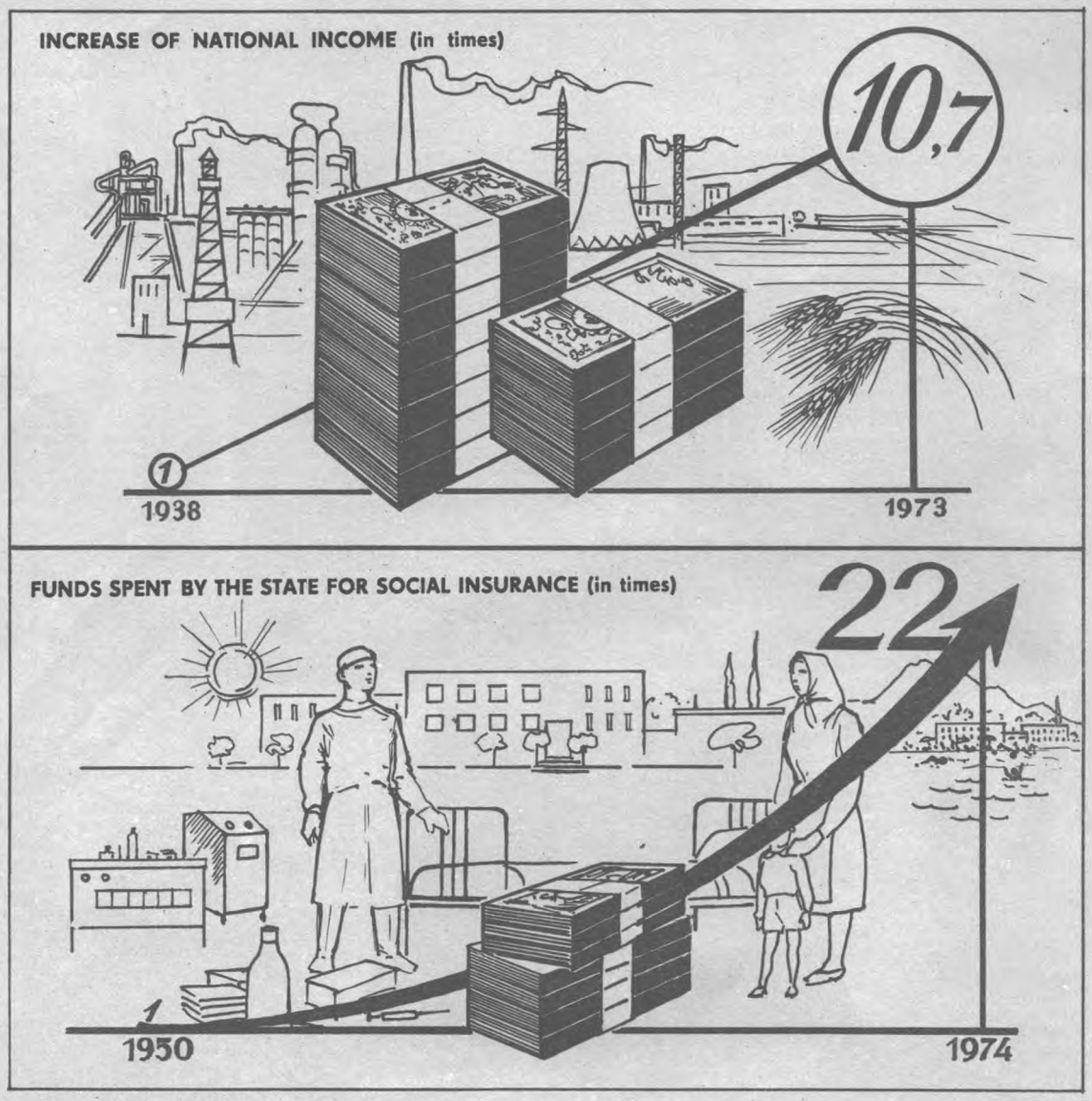
ter in the bitterest and most glorious liberation war in the history of the Albanian people.

The film is broad in scope, rich in action, has many characters, accurately and skillfully individualized, representing classes, social strata and categories with their own psychology, mentality, and points of view. The people's revolution exerts an extraordinary strong influence an all because everybody sees in the war, led by the Party, the dawn of a new world without invaders but also without exploiters, oppressors, and arbitrary rulers.

The negative characters, who represent the enemy camp, ranging from the fascist hierarchy to the prison guards, portray the essential features of fascism, the pomposity, arrogance, cynism, carierism, general corruption, the fear and weakness of a system and doctrine which are rotten and headed for catastrophe.

«At the Start of Summer» is one of the best films by the «New Albania» FILM STUDIO dedicated to the National-liberation War.






# WHAT IS INDIRECT INCOME?

(Continued from p. 19.)

The State pays from 66 to 68 per cent of the expenses incurred for the maintenance of the children of the workers who attend pre-school institutions and nurseries. What the worker pays for his children at the kindergartens and nurseries is proportional to his income, that is, the lower per capita income of the family, the less he pays for each child attending the kindergarten or the nursery. The same criterion is followed in awarding bursaries to students attending secondary or higher schools.

The State also spends considerable sums for medical services, which are provided free of charge to all. We need mention only that for each worker hospitalised in Tirana, the State spends an amount equal to the average wage of a worker for one and a half months. The worker himself and all his family enjoy all kinds of treatment in the hospitals, clinics and any other health institution free of charge. The State also pays for the upkeep of the dining rooms in work and production centers the worker paying only the cost of the food.

The workers and their children, who spend their vacations in holiday hotels, pay only from 25 to 45 per cent of the costs of their stay in these institutions. The state also spends considerable sums for the upkeep of houses of culture, public libraries, cultural, art, physical culture and sports institutions.

Social insurance and pensions play an important role in the lives of the working people of town and countryside. Their livelihood is guaranteed in case of sickness, accident, pregnancy and childbirth, old age, and so on. During the last two decades — from 1950 to 1974 — the funds spent by the State for social insurance and pensions for the workers have increased more than 22 times.

It should be pointed out that the whole policy of prices and tariffs for various services to the population is pervaded by pronounced social aims. For instance, rents of houses constitute from 1 to 3 per cent of family income. Many articles for children like school requisites, clothing and so on, are sold at reduced prices. Charges for urban and interurban transport for municipal services etc. are based on the same criterion. Many important measures have been and are being taken by the State to narrow the differences of incomes between the urban and rural workers. The construction of motor roads to link the villages with the towns, of water supply systems, of telephone lines etc., is done with the active participation of the State, which covers the costs for the necessary material.

For the workers of Albania the present and the future is guaranteed. Therefore, with full mobilization they are struggling to fulfill all the targets for the rapid development of the economy, culture and defence of the country for the uninterrupted growth of the strength and prosperity of their socialist homeland.



# KNOCKING AT THE VERY HEART OF THE MOUNTAIN

SH. LAMI

On the side of the mountain the sunlight is reflected from the roofs of a cluster of buildings. They are lined up end to end, and from a distance look like a rake of railway wagons standing at a station. It is the camp of one of the prospecting teams of the geological enterprise of Tirana.

The map of Albania from north to south is nearly all mountains. Today, wherever we go, we find the geological research workers camps. For thousands of years untold wealth has lain hidden in the bosom of these mountains. Generation after generation, people have tramped their surface barefooted and hungry for they lacked the power to wrest the treasure from their depths. It is no exaggeration to say that up to 1944, when Albania was liberated, the term geological worker was scarcely known in these regions. But when the Albanians became masters of their own fate, they took the courage to knock at the doors of these mountains, and not only to knock... Today even the little pre-school children know the term geological worker, for they have emerged from every city, town and village, because the materials that feed our heavy industry are connected with this word. The geological workers are the swallows, the harbingers of this industry. Whereas yesterday the mountains provided shelter for our partisans fighting for the liberation of the country, today they provide copper, chromium, ferronickel, coal... It is the geological workers who scale the peaks in rain and snow to discover these resources.

This particular camp was established three years ago. The geological engineers, technicians and workers who live and work here, have come from the various districts of Albania, from Elbasan, Kukës, Tirana, Saranda and so on. They have come here for one purpose: to discover from the mountain a very valuable secret, bauxite — the principal source of aluminum.

A big metallurgical complex is now under construction in Albania. It will have a considerable weight in the economy of our country. In a short time we will produce our own cast iron, our own steel, our own alloys... just as we produce our own copper. The discovery of bauxite will enable us to produce our own aluminum.

...We found engineer Skënder Guranjaku, who is in charge of the expedition, together with his assistant engineer Hilmi Balla and a group of technicians studying various maps. Before them in those maps lay a range of mountains, extending tens of kilometers.

On one fo the maps we noticed a number of dark marks accompanied by tiny letters.

«This is the work our expedition has donc so far» the engineer explained.

During these three years, the workers of this expedition have recorded in their diary a number of unforgettable moments of rejoicing. These began in the winter of 1972-73 when they drilled into the depths of the

mountain, and brought to the surface the first bauxites ever recorded in the history of our country. Test drilling and other mineral work showed that there are considerable deposists here of the mineral they were looking for. The geologists predictions were confirmed.

Rig 725 has just begun drilling at one spot of the mountain. Behind it has left all those dark marks where the mineral they are after has been discovered. These are brilliant pages of the work done by brigade directed by Paskal Stoja. Paskal grew up beside such drilling rigs. He has been engaged in prospecting for oil and coal. Although he is brigade leader, he works as leading driller side by side with the other members of the brigade. Here we met young Qemal Hasa. At school he dreamed of working in geology and here he is now assistant drill-hand in Paskal's brigade. Xhavit Konçi is another member of this brigade. It's only 5 or 6 months that he has been working with this brigade after about 15 years at the Institute of Geological and Mineral Research.

The collective of this brigade has achieved good results both in mineral extraction as well as in strict application of technological discipline and maintenance of the machinery. The drilling rate per month has been surpassed. This brigade achieved its annual target as early as September 10.

No less renowned is the collective of rig 375. It began work at its present site on October 22nd. This brigade is under the direction of Dilaver Saliaj. He started work in geological prospecting when he was only 13 years old. Behind him lie 20 years of work in various regions, while Sinan Visha started in geological research work 7 years ago. He is now a leading driller.

In the distance we can hear another rig working.

«That is the vanguard rig directed by Uk Toka» — they tell us.

In the lives of the geological workers it is hard to distinguish the point at which the romantic merges with frantic change. They seem so linked together that there can't be the one without the other.

When night falls over the mountains, the din of the drilling rigs seems louder. Around them people are toiling summer and winter, night and day... Here new memories and new thrills are interwoven. Down below are the building of the camp. They are full of life. In the recreation room some play games, others watch TV.

In the distant city thousands of lights are ablaze. Tucked away in the dark folds of the hills, it is like a big brazier aglow with embers.

At these moments I seem to hear the roar of all drilling rigs that pierce our mountains from the northern alps to the ranges of the south.



**The Geological technician S. Pano giving instructions to the members of the brigade of miners on the work in galleries.**

**Skënder Guranjaku, in charge of the team of geologists together with the technicians, defining the tasks.**



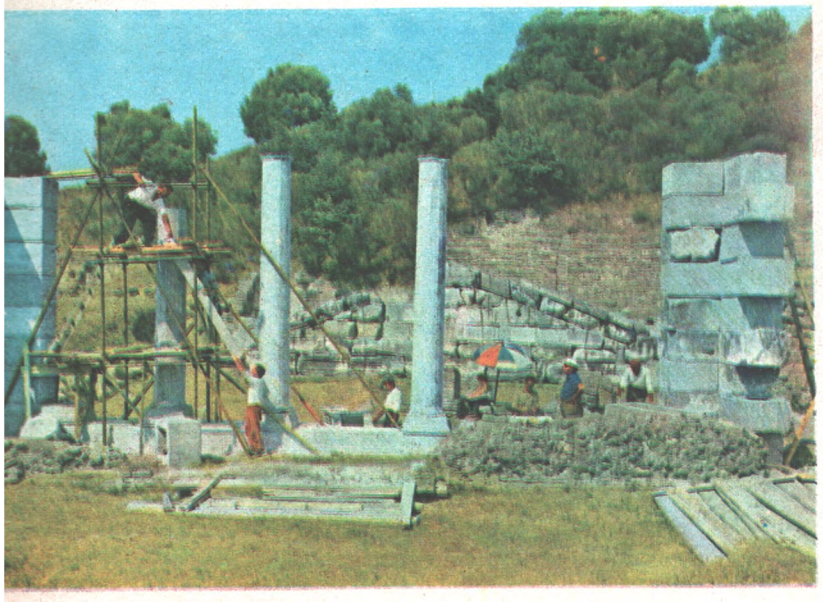
**A group of geologists prospecting for bauxite.**



**A general view of the archaeological excavations at the theatre of Apollonia.**

**Architecture from the discoveries at Apollonia.**

**Apollonia — The gallery of monuments discovered.**





# ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AT APOLLONIA OF ILLYRIA

ALEKSANDRA MANO, archaeologist

Apollonia of Illyria is one of the most important centers of antiquity which flourished on the eastern shores of the Adriatic Sea. It is well known in the outside world. Some archaeological research was done in Apollonia before the establishment of our People's State Power, but that was done by the foreigners (just as in other centers of antiquity in our country) and, in most cases, had a predominantly plundering character. Many stolen sculptures, inscriptions, tens of painted vases and thousands of bronze and glass objects and silver coins today embellish the biggest museums of Europe. During the foreign occupation in the days of the Second World War, the monuments of Apallonia suffered great demage both from the Italian fascists as well as the German nazis. When the Italian fascists organized the so-called «Overseas Exhibition», they took the most beautiful archaeological monuments of our country, which, to this day, have not been returned to us.

The excavations undertaken after liberation at Apollonia, especially during the recent 10 to 15 years, are quite different from those before liberation. It is important that the archaeological studies are being conducted, under the direction of our own scientific forces, our Albanian archaeologists, and all the major archaeological values which have been and continue to be discovered, are the property of the Albanian people and protected by law by our People's State Power.

As a result of these excavations, a number of ruins have come to light, remnants of majestic public and private traces of the main streets of the city, its surrounding protective walls, baptismal font and numerous marble sculptures, the greatest part of which are exhibited at the beautiful gallery of the Apollonia Museum, as well as various bronze and ceramic objects which decorate the show cases of many halls.

The magnificent monuments of architecture, the marvellous mosaics which beautified the homes of the rich, can now be admired on the spot by any visitor. These monuments, built by the sweat and toil of hundreds of thousands of skilled craftsmen and slaves of Apollonia, are testimony to the luxurious and parasitic life of the slave-owning minority of the city. With its ruins and relics, Apollonia is a silent witness also to the deep gulf which existed as a result of the class differences in slave-owning society.

Apollonia is the greatest center of research in the domain of ancient culture in our country. The sector of archaeology of the Institute of History has recently undertaken excavations to unearth the ancient theatre of the city. The work to bring this important monument to light is still in its initial stages. Nevertheless, the results so far are extremely interesting. A series of architechtonic and sculptural fragments have been discovered which not only enable us to identify the stage and the pit of the theatre, but at the same time, to imagine the former majesty and beauty of this monument.

During the 1975 excavations work was centered on discovering the stage of the theatre which, in contrast with the pit, which is destroyed and devoid of its structures, is richer in architechtonic elements. From the results achieved this year, we can form an approximate idea of the size of the stage. It is more than twenty meters long and 15 to 65 meters wide. Apparently, the principal facade of the stage had a number of entrances. Three of the five possible entrances have already been discovered. It has also been adorned with colums, pilasters and archways, the traces of which can be clearly seen along the whole length of the basement uncovered on the eastern side of the stage.

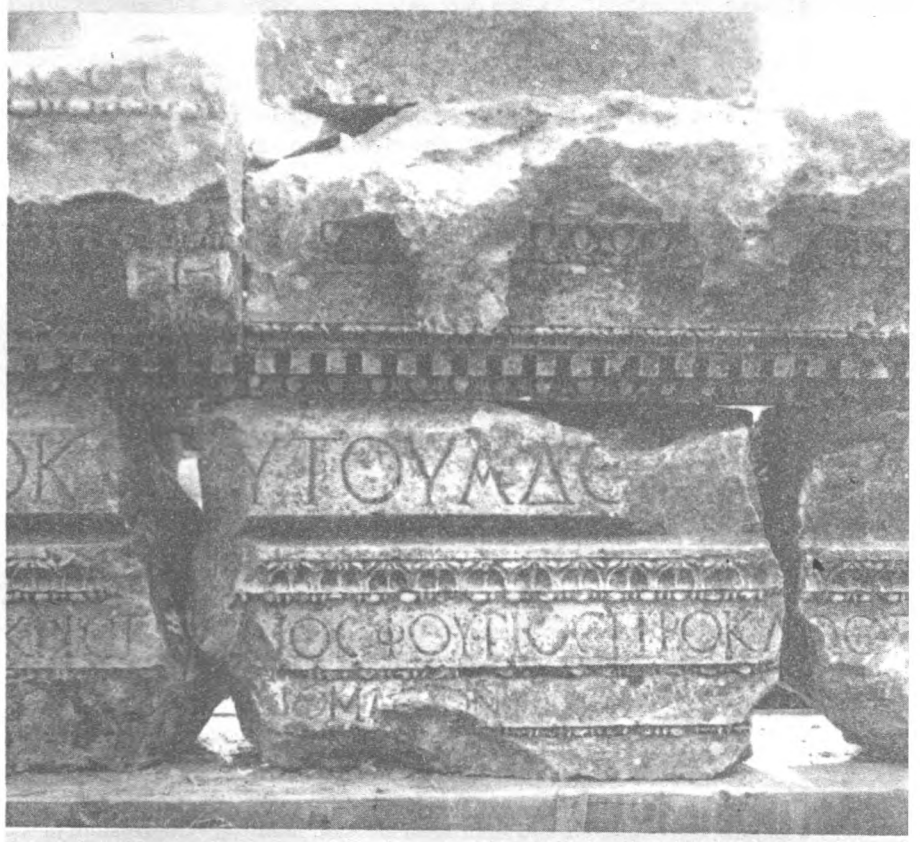
Of the various architectonic parts of the stage, a number of columns, pieces of architraves, metopes and cornices have been discovered. The damage and destruction of the theatre, which were the result of a heavy earthquake, without excluding also the damage wroght by man and time, account for the fact that many architectonic parts of the stage are not in their original positions. Most of them are broken and a good part of them are either incomplete or completely missing.

It is hard to tell when the theatre was built, especially, when the first phase was built, as well as the later phases when the stage was widened and adapted, for the theatre has not been uncovered completely or, even, to a large extent. However its original construction cannot date farther back than the IIIrd century before our era.

Archaelogical research work at Apollonia has cleared up various aspects of the 1.000 years-existence of the city, suplementing the documents of the authors of antiquity in many directions. But it must be said that only a very small part of the ancient city has been traced and there is a lot more to be done in the future. Other surprises from this «urbe magna et gravis», as Cicero called it, are lying beneath the surface of the earth, awaiting the hand of the geologist to wake them from their centuries of slumber.



**View of the theatre of Apollonia**



**Fragment from the temple of the Argonauts in the ancient city.**



**Fragment of a mosaic**

# THE ART OF A REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRY

**Italian Friends**
**M. REGIS, L. MELDOLERI, G. REGIS, N. STOME**

We are still at dhe first steps at acquintance with the Albanian literature and arts. But, after we visited museums and other monuments, after we attended many performances and exhibitions, we can express our opinion. And we are doing this also because, in your reality every artistic moment is connected with the efforts of the working masses, with their aspirations, with the popular traditions, as well as with relations with other peoples.

Let us begin by saying something about the exhibition of cartoons commemorating the 30th anniversary of the «Hosteni» magazinë which had some tens of exhibits. The substance of these cartoons is political. They start from the fascist invasion, follow the course of the revolution, and keep pace with life up to the present campaign against bureaucracy, technocratism, intellectualism, against alien survivals and influences. We do not know whether amateurs took part in this exhibition, but, any way, they have all taken their inspiration from the masses of the people.....

Let us now come to another artistic manifestation which impressed us greatly. We refer to a play based on Jakov Xoxa's novel, «The Dead River». It Speaks of how the peasant gained political consciousness during the time of the feudal bourgeoisie just before the fascist occupation and at the beginning of this occupation. The heroes of this novel are the exploited and oppressed peasant masses, with each character having his own individuality. The process of gaining political consciousness, the need to be united is expressed in a very vivid and realistic way. Some of these peasants grasp it earlier, others later: one in clashes with the feudal lord of the old type, another in clashes with the refined, more capable, more cunning, but no less exploiting merchants. The function of the priest, who sides with the old and new masters and, later, with the fascists, is also presented admirable. Both the staging and the acting of the play seemed to us of a high level.

Certains scenes left a very special impression on us. That at the beginning of the performance with a cart on the rotating platform in which a family from Kosova, expelled by the Serbian chauvinists, drives towards a Myzeqeja village encountering a thousand hardships. Another powerful scene is that when the river overflows and inundates the mud and earthly huts and everything else of the peasants. In that terrible misfortune the peasants gathered on a kind of brigde feel united. Only the priest and his wife who were bent upon salvaging as much as possible of their possesions have cut themselves off from the others. The finale is striking. It is the consciousness which the least developed peasant wins when he comes up against his new employer, who backed by the landlord, the priest and armed guards, demands the drowned animals. The injured peasant tied behind his cart and deserted, is rescued by other peasants. Thus, united, they begin a new and fiercer battle because the internal enemies have now been joined by foreign ones. This new phase is not developed in the play but it is well implied by the peasants united there around the cart with their proud and determined expression and stand, and by the withdrowal of servants from masters.

We do not speak Albanian. The Albanian comrades translated part of the dialogues. Nevertheless, there was never a moment when our attention was not concentraded on the play, and this shows that the performance had really gripped us.

We feel that such forms of art, performances centered on social contradictions and their development, can not fail to attract the masses to such artistic activities and stimulate the criticism of the work within the framework of their struggle to build socialist society. At some moments we had the impression of being a midst the struggle of the Sicilian and Calabrian peasants. A number of their traditions are similar. The exploiting classes and their lackeys are similar too. We are convinced that this work would be an outstanding success in our country.

During our stay in Albania we met Albanian writers and artists. In the now distant past, one of us had also met writers and artists of a country which at that time considered a socialist one. Recalling those contacts, the first thing that made an impression on us from our contact with the Albanian comrades, was they themselves, their links with the aspirations and struggle of the masses of the people of Albania, their unaffectedness. We found no haughtiness among them. And although in general, the Albanian comrades recreated for us the history of their culture, in their work to collect and elaborate the people's traditions and the ideas of the working masses, the Albanian writers and artists, also appreciate the good experience of the other countries in literature and arts. They carefully sieve through, maintain a stand towards, and pass judgment on, every expression of those movements in literature and art, ranging from Italian and French painting to Russian ballet, from classical and operatic music and from the classical to contemporary music and literature. In this field they are very properly working out new orientations. Literature and the arts are closely linked with politics (like every thing else in the final analysis). Through the centuries our literature and art although created by the people, have been manipulated and diverted from their right course by the classes in power to suit their own purposes of domination. With you the content and new forms in creativiness express the aspirations of the masses and help them on the road to communism. Hence, they are a literature and art which reflect the objective laws of the present society, which reject the remnants of the past society, and which contain the seed, the embryo of the coming society. In short, an art and literature in constant development. And this also includes the amateur artistic movement. The workers, peasants, and soldiers have anything necessary to create for themselves and to interpret on their own stage. The breadth of this movement is indicated by the figure of 220.000 amateurs or we might say, about 10% of the population. We heard about these amateurs everywhere. Even the League of Writers and Artists of Albania has in its ranks the best worker and peasant creative artists. On the other hand, writers and artists go to and live for some time among the workers and peasants, find their inspiration there, but also listen to the voice of the masses, to their ideas and suggestions on the works created. This marks a significant step in the field of the important socialist transformations of relations among the people. These transformations also account for the fact that in various contests worker and peasant amateurs often win first prizes and the artistic performances and literary works are extensively discussed by the masses.

Hoping that these expressions of your revolutionary art may become widely known among the Italian working people, we wish you further success in building socialism in Albania.

*Reproduced from the weekly «Drita», organ of the League of Writers and Artists of Albania.*



**The people of the capital farewell the honoured remains of the martyrs who fell in Yugoslavia in the war against dhe nazi occupiers.**

# INTERNATIONALIST CONTRIBUTION BY THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE

In the first days of December, the remains of many Albanian partisan martyrs who fell in Yugoslavia in the war against fascism were brought back to Albania.

The people of Tirana, Shkodra and Kukës and also of the villages and industrial centers from the border with Yugoslavia to the capital, lined the roads and the squares and bowed their heads in respectful memory of their lofty heroism. Like all the Albanian partisans and martyrs, they put the general interest above everything else and, inspired by revolutionary patriotism, fought the enemy hand to hand in the trenches, fulfilling their national and internationalist duty with honour.

As one of the most active partners in the world anti-fascist coalition, the Albanian people, of only one million inhabitants, on an area of twenty eight thousand square kilometers, bore a heavy burden on their shoulders. They had to deal with about seven hundred thousand fascist soldiers who violated Albanian soil, nailed down more than fifteen Italian and German divisions and put out of action about seventy thousand enemies, killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Twenty-eight thousand sons and daughters of our people gave their lives in these battles.

The Albanian people have fought their way through history, sword in hand, they have defended their dignity with blood and countless sacrifices. The enemies they have had to fight have always been powerful and armed to the teeth. They have had to fight alone, relying on their own forces. In the fight for freedom, during the centuries, never have any other people come directly to the aid of our people, arms in hand. While our people, although few in number, have fought many times to help the liberation of other peoples. Big states have oppressed us, the small states have not come to our aid, whereas we have taken up arms and gone to help them, paying the price in our blood.

These are historical facts which cannot be denied. This shows the unyielding freedom-loving spirit of the Albanian people for which they have won the respect of the peoples.

The Party of Labour of Albania has raised this feeling of love for freedom to the heights of proletarian internationalism. A concrete expression of this internationalism was the aid which our people gave in the liberation of the peoples of Yugoslavia. Even before Albania was liberated, two brigades of the Albanian National Liberation Army, the 5th and the 3rd, crossed the state border, on the 5th of October, 1944, to operate against the German Nazis in Kosova and on the Dukagjin Plateau. While, immediately after the liberation of Albania, on the order of the General Commander, Comrade Enver Hoxha, two divisions of our National Liberation Army, the 5th and the 6th, continued the pursuit of the Hitlerite troops into Yugoslavia. There, the Albanian and Yugoslav fighters, fighting together against the Nazi hordes from December 1944 to April 1945, liberated Montenegro, Sandjak and the Southern part of Bosnia, (in Yugoslavia). With their profoundly internationalist stand; with the communist education which characterised them, with their unexcelled heroism in war and the blood they shed unsparingly, the Albanian partisans won the hearts and deep respect of the Albanian population as well as of the Macedonian, Montenegrine and Sandjak populations in Yugoslavia. In the bloody battles for the liberation of the peoples of Yugoslavia, hundreds of courageous Albanian and Yugoslav partisans laid down their lives. They fell martyrs in the struggle for freedom, democracy and genuine socialism.

Commemorating the martyrs who fell for the freedom of the Homeland, the Albanian people, bow their heads in deep and eternal respect and gratitude to the memory of them. The have made socialist Albania a steel-like fortress with one of the most advanced political orders in the world, with a developed industry and agriculture, flourishing art and culture and a powerful defence potential.

While bowing in respect before the remains of the sons and daughters our people repeated their oath to follow their road through to the end. The leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, «The Party will carry out the behest of the martyrs to the last. It will lead the people, as always, on the right road to the complete victory of socialism and communism and will always defend the immortal cause and purity of Marxism Leninism».

On this occasion, in the capital, a ceremony of commemoration was organised in the big hall of the Palace of Culture. Together with the members of the martyr's families and thousands of working people from the work and production centers, armymen, war and labour veterans, young people, the members of the Political Bureau of the CC of the PLA, members of the CC of the Party, of the Presidium of the People's Assembly and of the Government came to pay homage to their honoured sons, daughters and brothers.

To a volley of artillery fire, the coffins containing the remains of the martyrs were placed in the cemetery of the Martyrs of the Homeland.

# Pashko Vasa's albanian grammar

JUP KASTRATI
In charge of the Department of Albanian language at the Higher Teacher Training Institute in Shkodra.

In 1887, Pashko Vasa published in French the book **«Albanian Grammar For The Use Of Those Who Want To Learn This Language Without The Aid Of A Teacher»**. It was published in London by the «Trubner Publishing House», which is famous for a number of popular grammatical publications of the principal languages of Asia and Europe. Pashko Vasa's book was part of this rich collection and was the forteenth volume of this series. Viewing the book in question from the angle of the scientific criteria on which it is based, we find it hard to believe that its author was selftaught. On the contrary, we think that Pashko Vasa must have had a sound linguistic training and that he had been at least through secondary school.

The publication of this book is of special significance to the history of Albanian grammatology. This is the fourth relatively complete grammar published by an Albanian during the period of our National Renaissance. We know that Zef De Rada — in fact Jeronim De Rada — published an Albanian grammar in Italian in 1870, Konstandin Kristoforidhi published one in Greek in 1882, while Sami Frashëri published another in Albanian in 1886. Within a period of 16 to 17 years, four distinguished scholars of our National Renaissance published four grammars of our language in Italian, Greek, French and Albanian. This is of major importance to the students of Albanian linguistics and the grammatical structure of the Albanian language. This is a valuable indication of their indisputable patriotism as well as of their divergencies as regards the criteria of the structure of the Albanian grammar, their scientific interests, the philological schools and the directions they followed in linguistics, and their thesis and ideas on Albanian grammatology.

Pashko Vasa's Albanian Grammar opens with an introduction in French, in which, prompted by lofty sentiments of patriotism, he writes about the antiquity of the Albanian people and their language. «The Albanian people is indisputably the most ancient in Europe. We cannot define its beginnings, except thanks to science which shows that the Albanians descended directly from the Pellasgians, a people whose origin is lost in the mists of legend. The Pellasgians, points out the author, seem to have had neither writing nor literature of their own, or if they had them, they have been lost during the passage of the centuries. In any case nothing accurate has come down to our days about them, so that we might be able to determine their origin and the countless changes of fortune through which they passed. Meanwhile we can confirm that though they left no written history to posterity, they left us their traditions in legend, their customs, their habits and dress, and, what is more, their language. Because they possess all these things, the Albanians must and can claim to be their true descendants. The Albanians, especially those of the Northern Highlands, are to this day what they were thirty centuries ago, namely, shepherds and fighters, who think, feel, speak, live and die like Homer's heroes.»

«It is not, of course, our aim to deal in a small preface with a problem which requires the deepest study and most extensive elaboration; this heavy task we leave to others who have more possibilities and who are more learned than we. Our aim in drawing up this grammar is to show that the Albanian language has fixed rules and a single form, and to put before the whole world and, especially, the European scholars, a reliable guide so that they will be able to learn this language without the aid of a professor.»

This work of Pashko Vasa contains items of interest for the students of the language. It could be consulted with benefit to this day by our workers in the new Albanian language, especially in the field of composing dialects, as well as in the history of the language, especially its historical morphology etc.

The work winds up with an epilogue in French, which says, inter alia, «... a foreigner can never learn a language in depth if he lacks the necessary culture and if the language has not been treated in books before. Foreigners could not have written apart from oral data taken from the local sources and, often, heard from individuals who lack schooling. Therefore, it is reasonable to surmise that they could neither grasp the spirit of the language nor understand all its shades of meaning, especially when speaking of an idiom such as the Albanian language which, from the grammatical standpoint, is so rich in words and forms that with a little culture, it would be one of the most brilliant and richest languages, a thing which we believe can be attained with a little study.»

# First steps in optical glass

Eng. HIQMET REÇI

The glass industry in Albania was established 21 years ago. Today Albanian glass production is approaching international standards. It provides various glass vessels for packing foodstuffs, window glass from 2 to 8 mm. thickness, obscure glass, glass wool, porous glass for thermo insulation, electric lamp bulbs and so on. Soon it will be producing medicine bottles, ampules and phials.

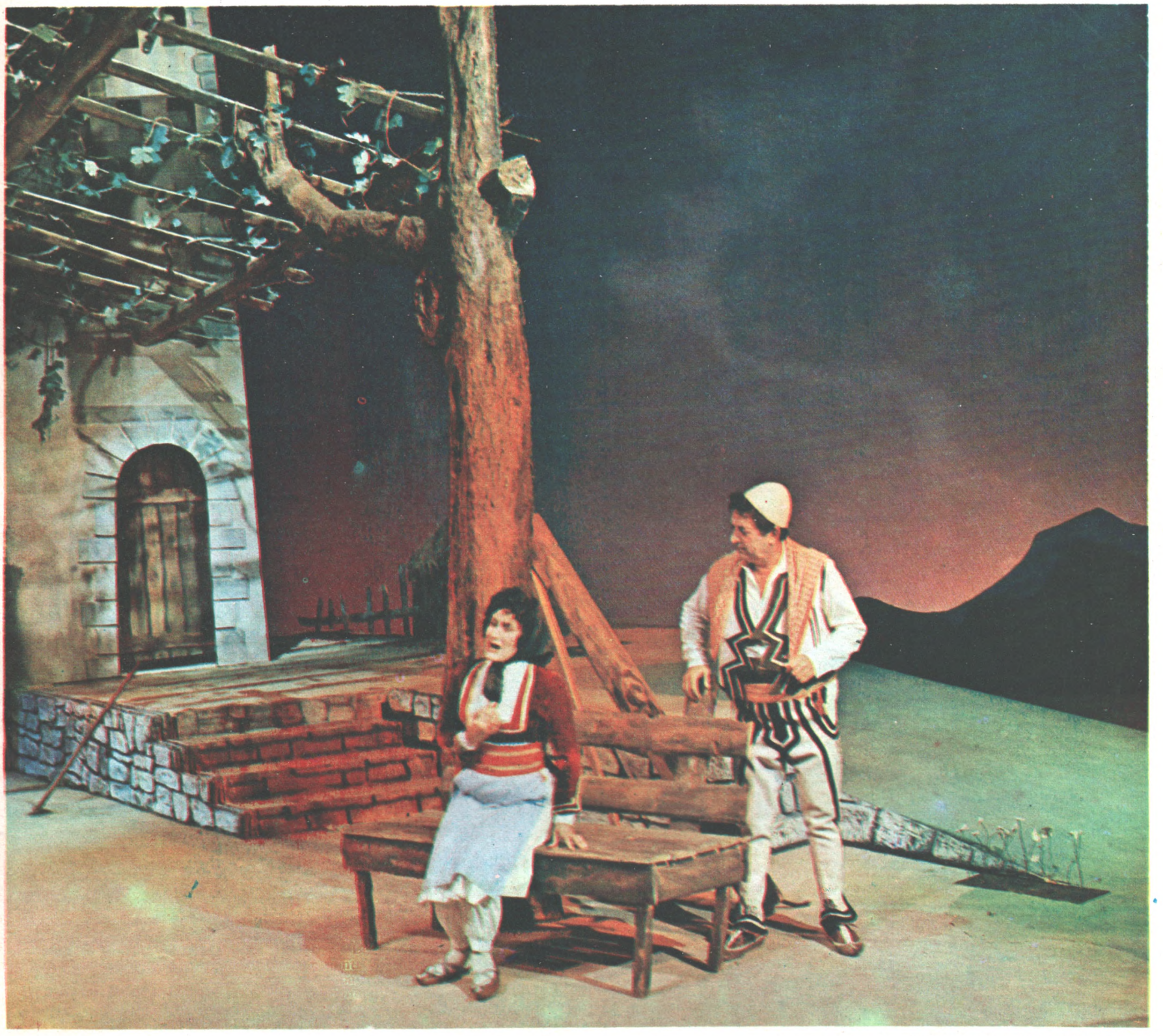
The products of Albanian glassware with traditional decorations have been exhibited at international exhibitions and fairs where they have won approval.

The development of our science and technique, the allround development of our country, call for the quantitative and qualitative development of glassware and for a variety of glassware products for specific purposes. Optical glass is one of these which covers a wide range of use, especially in the various branches of our scientific research institutions. Despite the lack of traditions in this field, our glass workers have already gained their preliminary experience in the production of optical, details at the glass factory in Kavaja. The demand for simple optical details which are installed in the experimental laboratory apparatus served as a stimulus for this.

At the present stage our work is concentrated on solving certain problems and building up some technological processes to further improve the quality of the details already produced and the production of other more sophisticated details. The principal problem under study by our collective is to turn out glass with precise given physico-optical qualities, such as chemical-physical purity and homogeny, coefficient of refraction, absorbtion of light, chemical stability and so on.

Within the framework of cooperation and collaboration with the other enterprises of the country, work is being done to turn out eyeglasses for myopic persons.

Of course, this is just the beginning. The world of glass production covers an extraordinarily wide field but the willpower and efforts of our workers have set out to conquer it.



**A scene from the first Albanian opera «Mrika».**

# THE FIRST ALBANIAN OPERA

Like many achievements of our country, the Albanian opera, too, is very young. This genre has flourished during the three decades of the people's state power. In the past, we had some forms of this poetic-musical genre such as vaudeville, melodramas, etc., but the first real Albanian opera was composed in the '50s of our century by Prenk Jakova (1919--1969), based on the libretto of poet Llazar Siliqi. Thus, **«Mrika»**, the work of the above mentioned authors, is regarded as the first Albanian opera. This work was not created immediately in the form it has today. It arose out of the musical tableau entitled **«Light over Albania»** performed by the amateurs of the House of Culture in Shkodra in 1952. Together with the poet, the composer elaborated the subject of this tableau, deepening and extending it from the dramatic standpoint up to the proportions of an opera. The Opera **«Mrika»** was performed for the first time in Shkodra in 1957, under the direction of the composer himself, then from 1959 onward, it has been staged several times by the company of the Opera and Ballet Theatre in Tirana.

«Mrika» is a work with pronounced national features as regards both form and content. The essence of its theme is the heroic work of our people to build a hydro-power station on the Mati river, the moulding of these people with the principles of communist morality, in struggle with the patriarchal outlook and other hangovers from the past, as well as against the internal and external enemies.

The Opera «Mrika» retains its relevance for us today, not only because it depicts the selfless work, optimism, views and problems of the masses of our people in the course of revolution, but also on account of its indisputable artistic values and qualities such as its coherence and intense dramatic action, its clear musical «language» which is comprehensible to the masses, and so on. Melody predominates in the music, melody developed with folk intonations. The arias, duets, trios, choruses, and so on, are generally built in the form of song, and are thus readily understood by the audience. Harmony too has been presented simply and with effect. In the orchestration of this opera, extensive use has been made of the tonal-shades of folk instruments.

Apart from the opera «Mrika», composer Prenk Jakova has left us arrangements of many folk songs, composed many mass songs, instrumental pieces, various pieces of band music, and so on. He has also left us another work of major proportions: the opera «Gjergj Kastriot Skënderbe» composed and performed for the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of our National Hero.

The famous Lura lakes in the northeastern part of Albania are among the picturesque mountain lakes of the country. They are at an altitude of 1.600 — 1.900 metres above sea level.

# THE LURA LAKES

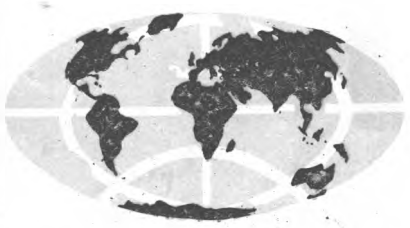
**Prof. PANDI GEÇO**

Among the picturesque features of the Albanian landscape are its lakes, both large and small, scattered all over its territory, both in the highlands as well as in the hills and plains. Apart from lake Ohri and lake Prespa, which are larger, the mountain lakes are usually small. There are hundreds of them high in the mountains, usually in groups and gleaming like «mountain eyes». Among these lakes the best known are those lying on the Mt.Nezhda at Lura, in the northeastern part of the country. They are situated from about 1,600 to 1,900 meters above sea level, in a group of more then ten lakes at various hights, sometimes one above the other and linked by a stream which, in summer, becomes a roaring, foaming torrent. These lakes are quite small, less than one hectares each, that's why they are not marked in the ordinary maps of Albania. They are usually oval in shape and some of them are scores of metres deep. An outstanding feature of these lakes is their clear, cold water. This is because they are fed by melted snow and lie at high altitudes. They reflect a marvellous panorama, here gleaming in the sunshine, there dark from the shade of the lofty pines. Being at such altitudes where below zero temperatures continue for a long time, they are frozen for several months of the year and covered with snow. Each of these lakes bears a name connected with some legend (The lake of the Cow) their surface plants (The Lake of Flowers), or their dimensions (The Big Lake).

These natural gems are now frequented regularly in summer by the youth and the workers of our country.



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**AS USUAL A LARGE NUMBER OF LETTERS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD FROM READERS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. THE EDITORS THANK THEM ALL AND WILL TRY TO MEET THEIR REQUESTS. HERE ARE EXCERPTS DRAWN FROM THESE LETTERS:**

**LIAN DJUO Bia, The People's Republic of China. —**

I am a young man from the ranks of the intelligentsia of the People's Republic of China and, at the same time, a reader of your magazine «New Albania». I am interested especially in the contribution of your youth to building the new socialist countryside. Therefore, whenever I read about the revolutionary youth of your country who respond actively to comrade Enver Hoxha's call to build the new Albanian countryside, I recall thousands of such cases in my own country. The great results you have achieved speak of the great efforts of your people to build socialism. These results are a motive force for the construction of my country as well and prompt us to learn, to encourage and to help each other.

Let us march with giant strides towards the brilliant road of communism, shoulder to shoulder together and led by our Marxist-Leninist Parties.

**A. BASHIRU and 11 of his mates, Ghana. —**

We wish to express our highest praise for your magazine. We have read the number 1/1975 issue carefully and for us the articles were special interest — informative and educational.

The article written by Prof. Magliani on «The Progress of Albanian Agriculture» shows that Albania is not a backward country, as the western imperialist propaganda describes it, but a prosperous country which sets an example for the developing countries.

The article «Why There Is No Inflation in Albania» is further evidence of this.

The short story «War Wedding» is also attractive and interesting.

We are eagerly awaiting the next issues.

**PETER D.KITSOULIS, U.S.A.**

I am grateful for the subscription to the magazines «New Albania.» It gives panorama of an entirely new Albania, compared with that of the years of my youth.

My wife visited Albania last year and when she returned she was proud and happy about all she had seen in her native Land. Today, the living conditions of the Albanian people are marvellous. My heart is filled with joy when I see the progress Albania has made within these few years.

Through reading your magazine I, too, see that Albania is really a «New Albania» in every respect. I am proud and happy that the Albanian people have achieved those successes that the other peoples are striving to achieve.

**PIERFRANCESCO CALLIERI, Italy. —**

I am a student aged 18 and for some months have been receiving your interesting magazine which I like a lot. It is well prepared and carefully divided into features among which I highly appreciate those dealing with social progress, art and archeology. (I'll become an archeologist.)

In issue number 4 I have read that the editors would reply to questions about Albania. I would like replies to the following questions:

In Italy there is a considerable minority who speak Albanian — the Arbëreshi. What links exist between the Arbëreshi and Albania?

What kind of life do people of my age group lead?

How are sports activities developed? Are championship contests for the development of mass sports favored? Are national championships held for separate sports? What kinds of sports are played in Albania?

Do chamber and symphonic music have a folk base or do they follow western classical stages? Do the youth appreciate folk music?

**JÜRGEN METZGER, West Germany. —**

I have been reading your beautiful magazine regularly for some time now and I am very happy about the great successes scored by the Albanian people in building socialism. These successes are a great encouragement for the German people in their struggle.

**ANDREA FIESCHI, Italy. —**

I eagerly await the issues of the magazine «New Albania». I recall with great enthusiasm the days I spent in your wonderful country during 1962. Now it has advanced even further. Thanks to the Party of Labour of Albania headed by its heroic leader, Enver Hoxha, Albania has become the «beacon light of socialism» in a gloomy Europe.

**DURAND ALAIN, France. —**

I have been subscriber to your magazine «New Albania» for the last three years. I congratulate you for your work as a whole. His articles, features and photos are high quality.

Will to be possible for your magazine to publish articles on workers' control?

How is the problem of the national minorities solved?

What are the relations of the People's Republic of Albania with the outside world?

**OMRAN OMAR, Algeria. —**

I send militant greetings from Algeria to the revolutionaries and all the brothers of Albania who beat like a heart for Europe.

I have read a number of issues of the magazine «New Albania» and I am amazed that this little country is lighting up the true road to socialism. I thank you very much and hope that I shall continue to receive your magazine. I am very interested in magazines like this which speak of the socialist revolution and Marxism-Leninism in Albania.

**J. MARIA, Colombia. —**

It is a great pleasure for me to send my best wishes through this letter. I have received your magazine «New Albania» which I found most interesting since it shows the great progress of Albanian people have made following their triumph over fascism. That is why I would be very grateful if you send the most recent issue of your magazine.

**CARLOS F. CARCIA, Peru. —**

I happened to get hold of your magazine «New Albania».

I had heard a little about your country but I was surprised of the progress made during these thirty years, especially, when I see that such a small socialist country can exist on the European continent and, at the same time, oppose hegemonism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

This shows that a great or small people can seek and build a New World...

**MIGUEL POSANI, Venezuela. —**

I am writing this letter because through some comrades I have received your magazine. I am keenly interested in exchanging publications and informations. I would be grateful if you could send me comrade Enver Hoxha's speeches as well as articles on revisionism.

In conclusion I convey to you revolutionary greetings and wish your further successes in building socialism in your country.

**The Parakrama Library, Sri Lanka. —**

We would be very grateful if you could send some numbers of the magazine «New Albania». The magazine «New Albania» is a very interesting publication for us.

We would like to receive it regularly.

*N.B. — The Board Editors will answer the questions posed by the readers in these letters in the coming issues of the magazine.*

**TEODOR LAÇO**

# MALAI

I remember Malai. Only a few people knew his real name was Mihal, because everybody called him Malai and he was used to this strange name; he was even pleased that it was no ordinary, common name they called him.

That February day, Malai tucked his head down into his collar to keep the snow and hurried along. Squalls of powdered snow surged around him and everybody else seemed very sluggish, as if they had frozen into icy immobility, powerless and fearful awaiting the cutting edge of the wind, like an inevitable blow. On his thick, bushy brows hanging to the very corners of his eyes, the tiny grains of snow found a cold, support and froze there, creating tiny icy eye-lashes.

«I wonder what they want me for?», thought Malai. «Perhaps it's that business of last year again.»

«...No it can hardly be that», he murmured to himself. After so long that'll be forgotten. Lucky for me if it is. But as the saying goes, the tongue always touches the aching tooth. You've always got it at the back of your mind. But, who knows, perhaps the new Director wants to get to know me...»

The winter wind was not quite so keen now, but Malai's conscience was troubling him with the gloomiest foreboding. He stopped in front of the big door freshly painted dark blue, shook the snow from his hair and clothes, then since he was entering an office, he remembered he should do up the top button of his cotton shirt, because, thought Malai, an office is not a wheelright's shop. Unfortunately, the shirt didn't have a top button, and there was no reason why it should have had, as Malai could never bear to be stiffled by buttons. Not a trace of snow remained in his hair or on his thick woollen clothing now, but he ran his calloused hands slowly and gently over his clothes once more and felt no dampness from the melting snow.

«What's the meaning of all this?», muttered Malai. They call me and don't say why? At least they could have said, Malai, «We want you for this reason!» A man should know what to think and what to say, so he won't be taken by surprise.»

He knocked on the door, but no voice responded to his knock.

«That first Director has had the doors padded with cotton, so that he couldn't hear when people knocked from outside», thought Malai and knocked harder. He seemed to hear a deep and far away voice saying, «Come in», so he pushed the heavy door open and poked his head inside.

«Excuse me», he said, «Perhaps you are busy?»

«No, no... come in, come in, Comrade Mihal, said the man sitting near the window, and he got to his feet, shook hands with Malai and seated him in a comfortable chair near the fire. The heavy hot atmosphere of the office wafted round him from the embers and semmed to catch his breath. He took off his grimy cap and held it in his hands.

«Excuse me», he whispered. I can't stand the heat. I'd rather stay here by the window. Malai spoke quitely; because the Chairman of the trade union committee, Besnik, was talking in a high voice on the telephone. Besnik, that rascal-thought he-was a great joker. Malai detested him, because he didn't speak like the others, but like a lawyer.

«The Director must have something important, seeing he asked me to sit down, otherwise, he could have told me standing.»

Malai started to light his pipe, but he thought «the office isn't the wagon and wheels workshop where you can smoke when you please, so he put his pipe back in his pocket.

«It's so hot in here. It's stifling!» he said to himself.

The Director had been quietly observing Malai. He couldn't guess his age. A man apart was Malai. Here, where the years had found softness they had ploughed deep furrows, there, the years had met rock. That small, sharp face, with protruding cheek bones, skin and bone and without any particular expression; neither intelligence, nor stupidity, absolutely ordinary, bore the harshest traces of the years.

Even more surprising were his hands, like two knots of wood. Only those who have worked timer all their lives could have such hands. The palms were rough, the skin blackened and caloused, the fingers thick, immobile, as if the joints had petrified.

Malai was deep in thought. The hot air, made his body feel a surprising rush of heat, like a permanent tickling. The director coughed in a purposeful way and Malai returned from his dreams.

The Director brought out the box of cigarettes and he struggled to take one with his thick fingers, than he removed the paper and emptied the tobacco into his old blackened and burnt pipe. He drew some more tobacco from his pouch and packed it in.

«Would you like some of my tobacco?», asked Malai. «It's a bit strong but it doesn't make you cough.»

«Thank you», said the Director.

«You've no idea how fresh these nylon bags keep the tobacco», he said, and, without noticing that the Director was holding out his lighter, he opened the little door on the stove, drew out a glowing ember and, after leisurely placing it in the pipe, took two or three good pulls at it. The Director and Besnik exchanged glances.

«They are certainly in no hurry to tell me what they want, thought Malai. I don't like this, I am scared they might be going to mention last year's affair. Even though they praise him, I dislike this Besnik.

«Mihal, said the Director unexpectedly, how are things going on at the wagon workshop?»

«Work is work. We work, said Malai, anxiously asking himself what on earth the Director was driving at.»

«Malai has been working here for twenty years. He has never shirked work and he has never once failed to do his job», said Besnik.

«Now, why is he buttering me up?», thought Malai. «Or perhaps he is doing this just to give the Director an idea of my work because he is new here. Who knows? Could it be possible that he has called me here to introduce me? The other one is a little arrogant, but perhaps this one likes life with the workers.»

«This spring we shall have a lot of work», said Malai.

The simple word «work» had a different sound, all the other words were squeezed out through his lips, this word alone he pronounce with a strong movement of his lips, like an unexpected explosion.

The old cap slipped from his knee, and with a quick movement, he pulled it up again. It was hot, the air seemed full of steam and for the first time in his life, his woollen clothing seemed to prickle him all over.

«What are you doing at the moment at the workshop?», asked the Director who didn't know how to begin.

«We are getting the material ready for work in the spring.»

«What about the boy we sent you as a pupil, has he got the hang of things now?»

«He's learnt the trade well.»

The conversation ceased once more. They were both finding it very difficult to come to the point with Malai... Besnik had talked with Malai's two sons. They were both workers, one a brick layer and the other a plasterer, and looked amazingly like their father; thin, lean faced, wavy haired, but tough as knotted timber. The sons insisted that the enterprise put their father on the pension because he was more than seventy years of age; those at the enterprise also wanted Malai to go out on the pension, even though as a craftsmen there were few to match him. But... Seventy years of age!

From the silence and the glances they were throwing each other, Malai began to feel uneasy and once again the suspicion arose in him: «What if they've called me for last year's business, or was that fixed once and for all?»

«Mihal, said the Director. We are very pleased with your work and we rate you as the best and most experienced worker in the enterprise.»

He dropped his head and felt an overwhelming rush of emotion surge inside him. He tightened his grip on the cap on his knees and the inner fire surged up into his cheeks.

«It's so hot in here», he thought.

«Your sons came here and asked us to put you out on the pension», said the Director.

Oh, hell, thought the old man. Last year's affair again.

«Did they come here?», he asked reluctantly.

«Yes, said Besnik, We know that your sons and their wives take great care of you.»

«But what has this to do with my boys?»

«They are only thinking of you, Mihal, said the Director. You must rest now, you've worked honourably all your life, now you can go on the pension and enjoy a happy old age.»

«Me, rest?, whispered the old man, then he continued, does the enterprise also think that I should rest?, asked Malai, and his eyes, those two alert eyes, searched their faces for a moment, as if they wanted to understand, to detect something. The Director smiled.

«Why does he smile? What is there to smile about?, Malai thought to himself, whereas Besnik threw some wood on the fire, (as if it wasn't hot enough to stifle us). And seeing that he failed to understand anything, Malai said, «Isn't the enterprise satisfied with me? Is that why they want me to leave work?»

«No, Mihal. Didn't we say that you are our best worker? Where will we find another like you! But we are thinking about you, about your health. Spring is coming, and the weather will get warmer. Instead of exhausting yourself on the wagons, you could take your grand children out for walks. You could sit and chat with your old friends. Your sons too...

«Ah, my sons, interrupted Malai. What do my sons understand?

You people here in the enterprise dont' understand, let alone my sons».

«What should we understand Malai?», asked Besnik.

Malai swallowed hard. What should he say now? He had never spoken so much in all his life and he had never had the occasion to express his most secret thoughts. And how can a man tell another his most secret thoughts? They should have known Malai, they should have known that he had his own conviction, strong and clearcut, which had been nailed into his brain since the day he managed to make his first wheel. To Malai this thought was as clear as day, but he could not express it to them.

Unconsciously, Malai had stretched his hands out in front of him and his small eyes stared out from under his thick eyebrows which gave his face a suprising severeity, and gazed intently at this hands.

«No... They haven't started to tremble yet», he said.



Illustration by Zamir Mati.

The other two were silent. They could feel a strange sadness, as if they understood what Malai was thinking.

«What do you say, Malai»? asked the Director.

«What can I say, Comrade Director? Those walks you talk about, are not for me. I get bored like that. This year, for example, they almost had to force me to go on holiday, not because I didn't have anywhere to go, but, I just wasn't used to it. I went for a walk through the park and stopped a little at the Park of Themistokli. (A park behind the monument of Th. Germenji in Korcha). You know that that is a favourite gathering place of old folk. I sat on a seat. It was such a beautiful day, warm and sweet, it made my hands itch for work. Another five or six old men came and sat down on my seat without even asking. It seemed this was their place and I had intruded. They were old men with withered white hands. I got up and left.

«Good on you Malai», laughed Besnik.

«How old are you Mihal?», asked the Director.

«I don't know, seventy, perhaps, more or less, I don't count the years like that.»

«How do you count them?»

«As long as you can work, as long as your hands and feet work, then you're young, but as soon as you can't work any longer that's the start of old age.»

The Director realised that all the things he had thought of to convince Malai had been reduced to ashes. He remembered a similar case with another old man who didn't want to go out on the pension, but during the conversation with him, he had understood that his only son wouldn't let him go on the pension because it would mean a smaller income and less entertainment with his young bride. But what could he say to Malai, to this amazing old man?

Silence fell on the office once again, a silence which was like a calm sadness; each deep in his own thoughts. Malai took out his pouch and began to fill his pipe. He smoked his tobacco lost in thought. ...«The time will come when they'll understand what I mean, but it takes a while», he thought. And they'll regret leaving my job in another's hands, then they'll remember Malai...»

Through the heavy smoke which confused his mind, a cunning idea struck Malai, «This is my way out», he thought. «Comrade Director, he said, «I understand that I am a nuisance to the enterprise and to my sons. Because, if not today, tomorrow I'll have to go on the pension... But if you do me a big favour and let me continue working just this summer, because I have got all the material ready for this spring.»

«But that's exactly what you said last year,» said Besnik, Don't you remember?»

«Let me work this summer and then, if you ask me I won't stay on.»

«Is that what I said», said Malai with a sigh. He didn't feel angry with Besnik but with himself for not remembering.

Malai drew on .s pipe and glanced out of the window. The snowstorm of the morning had stopped and it seemed to him as if a heavy and boring silence had fallen. Some way off, in a yard, two children were trying to make a snowman.

«They can't do it, no. They're too small, «he said to himself. The fact is that the boy still isn't trained enough, he said. If I stayed on this summer, too, he would learn the trade, and would be a first rate wheel wright, because he is very bright, the young devil...»

«Is that so? said the Director. Mihal, are you sure he couldn't handle the job?»

«Now, he's caught me, thought Malai. If I say he can't do it, perhaps they will keep me on, but I can't take it out on the boy, no... I'd be lying, if I said the boy didn't know the trade», he said. But he ought to have me on hand. He still has something to learn from me.»

Silence fell on the office again, a silence which forced minds to work even harder. Malai once more tried to detect in their faces some sign of hope for him but once more he failed to discover anything.

«These people of today are another sort. You can't understand them, he thought. It was different with our generation. What could I do if I went on the pension? Spend all my days at the Themistokli park, no, no! That's not for me, neither is the «family» cafe. Even if I was to go out with little Mihal for walks in the summer. what then?» As if suddenly inspired, the Director said, «Mihal, we have thousands of pensioners...»

«Thousands, yes, but as long as they don't work... If a man stops working, he may as well wait... for death.»

Not even he knew how those words came out. His eyes suddenly clouded. He felt the Director's hand on his shoulder.

«Nobody can deny you the right to work. You will be free to work whenever you want and as much as you have strength to do. Work does not only mean the workshop. Yesterday, a group of pensioners left for the railway which the youth are building with voluntary labour. They will stay there for nearly two weeks. They will work, talk and discuss things with the youth, they'll sing with them too.»

A long silence followed, then Besnik said.

«Why did you mention death, Mihal? You have never worried about death. We know... how often you have been face to face with death and...»

«No, No, said the worker, breaking in on him. It's not death I'm afraid of, but the other thing, how can I put it, the waiting. To sit back with folded arms in the Themistokli Park and wait for death».

«To go on the pension does not mean to sit and wait...»

«But you are taking away my right to work.»

«No, interrupted the Director, nobody will take away your right to work. You are going to go on the pension. Do you want to work for society? Alright, go ahead and work! Our life is so rich, that there are jobs to be done everywhere.»

«Comrade Director, said Malai unexpectedly, if I have to leave my job this winter, will you let me work, just for my own pleasure, in our workshop eh? Without pay! Because my advice could be valuable to the boy there.»

«Of course, Mihal, Treat the workshop as your home. You can teach the boy.»

«Will you give me a document for this which says that Malai Buchova is allowed to work, on and off, for the enterprise, as a wheel wright without pay?»

Had he been a little sharper of hearing, Malai would have caught the deep sigh which escaped from the Director, who, suddenly felt himself unladen of a heavy burden of thoughts and feelings. How difficult it had seemed to him to find even one more word to convince Malai, this strange old man who had that clear idea stuck in his head that death begins where work is over.



The first page of this issue carries the photograph of Nexhmije Demçe, commissar of the central staff of the volunteers who are building the Prenjas-Guri Kuq railroad (in the southeastern part of Albania). The life and activities of this young woman are similar to those of thousands of other girls and boys of present day Albania, whom you can meet all over the country – on construction sites, in educational institutions, laboratories, factories, workshops...

«Commissar Nexhi», as the young volunteers call her, was born and comes from a family were formerly poor peasants in the city of Korça. Her father took part in the ranks of the National-liberation. Army. Her mother works as a cook. Nexhmie is 24 years of age. She has two brothers and a sister. Her elder brother, Luan, works as an electrician in a mine while her other brother, Ylli, and her sister, Mandelina, are continuing their higher studies. Nexhmie's fiance is an engineer.

After graduation from the teacher training secondary school, Nexhmie was employed as a teacher of mathematics at the 8 years school in the village of Bletas in the Pogradec district. Later she was appointed secretary of the Youth committee of this district. When work began on the Prrenjas–Guri i Kuq railroad, Nexhmie was charged with the task of the commissar of the central staff of the young volunteers.

Nexhmie has been a volunteer on many projects, of the youth, both local and national. Now she is continuing her studies in mathematics at the State University of Tirana, by correspondence.


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## YEAR XXIX


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**A match between two of the country's best teams, «Partizan» and «17 November»,**

# THE FOOTBALL SEASON

P. KORETA

Autumn in Albania is called «The football season» because the football championship games begin during its first month, activating hundreds of teams and thousands of players.

The National Championship Games of the first division are the most important. They began thirty years ago, immediately after the liberation of Albania.

Twelve teams take part at these championship games, four of which represent the sports clubs of the capital and eight those of the outlying districts. The youngest team represents the School of Physical Culture and sports, and is made up of players 18 to 19 years of age.

Sixteen teams divided into two groups compete in the championship games of the second division. In these games there are teams with long traditions in football like «Skanderbeg» of Korça, «Tomorri» of Berat, «Apollonia» of Fier, and others. There are also new teams like those of Librazhd and Erseka. Some teams represent economic enterprises and agricultural cooperatives, for instance the team representing the «Stalin» Textile combine and those of the Narta and Himara agricultural cooperatives.

Teams of a lower technical level, mainly from work centers and agricultural cooperatives, take part in the championship games of the third division.

Football championship games are also held for younger players and children.

Apart from the championships, there are also other competitions for cups from various institutions or from the Football Federation. The most important of these is the Cup of the Republic which almost becomes a second championship, as regards both the number of matches played and the standard of play and the interest of the fans.

Football attracts more players and spectators than any other sport. Every class and school, work and production centre, village or military detachment, has its own representative team or club.

There is a stadium in every city. Schools, work centres and villages have football fields. In some towns, like Pogradec and Lezha, the capacity of the stadiums is equal to half of the number of the populations. And at every more or less important match they are filled to overflowing. Tens of thousands of spectators follow the games by radio or television.

We can very well say that the distinctive feature of Albanian football is its mass character. It is a very beneficial means for the physical toughening of our youth. Business deals, contests for profit, brutality on the field, or buying and selling of players are alien to our football contests.

