



NEW ALBANIA

**2
1976**



**In this house,
 In the heart of Tirana.
 On 8th November 1941.
 A handful of resolute communists
 With Enver Hoxha in the lead gathered.
 Here, in this house,
 Under a kerosene lamp;
 On a kitchen table,
 Mother Albania
 Gave birth to
 the wise, the brave, Communist Party of Albania
 Tack boots of black patrols tramped the cobbled
 streets,
 Behind door, windows,
 The workers,**

**The mothers,
 Sisters
 Kept guard over the brave who signed
 the historic revolution.
 And now,
 Again in this house,
 The free people of Albania,
 Workers,
 Cooperative members,
 Professors,
 Young people and children
 Come to honour this cobbled alley
 This old oaken gate
 Whence the new epoch of the revolution in
 Albania
 Began its brilliant march.**

ALBANIA

ON THE 35th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PARTY OF LABOR

This is the 35th year of the founding of the Communist (now the Party of Labor) of Albania. The working class, the cooperative peasantry and all our people have mustered all their efforts and enthusiasm to await November 8 with new triumphs on the road of building and defending socialist Albania.

Thirty-five years ago and under the critical conditions of fascist occupation, the Albanian communists led by comrade Enver Hoxha founded in Tirana the Communist Party of Albania, the vanguard of the working class, the leader of the Albanian people in their Anti-fascist National-liberation War.

The founding of the Communist Party of Albania is an historical necessity for the destiny of the Albanian people. In full conscience, the Party took over the great responsibility of leading the people in bitter battle against the Italian fascists and the German nazi, against the traitors to the country in order to lead the people towards liberation and the assumption of power into their own hands. Armed with Marxist-Leninist science, the Party of Labor of Albania has succeeded in setting forth correctly the strategic objectives at various stages, in bringing to light the motive forces to attain these objectives, in pointing out the surest way to be followed in order to triumph over ruthless and powerful enemies. It has always carried aloft the militant banner of the immortal ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. Loyalty to Marxism-Leninism has always been the source of its strength, the source of its wisdom and far-sightedness, of its courage and determination to overcome obstacles and march in full confidence towards the complete realization of major historical objectives and duties. And in carrying out these duties it has strongly relied on the people.

The Party of Labor of Albania inherited from the people marvellous patriotic and revolutionary traditions. All along the centuries, the Albanian people have had «to force their way through history with sword in hand», as comrade Enver Hoxha has said. And from these bitter and protracted just wars for freedom and independence and which have had a pronounced popular character have come to the fore those remarkable traditions which the Party of Labor of Albania has inherited from the former generations. In these wars the Albanian people have shown their ardent love of country, their deep resentment against bondage, their great aspirations and steel-like will for progress in all the spheres of life, their unshaken confidence in their own efforts and in victory, their affection, respect and loyalty towards their friends and fellow fighters for the same ideals.

By inheriting such fine traditions, our Party of Labor has succeeded in elaborating this heritage of the people giving them

a new content based on Marxist-Leninist ideology and, in this way, building its revolutionary line of activity.

Forcing its way through the storm of the National-liberation War, our Party became its general staff. In constant battle with the enemy, it succeeded in solving many complicated problems like the organization and direction of the armed uprising, the problem of military cadres, the problem of armaments which were to be seized from the enemy in the field of battle, the problem of crushing the old regime and setting up the National-liberation Councils as the nuclei of the coming People's State Power.

With the Party in the leadership, our people smashed to smithereens the state power of the fascist and of traitors in their service. On November 29, 1944, it liberated by its own forces all the territory of Albania taking the State Power in its own hands.

Inspired by the sentiments of proletarian internationalism, the Albanian National-liberation Army with two of its Divisions pursued the nazi enemies beyond the borders of Albania, shedding the blood of its sons and daughters for the liberation of the peoples of Yugoslavia.

After liberation and the assumption of power by the people, our Party was faced with new and more difficult tasks. As a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist Party, it could not stop half way. Relying on the working class, the laboring peasantry and all the patriotic forces, our Party guided the country towards major revolutionary transformations. The country was reconstructed, Albania was proclaimed a People's Republic, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania was approved, land and subsoil resources as well as the principal means of production were nationalized, land reform laws were passed turning the land over to the peasant workers and the new Albanian State was set up based on the principles of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Now, after thirty-five years of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania, the workers of our country draw up a balance sheet of the victories that have been achieved. Under the enlightened guidance of our Party headed by the beloved leader comrade Enver Hoxha, our country has made colossal revolutionary transformations. Before liberation, Albania used to be the most backward country in Europe in which prevailed poverty, misery, ruthless feudal-bourgeois exploitation, illiteracy, in which diseases wrought havoc with the masses of the people. Albania lacked industry, its agriculture was a primitive one, education and culture were in a deplorable state. Add to this the hostile activities of internal and external reactionaries who strove by all manner of means to hinder the construction of socialism in Albania.

Relying always faithfully on the teachings

of Marxism-Leninism and applying these teachings in a creative manner in conformity with the specific conditions of our country, our Party succeeded in overcoming all difficulties, forging courageously ahead in leading Albania to those heights on which the whole world sees it today.

Today, Albania is a socialist country with advanced economy and culture. In our country, exploiting classes have been done away with. In our country there exist friendly classes and strata — the working class, the cooperative peasantry and the stratum of people's intelligentsia. Exploitation of man by man has been abolished. Productive forces have increased to an unprecedented degree. Major surface and subsoil resources have been discovered, our new many-branched industry has been set up, agriculture has been set fully on socialist lines. Education and culture have made rapid progress. As far back as 1970, Albania completed the electric reticulation of the whole country. Those morbid plagues which gnaw at society in revisionist and capitalist countries have been done away with once and for all time in our country. Each citizen has been guaranteed the right to work and the right to retire on a pension. Woman has been raised to the level of equality with man and has become an active force in building socialist society. In our country, all taxes and imposts on workers have been abolished. All the bases have been removed to religious obscurantism. Today, socialist Albania enjoys great international prestige and authority. Its battle against imperialism and modern revisionism, its courageous battle in defense of Marxism-Leninism against modern revisionism have placed it on the forefront of shock brigades for socialism and communism.

The major victories scored by the Albanian people under the guidance of the Party of Labor of Albania during these thirty-five years are clearly expressed in the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania which is under discussion by the broad masses of the people.

The working class of our country are proud of their vanguard, the Party of Labor of Albania. All our people are proud of it for the Party is the brain and heart of our socialist Albania. This accounts also for the steel-like unity between our Party and people, a solidarity which guarantees fresh victories towards the complete construction of socialist society and for safeguarding the victories already achieved. It is precisely due to this that the jubilee of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania is greeted by all the Albanian people as a great day of public festivity. Everywhere, on construction sites and factories, on the field and in schools work is going on to greet the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Party with fresh victories in all the fields of socialist construction, to their credit.



Comrade Enver Hoxha among the students of the "Ali Demi" secondary school of general education.

COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AMONG THE WORKERS OF VLORA

During the first days of April 1976 the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania comrade Enver Hoxha spent a few days in the city of Vlora. During his stay there he held meetings with some leading cadres of the Party organisation the statepower and social organisations of the district as well as with workers and cooperativist members.

Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated those present on the praiseworthy results the people of the Vlora district have achieved in all the spheres of life-political, ideological, economic, social-cultural as well as in that of defense. These results are an expression of the ardent patriotism of the people of this district who have always supported the correct Marxist-Leninist line of the Party both during the period of the National-liberation War as well as during the period of socialist construction.

The sound moral and political situation which exists in our country, comrade Enver Hoxha emphasized in his discussions, the major successes scored in every direction, are due to the correct line of the Party, to its unceasing efforts to educate the masses with the norms of the socialist morale. He also spoke about the vanguard role which the communists should play in always placing themselves at the head of the masses, on the front line of the battle for the construction of socialism.

Further on comrade Enver Hoxha emphasized that all over our country the people are discussing the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania which represents that majestic reality attained over these 30 years under the leadership of the Party, following the approval of the Constitution in power. He also spoke about the latest decision of the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers on the lowering of higher wages and on the further narrowing of the distinctions between city and countryside. This, comrade Enver Hoxha said, is of special

importance at the present stage of the development of our country. In the other countries of the capitalist and revisionist world, he continued, such a measure can never be taken, nor can even be imagined by the workers. Whereas, in socialist Albania the teachings and dreams of the great teachers of the world proletariat, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin are more and more being materialized and put into practice.

In conclusion, comrade Enver Hoxha dwelt on several questions of the present international situation. He laid emphasis on the profound crisis which has gripped the capitalist-revisionist world today, especially the United States of America, the Soviet Union and all their allies. Whereas, in our country, comrade Enver Hoxha stressed that, the political and economic situation is sound always on the ascent. The situation in our country, where the people led by the Party, is mobilised to realise the plans and whose prospects are clear and secure, differs from that gloomy and critical tableau without prospects through which the capitalist-revisionist world is running which is plunged deep into political, economic and financial crises, plagued with unemployment, corruption and other incurable ailments of moribund imperialism and social-imperialism. In our country the well-being of the masses keeps rising year in, year out, thanks to the efforts, sweat, sacrifice and to the struggle of the people's masses guided with wisdom by their Party.

During his sojourn in the Vlora district, comrade Enver Hoxha met also a group of cooperative members of Drashovica as they were working on the field. They welcome and met him with indescribable joy. Comrade Enver Hoxha asked them what results they had attained. And the cooperative members, on their part, spoke with confidence about accomplishing their tasks. Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated and advised them to muster all their efforts especially during these days of so intensive agricultural work.

Further away, comrade Enver Hoxha met another group of peasant men and women of a brigade of the Peshkëpia cooperative. He stepped up to them in the wheat fields where they were working. The cooperative peasants explained to comrade Enver Hoxha what they were doing. They promised comrade Enver Hoxha that they would carry out the instructions he had given them on such a happy, joyful occasion never to be forgotten by them.

On the way back to the city of Vlora, as soon as the students and teachers of the "Selam Musaj" 8th-grade school at Babica during their hour of physical culture, they rushed towards comrade Enver Hoxha cheering and manifesting their deep love for the Party. Comrade Enver Hoxha stopped and was soon surrounded by the crowd of hundreds of students who manifested unprecedented joy for such a happy meeting. A hearty and very intimate conversation took place between the leader and the students and their teachers.

During these meetings as well as in the city itself, comrade Enver Hoxha contacted also many other workers, men, women, young men and young women, children in kindergartens and young pioneers. On the way to the city park "Liria", comrade Enver Hoxha caught sight of a group of students of the "Ali Demi" secondary school who were performing military exercises. When these exercises had finished, he stepped among the young boys and girls conducted a hearty conversation with them and urged them to become not only zealous students in their lessons but also exemplary soldiers in the service of the people and of the homeland. After the conversation, comrade Enver Hoxha posed for a photograph with the students.

Wherever he came to the city and the district of Vlora, comrade Enver Hoxha met with an enthusiastic, hearty reception and unbounded love by all those who had the occasion to meet and talk with him.

TURNING THE PAGES ON HISTORY

— The October Socialist Revolution in 1917 opened a new epoch in the history of the world, the epoch of the overthrow of capitalism and the triumph of the Socialist order. This great event had wide repercussions in Albania too. It exerted an influence on enhancing the movement for national liberation, for the preservation of the territorial integrity of the homeland and for spreading the revolutionary democratic movement. Marxist ideas began to spread among the Albanian workers, artisans and intellectuals.

The name of Lenin became a symbol of lofty human principles.

— The Anti-imperialist National Congress of Lushnja in 1920 and the war in Vlorë against the Italian imperialists, testify to the patriotism of the Albanian people as well as to the influence of the Leninist anti-imperialist policy.

— In March 1923, as a result of the movement of the working class and of the popular masses of town and countryside in general, thousands of Korça workers demanded bread for the people and that the depots of the grain speculators should be opened. About 3,000 city-dwellers and peasants of the Vlorë district protested against the anti-popular policy of the government and raided the grain depots of speculating merchants.

— In May 1924, an armed uprising broke out against the oppressive feudal regime. The uprising ended with the triumph of the democratic forces on June 10. The murder of the democratic Avni Rustemi, the inspirer and founder of the progressive association «Bashkimi», by the reactionary circles served as the signal for the commencement of the uprising. The June victory led to the creation of the bourgeois democratic government headed by Fan Noli.

— The period from 1925 to 1927 is characterized by the intensification of the class struggle between the workers and employing companies, especially foreign, and mainly Italian companies.

— In 1928, progressive elements, from the workers and artisans set up the first communist cell in Korça. Within a short time other cells were set up in Korça. This made the reorganization of the work necessary. In June 1929, a meeting was held of the representatives of the various communist cells and a committee was set up. It was decided at the meeting to set up new communist cells and to link them with the masses through the workers' associations.

This meeting marked the establishment of the **Korça communist group** and the **beginning** of the organized communist movement in Albania. This group was the first revolutionary political organization of the working class.

— In 1930, Ali Këlmendi, one of the most resolute communist militants abroad, returned to Albania. He worked for setting up new clandestine communist groups. He set up communist cells in Tirana, Vlorë, Krujë, Elbasan. He also established contact with the communist group in Korça and helped it to emerge from sectarianism and link itself better with the masses.

— In September 1933, the «Puna» association was founded in Korça on the initiative of the Korça group. It was led by the communists of the group. It included workers and artisans. Very soon its membership reached 500 people.

— During the 1934-1935 period, new communist organizations were set up in a number of cities of the country, for example in Tirana, Shkodra, Fier, Vlorë, Elbasan, Gjirokastra. These were small organizations and worked without contact with one another. It is true that they spread communist ideas, but their sphere of work was limited, spontaneous, and divorced from the political and economic problems which were worrying the masses and the whole country.

— In 1934, relations between Albania and Italy became very tense. The Zog regime capitulated to fascist pressure. This circumstance intensified the anti-Zogite struggle in the country. In April 1934, a group of ex-officers and intellectuals set up an anti-Zogite organization. The communist movement utilised this opportunity. The Korça communist group in particular came out with a definite program in case the uprising came off triumphant. This program envisaged the proclamation of the people's democratic republic, breaking off all enslaving relations with Italy, elimination of monopolies and concessions, an amnesty for political prisoners.

The Communist Riza Cerova, who returned to Albania from emigration in March 1935, did a great deal to extend the ranks of the anti Zogite movement.

He tried to draw the peasants of the Skrapar and Mallakastra districts into the movement. The Zog government became aware of this activity and the leaders of the movement were compelled to start the uprising prematurely in August 1935. There had not been time to organise it well and it was put down by the Zog regime.

— In autumn 1935, the most important work center in the country, Kuçovë (now Stalin City) which was under the administration of the Italian Oil Company AIPA, began to move. About 1600 Albanian workers were employed here. As far back as 1934, on the initiative of the communists a clandestine nucleus had been formed for the organization of an oil workers union. In October 1935, this nucleus formed the «Puna» association with an initial membership of 700 which later rose to 1,500. The association demanded from the government the establishment of an 8-hour workday, improvement of the living conditions of the workers, and a number of measures of social insurance. The workers also demanded that they should no longer be obliged to give the fascist salute to their bosses. The government did not agree to these demands. The workers then resorted to strikes and demonstrations.

— On February 21, 1936, a great anti-Zogist demonstration which is known as «the demonstration for bread», broke out in Korça. A bloody clash took place between the workers, artisans, and students on one side, and Zog's gendarmes on the other.

— In September 1936, the communist Ali Këlmendi was expelled from Albania. Before leaving, in Gjirokastra he met Enver Hoxha, who had just returned to Albania and was prominent as an active militant communist.

— Zog's strict censorship forbade the expression of communist ideas in the press. Nevertheless, writings of a progressive democratic spirit succeeded in being published in the bourgeois press organs. In 1934-1939 the communist fraction of the National Liberation Committee (a revolutionary organization of the Albanians

in exile) had published two pamphlets revealing the rottenness of the Zog regime. These pamphlets provided a new program for the people's movement in Albania, which envisaged the armed uprising and the establishment of the people's republic. The Albanian communist group at Lyons in France began to publish the anti-Zogite militant newspaper, «Populli», which was later replaced by «Sazani». Among the press organs within the country sponsoring progressive ideas mention should be made of the newspaper «Bota e Re» which began to appear in 1936. In order to escape the censorship it frequently used allegorical terms to express its ideas.

— The first communist organizations in Shkodra had been set up as early as 1934. In this city, a new center of the communist movement in Albania was gradually created. The Shkodra communist group also extended its activity to other cities, such as Tirana, Elbasan, Gjirokastra, Korça and others. In 1937, regional committees were set up in Shkodra and Tirana to run the organizations. Apart from the fruitful work this group did it had a number of mistaken ideas with regard to its political line, to organizational matters, and so on.

— The Albanian communists regarded the just war of the Spanish people as a struggle in defence of the interests of Albania too. In 1936, the communist groups sent some of their members to Spain as volunteers to fight shoulder to shoulder with the Spanish people. Mehmet Shehu, Asim Vokshi, Thimja Gogozoto, Ramiz Varvarica, and others fought heroically in the ranks of the International Brigade. Many fell on the field of battle against fascism.

— In the circumstances of the growing danger to Albania of fascism, close collaboration between the communist groups and the reorganization of their work in the spirit of the 7th Congress of the Communist International became indispensable. The first attempts in this direction were made by the Albanian communists abroad. In December 1936, Ali Këlmendi delivered a report at a meeting of communist activists abroad. The question was raised of intensifying the efforts to set up a communist party. The decisions of the meeting were approved by the comintern. Ali Këlmendi set out to carry these instructions to Albania, but he fell gravely ill and died in Paris on February 11, 1939.

The new instructions came to Albania and some work was begun, mainly by the Korça communist group, to carry them out. But they were sabotaged by the Trotskyite elements and by the disagreements between the groups, especially between those of Korça and Shkodra.

— On the eve of the fascist occupation of Albania the Zog regime launched a savage campaign of terror. Taking advantage of the poor security, especially of the Shkodra group, Zog's gendarmes succeeded in detecting and arresting many communists. Seventy-five communists were brought to trial in January 1939. Eighteen-year old communist Qemal Stafa, like many of his comrades, maintained a manly attitude. The court passed sentence on 52 persons.

— On March 23, 1939, fascist Italy took the final decision for the military invasion of Albania. The Albanian communists became the organizers of anti-fascist demonstrations which burst out all over the country. But the organization of the people's resistance was sabotaged

(Cont. on p. 12)

«ON THE LOWERING OF HIGHER WAGES»

— The difference between higher and lower wages is 2 to 1. — A post is not a privilege. — The private and social consumption fund, during 1975, rose, as against 1950 more than 4.5 times, or 2.3 times faster than the increase of the population of the country. In 1975 in comparison with 1960, the expenditure of the state for education, health, social security, rose 2.7 times.

The decision of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania which was published in the press on the First of April, 1976, envisages concrete measures in the direction of the lowering of the higher wages, without affecting the lower and medium wages. The decision says that the Party of Labour of Albania «has pursued the line of the gradual narrowing of the differences in the level of income and the living standards between the working class and the cooperativist peasantry and the categories within them, between town and countryside; it has always been careful to maintain as correct a ratio as possible between the pay of the cadres and the income of the workers and cooperativists, to avoid flagrant differences in income, which give rise to the birth of degenerated elements and a privileged strata and directly endanger the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism. At the same time, the Party has always fought against tendencies towards petty bourgeois equalitarianism in the field of remuneration, which is also alien and harmful to socialism.

In accordance with this revolutionary, Marxist Leninist line, the wage system of the workers and the employees and the system of the remuneration for work of the cooperativists, have been set up and systematically improved, always relying on the socialist law of distribution according to work. The implementation in life of this system has made it possible for the differences between the lower and higher wages, between the income of the employees and the workers and cooperativists to be narrowed and to have more correct proportions.»

On this question, the Party of Labour of Albania has always proceeded from the teachings of Lenin, who stressed that «the corruptive influence of high wages is indisputable both on the Soviet statepower and also on the masses of the workers... that the principle of the Paris Commune and every proletarian statepower demand that the wage of an employee be no higher than the wage of a good worker, they demand that career seeking be fought against with actions and not with words».

In the implementation of this great lesson of V.I. Lenin, in accordance with the concrete conditions of the development and the socialist construction in Albania, the Party of Labour of Albania step by step continuously taken measures to narrow the ratio between the medium wage of the workers and the higher wages of the employees. Nine years ago, in the 29th of April, 1967 Declaration of the Central Committee of the Party and the Government, it was

stressed that the establishment of correct proportions between the wages of the workers and the employees and between the wages of categories of employees is a measure of principled importance which blocks the road to bourgeois degeneration, career seeking and many other evils. Following this Declaration, the differences between lower and higher wages in Albania, reached the relationship of 1 to 2.5. Now, following the latest decision, this relationship is narrowed even further, coming down to the proportion of 1 to 2.

This is a concrete and unprecedented implementation of the Marxist Leninist theses, a great reality of the proletarian justice in socialist Albania, where a post is not a privilege and the cadre is integrated with the masses. «Living standards, stresses Comrade Enver Hoxha, should not be allowed to rise with big differences, official should not be allowed to live far better than the workers and the peasants to live at lower standards than their allies in the city. Our Party is fighting and will always fight to unceasingly improve the life of the people, but **the life of everybody**, proceeding from the correct principle of not having equality in wages but neither privileges for anybody and differences of wages between the workers must be constantly narrowed.»

From this angle, a general characteristic of the economic and social development in Albania is the putting of the general interest and the perspective on the first plane, the total mobilisation of the working class and the other working masses, under the leadership of the Party, to give as much as possible to society, to put their creative energies at the service of the cause of the socialist construction of the country. As a result, during these thirty one years of socialist construction in Albania, the income of the workers has gradually but uninterruptedly risen, on the basis of the rise of social production and the national revenue. During the period from 1951 to 1975 alone the population of Albania increased at an average rate of 2.5 to 3% a year, while the social output and the national revenue rose by 8 to 10% a year, that is three faster than the rate of the increase of the population. The fund of private and social consumption in 1975 rose, as against 1950 more than 4.5 times, or 2.3 times faster than the increase of the country's population. In 1975 as against 1960, state expenditure for social cultural measures, education, health, social security rose 2.7 times. To finance this expenditure which goes directly to the benefit of the people, within one year the state spends one fourth of its budget; or from this expenditure, every family gains an average of

4,000 leks annually, whereas every individual more than 660 leks a year. In Albania in 1975 as against 1960, the number of people employed in the state sector alone had risen 2.5 times and on this basis the income of every family has risen and is rising. On an average two to three people in every family work. The participation of the women at work has reached more than 43% of the total labour force from 4% in 1938.

In Albania there is complete economic stability. For the 1950-1970 period the prices for mass consumer goods were reduced 13 times with an annual profit of more than one billion leks. The principal articles of mass consumption can be bought by the people today 8-25% cheaper than in 1960. For the last eleven years the Albanian working people have been paying no kind of tax or levy. The income of 1 to 2 days work is sufficient to house rents. The payments for water, lighting and other services of this category are also symbolic.

The lowering of the higher wages, together with the measures to lift extra allowances over and above the basic wage of the working people of literature and art, education and science, better harmonising the material stimuli with the moral stimuli is an expression of the class treatment of the problem of wages. This has the aim of further revolutionising, from the material point of view as well, the relations between cadres and the masses, and also the relations in the very fold of the cadres, a vital premise to protect people and especially the cadres, from alien influences and degeneration. Experience shows that bureaucratism is nourished by higher wages. Bureaucratic elements always lean towards the deepening of the ratio in wages, through many ways and means. The working class, under the leadership of its Party, has fought and is fighting against these tendencies maintaining a clear-cut revolutionary class stand. Therefore the measures contained in the decision of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, in the direction of the lowering of the higher wages have a profound ideo-political and social content, they have their national value, but they are also an important contribution to the treasury of Marxism Leninism. They express the desires and interests of the **entire Party** and people, of the working class, the cooperativist peasantry and the people's intelligentsia, therefore they have found complete approval everywhere and have been received with enthusiasm and high mobilisation in the direction of socialist construction and the defence of the Homeland.

«ON THE FURTHER NARROWING OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TOWN AND COUNTRYSIDE»

— In the countryside as well, the State undertakes to meet expenditure for clinics, consultation rooms, maternity homes, kindergartens and creches for children; the remuneration of the personnel of the houses of culture in the centers of the joint cooperatives; investments for the construction of schools, kindergartens and creches in the countryside and also for the houses of culture and health projects in the centers of the agricultural cooperatives; the expenditure for the maintenance of the power network. The pensions of the cooperativists will rise; the remuneration for pregnancy leave for women cooperativists will be met by state funds etc.

In the decision of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania and of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, of the first of April, 1976, in connection with the further narrowing of the distinctions between town and countryside, it is declared that «The further narrowing of the fundamental distinctions between town and countryside has been and remains one of the fundamental questions of the general line of the Party for the construction of socialism in our country. To achieve this aim, the Party has implemented and implements a broad program of measures with a profound ideological, political, economic, social and cultural character. On the basis of this program, the productive forces have developed and continue to develop at a rapid rate, socialist relations in production have been improving incessantly, the systematic elevation of the material and cultural wellbeing of the cooperativist peasantry has been and continues to be secured systematically. Useful social work, the joint work for the continuous increase of socialist production has been and remains the unshaken basis for the increase of the wellbeing in the countryside. The efforts, toil and sweat of all the cooperativist peasantry must be integrated in the work and struggle for the increase of production of the material blessings which are the main source for the raising of their wellbeing and happiness, and that of all the working masses.

1. To further narrow the differences between countryside and town, and in the rural areas, between hilly and mountainous zones and lowlands, to increase the economic, social and cultural level of the peasantry at faster rates and to further improve the working and living conditions in the countryside, the state assumes, in the countryside as well, expenditure for clinics, consultation rooms, maternity homes, kindergartens and nurseries, the wages of the personnel of the houses of culture in the centers of the joint cooperatives, investments for the construction of schools, kindergartens and nurseries in the countryside, as well as houses of culture and health projects in the centers of the agricultural cooperatives, expenditure on the maintenance of the internal power system in the countryside and the telephone network up to the center of the joint cooperatives.

The peasantry is called on to continue to contribute as much as possible to these projects through voluntary work and with whatever material they dispose of.

2. The Central Committee and the Council of Ministers recommended the raising of the percentage of the pensions of the cooperativists equalising them with those of the city workers; the raising of minimum pensions of the cooperativists, meeting expenditure or pregnancy leave for women cooperativists from State Social Security Funds, the unification of the percentage of remuneration for pregnancy leave and the financial assistance at childbirth both in the countryside and in the town.

3. State investments must be increased in the hilly and mountainous areas, in the construction of irrigation projects, for the opening of secondary canals and for the existing network of irrigation projects to partially or totally cover the value of the work day for the opening and systematisation of the new land and for the creation of new fruit tree plantations and vineyards, for the financing by the State, up to fifty percent of the value of the work-day spent on pruning olive trees, for earthing up the olive trees and for planting olive saplings.

With the aim of increasing the beasts of burden, the State must help the cooperatives of the hilly and mountainous areas with financial means for the purchasing of these animals.

4. The price of nitrogenous fertilisers must be reduced by 9-15% for the agricultural cooperatives of the hilly and mountainous regions.

5. The Machine and Tractor Stations must meet all the expenditure of the agricultural cooperatives for the transportation of fuel, its storage and for the park of agricultural machinery. Investments for the construction of garages in the machine and tractor stations must be financed by the state.

6. The agricultural cooperatives of the hilly and mountainous regions must be excluded from paying bank interest on all loans they have been accorded and will be accorded in the future and the percentage of this interest must be lowered for other cooperatives.

The tariffs for the State security of the agricultural crops, livestock and the rest of the wealth of the agricultural cooperatives must be reduced to the degree where they can meet the expenditures.

These measures were made possible thanks to the development and the strengthening of our socialist economy, the self-sacrificing work of the working people of town and countryside, with the working class in the van, for the increase of industrial and agricultural production. They are a systematic implementation of the correct line of the Party for the Construction of Socialism in the countryside, too. Our patriotic cooperativist peasantry will, as always, correctly assess the measures which are being taken to their benefit, by raising their revolutionary drive and mobilization at work, for the increase of production of agriculture and livestock products and, first and foremost, of bread grain, for the allround development and flourishing of our socialist countryside, for the strengthening of the alliance of the working class and the cooperativist peasantry, for the further consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The measures for the lowering of higher wages, for several improvements in the wage and remuneration system and for the further narrowing of differences between town and countryside, must enter into force beginning from April 1, 1976.

Change of shifts at the «Mao Tsetung» Textile Combine in Berat. As can be seen in the picture, the collective is made up mainly of women. One finds them not only on the production fronts, but also as able managers.

The Combine turns out millions of meters of high quality fabrics of various kinds which find ready demand on foreign markets.

In Albania the woman occupies a place of honour in all spheres of life. Women make up 47 per cent of the workers, 33,3 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly and 41,2 per cent of the leaders in the organizations of the masses.

PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL TO THE EMAN



Nimete Kodheli — Chairman of the enlarged cooperative «10 Korrik», at Suk-Strum in the district of Fier and deputy to the People's Assembly.

I am the daughter of a farmhand from Cakran. I grew up working on the land. This is how my mother and her age group grew up, too. Socialism opened broad highways to Albanian women. There are thousands of women and girls like me in our country. Up to sometime ago I was in charge of a sector in the united agricultural cooperative at Cakran in our region, the biggest of its kind in the country. Now I am chairman of this cooperative at Suk-Strum, which includes seven villages.

The years of our People's State Power have brought about incomparable changes in these villages and in their people. Instead of primitive huts, you see houses built according to plan. Over 70 per cent of the houses have been built during the years of our People's State Power. Today, the center of our cooperative the village of Strum, resembles a small town. Well-being is part and parcel of our family life. All these changes are due to the increase of the agricultural and livestock products of our cooperative. The main products of this economy are grain, tobacco, cotton, sunflower and beans.

This year we are hard at work to take more than twice the normal yield of maize from the land. We shall increase the yields of wheat and other products, too.

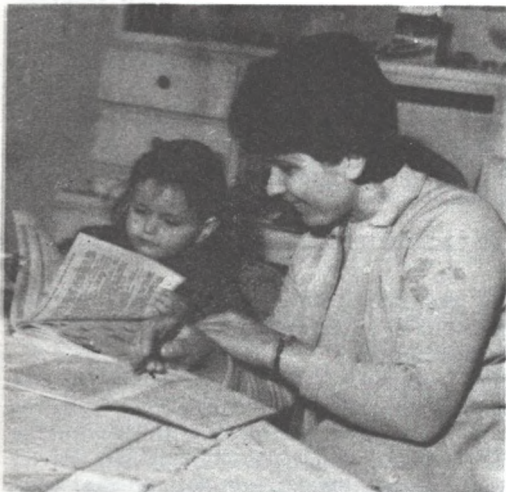
This year I was elected deputy to the People's Assembly which is the supreme organ of State Power in our country. The election of a woman to this State organ is nothing out of the ordinary in the reality of Albania. Today, 33,3 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly are women. Women occupy 41,2 per cent of the leading posts in the organizations of the masses and make up 47 per cent of the number of workers.

ON IN PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL LIFE -- THE WAY CIPATION OF WOMEN

Stavrulla Dashi — teacher at the «Isuf Ferra» 8 year school at Shkoder, Durrës.

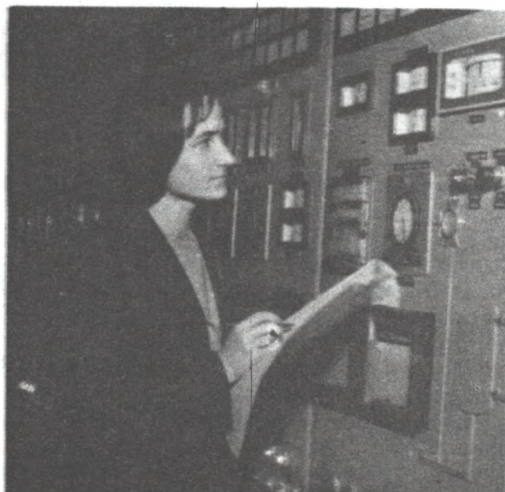
I have been working as a teacher for 10 years. I teach language and literature. It was always my dream to be a teacher. After I graduated from the Teacher Training Secondary School, the State gave me a bursary to continue my studies at the Higher Teacher Training Institute at Shkoder. I have worked in various schools of our district and I have always tried to put my heart and soul into the job. Our People's State Power has created all the possibilities for us women to make our contribution in all fields of life. Today, there are over 700 times as many women teachers as before liberation.

In my capacity as a teacher I am proud to be able to point out the major changes that have come about in the field of education in the Durrës district. Before liberation this district had only 32 elementary



schools with 88 teachers and 3,582 pupils all told. In zones such as Ishmi, there was only one primary school with 30 pupils and one teacher; while Sukthi had no school at all. The whole Durrës district had only one kindergarten. Today, in our district we have 49 elementary schools, 88 8-year schools, 5 general secondary schools, 9 vocational secondary schools, 15 8 year evening schools, 24 vocational secondary evening schools and the affiliated branch of the Tirana University covering economics, mechanical engineering, teacher training, construction, and so on. Ishmi, which I mentioned before, now has 10 schools, five of which are 8 year schools, one evening secondary school for agriculture with 1,631 students and 70 teachers. In Sukthi there are 9 schools, one of which is a (day and evening) agricultural secondary school, with 3106 students and 120 teachers.

Of the 2,939 workers in the sector of education in our district, 1,786 are women. This figure is only one indication among many others, which shows the position of the women in our country. Their liberation and complete emancipation was achieved only through the triumph of the People's revolution. This is sanctioned also in the fundamental law — the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.



Vasilika Gjika — Worker in the central room of a department at the «Gogo Nushi» ammonium-nitrate plant in Fier.

You see that everything here on my job is automatic. It is the last word in equipment. This is the brain of the plant. And we women and girls run all this apparatus, which is as up to date as it is complicated. To come here we received assistance to complete schools and courses. The State spared nothing to make us capable of running this plant. And the work is going well. I have been working here for eight years. Practice has supplemented the knowledge that the school and special courses gave me. Now it seems strange to me when I recall how impressed I was by all these control buttons in my first days here. But I am even more astounded when I hear what our mothers and fathers tell us about the times gone by. I am from Fier. Before liberation, Fier was a backward agricultural district. It had nothing but primitive workshops. Most of the land was owned by the feudal lords. Our People's State Power has raised the women to the place of honour.

The ammonium nitrate plant is one of the most up-to-date in the new industry of our country. It plays an important role in our chemical industry. The products turned out by this plant reach the most distant fields of our land. Now I can tell you that these products have increased by 29 per cent since 1968 when I started working here. This year we shall increase production by another 5 per cent. In this plant, which is the pride of our district, 29 per cent of the workers are women and girls, while here in this central room, as you see, all are women.

For the last two years I have been a member of the trade union committee of the establishment. There are other women members in the committee. All of us are concerned about the life of the people and about the plant. It is ours and we shall look after it like the apple of our eye.

The Albanian woman, free and mistress of her own fate, takes part in all the fields of the socialist construction of the country. There is no sector in which she does not make her contribution like the men. There is no project in Albania on which she has not worked.

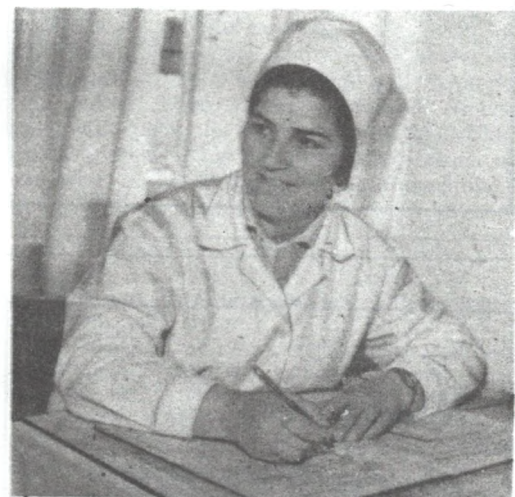
On the occasion of March 8, International Women's Day, our correspondent met some women who work in various sectors. Here is what they told her:

Mariana Simoni — Midwife at the maternity home in Patos.

From the past our country inherited poverty and ignorance. Many adults and youngsters died from lack of medical assistance. There were regions in our country where no doctor had ever set foot. Our district had no hospitals, no nurseries for children or other institutions of the kind.

Immediately after liberation, our People's State Power opened up a broad network of schools. Among them were medical technical schools. In 1954, I graduated from the medical technicum in Tirana and ever since I have worked as a midwife.

Public health is one of the sectors where, we, Albanian women, make our modest contribution. 77.1 per cent of the workers in this



sector are women and girls. In our district this branch has made progress never dreamt of before. Today, there are 25 in patient health institutions, and 138 nurseries for children. Here in Patos alone there are now 5 doctors, 3 university trained dentists, 4 crèches, a maternity home and a hospital. As against 3 persons serving in the health sector in 1960, there are now 146, three quarters of whom are women and girls.

The work has always been a joy to me. The years have done their work with the people. Parallel with their well-being, their cultural level has been raised also. For many years now all cases of childbirth have been handled by qualified midwives. This has had an influence in reducing infant mortality.

The many measures our People's State Power has taken also in the field of public health have wiped out such chronic diseases as malaria which used to affect about 90 per cent of the population of this district in 1938. Since 1964 not a single case of malaria has been detected. A number of other serious diseases have been eliminated, too. As a result of this average life expectancy has increased from 38.1 years in 1938 to 70 years at present.

I am especially happy to mention these facts and figures because we women, who before liberation were confined within the four walls of our homes, have made the greatest contribution in this regard.

ON THE DRAFT-CONSTITUTION OF THE PE

The principle of self-reliance

In working out the general political line for the construction of socialism, the Party of Labour of Albania has borne in mind the important thesis of Marxist-Leninist philosophy according to which the decisive factor in revolution and in the construction and defence of socialism, is the internal factor, the great force of the working people, the internal resources of manpower, materials and financial means.

The militant, mobilizing and optimistic spirit of the principle of self-reliance runs like a red thread through all our material and spiritual development and progress, through the structure and superstructure of our society. In 1945, speaking to the workers of our country about the course to be followed for the implementation of the Party program, comrade Enver Hoxha stressed: «Nothing will fall like manna from heaven. Everything will be built with our own hands...».

Under the specific historical-social conditions for building socialism in our country, the program of the Party of carrying out the people's revolution and creating an advanced, independent and stable socialist economy on the basis of the principle of self-reliance took account of:

First, the fact that socialist Albania came into being, exists, develops, and is building socialism under conditions of a ruthless imperialist and revisionist encirclement. Under these conditions, the preservation of our political independence and carrying the socialist revolution through to the end, could not even be thought of without the creation of an independent and stable economy which would not be subject to the fluctuations and influences of the various international conjunctures.

Second, ensuring the continuity of the revolution and the establishment and consolidation of economic independence cannot be achieved without setting up a complex, self-acting and

The right to work is guaranteed by the state

The problems of work occupy an important place in the new draft-Constitution. «The whole economic and social life of the countryside is based on work. Work constitutes the main source from which every citizen ensures the means of livelihood.» (Art. 29). The draft-Constitution also says «In the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the citizens have the right to work which is guaranteed by the State».

Work is a duty and honour for every able-bodied citizen (Art. 42).

These articles constitute the foundation principles of the socialist organization of work, of our labour legislation, and express one of the main superiorities of our socialist economic-social order over the capitalist-revisionist order in this very important field of life.

The citizens in our socialist country enjoy all the rights to choose and exercise their profession according to their abilities and personal inclinations. But, at the same time, the fundamental interests of society and of the other

working masses, the interests of socialist construction make it imperative that the choice and exercise of that profession must always conform to the needs of society. The interests of socialist construction have always required that the able-bodied forces should be directed, first and foremost, to the development of agricultural production, to the implementation of the majestic program of the Party in the field of investments and construction, to the discovery and exploitation of our underground resources, and to other important fronts of work and production.

In the context of the rapid development of the forces of production, of the harmonious development of the various branches of the economy and culture, the distribution of workers among the various spheres and branches of the people's economy assumes special importance. Their correct distribution to production, to the work of management and administration and to the social-cultural sectors, is an

Relations of cadres with the masses

On the basis of summing up the revolutionary experience of over 30 years of socialist construction in our country, our Party of Labour has worked out a range of effective measures to prevent any distortions in the relations of cadres with the masses and to forestall any bourgeois and revisionist degeneration of the cadres.

The struggle to implement these measures is waged in two fundamental directions.

On one hand, through thorough and continuous ideological work to educate and temper the cadres; on the other, through the measures with which our Party of Labour and the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country aim at creating for cadres such material and social conditions which are sanctioned by law, that they will not degenerate but will think, work, fight and live like true proletarian revolutionaries.

The position of the leading cadres of the socialist State is defined in the draft of the new Constitution.

This position of the cadres in the service of the working class and the people requires that they always maintain close links with the masses, that they know the opinions and worries of the masses, listen carefully to the voice of the masses, learn from their great experience, and carry out the will of the masses.

One of the most effective measures to forestall the bureaucratic degeneration and transformation of the leading cadres from servants of the people into masters over the people, is to put the cadres under twofold dependence and control: from above by applying proletarian centralism and from below, directly by the masses or the working collective in conformity with the norms of socialist democracy.

The experience of our country to day

The position of women in our socialist society

The important achievements of Socialist Albania regarding the problem of the emancipation of women have been correctly reflected in the draft of the new Constitution. It also reflects the experience of Socialist Albania in dealing with the problem of women. Running right through the draft Constitution is the continuous concern of the Party of Labour that women should occupy the place they deserve in all spheres of life. Its sanctioning of the equality of citizens before the law, recognizing no limitation, no privilege, in the rights and duties of citizens on account of sex, race, nationality etc., and many other constitutional norms, clearly reflect the position of women as equals among equals.

Our Party has considered the political role of women in the whole life of the country,

their active participation in running and governing the State, as an important factor for the emancipation of women and for the further strengthening and revolutionization of our socialist order. Participation in political and social life, which is great school for the revolutionary education of the women has made them conscious of their role in running the country. Today, 33.3 per cent of our deputies are women. Women comprise 25 per cent of the Party membership, 26 per cent of the members of the High Court, 42.2 per cent of the leaders of the mass organizations, and so on. Their political rights, which are also sanctioned by law and reflected in the draft-Constitution are important aspects which speak out the position of women in our country.

OPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

independent economy based on the internal resources of labour, raw materials, energy and financial means.

Third, every socialist country, big or small, while relying on its own efforts, must solve the great social problem of engaging all the active population of the country in work.

Finally, in no country and at no time, can socialism be built by granting concessions to the imperialists and revisionists or by auctioning off the resources of the country.

Implementation of the principle of self-reliance has been achieved by basing ourselves firmly on the creative efforts and practical spirit of the working people, correctly evaluating the natural assets and resources of the country and by raising the level to which they are processed industrially within the country; by carrying out and establishing a strict regime of economy in the use of labour, of the means and objects of labour in the

productive and nonproductive spheres; by studying, summing up and disseminating the advanced experience of our people in all spheres of life; by giving priority to the development of the sphere of production where the material goods are created and in this context, to the production of the means of production and bread grain within the country by harmonizing personal interests with general interests and rights with duties through the application of the principle: «before we can demand from society we must contribute to it».

Reliance on one's efforts and raising the self-acting potential and independence of the people's economy are neither a subjective desire nor a general political slogan, just as it is neither a trend towards total self-sufficiency, narrow nationalism or the so-called «closed economy». As comrade Enver Hoxha teaches us, all the peoples, great or small, make their contribution to the cause of the revolution and the construction of socialism. Their international

aid and texture are mutual and not one-sided. On the other hand, the implementation of the principle on relying mainly on one's own resources does not negate the disinterested internationalist aid of the socialist countries. On the contrary this is implied.

Since it is the general course of socialist construction, the principle of self-reliance finds its reflections in article 26 of the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, which says: «**The development of economy and the whole construction of socialism in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is based mainly on self-reliance as well as on the internationalist aid of other socialist countries. The granting of concessions to, and the creation of foreign economic and financial companies and other institutions or ones formed jointly with bourgeois and revisionist capitalist monopolies and states, as well as obtaining credits from them; are prohibited in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.**»

essential condition for the development of socialist reproduction and has a profound class character. In 1974, the number of workers in the sphere of production made up about 85 per cent of the total workers in the people's economy. Within the enterprises or agricultural cooperatives the number of workers has increased at a higher rate, than that of the other categories of working people, which indicates the continuous implementation of the line of the party to give priority to increasing that sphere which produces material goods.

Basing itself on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and under the specific conditions of socialist construction in our country, the Party considers the problems of the movement of the population as major theoretical and practical problems with which the success or failure of the construction of socialism in our country is closely linked. The profound revolutionary transformations in the social, ideological, political and economic fields which have been

made in our country have made the physical movement of the labour force possible and indispensable. The rapid increase of the working class with the increase of all the branches of production and circulation of material goods has required that manpower be drawn from the countryside. But the movement of the population from the countryside to the city has not been done in a subjective and empirical way, leaving this very important matter to spontaneity. On the contrary, it has always been done in a well studied and planned way to avoid damaging the work in the countryside.

The practice of socialist construction in our country has confirmed the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the general trend of development of the countryside in socialist society is not to depopulate it, as in the capitalist and revisionist countries, but on the contrary, to increase and develop the population, to gradually raise it, in all respects to the level of the city and bring industry and agriculture closer together. In our

country, the all-round development of agriculture and the countryside has always been done in harmony with the development of the city. When the interests of socialist construction have required it, manpower has been withdrawn from the countryside in order to meet the urgent needs of the development of industry and of the new work centers. The revolutionary experience of our socialist construction shows that the movement of the population can not be a one way process. In this process carefully guided by the Party, it is always essential to develop the movement of population from the city to the countryside, too, from industry and the other branches of the economy to agriculture, especially, of the youth, cadres, and specialists of various profiles.

Statistical data over many years shows that the population in the countryside and manpower in agriculture have steadily increased. As compared with 1960, the population of the villages in 1964 increased by 436 thousand persons and manpower in agriculture by 153 thousands.

which is reflected in the draft of the new Constitution, shows that the practical application of the principle of the dependence of the cadres and control over them from below, directly by the working masses, includes certain main aspects.

It requires, first of all, the consistent implementation of the lesson learned from the Paris Commune, that the working class guards itself even against its own deputies and officials by «proclaiming them all, without exception, replaceable at any time». It is precisely this lesson which is reflected in article 8 of the draft-Constitution, which reads: «**The electors have the right to recall their representative at any time when he has lost their political trust, when he does not fulfil the tasks he is charged with, or when he acts in contravention of the laws.**»

The subjection of cadres to the direct con-

trol of the masses, requires that the cadres must, without fail, render account to and submit themselves to the check-up of the masses.

Of major importance in placing the cadres in subordination to the masses, is the exercise of continuous, effective and all-round control by the working masses, by the workers and peasants, over the cadres, over their activity and attitude. No one is exempt from such control.

The experience of our country has confirmed the correctness of the directive of the Party of Labour of Albania that the direct participation of cadres in the work of production, in the ranks of the working class and the co-operative peasantry, constitutes an essential condition for the continuous revolutionization of cadres, for linking them closely with the masses, for inculcating the revolutionary moral features and attributes of the workers and peasants in them, for saving cadres from the danger of

degeneration into bureaucracy, intellectualism, careerism and so on.

The draft of the new Constitution sanctions as an important principle, that the functionaries, and this refers first and foremost to the leading cadres, «receive salaries in fair ratio with those of the workers and cooperative members with the aim of preventing the creation of a privileged stratum» (Art. 9). This is one of the vital problems in socialist society which, in the final analysis, have to do with the fate of revolution and of socialist construction itself.

On this vital question, our Party of Labour has always carried out a correct policy. Without falling into positions of petty bourgeois «egalitarianism», it has taken the necessary steps at the proper time to prevent pronounced disproportions between the pay of cadres and that of the working masses, and consistently proceeds on the course of the further reduction of the differentials in this field.

We find these rights of women realized in practice.

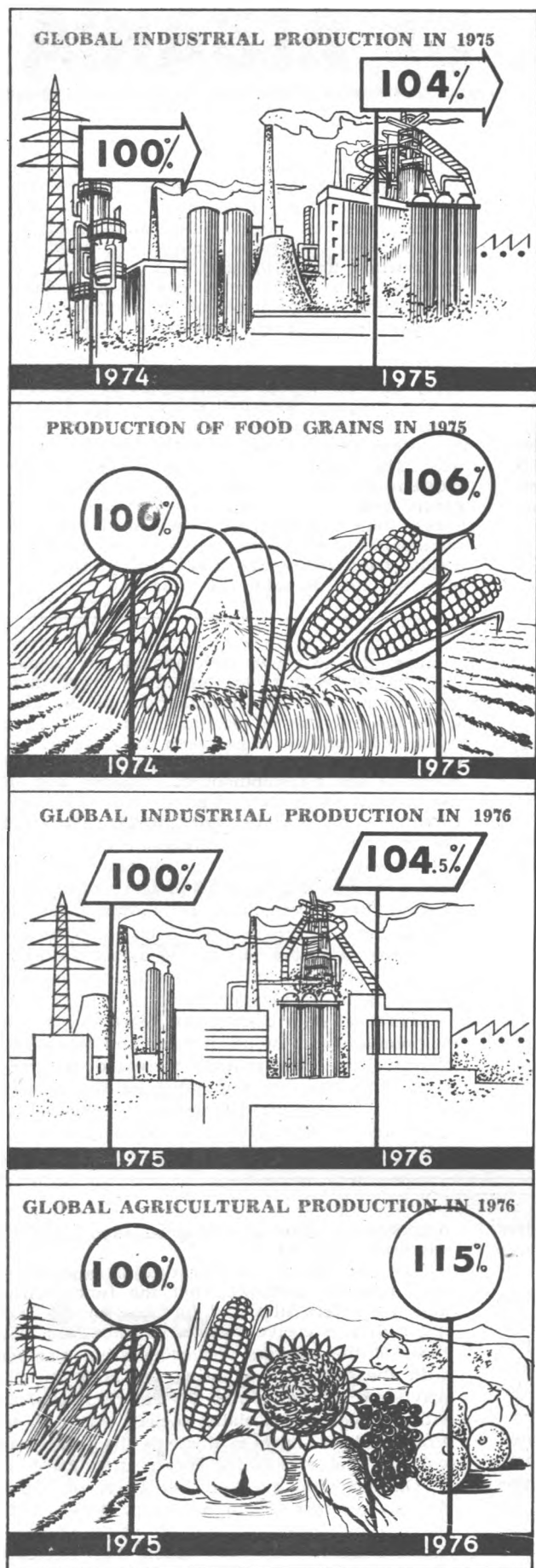
Before liberation, 94 per cent of our women were illiterate. In the whole of Albania there were only 21 women teachers, 2 or 3 doctors, and not even one woman engineer, agronomist, or chemist. In the primary schools only 32 per cent of the pupils were girls and in the secondary schools 2,4 per cent. There was no woman in parliament or in any other important post of the government apparatus. In the whole country there were only 668 women workers, making up only 4 per cent of the total number of workers, whereas today, they make up 47 per cent, bearing an important weight especially in certain sectors of our economy, such as in agriculture, 52 per cent, in light industry 80

per cent, in the food-processing industry 73 per cent, in health service 77,10 per cent in education and culture 53,3 per cent, in commerce 58 per cent.

The industrialization of the country, the development and intensification of agriculture, as well as the creation of a multi-branched economy have made the broad participation of women possible and indispensable not only in production but also in technically qualified work and management, which once was considered a monopoly of men. These problems, which the Party has continually raised, are also dealt with in the draft of the new Constitution. The State promotes, the dissemination of scientific knowledge among the masses including women, as well as drawing them, on a broad scale,

into scientific research work. Today, women make up 43 per cent of the specialists of secondary training and 21 per cent of those with higher training. Women and girls make up 43,3 per cent of the pupils in the 8 year schools, 45,6 per cent in the secondary schools, and 36,7 per cent of the higher school students.

The new draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania not only reflects the level of emancipation of the Albanian woman but also expresses the trend of the further development of her complete emancipation. It is a document not only of the marvelous achievements of the Albanian woman but also of her brilliant future, therefore, it has aroused an unprecedented enthusiasm and optimism everywhere.



SUCCESSSES AND PROSPECTS

The People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania took up for examination the realization of the plan of development of the economy and culture in our country during 1975, as well as the objectives envisaged for 1976. The People's Assembly observed that 1975 and the whole period of the last five-year plan was characterized by the further revolutionarization of the whole life of the country, by the struggle and ceaseless efforts of the working class and the other working masses to carry out the tasks set by the 6th Party Congress.

The results achieved in the all-round and thorough-going class struggle against bureaucracy, liberalism, and other alien bourgeois and revisionist influences in the ideological, political, economic, cultural and military fields are very great victories for the working class and all the working masses, which made possible the further consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of our socialist economic and social order.

1975 brought to a close an important period in the construction of socialism in the country, the period of the 5th five-year plan. During this five-year period, the forces of production and the people's economy as a whole, were raised to a new, higher level on the basis of the implementation of the principle of self-reliance; the self-acting capacity of the people's economy increased; the defence potential of our homeland against imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade, became more powerful; the general well-being of the people advanced and the socialist relations in production underwent further improvement in a revolutionary direction.

In industry in general the targets set for 1975 were fulfilled according to the plan approved. In many branches of industry and in many important products the plan was fulfilled or over fulfilled. Total industrial production was fulfilled 101 per cent, marking an increase of 4 per cent over that of 1974.

In agriculture, better results were

achieved in 1975 than in any other year of the last five-year plan period. Thus, in 1975 bread grain increased by about 6 per cent as compared with 1974, while the planned targets in what were over fulfilled 7 per cent. According to preliminary figures in 1975 the following increases above 1974 were achieved; cotton — about 15 per cent; sugar beet — about 18 per cent; sunflower — about 36 per cent; tobacco — about 7 per cent; potatoes — about 47 per cent; beans — about 88 per cent; vegetables — about 9 per cent and so on. Olive production nearly doubled as compared with 1974. In 1975 5 per cent more meat and milk and 8 per cent more eggs than in 1974 were produced.

Very important tasks have been set for 1976. Total industrial production in 1976 is envisaged to increase 4.5 per cent above that of 1975 and total agricultural production 15 per cent. Meat and milk will increase by 8 per cent.

It is envisaged that the first phase of the metallurgical complex, the deep processing oil refinery, the urea plant, the soda and polyvinylchloride plant, the plastics moulding plant, the coal enriching factory at Valias, and so on, will be completed and handed over for production. At the same time, important tasks have been envisaged to complete many land improvement schemes in order to increase the areas under cultivation. The targets for 1976 envisage a more correct allocation of housing construction in cities, in mining centers, in the remote regions of the country, and the agricultural enterprises and cooperatives.

The number of pupils and students in 1976 is expected to reach 720 thousand, or 2 per cent more than in 1975.

In 1976, about 30 per cent of the increase in industrial production will come from the increase of labour productivity.

Expenditure on the sector of the people's economy takes up 63.3 per cent of the total expenditure of the State budget, the social and cultural sector — 22.3 per cent, the administration apparatus — 1.2 per cent and defence — 10.9 per cent.

(Cont. from p. 5)

by Zog and his clique. On April 7, 1939, the Italian troops began their aggression against Albania. Zog fled. Although almost unarmed and unorganized the Albanian people offered armed resistance. The country was occupied but the Albanian people were not subdued. They began to organize their resistance. The communists were the only revolutionary force which could organize and lead the antifascist struggle. The founding of the communist party became an historical necessity. But the formation of the Party came up against the wrong views of the communist groups especially of their leaders. Differences were manifested on the ideological, political and organizational level. In these conflicts, the revolutionary line pursued by the soundest communist elements, headed by 33-year old communist Enver Hoxha, triumphed.

— Enver Hoxha was born in Gjirokastra on October 16, 1908. He spent his childhood days in a period of great hardship for the country, when the foreign occupationists caused great damage to Albania. Life taught him to hate the enemies of the homeland and, though young, he threw himself into the democratic movement in 1924.

In the Korça Lyceum from where he graduated in 1930, he experienced oppression and imprisonment by the Zogite authorities for his revolutionary stand.

In France, where he had gone to pursue his higher studies, Enver Hoxha became a sympathizer of the communist movement. In 1936 he returned to Albania. Now he was a communist and he devoted all his efforts to the cause of liberating the people. He joined the communist group of Korça and became one of its most active members.

On the eve of the fascist occupation, he devoted all his energies, together with the other comrades, to organizing the people's resistance. Later, the fascists dismissed him from his job as an «element opposed to the regime». Enver Hoxha was sent by the Korça group to Tirana to organize the work in the Capital and other districts.

Working with persistence, together with the sounder communist elements, encountering many hardships, Enver Hoxha worked for the amalgamation of the groups, to expose the Trotskyite and opportunist elements, and thus the great event of November 8, 1941, the founding of the Communist Party of Albania was achieved. The Party was founded in the deepest illegality in Tirana, under the conditions of rabid fascist reaction. The Provisional Central Committee with Enver Hoxha at the head, was elected to run the Party.

NEW CITIES ON THE MAP OF OUR HOMELAND



In these pictures you see the town of Laç, in the Kruja district in Central Albania. It is one of the towns which is entirely new. You will not find it in maps of Albania before 1960. Nevertheless its name is a household word even among the primary school children. It was born and became known as the center of phosphate fertilizers. A timber complex has been set up here and the modern copper processing plant is under construction. Laç is also an important railway centre. This new town is situated at the foot of a mountain, while before it a broad plain extends right down to the Adriatic sea.

The Palace of Culture in the new town of Laç. The library, theatre and other halls for recreation and rest- are all at the disposal of the working people.

Ten years ago there was nothing here but thorny scrub and run-down forest. Today, Laç is a town with all facilities for its residents, who have come from different districts of the country.

This is the industrial zone of Laç. Chemical fertilizer and timber products are produced here. The new copper-processing plant will soon be in operation in this zone.

Photo by V. Koçi



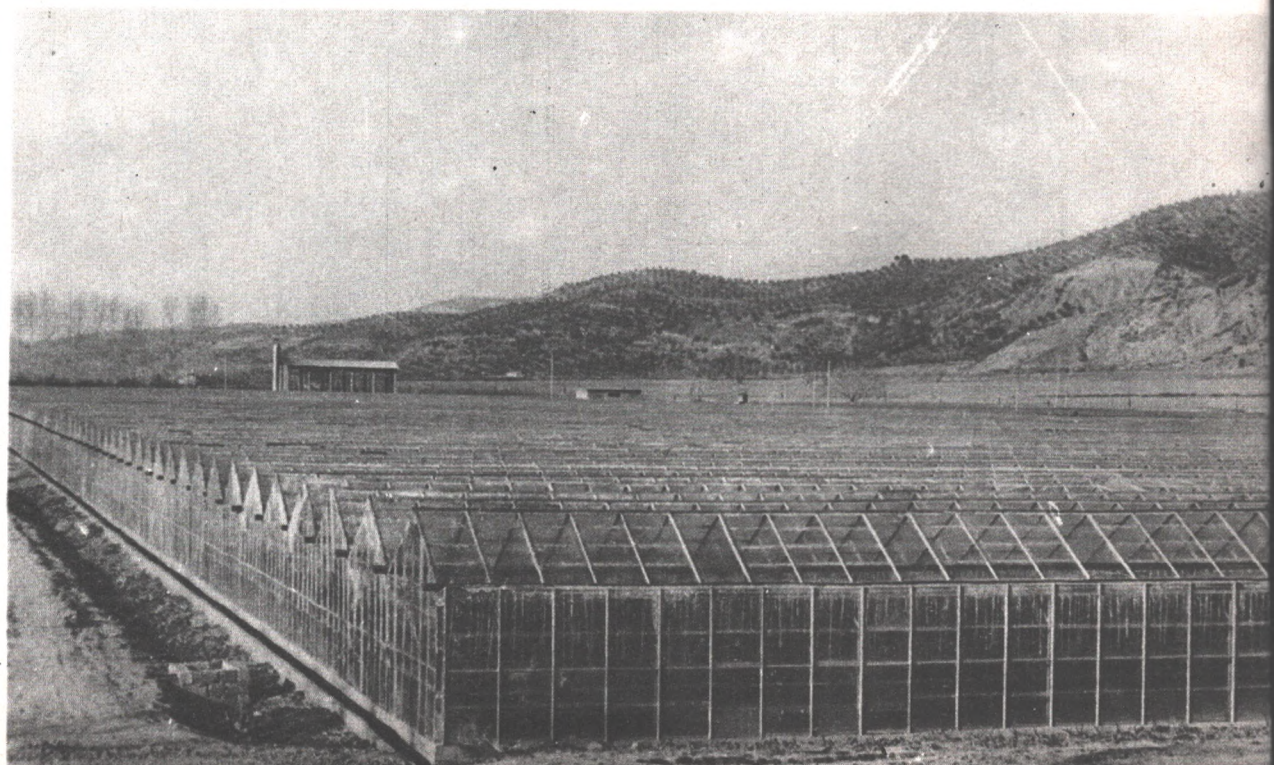


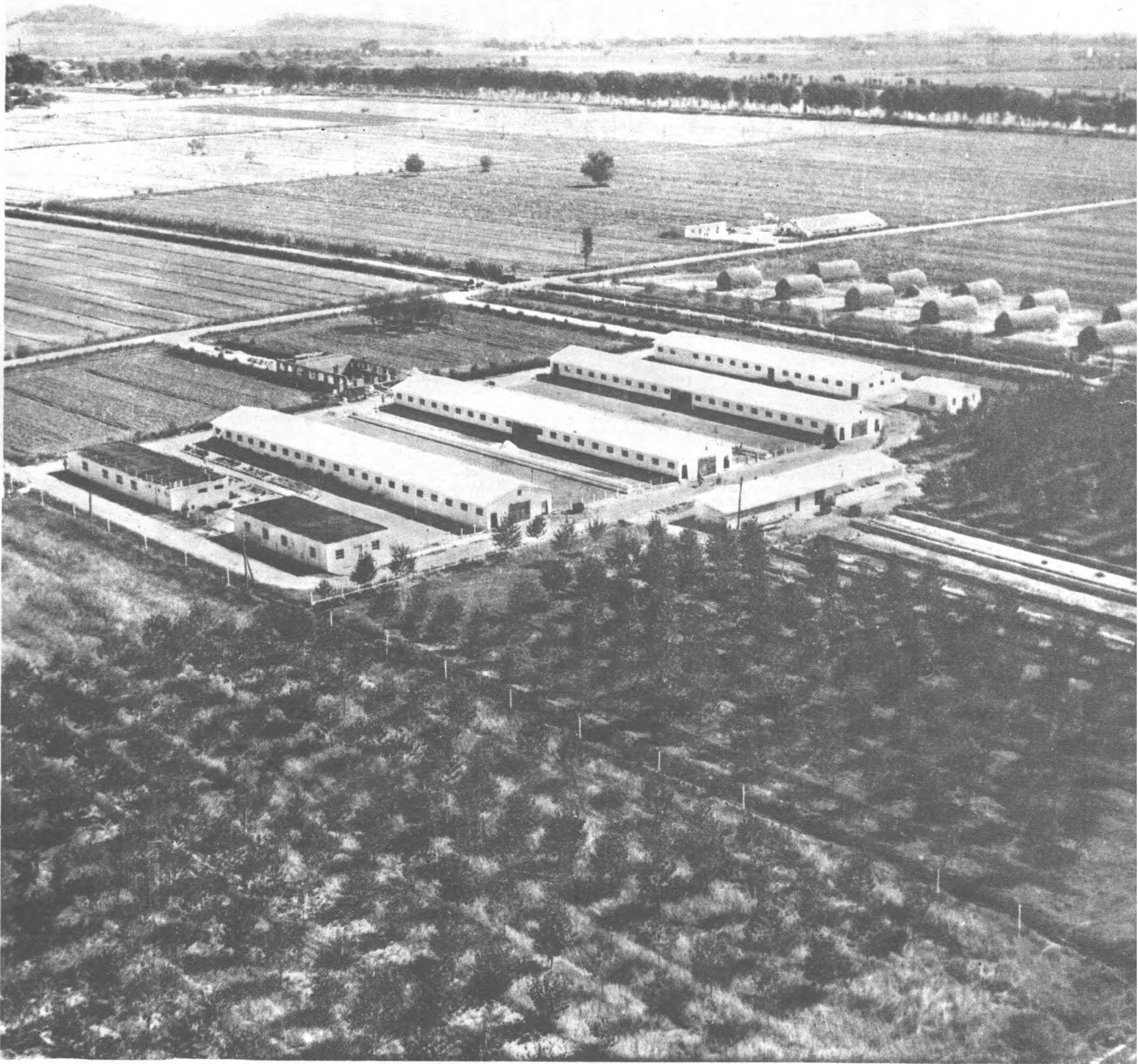
Borshi flat in the Saranda district extends along the Ionian Sea coast at the foot of high mountains. It is noted for its production of oranges and olives.

Photo by N.Kodheli

New up-to-date greenhouses with internal heating for raising early vegetables set up recently in the Berat district. Similar greenhouses have been set up and yield products in many regions of the country.

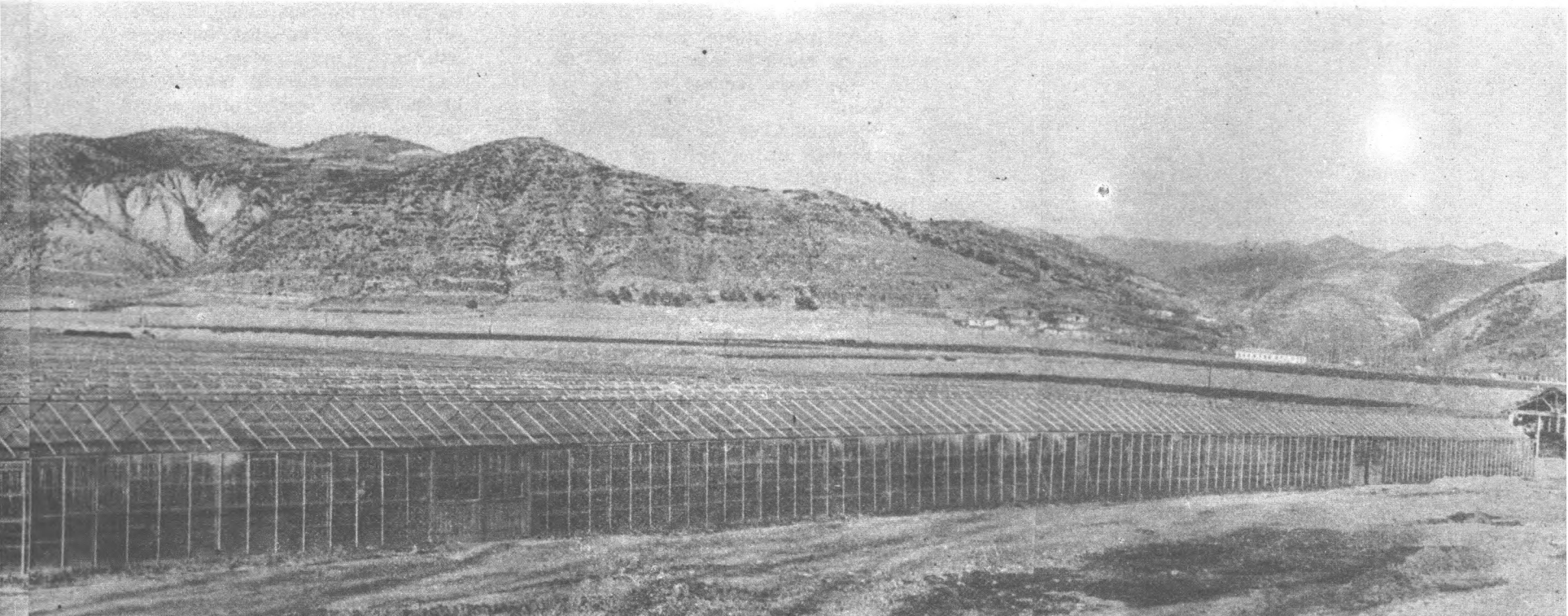
At the same time, thousands of hectares of sun-warmed greenhouses which yield early crops have been set up all along the coastal regions of southern Albania.





Very favorable conditions have been created in Albania for raising livestock on a scientific basis. Modern stalls and animal feed mixing centers have been set up in many agricultural economies.

In the picture: A complex of modern stalls in one of the agricultural economies in the Durrës district.



THE FREE HEALTH SERVICE AND THE NEW DRAFT-CONSTITUTION



An interview with the Minister of Health of the People's Republic of Albania, comrade LLAMBI ZIQISHTI.

In the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, articles 45 and 47 occupy an important place. In them are formulated the basic principles on which the whole of our people's health service is based.

Article 45 of the draft-Constitution says: «The State guarantees the citizens the necessary medical services as well as treatment in the health centers of the country free of charge». Even before this the citizen of our People's Republic has enjoyed free medical assistance, and for a long time we have had advanced health services for the masses. For our people, the times when any illness was a great misfortune for the majority of families, because a visit to those few doctors there were, was a very costly affair, have gone once and for all. Even more expensive were the drugs in the private pharmacies. Those few hospitals which we had were divided into classes and medical treatment in them was provided in conformity with one's class position and how much one paid. Payment was demanded for every analysis, for every radiograph, for every consultation. Money was demanded for everything, at a time when the people lived in such poverty they could barely buy their food.

For us that bitter period has passed into history.

Free medical treatment can be provided only when the State undertakes this responsibility. Our socialist State has undertaken this humane task and has spared nothing to ensure for the people total coverage by a qualified medical service established on a scientific basis. Today we have extended the network of health institution even to the most remote districts. Our hospitals are new and with all the essential services. We have sanatoria, maternity homes, day nurseries for babies, dispensaries, health institutions for scientific studies, institutions of a hygiene-sanitation character, a wide net-

work of institutions for treatment of dental ailments, for supplying drugs, a pharmaceutical industry and so on. In Albania there is one doctor including stomatologists, serving every 780 persons, whereas in 1938 the figure was one doctor to 8.527 persons. In comparison with 1938, the number of hospital beds today excluding the thermal water stations, has increased by 21 times. These and many other indices testify to the organization and planning on correct criteria for the proportional development of the entire medical service, providing it with the necessary conditions for normal work, the necessary personnel of higher, middle and lower training, who constantly strive to serve the people conscientiously and with enthusiasm.

In our treatment and prophylactic institutions a systematic struggle is waged against various diseases not only by treating them, but also by preventing them. Thanks to this prophylactic and curative work, from being the most malaria-ridden country in Europe before liberation, now we have not a single case of malaria in our country. We have other such major achievements in other diseases too, which wrought havoc among our people in the past. Today, there is no trace of syphilis to be found in Albania, while tuberculosis has been reduced to very few cases a year.

The mobilization of our health cadres, their continuing qualification, the political understanding of the problems of prophylaxis and health propaganda, the close contact of the doctors with the patients, their visits to peasant's homes, have resulted in obvious successes in recent years, especially, in creating sound convictions among the people who are carrying out better and better comrade Enver Hoxha's instruction that: «... we should educate the people to go to the doctor or the health institutions not only when they are sick, but to go time and again for consultation and examination even when they feel well, so that any disorder in the organism may be detected in time be-

fore it causes disturbing symptoms and pain.»

The very obvious improvement of our demographic indices such as the stable high level of births and low level of deaths as well as the extension of average life expectancy cannot be separated from the uninterrupted rise of the well-being of the people or from the vigorous measures which have been taken to extend the health service in all directions, especially its extension in the countryside. Suffice it to mention that in 1938, the average life expectancy in Albania was only 38 years. In 1950 it rose to 53,5 years, and in 1974 to 68 years.

A success which has a direct bearing on the health of mother and child is the regular check up on expectant mothers in the early months and care for normal conditions for the birth. From 0,41 per cent of childbirths with medical assistance in 1938, that figure rose to 17,6 per cent in 1950, and as a consequence of the measures taken by our People's State Power to step up the care for mother and child, childbirths with medical assistance rose to 91,1 per cent in 1974, while we aim in the near future, to have 100 per cent of our childbirths with medical assistance.

In order to form an accurate assessment of the health service of a country, it is necessary to see, first and foremost, how the health of mother and child is looked after. The above figures are proof of this care. This reality is stressed also in article 47 of the draft-Constitution which reads: «Mother and child enjoy special care and protection. The mother is entitled to paid leave before and after childbirth. The State opens maternity homes as well as creches and kindergartens for the children».

This article sanctions by law all the great work our People's State Power constantly does for the protection of the health of mother and child.

At present we have standards of obstetric-gynecological and pediatric services such as

many other countries might envy. We have sufficient maternity beds to accommodate all the expectant mothers in both town and village without exception. We have midwives in every village no matter how small it may be; we have day nurseries in every city and village in which a very high percentage of our young children are growing up. We have advanced legislation for paid leave for mothers before and after childbirth, for assuring them lighter work during pregnancy, as well as the right to leave the job every three hours to breast feed their babies, and so on. The provision of all medicines for children under one year of age, and supply of vitamins to expectant mothers and to their children after childbirth free of charge, the subsidizing of a considerable part of the cost of nurseries etc. by the State, are very important factors which exert an influence on continually improving the health of mother and child.

In addition to the articles which we have just mentioned, other articles of our draft-Constitution are of special importance to improving the health of our people. Article 43 of the draft-Constitution says: «Citizens enjoy the right to rest after work. The length of the working day and working week as well as annual holidays are governed by law. Rest homes, cultural and other centers of this kind are set up for the working people».

The State creates the best possible conditions for the broad masses, so that they may spend the vacations guaranteed by law in the most cultural way at our most attractive mountain and seaside climatic resorts where very comfortable holiday homes have been set up. From year to year the number and capacity of our beaches is increasing.

Article 41 of the draft-Constitution also serves the protection of the health of our workers. In it we read: «The working people of town and countryside are guaranteed of the necessary means of livelihood in old age, in case of illness or loss of capacity for work». Likewise: «The State takes under special care the invalids of the National-liberation War, of the struggle in defense of the homeland and the invalids from work, and creates conditions for their rehabilitation».

For all these obligations, which our socialist State takes upon itself, large sums are spent, by means of which the working people of every age and profession are assisted to maintain and strengthen their health.

The protection of the health of our people should be viewed in all its aspects. Therefore, in article 20 of the draft-Constitution, we read: «The protection of the land, the natural resources, waters and air from damage, is the duty of the State, the economic and social organizations, and all citizens.»

Under the conditions of the rapid industrialization and development of our country, this article has special importance. Our State compels all investors to carry out all the measures that should be taken in order to protect the environment from pollution, right from the first stages of work on new projects and so on. But in addition to investors, this article also charges social organizations as well as every citizen with duties so that he himself may protect the environment from pollution and take a stand, and make it a problem when he notices any violation of this law, which is related directly to the protection of the health of the working masses. At the same time, this article is a legal basis for the continuous intensification of the work for establishing all-round hygiene in our country.

THE VILLAGE DOCTOR

We found Dr. Minella Nini at the outpatients department at the hospital. He had just completed his work and was about to make his usual visits around the suburbs of Konispol. That is his normal practice. Once through with his day's work at the hospital he goes around the village, talks with people, visits a patient here and there, checks up and gives advice. He often goes down to the brigades in the fields, or to the surrounding villages of Vërva, Dishat, Janjar, Markat, Ninat, Shalës etc.

From one's first conversation with him, it is obvious that he is the man who is devoted to his job, not afraid of difficulties. By nature he is courageous, pushing ahead in life and enjoying respect. For nine years he worked as a diagnostician in the hospital of Delvina and later, after specialization, as chief of the pediatric ward in the hospital of Saranda. In June last year he stood up before the collective of the hospital in which he was working and said:

«I ask to be sent to the base, to the village where there is the most need. And not alone but with my family, for otherwise I won't be able to accomplish my task. If you do not agree to this, I'll write to Tirana.»

A few days later they called Minella to inform him of the place to which he was appointed.

The next day, the doctor together with his wife Eli, a teacher, set out for Konispol. To his father and mother, whom he left in Saranda, he said: «I am young, a candidate for Party membership, and I need to temper myself. Who else should be the first to do this job other than the communists?» And he went holding his head high and full of joy to serve his people.

Daybreak of his first morning in Konispol found him at the hospital.

«He really is untiring, energetic, modest and the kindest man», the head nurse of the hospital,

communist Zaharo Proda, told us. «He goes round all the villages of the zone on foot. He checks up on the maternity homes, children's nurseries, sees how the children are treated, carries on propaganda, and so on.»

«One night» — laboratory worker Fildes Bilali added — «we had a child critically ill, here at the hospital. Minella stayed by his bedside till midnight. Then he was called to the home of a 60 year old man who had an attack of cardiac asthma, where he stayed till 2 past midnight. From there he walked to Likojan, an hour's walk, returning at 6 o'clock in the morning. And he didn't go home, but stayed on duty at the hospital».

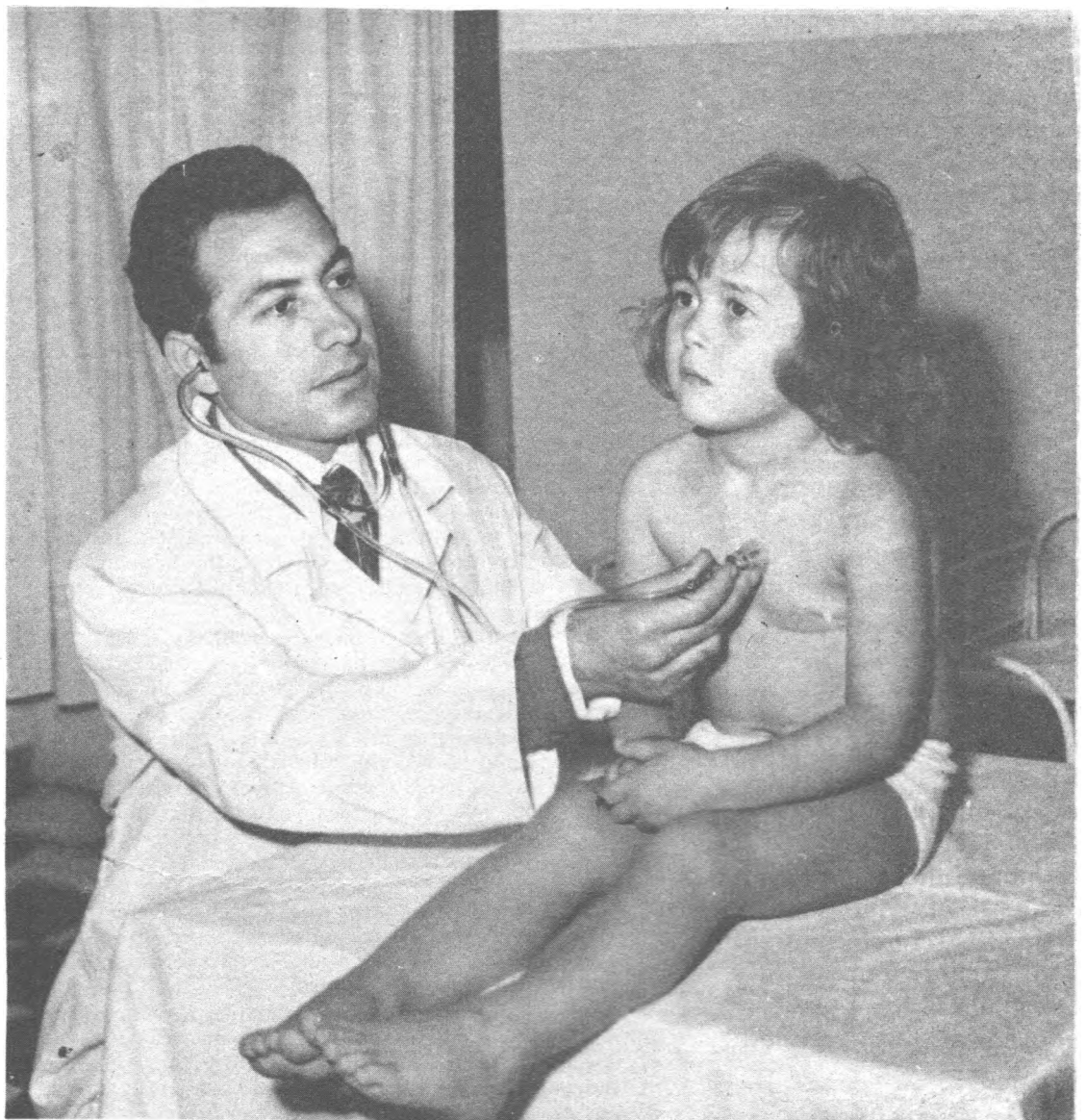
There are many such examples.

Dr. Minella Nini runs a course for the technological and vocational uplift of the personnel of the hospital, and has given great assistance in spreading knowledge on hygiene and sanitation among the masses. But this is not enough for him — he applies the experience he has won in the hospital in Saranda in all his activity everywhere. On the other hand, here in the village he has found favorable terrain for deepening his studies on rickets, dystrophy, prematurity and other problems about which he is now drawing his preliminary ideas. Meanwhile he is also preparing biometric tables for children.

Indefatigable and always ready, at the bedside of the patients in the hospital, in home after home, from one village to another, from one brigade to the other, from one action to the other, shoulder to shoulder with the peasants — these are some of the qualities of the candidate for Party membership, Minella Nini, former chief of pediatry at the hospital in Saranda, now a highly esteemed doctor in the villages of the Konispoli district.

KRISTO NDRIÇO

Doctor Minella Nini has gone of his own free will to serve in the countryside. When through with his job at the hospital he makes his rounds of the village quarters, visits the sick, talks with people, supervises and gives advice. He often walks down to the fields where brigades are at work or to the villages in the vicinity helping, at the same time in spreading knowledge on hygiene and sanitation among the masses.



ALBANIAN SCHOOL

Before the triumph of the revolution and the establishment of the People's State Power, Albania had no university or other higher institute of learning. Today, in addition to the University of Tirana with its affiliated branches in the principal district of the country, there are a number of other higher institutes of learning like that of Agriculture, the Higher Institute of Arts, the Higher Teachers' Training Institute, the Physical Culture Institute and so on.

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Before liberation, only 32 per cent of the elementary school children were girls and only 2,4 per cent of the secondary students were girls, whereas today they make up 47,3 per cent of those attending 8 year schools, 45,6 per cent in secondary schools, and 36,7 per cent of the students in higher institutes.

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Today, there are nearly 30 times as many professional cadres of medium training than in 1938 and 6 times as many cadres of higher training than in 1960.

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In just one village of the district of Mirdita (a mountainous region in northern Albania) there are more school children and teachers today than the whole of the district had before the liberation of Albania.

The Albanians have fought for education just as they have fought for freedom, rifle in hand. Their love for schooling, for their mother tongue has been inseparable from their love of the homeland. Therefore, the struggle for the Albanian school also has its long history. It starts from the darkest period of the Ottoman occupation in the Middle Ages.

During the last quarter of the 19th century, the Albanian patriots of the period of the National Renaissance regarded the struggle to spread the national consciousness through the Albanian school and Albanian literature as a struggle for the existence of the Albanian nation.

In 1879, the Albanian patriots living in Istanbul, drew up a unified alphabet for the Albanian language. Towards the end of this year they founded the «Association of Letters», the purpose of which was to promote the use of the Albanian language to help build the brotherhood of the Albanians. But, as with subsequent efforts, the activity of this association ran into difficulties caused by the opponents of the freedom of Albania.

At the beginning of 1885, the patriots living in Korça, in the southeastern part of Albania, drew up a petition in which they sought permission to open an Albanian Club and Albanian schools which would be placed under its administration. After nearly two years of persistent struggle, they managed to open the first Albanian national school on March 7, 1887. (in Albania, March 7 is now celebrated as «Teachers' Day»).

The opening of this school was considered as a triumph of the national movement. That is why the day this school was inaugurated has been turned into a day of celebration. In this connection, an Albanian patriot wrote to his friend, a member of the Albanian association «Dituria» in Bucharest of Rumania: «The Albanian school has been opened, the tree we planted here two-years ago has now flowered and yields sweet fruits...»

During the first year, the school had few pupils but in the second year the number rose to 200. It was an elementary school in which the lessons were given in the Albanian language. It used the textbooks published by the association of the Albanians in Bucharest.

The opening of the first Albanian school aroused great enthusiasm among the patriots of the whole country. It provided an incentive for other such schools to be opened in various districts of Albania.

But, under the pressure of the Metropolitan of Korça and the Patriarch in Istanbul, the occupationist authorities began to hinder the existence of Albanian schools. Under this two-fold reaction, attempts to open other Albanian schools came to naught. Even the schools which had been in 1888, were closed one after the other, with the exception of that in Korça which continued to function at the cost of great sacrifice and in constant struggle with religious institutions and foreign occupiers. In 1891, the first director of this school was murdered, its subsequent directors were imprisoned.

In 1892 the first primary school for girls was opened in Korça. On the same year the Orthodox Bishop of Korça formally cursed and excommunicated the patriotic teacher, Petro Nini Luarasi, who at this time, was striving to turn six Greek or Turkish schools in the region of Kolonja into Albanian schools. And despite all the treats this was achieved in 1893. During the last decade of the past century, the number of Albanian schools increased while at the beginning of our century they had been opened even in some villages. They were attended not only by children but also by adults, for whom high schools were opened. Since there were too few teachers the giving of lessons in Albanian became a question of honour and a task of lofty patriotism.

It was a difficult task to maintain the schools. Not only the occupiers, but also their lackeys raised obstacles that had to be coped with. In many instances the population was obliged to pay for their upkeep out of their own pockets.

The extension of the network of schools and the teaching of the Albanian language raised the problem of adopting a single alphabet because the Istanbul alphabet had not met with the approval of all the patriotic circles.

The «Bashkimi», Club of Manastir took the initiative to call a Congress about the alphabet. This Congress was held in Manastir in November 1908. It was attended by delegates from various Albanian clubs and associations within the country and abroad.

In 1912, after five centuries of constant struggle against enslavement, Albania won its independence. This marks a memorable date in the history of our country and of our school. But subsequent events, both national and international, prevented Albania from enjoying this independence. Consequently, our school, too, was unable to consolidate itself. This period had pronounced oscillations and our school had its ups and downs.

Under these circumstances it was not possible for it to develop.

The period of the reactionary regime of Ahmed Zog (1924-1939) and that of nazi-fascist occupation of Albania (1939-1944) were among the darkest in the history of our school. The broad masses, over 85 per cent of the population, were left illiterate, because the number of schools was greatly reduced. On the other hand, the establishment of the system of school fees meant that those few schools in existence had their doors open only to the children of the rich. During the nazi-fascist occupation both Italy and Germany stepped up the policy of denationalization. Hundreds of teachers left the schools and took up the rifle to fight in the ranks of the partisan squads and brigades.

The foundations of our popular education were laid during the National-liberation War. The Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania charged the national-liberation councils (nuclei of the People's State Power) with the task of organizing the people's education. Thus, they were engaged also in opening elementary schools and courses against illiteracy in all the liberated zones.

The 1944-45 school year (the first year of the liberation of Albania) was a record year for our school system. Whereas during the 1938-39 school year Albania had 649 elementary schools, with 1349 teachers, in 1944-45 school year (although the country was totally devastated by the war) 928 elementary schools with 1743 teachers were functioning.

After liberation a revolutionary course was followed in our country, to turn education really into the property of the working people, the workers and peasants.

In 1946, the school reform went into effect: education was proclaimed free of charge and universal, elementary schooling was made compulsory and equal for both sexes, the State and secular character of the school was guaranteed, and so on. During the period from 1945 to 1955, a broad campaign was carried out to abolish illiteracy. This campaign was turned into a major state and social mass action and this resulted in the complete liquidation of this age old evil. In 1952, universal, primary schooling became compulsory by law. For some years now, 8 year schooling has been compulsory.

Albania used to be the only country in Europe without a university. This was opened in 1957. Today, in addition to the university of Tirana and its affiliated branches in a number of districts, we also have a number of other higher institutes of learning.

In 1969, the whole activity of the school was placed on the basis of three components: lessons, work in production, and physical and military training. This revolutionary change which our school had to undergo was brought about by a broad public discussion which was sanctioned by law. For our school this was a real revolution. Today schools of different categories have been opened even in the most remote regions of the country. One in every three persons in Albania is attending school either full time or part time.

- PAST AND PRESENT



— In these pictures you see two views of the Higher Teacher Training Institute in Shkodra in northern Albania. This is one of the educational institutions where cadres are trained to be teachers in schools of various categories in our country. Today, schools have been opened even in the most remote villages. Never before has our country witnessed such a flowering of education. Almost everywhere there are evening schools for those who want to continue their studies, while continuing at their jobs. Now one in every three persons in our country attends school. The marked extension of the network of schools dictates the need for training teachers. A number of institutions for training teachers have been set up. The number of cadres of education has grown steadily from year to year. Thus in comparison with 1960, the number of teachers in 1975 has increased 3-fold.



CINEMATOGRAPHY

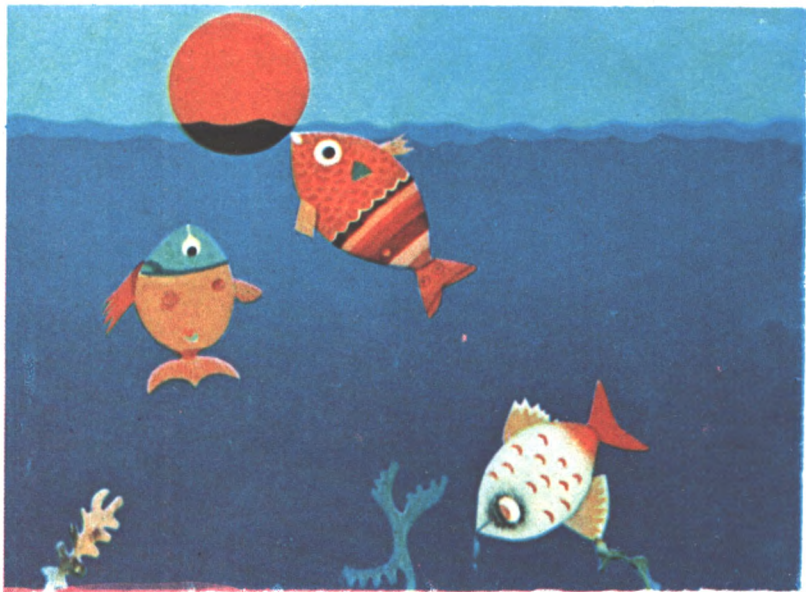
«ZANA and MIRI»



The cartoon film «Zana and Miri» is the fruit of the creative work of the first film of this kind turned out by the «New Albania» Film Studio.

The subject of the film is concretized by two personages, Miri and Zana. During the children with its golden rays, the two youngsters are playing and the ball is thrown from one to the other in time. However, the children continue their game until the ball falls into the pond. The children thank the flowers for helping them and at the finale of the film the children are seen watering the flowers.

The film is accompanied by the melodious and happy music.



orts of the painter Vlash Droboniku and operator Tomi Vaso. It is

Zana. One beautiful day, when the sun is smiling in the sky caress-
 ith a ball in the city park. It is a beautiful and happy game. They
 with the music. But there! The ball strikes a flower and breaks it.
 a fountain. It is the flowers that extend their leaves and pull the
 promise that they will love flowers and take good care of them. In
 d greeting the sun.
 composer Limos Dizdari.



What do these Monuments Show?



The monument «Mother Albania» stands to the east of Tirana, in the cemetery of the sons and daughters, who laid down their lives for the liberation of the homeland and the triumph of the People's Revolution.

This is a monument raised on the Lukova hills beside the Ionian sea in the Saranda district. It perpetuates an important moment in the work of construction: here the work for the transformation of all the hills along the coast was begun. Scrub-covered places have been turned into orange groves and vineyards. The planted terraces extend like a giant amphitheater tens of kilometers on both sides of this monument.

Photo by N. Kodheli

ALBANIAN SEISMOLOGY

EDWARD SULSTAROVA
Director of the Seismological Centre of
the Academy of Sciences of People's
Republic of Albania.

«The Catalogue of Earthquakes in Albania» has been published recently with processed data on the earthquakes that have occurred in Albania from ancient times down to 1970. This is one of the most recent studies by our scientific workers engaged in seismology.

Albanian seismology is young, but already it has given valuable information for the development of our people's economy. From the early years of our People's State Power, the first Albanian seismic map and instructions on earthquake — proof building were compiled. Our State spends considerable funds for the protection of buildings from the devastating effects of earthquakes. Considerable funds have been spent also for eliminating the consequences of earthquakes, as for instance, those of the recent earthquake which hit a number of villages of Saranda district in October 1975.

The setting up, seven years ago, of the first Albanian seismological station marked a qualitative step ahead in seismological studies. Up to 1973, it had only one seismological reading set of the general type. The creation of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania in 1973, as well as affiliation of the Seismological Center with it, have exerted an influence in advancing seismological science in our country.

The main objective of this scientific research institution is to organize thorough studies about earthquake risk in Albania in all its aspects.

During the 5th five-year plan period (1971-1975), one of the most important problems of our Seismological Center was to complete the studies determining regional

liability to earth tremors in the People's Republic of Albania to a large scale. The working collective of this Center has almost completed its studies defining the seismic regions in the People's Republic of Albania.

«The Seismological Map of Albania to the scale 1:500,000» is based on detailed instrumental and macroseismic seismological material. It has been worked out entirely according to the latest methods with the assistance of computers on the basis the best knowledge of the geological-technic structures, the geological engineering and hydro-geological conditions of our country, as well as of the geological conditions of the origin of earthquakes in Albania. Within the context of this theme, many seismological studies have been completed and published.

Meanwhile a great leap forward has been made in broadening the seismic network. At the Tirana Seismological Station there were installed three additional seismographs of various ranges and an accelerometer system to measure the acceleration of the earth during strong earth tremors. The Center has also been equipped with four seismological field stations which serve in studying the after tremors of violent earthquakes and in studying the seismic activity of individual regions. Consequently in 1975, the Tirana seismological Center was turned into a first-class seismological Station capable of registering a very wide range of earthquakes.

For the study of the seismicity of the big reservoir of the Fierza Hydro-electric Power-Plant, a network of four seismological stations equipped for the time being with only one set of seismographs to register nearby earth tremors has been set up. Two

secondary seismological stations have been built, which will soon be put into operation. Consequently, the Albanian seismological network consists of one first class central station and six secondary stations equipped with up-to-date apparatus.

Our seismological Center has made a valuable contribution also to the study of the seismicity of the Balkan and European regions. Our scientific workers are co-authors of books published by UNESCO, such as the «Catalogue of the Earthquakes in the Balkan Region» (1974). «The Seismotectonic Map of the Balkans» (1974) and others. The appropriate studies on Albania have also been sent to UNESCO, which is drawing up the Seismic Map of Europe, to the scale 1:500,000.

Our Center exchanges information in the form of seismological bulletins with a number of seismological institutions in Europe.

The achievements of our Seismological Center to day have created favorable conditions for an extension and further deepening of seismological studies during the new five-year plan period 1976-80. During the 6th five-year plan, studies on the seismicity of our country will be further extended and deepened, studies will begin on seismological microregionalization, studies on the seismicity of the big reservoirs as well as on the structure of the earth's crust in Albania will be further advanced, and the first steps will be taken in the prediction of the time and extension of earthquakes. Of course these are greater tasks than those we had during the 5th five-year plan, but they are all completely realisable because now all the conditions have been created for this.

The Seismological Station in Tirana is capable of recording a long gamut of earth tremors. The seismological map of Albania has been drawn to the scale 1:500,000 entirely according to the latest scientific methods.



NAVIGATION FROM THE ILLYRIANS TO THE ALBANIANS

Our ancestors, the Illyrians, were famous as capable and dauntless fighters. The contemporary of the Illyrians, the Greek historian, Polybius, in the third century before our era, said: «**The Illyrians disregard the enemy — on the contrary, they attack where danger is greatest;**» while the Roman historian of the 2nd century A. D., Tacitus, wrote: «**The Illyrians are a powerful race, keen, dauntless, proud, and very good soldiers.**»

The later centuries witnessed the struggle and glory of our people on the high seas as they heroically breasted the onslaught of various aggressors.

The naval traditions of the Albanians go back to antiquity. The Illyrian sailors and, later, the defenders of the coastline under the legendary Skanderbeg, the experienced sailors of Tivar, Ulqin, Shkodra, Durrës, Vlora, Butrinti — all of them considered the Adriatic sea «**Their own backyard.**» That is why they followed with vigilance any movements of the enemy on this sea. At the same time they plied the seas just as their forebears had done.

With the establishment of our People's State Power, these traditions marked a further development and new content with the unprecedented development of our fleet, of merchant and naval ships.

To reflect these ancient and new traditions, a Museum of Albanian Navigation has been opened in a building beside the Bay of Vlora.

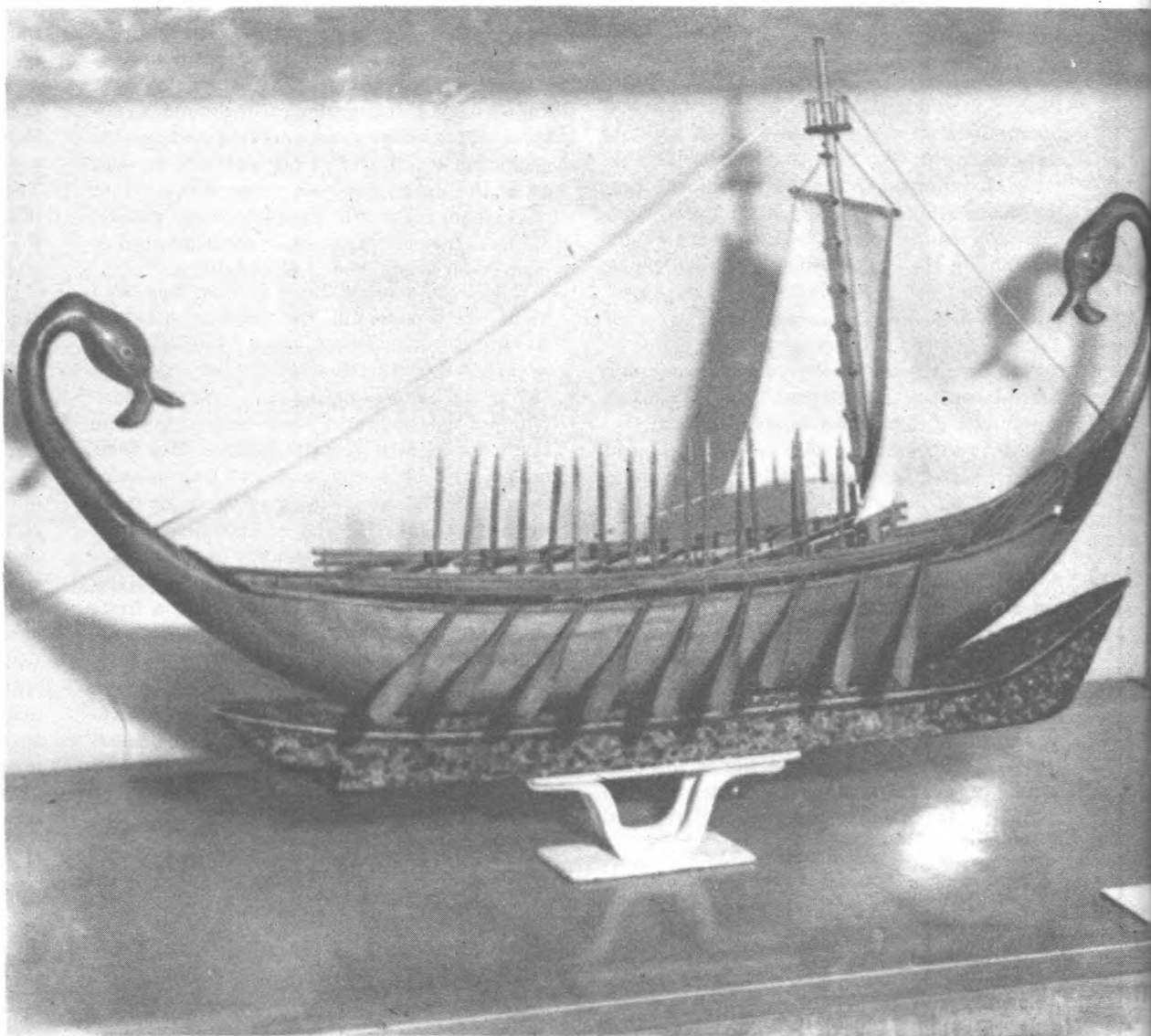
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More than one-third of Albanian's borders, about 472 kilometers, are sea borders. Traces of the ancient construction of the means of navigation have reached down to our own times, from the most primitive coracles and rafts for crossing rivers; later dug-out canoes for use in the open sea. These were made from a single tree-trunk 2,5-4 metres long, hollowed out inside. Then began the construction of boats of boards fitted together. This was a new advanced technique of the time which was related to the economic and social development of the Illyrian tribes at the beginning of the last millenium before our era.

But Illyrian navigation reached its culmination with the building of **liburnites**, ships named after the Illyrian tribe, the Liburnians, famous seafaring men, and which spread all over the Mediterranean.

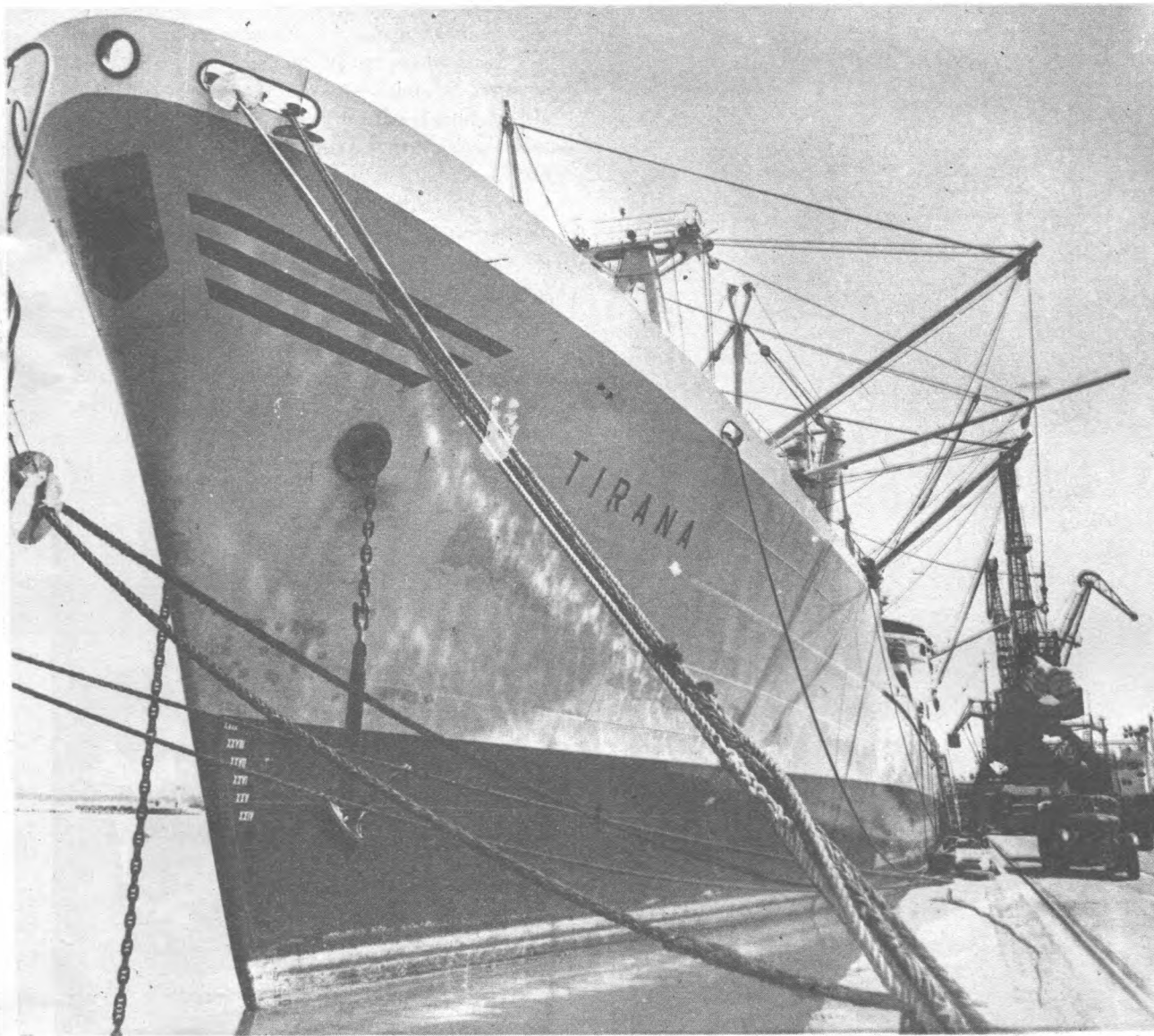
The **liburnites** were ships from 40 to 60 meters long and from 10 meters wide with two rows of 50 oars. Later, the Illyrians also built similar but smaller boats called **lembe**, which carried about fifty persons on board.

With these ships they drove back the repeated assaults of the Greeks and, later, of the Roman Emperors. Under King Agron, and later, under Teuta, the Illyrians wrote glorious pages with their naval battles characterised by sudden attacks and rapid maneuvering, thanks to their small, light and speedy ships.





Rough sketch of the coaster «Mujo Ulqinaku». In this boat sailor Spiro Kota undertook an heroic act in 1949. All by himself on the high seas he succeeded in detecting a group of enemies, in making short work of them and in steering the boat back safely to the Durrës seaport. For this heroic gesture he was awarded the highest title «Hero of the People».



During the Middle Ages, with the collapse of the Byzantine Empire independent principalities came to being on the territory of the Albanians each having its own fleet. Thus Albanian navigation was reborn. Ship building yards were set up all along our seacoast. The most important were those at Ulqin, Tivar and Durrës.

The Turkish invasion compelled most of our fleet to withdraw from Albanian waters, while Skanderbeg, in the complex system of defending the country, devoted major importance to the fortification of the Ishmi coast (near presentday Durrës) and the fortress called Skanderbeg Cape. Subsequent rulers, Ali Pashë Tepelena and the Bushatlis of Shkodra, in their plans to break away from Turkey, gave major importance to the defence of the seacoast.

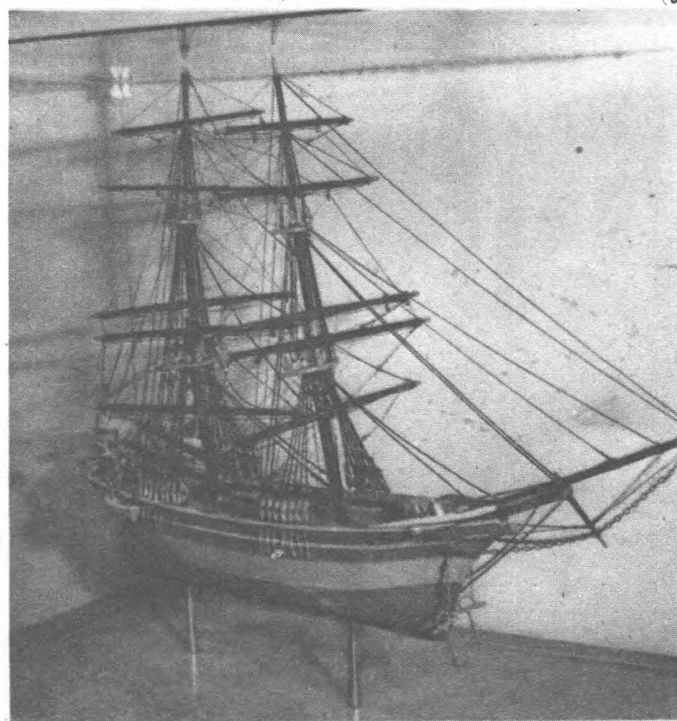
During the second half of the XIX-century, precisely in the fiery atmosphere of the struggle for independence, a small merchant fleet was re-established. After the Proclamation of Independence on November 28, 1912, this fleet began to sail under our national flag. But just as in all other fields of economic and social development, the feudal regime of Ahmed Zog failed to create suitable conditions for the development of Albanian shipping.

On November 29, 1944, Albania was liberated. Some months later, in April 1945, the shipyard in Durrës was set up for the purpose of repairing the existing boats and of salvaging the ships that had been sunk. In August 15, 1945, the first armed ships were launched after the liberation of the country. Thus, August 15 was proclaimed Navy Day.

From that day onward our fleet has been increased and improved. It has become a worthy protector of Socialist Albania. Today our sailors have the most modern ships with a high level of fighting equipment in their hands. But towering over all, stands the pure, strong, courageous figure of the Albanian sailor, the builder and protector of our socialist society. Today, the Albanian seamen dauntlessly ply the high seas in their trans-oceanic ships and our national flag can be seen flying in the ports of all continents. Our fleet of new ships has increased beyond any comparison with the past.

The Museum of Albanian Navigation is a teaching-scientific center for all the workers of the history of Albanian navigation and a living reflection for the revolutionary patriotic education of the working masses. It contains an interesting historical documentation, a number of objects and relics from the history of navigation, more than 40 different models of means of navigation ranging from dug-out canoes to the powerful ships of our own days.

In the future, this Museum will be continually enriched and thus will make valuable contribution to the study of Albanian navigation.



- 1 — Illyrian 'lembe'
- 2 — Ulqin galleys
- 3 — A group of undergraduates visiting the Museum of Albanian Navigation.
- 4 — The «Tirana» boat of the merchant marine plies all the oceans of the world.
- 5 — Sailboats of the XVIIIth century

THE TOWN OF PERPETUAL YOUTH

On a beautiful hill covered in evergreens east of Tirana lies the **Student Town**. It began its existence 17 years ago with only three buildings housing about 500 students. At present it has assumed its full physionomy with a number of three or four storeyed buildings, asphalted streets and beautiful flower gardens. Today, it houses about 6,000 young men and women with all municipal, public health and postal accommodations, with a network of catering shops, and so on. Six years ago, there was built here a beautiful building, namely, the Student Palace of Culture, as well as a physical cultural complex with running tracks, handball courts, football fields, an up-to-date polygon for marksmanship stunts, gymnastic equipment and so on. In these two cultural and sport centers, the young students spend their free time in various activities.



During 1975 alone the student amateur players gave more than 60 dramatic performances with more than one thousand students taking part while two thousand others engaged in sport activities.

A good number of students engage in scientific work, over 1,300 students are regular members of scientific circles.

This is a simple profile of the town. Every year hundreds of young men and women become its new residents while hundreds of others leave its premises to take the longer course, the course of life. Eversince its founding this town has welcomed and seen off over 20,000 residents. Most of them are all over the country serving as cadres of higher training in the people's economy and education.

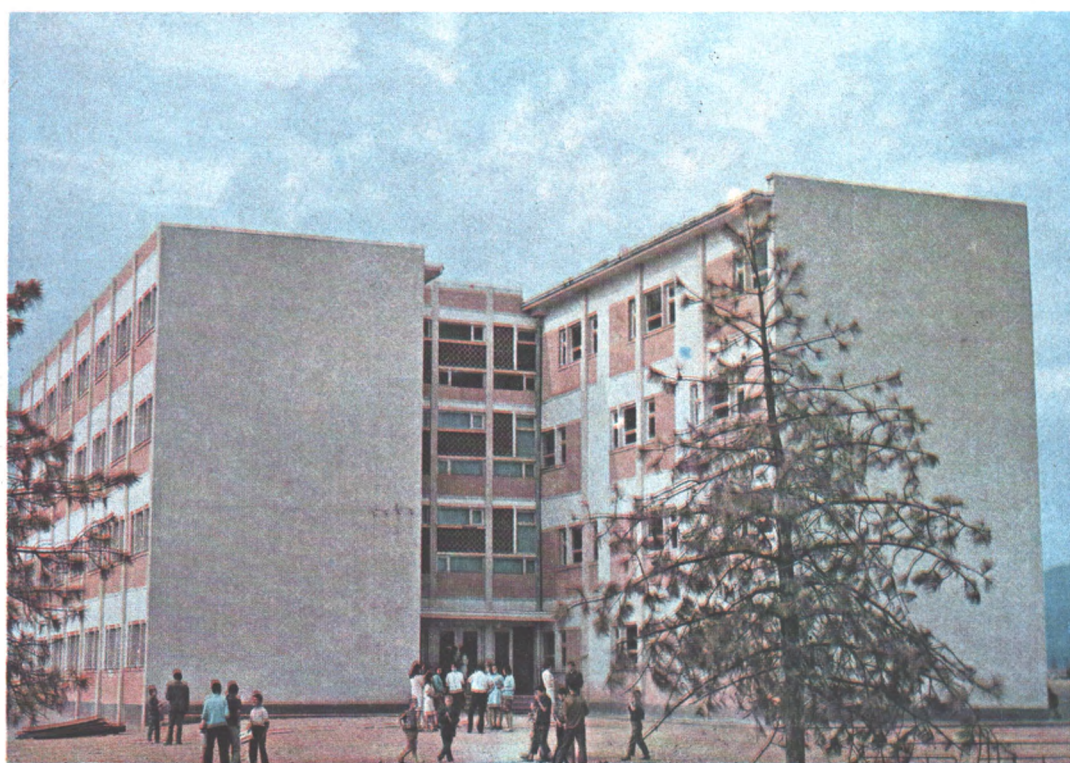
Together with the reminiscences of their school life they carry with them also the impressions of the beautiful, wholesome life they spent in the town of perpetual youth.







AN ENT



It is a rare thing in the world for a town to be drowned and, even more so, when this is done according to a predetermined plan. Kukës, in the northeastern part of Albania, is such a town. It extends over a flat at the junction of two rivers, the Drini i zi and the Drini i bardh. Some tens of kilometres below Kukës, the dam of the Fierza hydro-electric power scheme, which will be the biggest in our country, is under construction on the bed of the united rivers. The lake, which will soon be formed, will extend up to the old town Kukës. The old town will be drowned to provide light for the whole country. Therefore, it has



In the picture. The new town of Kukës.

The new general secondary school in the new town of Kukës. There are also two 8 year schools, a Palace for Young Pioneers and a number of kindergartens and creches. The new hotel bears the name of Mt. Galica, poised like a crown over the town. The Copper Smelting Plant on the outskirts of the new city.

Photo by S. Xhillari





IRELY NEW TOWN

SAMI MILLQSHI — newsman

now been shifted some kilometers to the northeast to a higher plateau (about 350 meters above sea level), where the new Kukës, a much more beautiful and commodious one, is under construction.

The work of building the new town of Kukës began in September 1962. Now the new town has taken shape. It is characteristic that while life has carried on normally in the old town, its inhabitants have been steadily shifting into their new homes in the new town. By the end of this year, the shifting of the residents will be completed.

In writing the biography of the new Kukës, one cannot help recalling the words of comrade Enver Hoxha, when he said: «The day will come when the old town of Kukës will disappear. This is a law, the old town will be wiped out, but in its place a new, more beautiful town of socialism is being built.»

Now this has become a reality. The lay out and architecture of the town has been harmonized with the relief of the country and the beautiful environment round it. When the lake is formed, the town will rise above it with its administrative center, its buildings for cultural purposes placed in a park sloping down to the edge of the lake. New Kukës has not a single private house. The State has built comfortable apartments to house all the citizens of the old town. Although the cold northeast winds blow constantly, all the year round, they are no threat to the tranquility and warmth of the family homes.

The 230 bed hospital, the 500 seat cinema, the Palace of young pioneers, the secondary school, two 8 year schools, the hotel and many other buildings are already functioning normally. In the world there are thousand-year old cities and, of course, their present inhabitants have not experienced the emotions of the building of these cities. They have found their city quarters, parks, fountains, and so on ready made.

Today the Kukës district occupies third place in the Republic in the copper industry. Its in-

dustrial production is now 41 times greater than in 1950. Comparison with the pre-war period cannot be made for Kukës had no industry of any kind at that time. Today the electric motors installed at the Copper plant have a capacity equal to the total power in all Albania, produced in 1938. In the past, Kukës had a few small shops, two or three smithies, and nothing more. It was a dead town especially if we bear in mind that there was no continuous communication over the two surrounding rivers. It had one elementary school with two teachers and a first aid post with one nurse.

Our People's State Power has brought progress even to this mountainous district. The opening of the copper mine and the building of the processing plant, turned the region into a center for training and tempering the young miners and metallurgists. As a result of the rapid development of the copper, timber and engineering industries, the population of the town has multiplied. A very significant indicator is the fact that each year of the People's State Power has brought about an extension of nearly one year in the average life expectancy of the inhabitants.

As against 6 primary schools with 630 school children and 18 teachers in the whole district in 1938, during the 1974-75 school year, this figure rose to 193 elementary, 8 year and secondary schools as well as the affiliated full-time and part-time branches of the University, with 21,500 pupils and students with more than 800 teachers and lecturers. Today just the «8 November» secondary school in the town alone is attended by 100 more pupils than the total number of primary school children in 1938; and on top of this there are hundreds of students attending secondary and vocational schools outside the district.

Our People's State Power has given the inhabitants of Kukës the possibility of building an entirely new town from its very foundations with their own hands. For this they are both proud and grateful.

On the bed of the united Drini Zi and Drini Bardh rivers in northern Albania, the dam of the future Fierza Hydro-electric Power-plant, which will be the biggest source of electric power in Albania is being built. The lake which will soon be formed, will extend up to the old town of Kukës. Hence Kukës has now been shifted a few kilometers to the northeast, to a higher plateau where the new Kukës is under construction, much more beautiful and commodious than the old town.



COMPANIERA ALBANESE

ENGLANTINA MANDIA

«You will go to the front line with Doctor Bethune from Canada», they told Justina Shkupi.

Justina looked attentively at her interlocutor who pointed to the big van with the words, «Instituto Hispano — Canadese De Transfusione de Sangue».

She had not been working long in the surgical hospital of the internationalist brigades, but she had heard of this institute and Doctor Norman Bethune. In December and January, when Madrid defended itself for life or death from the airplanes of Hitler and Mussolini, and from the frenzied attacks of the Francoists, in those days, when the Internationalist Battalions, «The Paris Commune», «Dombrovski», «Garibaldi» wrote the brilliant pages of the epic of the international proletariat in the struggle against fascism and in defence of the Spanish Republic, the Canadian Doctor, with his van, which brought with it small bottles filled with the blood donated by the sisters and brothers of Madrid to the soldiers, who defended it with their lives, had also appeared in Cusa de Campo e Manzanares. On those defence lines, in those legendary battles, the blood of the finest sons and daughters of the proletariat, mixed and soaked into Spanish soil. That small bit of land, where Hans Baimler, the outstanding Commissar of the 11th internationalist brigade and the Albanian worker Zef Hoti or young Urfi Agolli, from Dibra e Madhe, became sacred to everyone.

Justina knew, that in those trenches another Albanian fighter, Dhimiter Kosta, lay gravely wounded. Perhaps Dhimiter, too, had been saved by the aid of this Canadian Doctor, who was coming straight towards her now.

Doctor Norman Bethune was in a hurry.

«You are the Companiera Albanese?»

Justina nodded assent.

In that hospital almost no-one knew that her name was Justina. She was simply Albanese. But could there be a more beloved and beautiful name than that of her country? Later on she has written in her memoirs... «It seemed strange to me when I saw myself among all those Doctors and nurses from all over the world. «Albanian», «The Albanian Comrade»! «Companiera Albanese», this is what they called me. I was the only nurse from Albania, and perhaps for this reason, or to please me by mentioning my small Homeland, they always called me Albanese. And it made me feel good.»

Justina met the glance of Doctor Norman Bethune and she never forgot it.

It was Spring 1937.

At that time that energetic man, of an indefinable age, had not yet become the famous Doctor of three continents. Then, he was the Canadian Doctor, distinguished for thorax operations and the founder of this blood transfusion Institute, one of the latest weapons of the Republic against death.

Twentytwo years later, in 1959, in her free Homeland, in Albania, Justina Shkupi wrote:

«The heavily wounded were brought in there. There, I saw with my own eyes, the great work done by the courageous nurses and doctors who operated on the volunteers, brought in from the front, day and night. I will mention only one example here to demonstrate the great abnegation of the doctors. In the front lines, Doctor Alvares Ruiz, failing to find on the spot a comrade to make a blood transfusion to the seriously wounded, transfused his own blood. The same thing was also done by Doctor Norman Bethune, from Canada.

«Companiera Albanese», the young nurse said in one breath. I looked at the charts of the wounded, there is another Albanian, perhaps he is your brother.

Justina shuddered. She was a strong girl. Nobody was able to read in her face the worries and tremours of her heart. War is a tough school. She had now been working in Mureia for some time, in the Casa Roja Hospital.

Night after night, casualties were brought in from the front. She was never tired. She never gave way even before the most terrible sufferings, in the most difficult hours, she stood by the wounded and never showed the slightest annoyance when somebody complained that his wounds hurt him. She never wavered when obliged to cleanse wounds full of puss, because she was a simple straightforward girl, an orphan, a girl, who had experienced suffering, poverty, the contempt of the wealthy, the deception of religion as early as in her childhood, in her own country. Justina had unwavering patience and willpower to serve the wounded. She spoke to them in a deep reassuring and patient voice. She told them that she had come from a long way away to serve them, to heal their wounds, so that they, the courageous sons

of five continents, sons of fiftythree countries of the world, could return to the front again in good health. She knew that the wounded and the sick were like children. They needed to be given heart and love, care and persistence.

«Are you listening to me Companiera Albanese?»

«Yes»; said Justina, «I'm listening, where is the patient?» They hurried out onto the square in front of the hospital.

Who will it be, she thought to herself, bringing to mind all her Albanian comrades, which one will it be, perhaps Asimi, Ramizi, Xhemali?

— «Here, this way.»

They hurried along. Justina had to force her seemingly numbed feet to move in an effort to keep control of herself and the beating of her heart.

— «This one is the Albanian.»

Justina had gone white from the shock. It was Xhemali. She knelt beside him and felt his pulse.

— «He's still alive», she called out, in her own language. Alive, alive!

— «Is he your brother?», asked the foreign nurse.

— «Yes», said Justina, «he is my brother». Help me to raise him».

The young nurse knew, that the Companiera Albanese never did anything in haste. And she was surprised when she saw the urgency and the impatience in Justina's movements. He really must be someone dear to her.

— «Faster, faster», said Justina.

Justina did not leave him for a single moment. It had been a long time since she had had any news from her comrades. She came and went, flitting through the wards, asking about the legendary battle of Summi 196 in Ebro, asking about the Albanian boys. She had been a lonely girl, with no relations, but she had had a great opportunity in her life; she had found friends, comrades; she had found brother fighters. With her small pair of scissors she cut the bandages and the nails of the other wounded and with an anxious heart watched every movement of the Albanian boy. She could hardly wait to hear a word in her own language. She was dying to hear the word «mirë» (good). She would ask about the other comrades and himself. He would answer «mirë». They are alive, they live, live. They write with their own

blood, on the Spanish soil the words «No Passaran»:

The Albanians have always written these words with their blood and that is why they have remained alive.

The big field at the railway station at Mureia was full of wounded. The sanitary train was to leave for Barcelona. The doctors and the sanitary workers are in a whirl of feverish activity. They are evacuating the hospitals of the internationalist brigades and installing the wounded in the wagons.

Justina looks even smaller and exhausted from the toil of the sleepless nights. She moves in and out of goods wagon number 22, which has been allocated for her 27 patients. She hovers over them like a loving mother, who wants to put her children in order and she is careful that not one of them is cold or suffering from hunger or pain.

She carries almost all of her patients on her back. She goes in and out of the wagon and anybody who calls out «Companiera Albanese». She knows now that she has no other name and answers with a smile. She tries to make the occasional joke, too. She tries to make this long, exhausting and dangerous journey as joyous as possible. There had been no bombing in Mureia. They had played a very affective trick on Franco.

In Mureia, the Republicans had held Franco's sister prisoner and the hospitals had not been bombarded, whereas now they were heading North, to Barcelona, along open and unprotected railway tracks, with the aircraft of the Hitlerites and the fascists overhead. But despite this, they cracked jokes and someone even sung in an undertone the song:

«Soldados: la patria
Nos llama a lid,
Juremos por ella
Vencer o morir¹⁾»

Before reaching Valencia, all the sanitary workers and the doctors were urgently ordered off the train. The Director of their hospital, The Casa Roja, once more repeats the clear cut order: «In case of bombardment or machine gunning by fascist aircraft, not one of the sanitary workers or doctors was to leave the train without first bringing out all the wounded.» They all returned to their wagons.

In those moments, the hours become days and the days seem like months. It seemed to Justina as if she had been born and brought up in that wagon, that all her life, she had done nothing except bandage wounds, heal the wounded, ever since she had come into the world, ever since life had begun. In those days the beloved face of her patriot teacher, Halim Xhelo, had followed her everywhere. Her real and complete life had begun when she became acquainted with the ideas of communism. She was twenty-nine years of age; she had studied in Paris for nursing on a Red Cross bursary. She had returned to her country and had suffered not only the oppression and the contempt of a girl of the people, but also the medieval obscurantism, which weighed heavily on the backs of the Albanian woman; she had lived for the sole joy of experiencing this moment, when she could say that even her life was worth something, no matter how small.

Justina had no time to follow her train of thoughts.

The fascist planes began their bombardment. They have just passed through Valencia.

It was a real slaughter: children and women killed, a child played on the chest of its dead mother. But Justina did not fail to carry out her duty to the full. She did not abandon Wagon 22 even after 26 of her patients had been brought out, because one of them had been wounded again and she could not check the flow of blood.

Justina began to transfuse her own blood to him.

When the bombardment finished they found her carrying out her duty, perfectly calm. The blood of the Albanese flowed in the veins of an internationalist.

The heroine of this story, Justina Shkupi, lived and worked in her Homeland, and saw her dream of the building of a new society, the socialist society, unravel before her eyes.

She saw the materialisation of that dream, of which every internationalist in the world has the right to be proud.

THE FESTIVAL OF FOLK SONGS

Festivals of folk songs have already become a tradition with us. They are organized every year both at the Capital as well as at outlying districts of the country.

The festival of folk songs organized by the State Ensemble of Songs and Dances during the last days of March 1976 was a memorable event in the cultural and artistic life of the Capital. A number of new songs were sung at these performances: all composed on the basis of popular melodies. From the standpoint of themes it reflected aspects from the constructive life of socialist Albania.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The editors of «New Albania» extend hearty greetings to all friends and well-wishers for the warm letters they have sent, in which they express their best wishes towards Socialist Albania. We consider the appreciation of the socialist achievements in Albania by the readers from all parts of the world as internationalist support for our people, who with courage and determination are sticking to the revolutionary road for the complete construction of socialist society. The editors will continue to publish those parts of the letters from our readers which are of general interest whereas, for matters of narrower, personal interest, the editors will reply by mail.

R. Hohmann — West Germany.

Today, I read your magazine «New Albania» for the first time. I am very enthusiastic over the successes achieved by the Albanian people led by their Party of Labour.

I liked the magazine «New Albania» so much that I immediately took out a year's subscription. In the meantime I am reading «The History of the Party of Labour of Albania», and I have been deeply impressed by the determined struggle of the Albanian people and their tested leadership.

The fact that there is a socialist Albania, which opposes the schemes for domination by the Soviet social imperialists and the U.S. imperialists, gives us German comrades strength in our struggle for socialism and for reunification of our German homeland. Albania is an example to us of courage and persistence...

T.K. — Poland

I am a Polish student who, for many years, have been following the progress of socialist Albania. I am enthusiastic about all the things that have been achieved in Albania during thirty years.

On the occasion of the popular celebration of the People's Republic of Albania, I wish all the Albanian people even greater success in building socialism...

G. Bevilacqua — Italy

My best and sincerest wishes to the Albanian people and their leader Enver Hoxha.

As an atheist, I admire you, among other things, for having been able to rid Albania of steeples and minarets, where the forces of darkness and backwardness were concentrated.

The liberation war of the Albanian people has brought home to me that your people, with whom I have been acquainted long ago in the '30's, with correct leadership, knows that they must break out of the grave situation in which they have been kept and threw out the nazi-fascists by sacrificing so many of their heroic sons and daughters.

I feel close to you when I listen to Radio Tirana, when I read your attractive magazine «Albania Today», as well as when I receive news about Albania from the Italy-Albania association. As a token of the love I cherish for your country, in my home I have set up an «Albania corner» with views from new Albania.

I wish you in your language: «Gëzuar Vitin e Ri» (Happy New Year).

John Neumann — U.S.A.

I wish 1976 to be a happy and prosperous year for the Albanian people. I hope all the dreams of the Albanian people are realized. My studies of the Albanian language are proceeding very well. I am more and more impressed by the courage of the Albanian

people. Soon a friend and I are going to see the film «Skanderbeg» here. I have heard a great deal about this film and I can hardly wait to see it.

Chris Roberts.

Very little is written in the American press about your beautiful country. «New Albania» is an educational and informative magazine.

Please, would it be possible for you to mail to me some copies of your magazine in English, Arabic and, of course, in Albanian. Our school library is organizing a foreign cultural section and Albanian culture deserves to be represented.

Roland Bojahr — The German Federal Republic.

I had the occasion to read your magazine again. It made me very happy and enthusiastic. The article on the problems of society and the individual in the socialist order seemed to me especially valuable. This article is a reply to a fundamental question that worries people in our country a great deal. Does socialism imply giving up individual freedom? The article gives a clear-cut reply.

In your coming issues, would you please publish illustrated articles which will give information about the various organs of People's Democracy of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania. Because a problem which worries many workers and employees in the German Federal Republic is this: «How should we, in the German Federal Republic, go about preventing the formation of a ruling clique in socialism as in the revisionist countries...?» Many people want to do away with oppression and exploitation in our country, but they do not know what to do so that a good future may come out of it for them as well. That is why it is important that we show these people the example of your country. They will see concretely what has to be done to deal with capitalism and revisionism, and to help the people to achieve victory...

Shu Ci Fu — The People's Republic of China.

I like «New Albania» magazine very much. It gives a very good portrayal of the great successes achieved by the Albanian people and is a factor of the friendship between China and Albania. In order to reach me, the magazine has passed over mountains and rivers, and has brought here the warm feelings of our dear Albanian comrades. I am enthused by the unprecedented successes you have achieved in your struggle to build socialism under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania headed by comrade Enver Hoxha. I hope that the friendship between the Chinese and Albanian peoples, inspired by our Marxist-Leninist Parties and the beloved leaders, Chairman Mao Tsetung and comrade Enver Hoxha will grow ever stronger.

EARLY EVIDENCES OF AN ILLYRIAN- ALBANIAN PLACE OF HABITATION

DAMIAN KOMATA

The recent systematic excavations at the Illyrian-Albanian center of habitation of Kanina, have unearthed rich material of various kinds of scientific value for the study of the economic, cultural and spiritual life of the autotichonous population which inhabited this center.

Of especially great interest is the ceramic material of the early mediaeval period which is represented by household utensils of various kinds. Among the locally made earthenware utensils, a special category which attracts attention, is comprised of glazed utensils. They are of small or medium size and serve for practical use as deep plates or shallow ones for fruit, bowls or tea cups, as well as lamps.

Fragments of polychrome glazed pottery (plates and bowls) of the early Middle Ages, found in the excavations at the Kanina fortress.



The glazed ceramics stand out for the good quality of the clay, which after firing has become a yellow-gold or reddish pink colour. The surfaces of these vessels are well formed and usually, either inside or outside, and sometimes on both sides are coated with layer of shiny glaze. Many colours were used — yellow, blue, green, brown, black, purple, white, and more rarely, silver or gold.

Ceramic vessels of this category stand out for their perfect form and decoration. Their variety of forms and elegance, their ornamental motifs and compositions, the harmony of their colors, indicate the mastery and skill of the Albanian artisans in pottery. One marvels at the richness and variety of or-

nament of these utensils. The majority of the platters and bowls have decorations applied with a brush on the inner surface, while the pitchers and some other vessels carry designs drawn on their outer surfaces. The series of these vessels bear themes of geometrical or plant motifs made up of spirals, intertwined belts, horizontal or crisscrossed lines and bands, wavy or zigzag lines, stains, motifs of pine needles, roses etc., as well as figures in animal, and more rarely, in human form. The master painter has managed to combine the colours and realize compositions often taken from real life, thus fulfilling the tastes and demands of the feudal upper classes and the other strata of the urban population.

The development of glazed ceramics is due first of all to the evolution of the native civilization as well as to contact with Byzantine culture, which had spread all over the Balkan Peninsula during this period (from the Xth to the XVth centuries).

Recent archaeological findings have provided convincing proof of the existence of vigorous urban life in the territory of the Albanians during the early mediaeval period. One such city was Kanina, situated on the coastal part of our country, right behind ancient Aulona.

The discovery of glazed ceramics at Kanina is evidence of relatively high level of the local pottery industry and the beginnings of Albanian art in the genre of ceramics.

MASTER OF THE DANCE



Artist emeritus Besim Zekthi (center) has been a permanent member of our stage since 1951. He stands out not only as a gifted performer of Albanian dances, but also as a producer in the field of folk dances. His repertory contains over one hundred dances.

Photo by P. Kumi

From the stage of the Opera and Ballet Theatre full of melody and sound, comes the insistent beat of drums. Simultaneously comes a burst of bright light (like a clear dawn) bringing the audience fascinating colours and movements.

The rhythm of the drums, the colours and movements are brought to us by the dancers. They seem to fill the stage. The dance «Great Celebration in Albania Today» electrifies the audience. The stage and the hall seem to blend into one.

We know this dance well; we also know the dancers of the State Ensemble of Songs and Dances. Leaping among them is the tall figure of Besim Zekthi, outstanding for the life and vigour of the figures he performs. He and his partner seem to have changed into a pair of eagles. On the stage the Albanian dance loses none of its meaning, of its traditional force. Our people have created a treasury of everlasting value. This heritage lovingly preserved from one generation to another, renews itself there on the stages of villages among the mountains and plains, and here in the Opera and Ballet Theater.

And Besim Zekthi is one of those who have raised this tradition to the level of art. We see this worker's son and recall the time when, still a young boy, he used to watch the dancers at wedding parties. In his imagination a dancer was the happiest person in the world. Now and then this young-

ster dared to join in. This was Besim's debut as a dancer.

At the footwear factory in Tirana, where Besim worked, he made a name for himself in the amateur dance group. One day, some twentyfive years ago, his comrades said to him:

«Besim, you are a born dancer... Why don't you ask some artistic ensemble to give you a trial?»

These words fitted in with Besim's dream. He passed the test with success. From that day in 1951 he became a permanent performer on our stage. He began his career as a solo dancer executing the Zebegshe dance of the Mati district (we see him performing this dance in the feature film «Skanderbeg»). Meanwhile, in 1964, Besim completed his studies at the «Jordan Misja» Art School in Tirana.

Besim Zekthi's repertoire includes over a hundred dances. He imparts to each of them its own characteristic, its own nuances, because to each of them he gives his passion, temperament and spirit. And today he has become for the lovers of this genre of art the symbol of beauty and perfection.

«Our country is small, but it has an amazing variety of dances», he says; «they differ even from village to village, not only in the steps but also in costumes and music. Apart from that, force and dynamism make them matchless».

During nearly twenty years of its existence, the State Ensemble of Songs and

Dances, has taken these dances from the popular tradition and has raised them to the level of art. Besim, too, as a member of this collective, with his passion to develop the art of the people, stands out not only as a performer, but also as a creator in the field of folk dances. He is the composer of the choreographic poem «Labëria», of the dance «The Tropoja Youth», of motifs of the Librazhd, Mati and Puka Districts, of the choreographic scene «Army of the Soldier People, and others. Characteristic of his productions is their contemporary themes.

«Dance and enthusiasm for it should be spread among the younger generation...»

We see these words of Besim realized in his day-to-day life; he helps the younger colleagues of the Ensemble, the amateurs of the «Stalin» Textile Combine, and elsewhere. It is his dream to leave younger dancers more capable than he himself, to follow him.

For his tireless activity, Besim has been awarded the title of «Merited Artist» and the second Prize of the Republic.

Besim dances on a stage filled with life, light, and the fascinating colours of folk costumes. The beauty and vigour of his figures arouse our emotions. But he is obviously moved, too, although for twentyfive years he has been giving people joy and receiving their applause and ovations. These have accompanied him not only on our stage but also on the stages of international and regional festivals, on his tours of Europe, Asia, Africa.....

MOSAICS

Ancient silversmiths



Metal work has ancient traditions in our country. It is historically recognized that the extraction and processing of the first metals, including silver, had begun during the second millennium before our era. This tradition began in Illyrian times. The Perusti tribe, who inhabited Mirdita and Puka in northern Albania, were outstanding among the Illyrians. The Ethnographic materials show that the Perusti were outstanding not only as the

earliest silversmiths, but also for their technical skill in the form and decoration of their objects. The people used a number of forms in metalwork, such as swaging, casting, filigree, etc.

In Southern and Central Albania too, silver work made great progress.

The antiquity of the silversmith's craft in our country is shown by the many archaeological objects discovered and preserved in our museums.

An ancient highway

In ancient times a road passed the shores of the lake at Pogradec and along the Shkumbini river. If you cross the river at the village of Golik, you can follow its track and cobblestones through Lower Selcë, Çervanak, Mamlisht, Pogradec, Tushimisht, and Peshkopi, and along the Shkumbini to Mokër, Slabinjë, Shpellë, Jollë, Llëngë, Nikëf, and Merçun.

At Mokër on the banks of the Shkumbini river near the village of Golik, there stands an ancient stone bridge 2,60 meters wide and 19,50 meters long with two arches and three supporting pillars. It was rebuilt in the Byzantine period. During the 4th century of our era, some of these

settlements turned into urban centers. One of them, situated near Lower Selcë, the «ancient Paliani» was a real town with artisans (potters, blacksmiths, stonemasons) slaves and slave-owners. The town flourished due to its control of the highway and its trade in minerals.

From Lower Selcë, the highway passed to Propishtë and Slabinjë. In the vicinity there stands another stone bridge called «Tereziu's Bridge», bearing the name of the local craftsman who built it. This bridge was in use not only in ancient times, but also during the Middle Ages and when the Mokra caravans served our national hero, Skanderbeg, against the Ottomans at

Torvioll. It was in use even in our own times until a concrete bridge was built nearby.

We find the cobble-stones of this road also in the dense forest of Bishtrica up to the village

of Shpellë-Jollë and it continues up to the village of Llenzë.

This road is an historical monument, a separate page of the history of the country it passes through.



How the Shkodra lake was formed



The Shkodra Lake which, as we know, covers an area of about 362 square kilometers, is situated very near the Adriatic Sea. This has attracted the attention of many different scholars from the earliest times to our own days. They have all arrived at the general scientific conclusion that the Shkodra Lake, from its physical-geographic nature, is one of the most interesting in Europe.

How was the Shkodra Lake formed?

There are two main hypotheses. According to one, this lake was once an arm of the sea extending into the land. An argument for this hypotheses is the interesting fact that the lake bed lies almost on the same level as that of the Adriatic Sea at the mouth of the river Buna. The second hypothesis maintains that the lake was formed through the influence of tectonic phenomena. This means that at one time the bed of the lake was a fertile plain. In favour of this

hypothesis is the typical feature of the lake being supplied with cold water through underground springs.

About fivehundred years ago Barleti wrote: «Elderly inhabitants have told me that where the lake now lies there used to be permanent springs from which this marvellous lake, so big, so widespread and so deep was born.»

The truth of what Barleti wrote about the existence of permanent springs has now been established.

Albanian settlers in Greece

Illustrations by Niko Progni

When did the Albanians first settle in Greece?

The oldest document speaking of the migration of the Albanians towards Greece is a letter written in 1325 by the chronicler Marin Sanudo. But this does not mean that there were no Albanians in Greece before that time. The Byzantine chronicler Joan Kantakuzeni implies that there were Albanians in Thessali as far back as 1315. Some scholars think that the first Albanians went to Greece at a very early period. On the basis of Pelopo-



nesian place-name data, on some borrowings from Albanian in the Greek dialect of Çakonia, and on certain passages of the chronicler Kalkokondilas, the noted Greek mediaeval writer, K. Sathas, thought that the Albanians had first settled in Greece during the migrations of peoples in the VIth century. In general Sathasis' thesis has not been accepted. Nevertheless, the fact that the Albanians were settled in Greece at least at the beginning of the XIV century, is no longer in doubt.

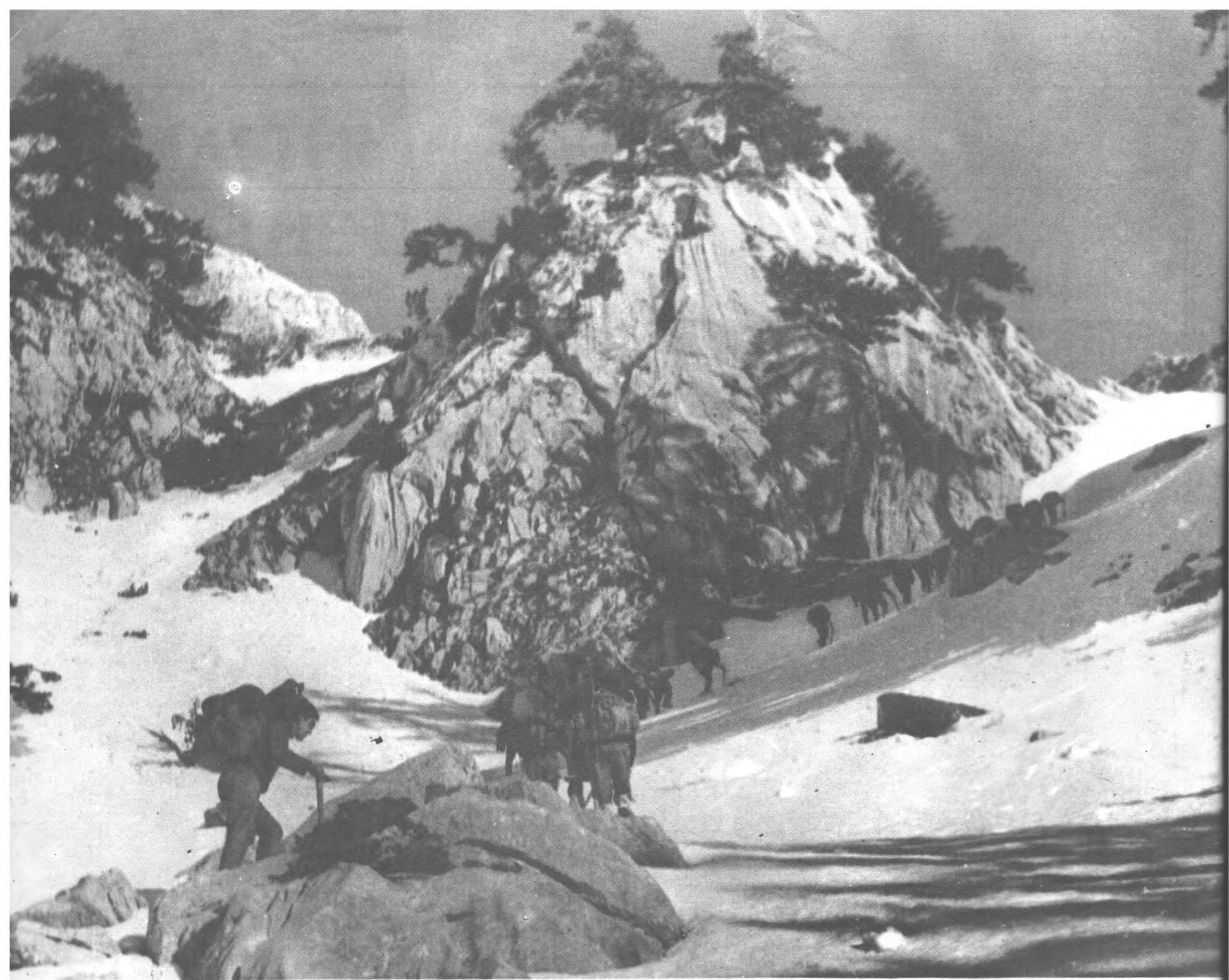


Photo by V. Stamulli



S P O R T

These pictures present various activities in the development of sports. In the first picture: a team of alpinists climbing to the peak of Mt. «Radohima»; in the second a football match of the championship games between two teams of the first category and in the third: workers of the «Stalin» Textile Mills on an excursion to Mt.«Dajti».

In Albania, very favorable conditions have been created for youth to engage in sports. The State spends large sums in this field and has put a very good material basis at the disposal of the masses of youth. There is no school, work center and agricultural cooperative without its own playground.



Photo by G. Hoxha

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FRONT COVER: Gifted dancer Besim Zekthi, soloist of the State Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances. The photograph is a moment from the «Dance of the Knights». Read on page 34 about the life and creative work of this master dancer.

BACK COVER: Springtime in the park of the Museum City of Berat.

THE LAKES OF ALBANIA

Prof. PANDI GEÇO

Albania is rich in lakes. They vary in size, origin, location and so on. The bulk of them are small and do not appear on ordinary geographical maps. The only big ones are those of Shkodra, Pogradec, Prespa and Butrinti. As to their origin, most of them are the result of glacial action. In altitude they range from 1500-1600 up to 2400 meters above sea level. The big lakes are of a tectonic origin.

Along the Adriatic coastline of Albania there are a number of lagoons like those of Narta, of Karavasta, Patok and others, which are simply ancient bays which are still connected to the sea by natural channels. Thus, we find the lakes of our country spread from sea level to the heights of our mountains. The overwhelming majority of them are mountain lakes since Albania is a mountainous country. The most appropriate classification of the lakes of our country is according to their altitude because this also determines their main thermic and hydraulic characteristics. Thus the lowland lakes are warmer and never freeze in winter. Apart from lake Ohri and lake Prespa, the mountain lakes freeze in winter. The mountain lakes reach their highest level in spring when the snow thaws while those in the lowland increase in winter when rainfall is heaviest.

All these lakes with their great variety increase the attractiveness of the natural landscape of Albania and are first class scenic resorts. As examples in this direction we can mention the lake of Pogradec and Lura lakes which are the best known of our mountain lakes. From the economic standpoint, our lakes are important as zones for fishing and sources of hydropower, and water for irrigation. In fact, it is only during the years of our People's State Power that these attributes of our lakes have been appreciated.

Among the most important lakes of our country are the big ones like those of Shkodra, Pogradec, Prespa and Butrinti. The surface area of the Pogradec lake is 367 square kilometers. A lake of tectonic origin has a depth of 287 meters, and is the deepest in the Balkan Peninsula. One of its main characteristics is the unusual transparency of its water. This is the result of its being fed by pure underground springs and partly to the low level of micro-organisms present. Because of the many cold springs which feed it, as well as of its high altitude and great depth, its waters are very cold. However, in winter, the temperature of the lake water is higher than that of the atmosphere

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The Lake at Pogradec and the town at the edge of it are an important tourist center. Along the southern shore there is a beautiful beach where a series of holiday hotels, a tourist hotel, cafes and restaurants have been built for the rest and recreation of the working people.



«Black Lake» in the highlands of Martanesh. Such lakes, set high in the mountains amidst dense forests, occur in many districts of Albania.



of the land round it. Therefore, the lake of Pogradec exerts a moderating influence on the climate of the region.

The Pogradec Lake is an important fishing source. Several species are raised there, but the main one, famous for its quality, is the koran (rainbow trout). Therefore, since liberation a number of artificial breeding stations have been set up in order to increase lake's production of this fish.

At the southern end of this lake, there is a beautiful beach along which there have been set up a number of holiday hostels, a tourist hotel, cafes and restaurants for the rest and vacation of the working people. This region has become one of the most important tourist centers in our country.

Lake Prespa like the lake at Pogradec also has its origin in the sinking of the land surface. Its elongated form with islands and peninsulas, reflect this origin more clearly. Both its thermic and hydraulic regimes resemble those of the Pogradec lake. But its surface (over 285 square kilometers) and depth are smaller than those of the Pogradec Lake. Its waters, too, are less transparent. This lake is an important source for fishing and irrigation. Being at a higher altitude than that of Pogradec, it supplies the latter with water through underground channels.

As regards its main characteristics, the Shkodra Lake is different from the two above mentioned ones. Since it is situated at a much lower altitude, its waters are warmer (The year-round average temperature of the surface waters is 16.4°) and because it is shallow, the temperature of its deepest waters is nearly the same as that of the surface. One of the principal characteristics of the Shkodra Lake is the great fluctuation of its level. The Shkodra Lake stands out among our lakes also for its wealth of fish both fresh water and salt water varieties.

The Dumre lakes are quite different. Situated on a beautiful rolling plateau, there are about 80 lakes of various sizes, but mostly quite small. They are more or less oval in shape and vary in depth from a few to tens of meters. These are called Karstic lakes and are formed by solution of the gypsum bedrock through the action of the carbonic acid of their waters. Since they have no surface outlets, their levels vary greatly during the year. In summer about one quarter of them dry up. But they are important irrigation reservoirs and, thanks to their use for this purpose, the Dumre region has become an important zone for the production of grain, tobacco, potatoes and sunflower during the period of our People's State Power.

The glacial lakes, which make up most of the lakes of our country, have a special place. The main characteristics of these lakes are their altitude which varies from 1500-1600 to 2400 metres above sea level, their occurrence in groups, their small size, their oval shape and, in several cases, their great depth. Since they lie in the coldest regions, they freeze in winter; even in summer their waters are cold. They are often situated among dense forests of beech and pine, and thus are especially beautiful. For this they are of major touristic significance. But during the period of our People's State Power their waters, too, have been put to use for irrigating the agricultural land around them. Among the best known are the Lura lakes, where summer camps for workers have been set up, the lakes of Martaneshi, Valamara, and others.

