



NEW ALBANIA

**4
1977**

A MOSAIC OF FIELDS



The Myzeqeja plain in the Lushnja district. The 1977 harvest

During the hot days of July we passed through the Myzeqeja plain. It looked like an endless, multi-coloured carpet: broad green fields of cotton, maize and sunflower alongside recently harvested wheat fields and a bit further off the rich brown of newly ploughed ground is added to the mosaic.

This land belongs to the «19 Nëntori» State Farm, the biggest of its kind in the Republic, and to the agricultural cooperatives of the Lushnja district.

We stopped at the Pluk sector of the State Farm.

...The roaring tractors passed back and forth

turning deep furrows. Before our eyes the field was changing colour, the yellow giving way to brown. Brigade leader Hajredin Telaj's attention was glued on how the wheat stubble was being turned under. The wheat harvest was a good one this year, not only in his brigade. Evidence of this is those mountains of golden grain on the threshing floor. After it has been through the winnowing machines, the wheat is loaded into a convoy of trunks and transported to its destination. These great piles of wheat contain also the sweat and toil of the workers of the 4th brigade, directed by Hajredin Telaj.

The brigade leader recalls those nights when

all the members of his brigade toiled to the small hours of the morning to plant this wheat while the ground was frozen, because when the frost melted the ground would be too soft for the tractors to move on it.

Now the brigade is engaged in other jobs. Its members are cultivating the cotton or working to get the maize planted quickly. The brigade is spread over a wide territory, hence it is none too easy to meet the brigade leader as he goes from one team to another supervising the work or working among the members hoe in hand.

Hajredin is now in charge of the work of

In 1976, total agricultural production was 2.5 times greater than in 1960. Production of bread grain increased 4.5 fold over this period, that of potatoes - 5 fold, of vegetables - 4 fold while that of eggs and milk 2.4 and nearly 2 fold respectively



The Agricultural Cooperative at Shijak in the Durrës district. In the picture: Combine operator Haki Daja and distinguished cooperative member Kozeta Neriaku. Photo by P. Cici

nearly fifty members of his brigade. Most of them have grown up here, together with Hajredin. By attending schools and qualification courses they have become expert workers. They know the land inch by inch, and also know how to get the maximum production from it.

It must be said that in the Pluk sector Hajredin's brigade has the poorest type of land. All the members of this brigade are well aware of this. Their problem was to find the way to get as much production from it as from better land. The brigade held frequent meetings about this. Shefik Taulla, Përparim Keri, Hajri Elmazi, and other members thra-

shed out their ideas. The scientific nucleus of the brigade was brought into this too. Two experimental plots were established. Having studied the soil, the members of the brigade determined the optimal use of fertilizers, methods of working the ground and so on. Thus crop yields in these plots marked unprecedented increases. This became the starting point for applying the experience gained in all the fields of the 4th brigade and now in the whole Pluk sector.

Hajredin Telaj always carries a thick block of notes. In it we read the course, the biography of the 4th brigade. From year to year crop yields of wheat, maize, cotton and sunflo-

wer have steadily increased. Thus, last year it took 9 per cent more sunflower per hectare than during 1975, and 12 per cent more wheat.

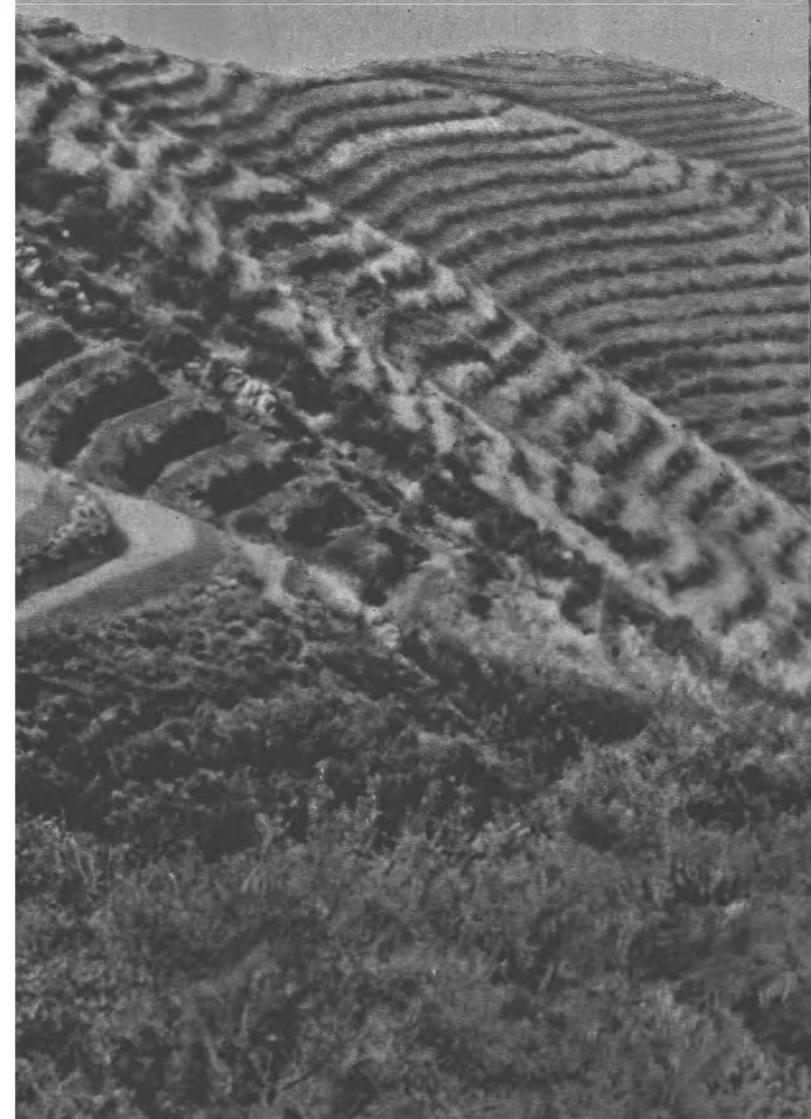
The work of the brigade is now radically different from that of a few years ago. Most of the processes are done by machinery. The people have to run these machines and do a number of lighter processes by hand. That is why fewer people are required to work a very much larger area.

The living conditions of these people have changed too, along with the changes in their working conditions. Today, all of them live in houses built since liberation, as well equipped and furnished as houses in the city.



THE INCREASED USE OF FERTILIZERS IS ONE OF THE FACTORS WHICH HAS INFLUENCED THE INCREASE OF PRODUCTIVITY THE SOIL.

IN 1976 THE USE OF FERTILIZERS CALCULATED IN KILOGRAMS OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE, INCREASED MORE THAN 7 FOLD OVER THAT OF 1960, WHILE THE CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS SPREAD INCREASED 10 FOLD. IN 1976, IRRIGATION CAPACITY HAD INCREASED 2.5 FOLD COVERING 50.6 PER CENT OF ALL THE ARABLE LAND. AS COMPARED WITH 1960, THE NUMBER OF AGRONOMISTS, VETERINARIANS AND ZOOTECHNICIANS OF HIGHER TRAINING TODAY IS ABOUT SIX TIMES GREATER WHILE THAT OF CADRES OF MEDIUM TRAINING OF THESE CATEGORIES 13 TIMES. AS COMPARED WITH 1970. THEY HAVE INCREASED 2 AND 5 FOLD RESPECTIVELY.



Such terraced «amphitheatres» planted mainly in olive or citrus trees extend all along the southwest coast from Vlora to Saranda.
Photo by N. Kodheli

Irrigation of fields in the form of artificial rain has been practised more and more extensively during these recent years. Photo by P. Sheqeri

A large area of maize is cultivated in Albania. Productivity of this crop has been increasing from one year to another. It often reaches to 100qt. per hectare. In the picture: Workers of the Higher Agricultural Institute during experiments in the field

During the wheat harvest one often comes across such columns of auto combines on different highways of Albania. Photo by P. Cici

At the threshing floor of the agricultural cooperative





Perlat Rexhepi

Branko Kadia

Jordan Misja

THREE AGAINST HUNDREDS

An evening in June 1942. Dusk was spreading over the ancient city of Shkodra. The curfew hour struck. Grates were shut and bolted. In the streets only the heavy tread of the fascist patrols could be heard. Everything seemed quiet. But this was a deceptive quiet. Behind doors and shuttered windows people were talking, holding fiery discussions about the war against the invaders, printing leaflets, collecting weapons and ammunition. In a basement a typewriter rattled away: the communists were preparing an illegal leaflet which they would distribute that night **«Death to fascism-Freedom to the people. The foreign invader has violated our beloved Homeland, but let the enemy be aware that every house, every cottage is an indomitable fortress, every Albanian heart is a banner».**

It is late at night. A shadow slips into one of the narrow alleys of the Ballaban area. He stops at the corner on Firej street, then passes quickly along the foot of the wall. He is limping a little. His comrades would know at once that he is the communist Perlat Rexhepi. A few days before, in a clash with the fascists he had been woun-

ded in the leg. Despite this he does not cease his revolutionary activity as a communist.

At the same hour, someone else is making for Firej street. The young communist, Branko Kadia, comes and enters the small house of the teacher of painting, Jordan Misja. Three communists are holding a meeting. They begin to discuss the tasks allocated to them by the Party leadership and to report on what they had done.

But they had come under the eye of the enemy. He had detected the communists. Hundreds of carabinieri surrounded the whole suburb, then a narrower zone around the house, and with another encirclement, the small house itself. On the spot were the regional security chief, a captain of the carabinieri and the commander of the «Lancieri di Firenze» regiment himself.

Three a.m. on June 22, 1942. Someone bangs at the gate. «Open up, communists! Surrender, you are surrounded!». Only one reply from within: «Communists do not surrender! Death to fascism — Freedom to the people!»

The heroic fight began. Three against

hundreds. The small building was turned into an impregnable fortress. The hours rolled on. Shkodra was in uproar. It echoed with rifle shots, the roar of tanks, the din of an aircraft flying low over the building to intimidate the besieged.

The early hours of the morning went by. Noon was approaching. The three freedom fighters do not yield. Now they try to break out. Branko, the youngest, is the first, but he falls under the fascists' bullets. Incendiary bombs of the fascists explode on the tiled roof of the house. The house catches fire. Jordan's clothes are ablaze. Like a flaming torch he rushes outside and jumps into the well.

Now there is only one left fighting from within the burning house. The fascist squads attack. Perlat Rexhepi, wounded in both legs, continues to resist. Several militiamen and carabinieri who dare to approach to capture the communist alive, measure their length on the ground before him. Then the blazing roof collapses. The flames mount higher in the sky like a signal for attack.

That evening three red stars rose high in the dark sky of valiant Shkodra.

CUT THE WIRES!

An event took place during the night between July 24 and 25, 1942 which stunned the fascist forces in Albania and even outside its borders and threw them into panic. That night the telegraph and telephone communications, all over the country, were suddenly cut. From the northern border to the south, from the coast to the eastern border, the lines were cut and the posts sawn down. The enemy was left paralyzed.

What had happened?

The Communist Party of Albania had organized a military operation throughout the whole country, attacking the enemy's communications system. Although less than one year had passed since the formation of the Party, it had led the masses in demonstrations, strikes, guerrilla actions, had organized

the first partisan fighting units and the national liberation councils. By July 1942 the partisan fighting units of Peza in the district of Tirana, Kurvëlesh in the districts of Vlora and Gjirokastra, Gora in the Korça district, Skrapar in the Berat district, Mokra in the Pogradec district, Devoll in the Korça district, Shkodra, Dibra and Mat, had been in action. But the mass action of the night between July 24 and 25, 1942, which was undertaken by the guerrilla units, the partisan formations and the people, led by the communists, was of special importance. This mass action was a great test of the ability of the Party to lead and organize, evidence of the close links of the Party with the masses, an expression of the people's will to fight the invaders arms in hand.

The enemy was panic-stricken.

Pashko Vasa (1825-1892), one of the most notable figures of the Albanian National Renaissance during the second half of the past century, died eighty-five years ago. He was born in the city of Shkodra and from his earliest years was outstanding for his intelligence, for his strong will, and, especially, for his freedom-loving and revolutionary sentiments. He acquired a broad culture for the time and circumstances in which Albania existed. He mastered a number of languages, was well versed in classical literature and had embraced the progressive ideas of the times. We find him, at the age of twenty-three, in the ranks of the fighters against the Austro-Hungarian yoke in the years 1848 and 1849. After the failure of these uprisings, Pashko Vasa went to Istanbul where he soon came into contact with the most prominent men of the Albanian national movement. In 1862 he was a member of the group of intellectuals in Shkodra who instigated an armed uprising against the Ottoman occupationists in the Mirdita region. Two years later in Istanbul, Pashko Vasa, together with other patriots, set to work to revive a patriotic organization. Although the Sublime Porte gave him important posts and even the high title of Pasha, he never gave up his patriotic activity. He was in touch with leaders of the Paris Commune like General Cluseret, who lived in exile in Turkey.

Pashko Vasa, or Vaso Pasha as he was called in Turkey, was outstanding in the years 1878 to 1881, when he was at the centre of the patriotic movement, especially within the framework of the great patriotic organization, the «League of Prizren».

He was no less prominent in the field of the Albanian language and literature of the time. It is well known that the mother tongue and literature and the national school and culture in general, were among the most



PASHKO VASA

**«THE ALBANIAN'S
RELIGION IS ALBANIA»**

powerful weapons of the men of the Albanian Renaissance in their struggle to invigorate the patriotic movement. Pashko Vasa took an active part in the efforts to create the Albanian alphabet and left behind a number of valuable school books, linguistic and literary works. Among them are the «Albanian ABC», a grammar of the Albanian language in French, a book of memoirs, a novel in Italian, and so on.

Pashko Vasa's most famous work, one of the masterpieces of Albanian literature in general, his poem «My Albania, suffering Albania» appeared in 1879 or 1880 and was published and distributed in leaflet form. In beautiful popular language, full of poetic imagination, with profound pathos and love for the Homeland the poet expressed the reality of the down-trodden Albania of the time with great artistic force and called on the Albanian people to unite and rise, without distinction as to religion, locality, or prejudice, to win their freedom, independence, honour and dignity as an ancient nation of the Balkans and Europe, as a nation of glorious traditions.

Presenting Albania trampled under foot by the Great Powers and the chauvinistic neighbours, he wrote these lines:

Stricken like a fallen oak
The boots of the world trample o'er you
And no one has a kind word for you.

His call to his compatriots to unite and to rise in defence of their rights is poured into such immortal lines as:

Awaken Albanians awake from your
slumber
In brotherly unity that none may sunder
Think not of mosque or church paraphernalia

The Albanian's religion is Albania.

In the epoch of socialist society, the great patriot and his outstanding work are appreciated and held in the highest esteem.

THE THIRTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S PRESS ORGANS

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the people's press was celebrated throughout Albania.

On August 25, 1942, the first issue of the newspaper «Zëri i Popullit», organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania was published illegally. This day marks the founding of the Albanian people's press.

During the National Liberation War, in addition to «Zëri i Popullit» other illegal papers appeared, such as «Bashkimi» (organ of the National Liberation Front), «Kushtrimi i Lirisë» (organ of the Communist Youth Organization), as well as others in districts and military detachments.

Preserving and further developing its revolutionary traditions of the years of the war, our people's press increased and became stronger during the years of socialist construction. The numbers of newspapers, magazines and other publications, Radio and TV programs, and the news bulletins of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency increased. In Albania today, 25 newspapers are published with a total annual circulation of about 47 million copies.

The newspaper «Zëri i Popullit» and «Bashkimi» are dailies. A number of other newspapers appear twice a week, such as, «Puna», central organ of the Trade Unions, «Zëri i Rinisë», organ of the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union of Albania, and «Luftëtari», central organ of the People's Army. Other important press organs are the theoretical magazine «Rruga e Partisë», organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, the newspaper «Drita» and the magazine «Nëntori», both literary organs of the League of

Writers and Artists, the illustrated magazine «Ylli», and «Shqiptarja e Re», organ of the Women's Union of Albania and many others, aimed at various categories of readers. Local newspapers are published in 14 administrative districts.

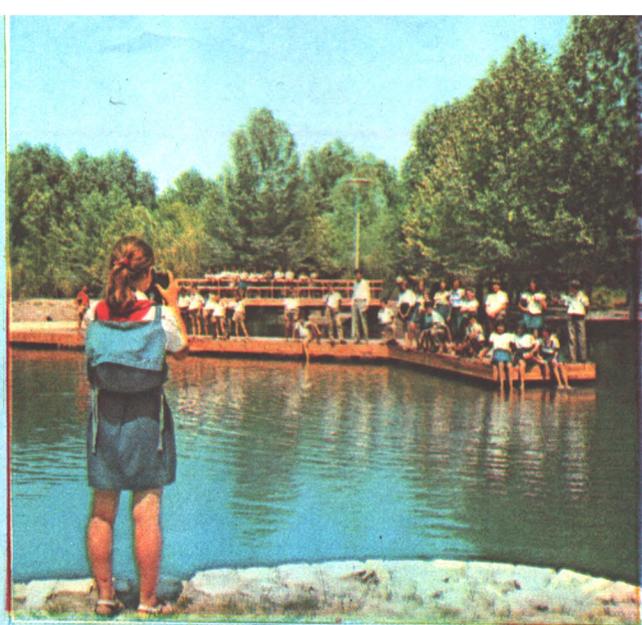
Today, «Zëri i Popullit» appears in more than 100,000 copies a day. «Drita», the biggest newspaper published in pre-liberation Albania, appeared in 4,000 copies a day. Today the number of newspapers distributed throughout Albania, in town and countryside, is 20 times greater than before liberation.

The magazine «Albania Today», which publishes various materials about the socialist development and transformations in Albania as well as about the determined struggle of the Party of Labour of Albania against imperialism and modern revisionism, has been appearing for several years now. At present this organ is published once in two months in five languages. The illustrated magazine «New Albania», has been published regularly for thirty years and has a wide circulation. It is published in 9 languages. The scientific magazine, «Studia Albanica», which publishes scientific Albanological studies in French is also destined for foreign readers.

The Albanian people's press is characterized by a high ideo-political, scientific and cultural level and its militant revolutionary spirit. It is a powerful weapon in the hands of the masses of the people, a powerful means for the education and mobilization of the workers in the construction of socialism and the defence of the country.

SUMMER DAYS AT POGRADEC

H. STOLIA — M. ÇOLLAKU



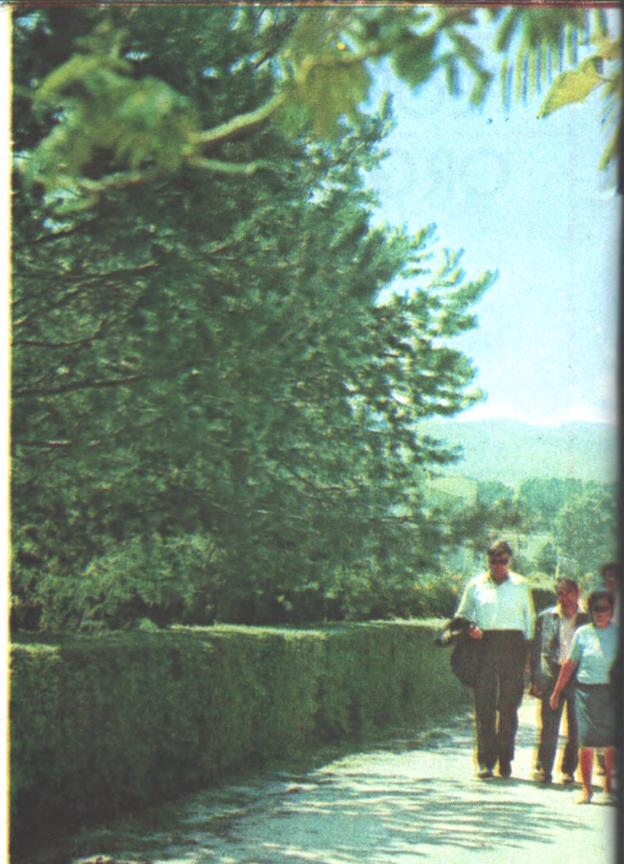
Pogradec is a town at the south-western corner of Lake Ohri. It is also the administrative centre of the region of the same name. As soon as you enter the territory of this region, at Thana Pass (a pass that takes you from Central Albania to the shores of the lake) you are immediately plunged into the atmosphere of socialist construction work: thousands of young volunteers, divided into brigades, are working along the track of the new railway that will link Pogradec with the country's railway network. Besides the young volunteers, hundreds of coöperativist members can be seen working in the fields, harvesting, hoeing or watering the field crops. And, there is also the great «Guri i Kuq» construction site, where the new iron-nickel mine and the big ore-enrichment plant are being built.

A long article could be written about the rebirth of Pogradec, about the dynamic pulse of its life. We could speak about the historic past of this town (the partisans and the people took it several times from the occupation forces, who devastated the town several times), we could write about the rebuilding of the town, about the new industry, about education, health service, about the mountain-side turned into chestnut plantations, about the development of fruit and

vegetable-growing, and especially about the high yields taken in bread grain (40-50 quintals of wheat and 60-70 quintals of maize per hectare). However in this report we shall limit ourselves to just one aspect of the life of this town — to the fact that today Pogradec has become one of the most attractive holiday resorts for the working people and their children.

The natural scenery here has always been beautiful. But it was a savage beauty, which the hand of the man had done little to enrich. The residents of Pogradec have always been hard-working people; however, their work was confined to tending the little orchards of peaches and apricots around their cottages. The beach was abandoned to bushes and brambles. The lake, with its sky-blue waters, often turned to foaming waves, provided only a poor livelihood for the fishermen, and a source of inspiration for some romantic poet to write about the rhythm of the oars and the moon-lit waters.

Today, the whole southern shore of the lake, from the town to the state border (some tens of kilometres), is like a many-coloured silk blouse, while from a distance, the chain of three-storied rest houses forms a string of jewels around the neck of the beautiful lake.



The colourful flowers, the willows at the tourist centre, the fresh waters, all with such lovely restful colours, induce a pleasant feeling of tranquillity.

Here one meets workers from the chromium mine at Bulqiza in the Dibra district, from the copper-wire plant in Shkodra, from the Machine and Tractor station in Vlora, and others. Here one meets workers, officials, school pupils and students. Our socialist state has created the very best conditions for the thousands of working people who come to spend their holidays here. They pay only a small percentage of the cost of the food, and services, while the state pays the remainder from special funds.

From the early hours of the morning, the workers and young pioneers can be seen strolling along the edge of the lake or in the gardens. They do gymnastics and exercise on the sports grounds. The hours passed on the beach are the most pleasant and valuable. In the afternoon they stroll in the streets of the town or go up to the beautiful tourist centre. In the evening, orchestras give concerts.

According to a special programme, those workers who wish can go on excursion to various historic places, to the agricultural cooperatives, to the Korça city, etc.

The leader of the pioneer group in the young pioneers' holiday camp told us that they have organized various circles, in which the children take part according to their desires and inclinations. Thus, they have set up a library circle, a music circle, circles for tourist excursions, swimming, various games, etc. Amateur or even professional artistic groups often come here to perform for the children.

A network of medical services also functions at the holiday homes.

«Time flies here», said an engineering worker from Elbasan, «because it is so full of impressions. The days are quiet and restful, but so full of events, too. On the edge of this wonderful lake we are having an unforgettable holiday».

A usual view of the Pogradeci beach during forenoon.

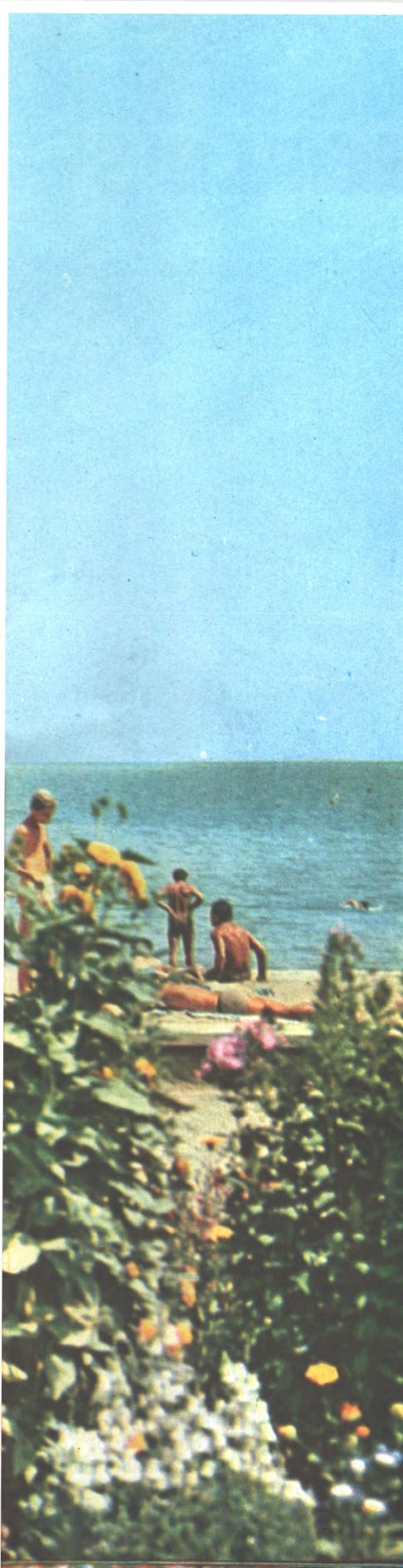
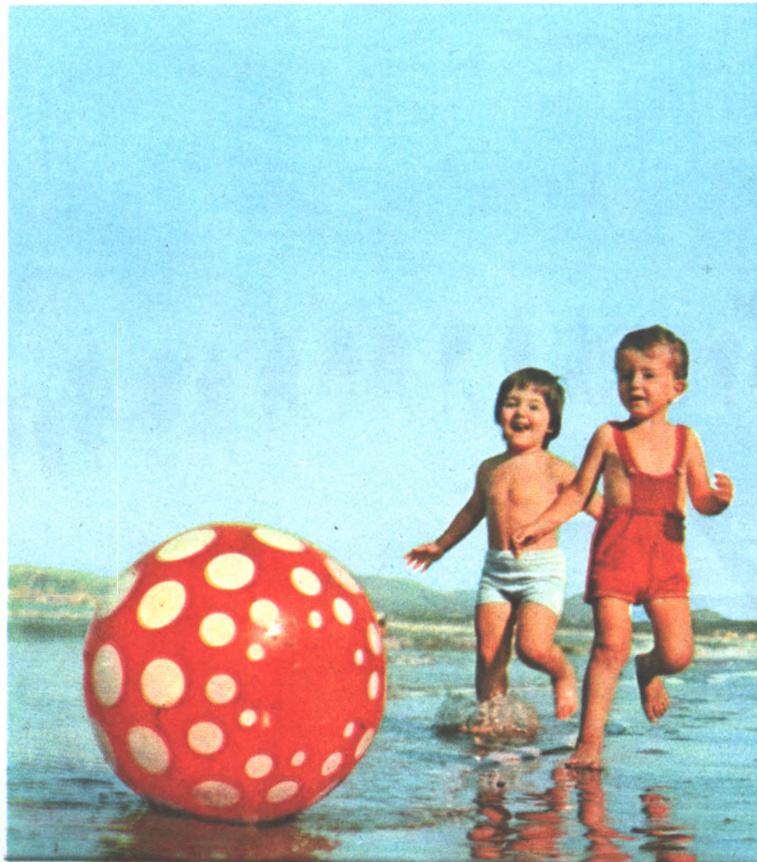
A souvenir picture of the tourist center at Pogradec.

A group of workers spending their vacation at one of the rest homes at Pogradec has just returned from an excursion to the city of Korça.

Children spend their vacation in their own way.

Young pioneers on an excursion to a state farm at Pogradec. Their guides explain to them the hop plant used in brewing beer.

View of the town from the lake. Photos by S. Xhillari



PEOPLE'S



Detachments of the National-liberation Army on the march in the 1943-1944 winter

Units of the army drilling

The whole people in arms

In pursuit of a supposed enemy



July 10th each year is celebrated in our country as People's Army Day.

People's Army Day is connected with a major event of the National Liberation War period, the creation of the General Staff of the National Liberation Army on July 10th, 1943.

The country-wide Conference of the Communist Party of Albania was held in the spring of 1943 in Labinot, northeast of the city of Elbasan. The Conference pointed out that *the deep crisis among the enemy, the extension of the armed struggle, the rise of the Patriotic revolutionary consciousness of the people and the favourable international circumstances, had put the organization of the general uprising of the people and the Albanian National Liberation army on the order of the day.*

In June and at the beginning of July, 1943, the partisan çetas and battalions all over the country were carrying out courageous operations against the Italian fascist troops. The attacks of the partisans of this period against the forces of the occupationists in the vicinity of the bitumen mine at Selenica, in the Vlora district, in the town of Leskovik, on the Struga-Dibra, Përmet-Kuqar-Mezhgoran gorge-Kiçoku Pass roads are very well known in the history of the National Liberation War. In the Battle of Përmet alone the fascists lost 500 dead. On July 6, the Albanian partisans in the southern district of Kolonja, carried out the first attack against German troops, a column enroute to Janina (the battle of Barmash).

On the proposal of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Albania, the National Liberation General Council meeting in Labinot, decided unanimously that the General Staff of the Albanian National Liberation Army should be formed. The Staff was set up on July 10. The Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Albania, Enver Hoxha, was elected the Political Commissar of the Staff.

The formation of the General Staff was of major political and particularly military importance. It carried out the organisation of the National Liberation Army and concentrated the

ARMY DAY



strategic and operational leadership of the armed struggle against the occupationists. Regional staffs and the staff of the 1st operational zone (Vlora-Gjirokastra) were set up in the districts. On August 15, 1943, the First Shock Brigade, the pioneer of the glorious partisan brigades, was formed, and through the bravery, courage and blood of its sons, it wrote some of the most glorious pages in the history of the National Liberation War. Mehmet Shehu was appointed commander of this brigade. When the General Staff was set up, the National Liberation Army included in its ranks 10,000 fighters organized in permanent partisan detachments, besides thousands of volunteers who took up arms when the fighting against the invaders required it. On the eve of liberation in Autumn 1944, the National Liberation Army numbered 70 thousand partisans.

The establishment of our People's State Power and the socialist order in our country after liberation raised the major task of protecting the socialist gains from external and internal enemies. The question of protecting the socialist homeland became a duty above all duties for all our citizens. Under the guidance of the Party, the People's Army and all the armed forces of the country became more and more aware of the great tasks which the cause of the sovereignty, freedom and independence of the homeland imposed upon them. The Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania sanctions the great Marxist-Leninist principle according to which *the protection of the homeland and of the gains of socialism are guaranteed by the armed people organized in their armed forces*. On the basis of this principle all the people in our country are soldiers. Our People's State Power has ensured every thing necessary for the people to be always capable and armed in order to protect the gains of socialism against any enemy or coalition of enemies.

For all these, the July 10th festivities are the festivities of our people as a whole.



Crossing water barriers

Artillerymen rush to their fighting positions

Strength, determination and pride.

Photos by I. Frashëri



The articles for daily use turned by the glassware industry stand out for their elegance and clarity of colour. Many of them are painted or engraved with typical Albanian motifs



GLASS ENGRAVING





Kavaja, one of the three towns of the Durrës district, is, at the same time, one of the three centres of glass production in our country. A range of about 100 different glass products, is made here as well as flat glass of various weights and sizes for the needs of building and agriculture.

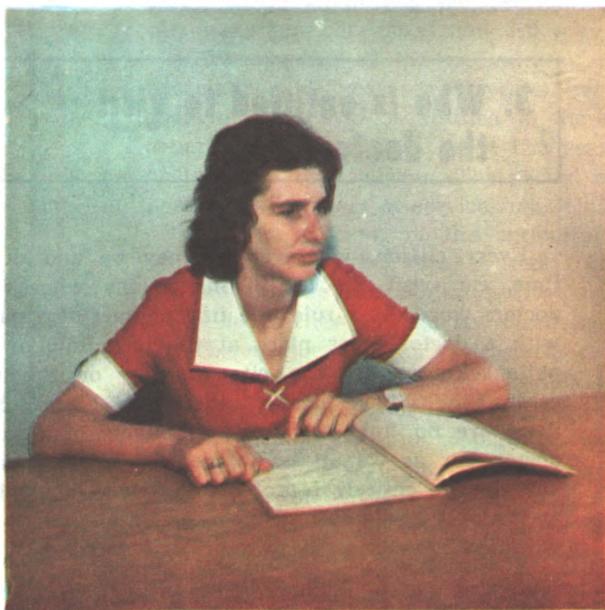
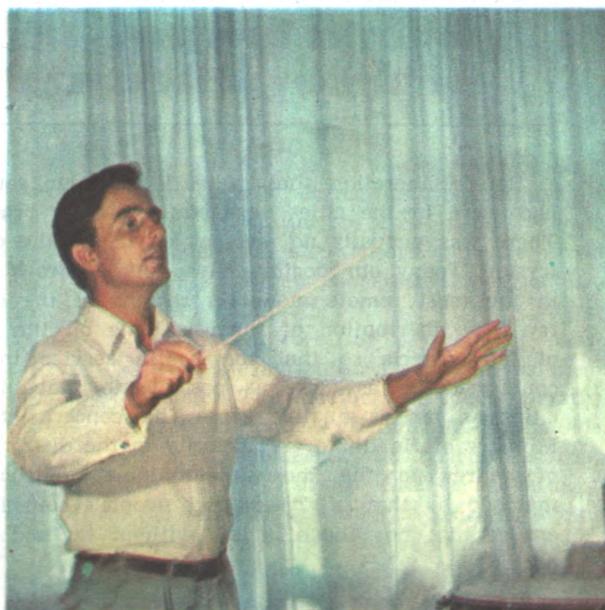
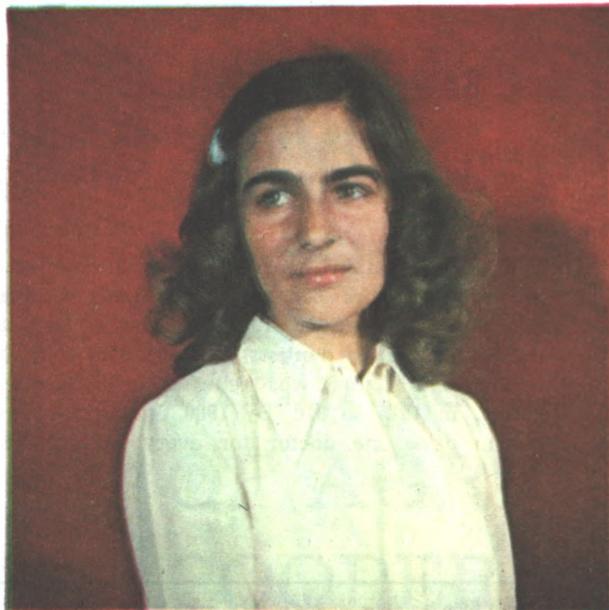
Along with the fulfilment of its production targets, the working collective of this factory, is achieving good results, also, in the direction of producing items of machinery and equipment and technological production lines with its own resources. Now, the workers themselves are producing about 90 per cent of the spare parts the factory needs. After persistent efforts, the workers of the department for the production of optical details, succeeded in producing 4 kinds of lenses of various dimensions, which served for the building of the first Albanian projectors. Now they have begun serial production of lenses. This will make it possible to fulfil the needs of all categories of schools for projectors which, up to now, have been imported.

The glass industry in Albania is quite new. Apart from the Kavaja factory two others have been built, one in Tirana and the other in Korça. They turn out mainly mass consumer goods, bottles and jars for food products, as well as sheet glass. Various products for the incandescent and fluorescent lamp industry, for the schools, ornaments etc. are produced, too.

The mass consumer goods are distinguished for their elegance, purity of colour. The items with pointed or engraved designs with motifs taken from life are very interesting.

With the aim of achieving a higher scientific and artistic level in glass products, in each of the factories a technological bureau has been set up, which collects and elaborates the workers' proposals, and studies the proposals put forward in the exhibition and consultations organized from time to time.

Our glass industry now fulfils all the needs of the home market.



GRADUATES OF THE HIGHER INSTITUTE OF ARTS

This year the Higher Institute of Arts in Tirana turned out 134 new cadres in 23 specialties, including 43 specialists in music, 24 in figurative arts, 16 in drama and 51 in culture. Of these latter 10 completed their higher studies part time while continuing their regular jobs. The great majority of these students graduated with very good marks.

All the graduates have already been appointed to positions according to their respective specialised fields and have started work, mainly in the houses of culture and popular creativeness of their home districts.

1. Suzana Turku has taken her diploma as a choir conductor. 2. Eno Koçi, having graduated as a violinist some years ago, this year took his diploma as a conductor; 3. Student Zana Shutëriqi who took her diploma in the department of the theory of music. 4. Student Zhizhan Rumba is one of those who took their diplomas in violin.

TEN QUESTIONS AND TEN ANSWERS ON THE HEALTH SERVICE

1. How many inhabitants are cared for by each doctor in your country?

Before liberation Albania was the country with the fewest doctors per 1000 inhabitants among the European countries. In 1938, there was one doctor (including qualified dentists) to every 8527 inhabitants, in 1960, this figure was reduced to 3362, in 1970, to 1181, in 1975 to 870. By 1980, in our country we plan to have one doctor for every 550 inhabitants.

2. How are the doctors distributed throughout the territory of the country?

Before liberation those few doctors our country had were in the cities engaged in private practice. There was virtually no medical service in the countryside. Today our doctors have gone to work even in the most remote mountain regions of the country. The distribution of them is done on the basis of fair criteria so that the health service in the countryside is as close as possible to that of the cities as far as quality goes. The concern of the Ministry of Health to give priority in the distribution of cadres to the most mountainous districts is matched by that of the district people's councils to ensure that no village is left without the aid of a doctor.

3. Who is entitled to visit the doctor?

Every citizen, wherever he may be and at any time, can visit the health institutions where the doctors work. As a rule, the first contact of a patient with a doctor takes place at the polyclinic or outpatient centre of the city quarter, or the work centre, the village health centre and so on. Since there are no financial barriers between patient and doctor, for as we all know medical services in our country are entirely free of charge, every one who is aware of the slightest disturbance in his health goes with the greatest ease to consult a doctor.

4. How are the funds for the health service provided?

Each year every health institution at the base makes a well studied request for the funds it needs for its activities on the basis of its daily practice. The requests from all the institutions of the district are collected at the health sections of the district People's Councils and after being approved by the competent executive committees are forwarded to the Ministry of Health and the Council of Ministers. The Ministry of Health summarises the requests from

all over the country and proposes to the Government approval of the necessary funds. As a rule, the funds for health protection are sufficient to properly carry out the specific article of the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania under which the State takes over all expenditure for the preservation and strengthening of the health of the broad masses of the people. The worker pays nothing from his income to create the funds for the health service or pensions. They are completely covered by the State budget.

5. How and when are vaccinations done?

Vaccinations are done entirely free of charge. Some are compulsory for all, such as the POCG vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles and so on. Through extensive propaganda work we have succeeded in creating a sound conviction among the people of the effectiveness of vaccines and therefore we find no difficulty in applying them. With the exception of the vaccine against poliomyelitis all the other vaccines, including that against measles, are produced by the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology under the Ministry of Health.

Vaccinations are done throughout the country on the basis of standard instructions and according to a scientifically studied calendar.

6. What is done to provide medical assistance in the remote regions?

In each group of 4 or 5 relatively small villages there is a health centre with at least one doctor who is at the same time responsible for the entire health service of the village within his jurisdiction. In every village, no matter how small, there is an infirmary run by a trained nurse or a midwife. Every sick person, therefore, comes into immediate contact with these middle-level medical cadres. When necessary the doctor of the health centre can be called to visit the patient in his home. In urgent cases, such as a premature birth, or an accident when a surgical operation and so on are necessary, the ambulance from the nearest polyclinic or hospital, and often a helicopter comes at once to transport the patient to the respective clinic.

7. How is the medical service at home organized?

When the sick person is incapable of walking to the polyclinic or outpatient centre, the doctors of these institutions are obliged to give medical assistance in the patient's home. The relatives of the patient make the request directly or by telephone to these institutions, give the address, and the doctor goes to visit the patient.

In urgent cases (collapse, myocardial infarct, etc.)

the emergency service comes into action and goes to the patient with the necessary equipment to give assistance or to transport him at once to the nearest hospital under the supervision of the doctor.

8. Are there cases of epidemic diseases?

Excluding occasions when, at a given time or season, an influenza epidemic assumes relatively wide proportions, the epidemiological situation in our country is relatively quiet. Whenever a disease of an epidemic character is detected, all the sanitary-epidemiological apparatus is set in motion in order to confine it, through strict antiepidemic measures, vaccinations etc. Every case of contagious disease is subject to compulsory notification to the sanitation antiepidemic organs which study each individual case, at the same time taking all prophylactic measures at the centre of this infection.

9. How is assistance in childbirth organized in the countryside?

In every village of our country without exception, there is a midwife who works at the mother and child consultation centre. In practice, every pregnant woman is under the direct supervision of the midwife right from the early months of pregnancy. She follows the progress of the pregnancy from time to time making some elementary analysis. As a principle, the village midwives try to persuade the women to have their babies in the maternity homes which have been established at all health centres of the combined villages; in some instances, within the jurisdiction of a health centre there are also 2 or 3 other maternity homes when the individual villages are big ones. However, over the whole Republic births in maternity homes in the countryside are about 80 per cent of the total. For a number of subjective, family, and educational reasons, the remaining women have their children in their own homes, but always under the supervision of the midwife. Thus, we can say that all the women of our country have medical assistance of childbirth.

10. How are the dental and pharmaceutical service organized in the countryside?

In every regional health centre or hospital there is a dental clinic and pharmacy or a pharmaceuticals agency. Special attention is attached to diagnoses and treatment of dental caries in children at the village schools by organizing mobile services from one school to another. The prescriptions of the medical practitioners who work in the countryside are made up in the village pharmacies, and this not only saves the villagers' time but increases the efficiency of the medical treatment since it begins at the proper time. It is a well known fact that prescription medicines in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania are very cheap and for children up to one year of age they are free of charge even for outpatient treatment.

THE SYSTEM OF PENSIONS FOR MEMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

N. CANKO

In Albania a unified pension system has been established for the members of agricultural cooperatives.

In addition to free medical service, a member of the agricultural cooperative also enjoys old age, invalidity or family pension benefits. Every woman cooperative member is entitled to paid leave before and after childbirth.

Expenditure for payment of pensions is met by the contributions from the agricultural cooperatives themselves plus finance from the State budget. The members of the cooperative pay nothing from their personal incomes for the creation of those funds.

A member of the agricultural cooperative is entitled to the full old age pension at 65 years of age after 25 years at work for a man or at 55 years of age after 20 years at work for a woman. This pension is paid at the rate of 70 per cent of the average monthly wages the member has received during 3 consecutive years of the last ten years at work. This 3-year period is nominated by the member of the cooperative. In any case the minimum old age pension cannot be less than 200 leks and the maximum not more than 500 leks a month.

The member of the agricultural cooperative who has reached full pension age (65 years or 55 years) but has not completed the necessary years of service to be entitled to the full pension is entitled to receive a partial pension after at least 12.5 years of service in the case of a man or 10 years for a woman. The partial old age pension is granted in proportion to the years of service completed.

When a member of the agricultural cooperative has completed his years of service but has retired from work without having reached pension age, he can begin to draw the full or partial old age pension when he reaches the age envisaged by the law.

The members of the agricultural cooperative are entitled to invalidity pensions when they become invalids while working in the cooperative or within 30 days from the day they cease work. This pension is granted to the member of the cooperative for total or partial loss of ability to work according to his invalidity group which is determined by the commission of worker and medical experts. When the invalidity has been caused by an accident at work, pensions are awarded regardless of years of service, while when it has been caused by a general illness or by an accident not connected with work, pensions are granted if the members have the necessary seniority at work related to their age.

Invalidity pensions are paid at the following rates: 85 per cent for the first group, 70 per cent for the second group of their average monthly wages and 30 per cent for the third group of the average monthly wages received during the last three years the member has worked in the cooperative.

The member of the agricultural cooperative who becomes an invalid of the first and second group as a result of sickness or an accident not connected with his or her work and lacks the period of service required for a full pension, is entitled to receive a partial pension for invalidity if he or she has not less than one-fourth of the time required for a full pension. This pension is granted in proportion to the length of service at work.

At the same time, the members of the family who are incapable of work and who have been effectively dependent on the member of the agricultural cooperative, receive family pension if their provider dies during the time he is working in the cooperative or within thirty days from his last day at work.

THE USE OF NUCLEAR METHODS IN AGRICULTURE

SKENDER MALJA

At the Institute of Nuclear Physics

The use of nuclear technique in agriculture is by employing nuclear radiations of various natures or artificial radioactive isotopes. Nuclear radiations are used in the preservation of foodstuffs of plant and animal nature, to stimulate seeds before sowing for the purpose of increasing the productivity of agricultural crops, to shorten their vegetative cycle and to create new varieties with desirable characteristics, and so on. Many good results have been attained in this field in our country.

The use of radioactive isotopes with the methods of marked atoms enables us to observe the behavior of elements or various specimens and their coordination with the soil or plant, to assess the role they play in the development of the plant and the transformations which it undergoes during the various stages of its development.

A very important problem in

agricultural practice is the determination of the content of assimilable phosphorus in the soil. This enables us to assess the content of the reserves of phosphatic nutrients of the particular soil, which is of very great value for drawing up accurate pedological maps. The results achieved by this method are very interesting and help to explain a number of problems of the use of phosphatic fertilizers.

The leather industry uses compounds of chromium during the technological process of tanning hides. After having completed the tanning process, the chromium is discarded by the factory as worthless waste. The workers of the Chair of Botany of the Department of Natural Sciences of the University of Tirana took the initiative to use this waste material as a micro-fertilizer in growing such agricultural crops as potatoes, cotton, sugar-beet and so on.

At the beginning it was proven that chromium takes part in various metabolic processes. With normal methods of chemical analysis it is practically impossible to determine the small traces of chromium in plants and soil. Therefore the only way to find the answer was the use of chromium marked with a suitable radioactive isotope. It was observed that perceptible assimilation takes place in the crops in which it was used and this is more pronounced at the initial stage of the development of the plant.

The use of phosphatic fertilizers marked with radioactive isotopes allows an assessment to be made of the degree of assimilation of a given fertilizer by the plants and important conclusions can be drawn



Experiments in the use of nuclear technique in agriculture

for agricultural practice. In collaboration with the Higher Institute of Agriculture in Tirana, an experiment has been commenced to determine the coefficient of the utilization of the phosphorus of superphosphate in wheat and maize. In this case studies are being conducted on the dynamics of the assimilation of the phosphorus of the fertilizers and the soil at various stages of the development of the plant.

The use of many other radioactive isotopes also has broad prospects in our country where agriculture is using more and more chemical processes. One aspect of this is the ever greater use of pesticides against agricultural pests. It is well known that when pesticides are not employed according to scientific criteria they can remain in considerable quantities in the agricultural products and this may cause great

damage to human health. By marking the pesticides with appropriate isotopes, their course can be followed both in the plant as well as in the soil and the scientific criteria for their use can be determined. A number of pesticides have been instantiated in our country.

The Institute of Nuclear Physics will give valuable assistance in the study of many problems of the nitrogenous nutrition of plants. In this case the study will not be carried out with radioactive isotopes but with the stable isotope of nitrogen which is not found in ordinary nitrogen.

These successes and the conditions created, will make it possible in the future to solve many other problems with the help of radioactive isotopes which will help to advance our agriculture on the road of intensification.

THE RIVERS OF ALBANIA

Two seas wash the shores of Albania, the Adriatic and the Ionian, and the many rivers and natural and artificial lakes with the reservoirs and dams built by the hand of man comprise another of its great resources.

The rivers run through the whole country like blue arteries. Albania has high figures for the quantity of discharged water from its rivers. The coefficient of water flow is 35.6 litres a second for every square kilometre, thus it occupies second place among the European countries richest in water resources.

Our rivers run from east and southeast to the west and discharge

mainly into the Adriatic. Because of the steepness of the territory, most of them are swift and unnavigable.

The Drin is the biggest river of the country and of the whole eastern coast of the Adriatic. It carries an average of 320 cubic metres of water a second and its yearly flow is 10.1 cubic kilometres, while after it joins the Buna river in the vicinity of the city of Shkoder, its average flow reaches 590 cubic meters a second. The total catchment area of the Drin river is about 13,000 square kilometres, while part of it is outside the borders of Albania. This river is formed by the union of two of its tri-



Topographic - geodesic and cartographic services engage in intensive work to study and design centers of habitation and industrial projects. At the same time they have drawn up topographic maps of the whole territory of the country to the scale of 1:25000. In the picture: Adelina Uçi, student of the second year of the Engineering Department of the branch of geodesy during practice.



APPARATUSES CONSTRUCTED WITH INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

At the Institute of Nuclear Physics the technique of designing and building nuclear measuring and control apparatuses with integrated systems is being mastered. This requires overcoming a series of difficulties during both the designing and the construction of printed circuits and the assembly of the integrated systems. In general, these difficulties have been overcome successfully. Two such apparatuses will soon be put in operation at the Institute and other such work will be undertaken which will raise the level of scientific work of the Institute and will further raise the capacity of the Institute to assist the economy and the other sectors.

«A MUSEUM OF LIVING FOSSILS»

Most of the animals peculiar to our country have their habitat in the lake at Pogradec. Albanian and foreign scientists have described this lake as the oldest in Europe (dating from the end of the neogene) and as a museum of living fossils. The molluscs are the most interesting group of animals in the lake. More than 50 per cent of the fish are peculiar to this lake. Above all stands the koran (*Salmo letnica* and *salmotruta ochridans*) which surpasses many other species of

fresh water fish for its beauty and its delicious flesh. The ponds for raising this species of fish artificially at Tushemisht of Pogradec are a rare sight created by the hand of man in harmony with the conditions and the circumstances.

Of the 26 species of crabs, 24 are peculiar to this lake. This is true also of many of the groups of worms.

However, there are also other places in the country, with their own particular animal species. The fish called Skort i zi (*Pachychylon pictis*) lives only in the waters of the lakes at Shkodra and Pogradec. We could also mention some molluscs of the Alps, some animals in lake Prespa, some others in the Adriatic sea, and so on.

All these animals constitute an asset of great scientific values. Undoubtedly there must be more such animals. Later studies will certainly discover these «mysteries».

butaries, the Black and the White Drin, below the town of Kukës in northeast Albania. After this union it becomes swifter and continues to flow northwest gathering the waters of mountain streams and becoming the river richest in hydro-power potential.

The second river as regards the volume of its waters is the Vjosa, in southern Albania. It carries 250 cubic meters of water a second with an annual flow of 6.6 cubic kilometers of water. On both sides of its valley there are many villages built on fertile flats.

Another river of our country, the Seman, is formed by the union of the Devoll and the Osum in the vicinity of the museum city of Berat. This river carries the heaviest load of silt in Albania, since it

passes through regions affected by water erosion. It carries five times as much silt as the Drin, 1.6 times as much as the Erzen, twice as much as the Shkumbin (the latter two in Central Albania) and four times as much as the Vjosa.

In the northern part of our country in addition to the Drin, there is also the Mat river.

The volume of water carried by these rivers varies greatly according to the seasons. They attain their maximum flow in winter since the rainfall is greatest during that season. Spring is the period of the second highest flow levels due to the high rainfall and thawing snow, while the minimum flow is in summer due to the low rainfall and greater evaporation.

Our rivers are a major natural resource for the economy of our country. Their hydro-power reserves

are estimated at several millions of kilowatts. During the last two decades a whole network of hydro-power stations, such as those on the Drin, Mat, Bistrica and other rivers, has been built. The biggest hydro-electric power-plant in the country is almost completed at Fierza on the Drin. It will have a capacity of 450,000 KW. On the same river, work is under way for the building of another hydro-power station which will be bigger than that of Fierza. The utilisation of all the power potential of the Drin is envisaged for future years. Already the rivers have become the principal source of electric power. In future five-year plans it is envisaged to build powerful hydro-electric stations on other rivers too.

Thus, from a country which had only one minor hydro-electric plant with a capacity of 624 KW before

liberation, Albania is now meeting all its own needs, under conditions of its large-scale industrialization and the electric reticulation of all the villages, and is also exporting electric power.

The reforestation, the protection work carried out in the mountains in the upper part of the watersheds, the building of stop banks in the lower reaches, during the years of our People's State Power have reduced the erosive effect of rivers and the flooding of the plains. Thus the rivers which formerly damaged the agricultural area have now been harnessed to serve agriculture. More than half the area under cultivation has been brought under irrigation, through the construction of an extensive network of canals, reservoirs and the help of motor pumps installed on the banks of rivers.

THE SCHOOL CLOSE TO THE FIELD

Today the Agricultural Secondary School in Delvina has more students and teachers than there were in the whole Saranda district before liberation. The open-air classrooms of this school are tens of hectares of land planted to various crops by the students and teachers, in which teaching is linked with production. Here the students also begin to acquire the habits of scientific work



Delvina is a small agricultural town in the southern region of Albania, in Saranda. Along with other institutions, an agricultural secondary school has been established in this town. It was first opened on September 1st, 1959. During these eighteen years the school has trained a considerable number of middle-level technicians who are now employed all over our country. With the passage of the years the school has grown and gained in strength. Now it trains as many students and employs as many teachers as the whole district of Saranda had before liberation, in 1944.

The outstanding characteristic of the Delvina Agricultural Secondary School is the combination of classroom work with field practice.

The school has its own highly developed farm. It has at its disposal over 60 hectares of land in fields and orchard, which are the open-air classrooms of this school. In addition, it has its animal husbandry sector with stalls for cattle, and pigs, an apiary, a range of agricultural machinery and a repair shop, a carpentry shop, a smithy, and many other auxiliary sectors to store and process agricultural and livestock products. With this productive base, in this «open air laboratory», the school solves a number of important problems. In the first place, the students are provided

with everything necessary to fulfil the requirements of the teaching program, and to carry out the work in nearly all the processes of the cultivation of crops during the various stages of their development. Thus optimal conditions have been created for linking teaching with production. All this work helps, also, to inculcate high moral qualities in the students, proves to them from their school days the value of introducing science into agriculture, and educates them in the spirit of collectivism, the feeling of responsibility to carry out their task with high quality and get high yields.

In order to achieve a better linking of theory with practice, of school with life, the material basis for laboratory and teaching work has been enriched here, mainly by their own efforts. Thus, the students have the possibility to concretize their knowledge gained in the classroom in the production base and from there, back again to the classroom.

The teaching practice which is carried out on individual chapters or special topics, is one of the most important forms of linking classroom teaching with production, theory with practice. The students and teachers follow up the advanced experience of the agricultural economies and try to introduce it into the pro-

cess of teaching and productive work on the school farm. Special topics are taught here by the specialists of production from the neighbouring agricultural economies, and, on the other hand, the students go to these economies where they see the latest in agricultural science and the results which the application of advanced experience yields.

By taking up themes which have emerged from the practical needs of production, from the requirements which agriculture has had in the production base of the school, as well as in the zone or the district, the students, begin to acquire the rudiments of scientific work.

The good organization of the work of teaching and production means that the students leave school, ready for life, and work in large-scale cooperative or State agricultural production.

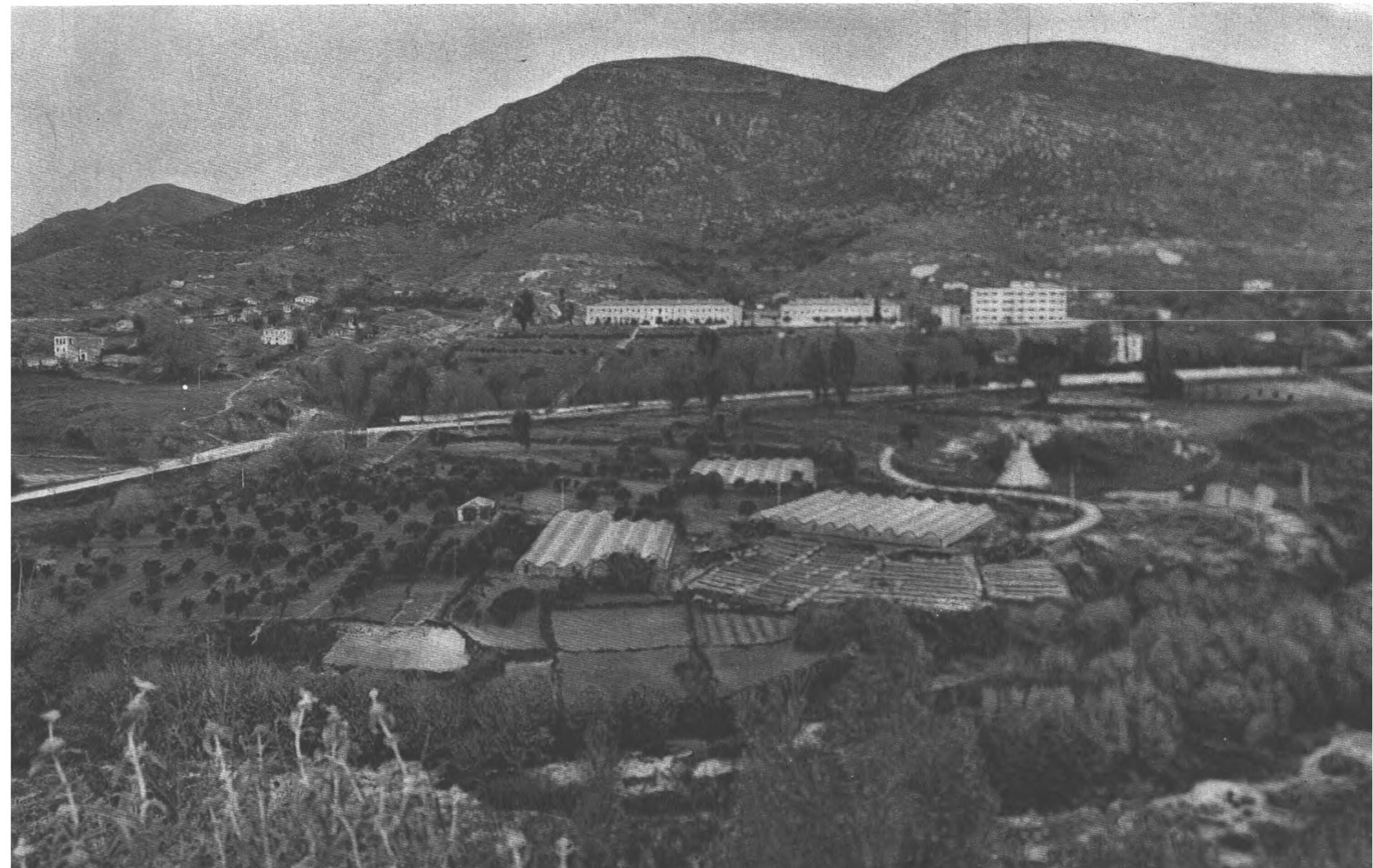
Last year, 97.5 percent of the students received pass marks in all their subjects. All those of the final year passed with a class average above 8 (the highest mark is 10).

This year, along with its tasks in the field of teaching, the school aims to increase the yield rate of farm crops and increase its income in order to meet a greater part of its expenditure from its resources.

1 The Zoology classroom of the secondary agricultural school in Delvina

2 A lesson in anatomy

3 General view of the agricultural secondary school and a part of its auxiliary economy





Vilson Killea — «Comrade ENVER HOXHA» (116x130 cm — oil)

Agron Dine — «Times Changed» (150x200cm-oil)



AT THE GALLERY OF FIGURATIVE ARTS



Skënder Milori — «Workers' Discussion»
(205 x 390 cm - oil)



FILM

«Backstreets that Sought the Sun»

LUAN DIBRA

The feature film «The Backstreets that Sought the Sun» in two episodes, is the debut of the young film directors S. Kumbaro and R. Ljarja, who have graduated from the Dramaturgy branch of the Higher Institute of Arts in Tirana.

From the very first sequences of the film, we are acquainted with the economic and social plight of the broad masses of the people, poverty and oppression, hunger and ignorance. This is apparent in the houses, squares, and streets of the poor sections of the city, and in the faces of the ragged people who inhabit them, driven to despair by hunger and the constant menace of the ruling authorities and the Italian occupiers. But among this gloom-stricken mass which the endless suffering and injustice is driving to fierce revolt, the feeling of indignation and uprising is running high. Hundreds of workers and peasants, the patriotic poor, led by the communists, burst out one day, like a powerful avalanche, from the poverty-stricken backstreets and quarters of the city. A fierce battle takes place. There, all the hatred of the masses for the fascist occupier, and the local oppressor classes, and their powerful feeling for freedom and a better life, is manifested. This clash is one of the great manifestations of the mounting national and class consciousness of the working people, presented in film with rare truthfulness and in a very impressive manner.

The film centres around Nebi Sureli, a poor young man. An unemployed youth, trying to earn a meagre livelihood by carting goods in his hand-barrow, he has a very heavy burden to bear — a family with many mouths to feed and a sick mother.

At times his terrible situation is too much for Nebi and



he lapses into despair, but he never gives up his search for the true road to salvation. And it is the people of his own class, the workers, the communists, who show him the road he seeks. Halim, Gaqo, Mihal, Kovi, who have long since aligned themselves with the people's resistance and are leading it, help Nebi to see that his sufferings cannot be overcome by groans and prayers but by the resolute fight of the whole people united around a single aim. While taking part in the actions organized by the communists, he begins to experience another feeling which he had never experienced before — the joy of his own strength, and the strength of the people, the hope for the beautiful tomorrow. In the struggle against the invaders and their tools, in the heat of danger, the young man's awakening begins. Regardless of any consequences, he saves the life of Semi, a communist girl agitator, wounded during the demonstration and pursued by the fascists. He distributes war leaflets among the people, which call on them to launch the great people's uprising, and with every passing day he feels himself more a fighter for the revolution. In the action for shifting the Party's printing equipment Nebi acts with great courage, to prevent it being discovered or falling into the hands of the enemies.

Thus, from battle to battle, the complete awakening of Nebi's consciousness takes place and his face begins to show the powerful light of the heroism, manliness and maturity of the revolutionary marching in step with the entire people who have risen in struggle.

«The Backstreets that Sought The Sun» has had an enthusiastic reception from our cinema audience, both on account of the lofty ideas it expresses and also on account of the masterly realization of the film.

CULTURE WITH A STRONG MILITANT AND NATIONAL CHARACTER

STEPHANO POSHIA — Italy

When the comrades told me, during my visit to the «Traktori» Plant in Tirana, how, immediately following the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania the initiative «to work, fight and live like revolutionaries under siege» had emerged there, they told me, at the same time, that delegations of workers and cooperative farmers from all over Albania had come there to discuss with them this initiative taken by the working class, with its ability to sum things up precisely.

In every city or village, in every factory or agricultural cooperative I visited during the two weeks of my stay in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, this initiative accompanied me everywhere.

And then seeing how deeply the Albanian people feel about the principle of relying on one's own resources, and how this principle has been carried out in daily practice in every sector of work and production, I gained a clearer understanding of the close ties which exist in Albania between the construction of socialism and national independence. In this connection one sometimes hears abroad, in Italy for instance, of an Albania «shut away within its own shell». The truth is that behind such nonsense lurks the hatred and fear of enemies of democracy and socialism, faced with the reality of a small country which, within a short historical period of 32 years, has become more and more developed and, at the same time, has always, jealously defended its independence threatened by powerful enemies. But seeing the spirit and high level of consciousness with which the members of the higher type cooperatives of Grapsh, Borsh and Plasa carry out their tasks and cope with any difficulties that may arise, I understood how the Albanian people, led by

the communists succeeded in producing all the bread grain they needed within the country, last year as planned.

It is the same with the workers of the «Traktori» Plant in Tirana, who within 1980, will contribute to manufacturing the first entirely Albanian tractor, with workers of the fertilizers plant in Fier or with those of the high precision instruments plant in Korça.

The reasons for this progress of the Albanian people in building socialism, and this reliance on their own resources go a long way back in history, as I learned while visiting the beautiful Museum-city of Gjirokastra. In its old castle today turned into the national Museum of Weapons, among the weapons of the epic wars of Skanderbeg against the Turks or those of the enemies during the National Liberation War, space has been made for an American spy plane, as if to say, «Today just as in the past, the only place for the enemies of Albania is in the museums».

Closely linked with the twin struggle for national independence and for socialism (the historical development of which I saw clearly delineated in the different museums of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War I visited), **I learned another thing, what the Albanian call the connection of the pen with the rifle.**

In all its constituent parts Albanian culture presents a strong militant and national character.

The thing that made me think most about the great force which Albanian culture and education represents in the construction of socialism and the new socialist man here in Albania is the spread of houses of culture and schools to every village.

Perhaps, from the qualitative viewpoint, the importance and role of culture and education in Albania is equal to that of the major industrial projects which, during this five-year plan, will raise the Albanian economy to an even higher level.

In fact, even although it is a small country (hence not an easy thing as some might think) **Albania is able to build majestic projects such as the Fierza hydro-electric plant, the metallurgical complex at Elbasan and the deep oil-processing plant at Ballsh.**

When these major works have been completed how ridiculous it will be to hear people still talking about Albania as «a small» country «closed within its own shell»!

FOREIGNERS

MILITANT CINEMATOGRAPHY

HENRIQUE ALVER COSTA

Member of the Presidium of the Portugal-Albania Friendship Association

Albanian cinematography is the youngest in Europe. Before liberation there were only 17 cinemas in the whole country. In 1947, Albanian cinematography started from scratch when the first Albanian operator, Hamdi Ferhati, made the first documentary. It began without traditions, without technical cadres and at a time when the country had to be rebuilt.

Born from the emancipation of the Albanians itself and put in the service of the people right from the start, Albanian cinematography is undoubtedly the most realist and militant in Europe. From the earliest documentary films (which are true reflections of the historic struggles of the Albanian people, of their struggles against foreign enemies, for the collectivization of the land, for political and economic independence, reflections of the great collective tasks: opening roads, building railways, setting up industry, developing and revolutionizing agriculture and animal husbandry) to full length feature films which are now produced regularly (6 full length and short feature films and 45 documentaries in 1974 and 10 feature films and nearly 50 documentaries in 1975).

The first Albanian feature films: «Tana», produced by Kristaq Dhamo, and «Her children», produced by Hysen Hakani, were made in the years 1957 and 1958. Fifteen years later, with its technical cadres and well organized production, Albanian cinematography was well on the way to maturity, orientated, as a national commentator has put it, by the «principles of socialist realism and Marxist-Leninist aesthetics». The film producers seek the themes for their films in the active life of the people, in the struggle for independence, the work of construction, in the ancient traditions of the people, in their historical reality, and in the revolutionary transformations which are taking place. The documentary and feature films have the same objective, to educate the people, to raise the political consciousness of the audiences and their political education, to inspire the Albanians to carry out their great tasks by relying on their own resources.

Today Albania has 542 cinemas all over the country and tens of mobile cinemas to serve the most remote villages, which all have electric power, according to a set program.

A distinctive feature of Albanian cinematography is its mass character. Why? Because the social conditions in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania are such that they do not foster egoism, ambition and rivalry among the people. All take part with equal enthusiasm in the making of a film, from the choice of the subject to its assembly in its final form. Technicians, directors, actors, all form a working collective. And when the film is finished the whole team gets together with the members of the Artistic Council and the personnel of the studio for the first viewing and critical discussion of it.

«WE SAY: GOOD ON YOU!»

MERI VOJAXHI, artist
THANOS TRANGAS, poet

It is amazing how such a small state in so short a time could do such great creative work for the wellbeing of its people, for science, the arts and literature. Since Albania was an agricultural country in the past, one might have expected to see development only in the field of agricultural and livestock products because of its mainly mountainous terrain.

But our amazement was not centred only on the systematic, scientific development of agriculture in your country. Our visit to the «Albania Today» exhibition showed us that the determination of the Albanian people has enabled them to surpass themselves from the technological viewpoint, too, so that with its very rapid development,

Albania is able to compete with other countries that have long been developed.

The wonderful museums of Albania are in no way inferior to the museums of other countries; in many sculptural works especially, there are expressions of courage in movement and in stance, which speak of the determination and drive of the revolution, not only in art but also in life. They show that this nation is marching onward and upward on the road of creativeness, and this is due to the correct leadership of your state which opens the way to creative work for all. Astonished and deeply impressed we say to the Albanian people and its leadership: «Good on you!»

ABOUT ALBANIA



«SOCIALIST ALBANIA» - A Tribune of the Friends of Albania in Italy

In addition to many other activities which the Italy-Albania Friendship Association carries out in order to inform the friends and well-wishers of our country in Italy of the all-round achievements of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, it also publishes its own organ, «Socialist Albania».

«Socialist Albania» is an illustrated magazine published once in four months. It contains mainly materials of an informative and cultural character. In the ten years of its existence, «Socialist Albania» through various materials, has been made an interesting tribune which has kept its readers informed about the great progress that has taken place in our country in all spheres of life. It has contributed to the maintenance and development of the traditional friendship between the peoples of our two countries.

The range of materials in this magazine is very diverse. The first issue for the current year, for instance, carries materials devoted to the proceedings of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania. Joice Lussu and Franco Marone deal with problems of democracy in the light of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

There is a major article on the construction of the metallurgical combine at Elbasan. This is an interview by Marilena Roseli, accompanied by photographs of this project which is one of the biggest of the 6th five-year plan.

Four pages of this issue are devoted to our export products. Amongst other things, two tables are published showing the increase of Albanian exports during the 1970-1975 period as well as their annual average increase during the period from 1965 to 1975 as compared with nine other European countries.

This issue also contains an article about a former officer of the Italian army who, like many others of his honest compatriots, joined the ranks of the «Antonio Gramsci» brigade during the years of the war. This detachment fought for the liberation of the territory of Albania from the foreign invaders shoulder to shoulder with our National Liberation Army.

The final pages are devoted to the Arbëreshi of Terra d'Otranto, as well as to a chronicle of news about the activity of the Italy-Albania Friendship Association.



ACTIVITIES OF PORTUGUESE FRIENDS

The Portugal-Albania Friendship Association does extensive work in acquainting the Portuguese workers with Albania. These three pictures show aspects from the meetings and various activities of the Association devoted to Albania.





AN EVENING DEDICATED TO GREEK POETRY

CHRONICLE



A two-year plan for cultural exchanges was signed between the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. The plan envisages exchanges in the field of science, culture, art, literature, sport etc.

WHAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW

● These two photographs (1 and 2) show aspects from the work of the pupils of the «22 Tetori» 8-year school, in the Berat district: in the biology laboratory at the school and in the fields of the agricultural cooperative. Under the guidance of their teacher, Hysen Mezini, the pupils have established a biological laboratory, with a wealth of specimens and teaching aids, in which they carry out their lessons.

● Photograph No. 3 was taken in the centre of Juba village of the Durrës district. Like many other villages of this district, it is being transformed from year to year—with new houses, educational, cultural, and health institutions.



The Albanian League of Writers and Artists and the Committee for Cultural and Friendly relations with the Foreign World organized an evening dedicated to Greek poetry in the club of the League of Writers and Artists, in Tirana.

Writers, artists, and various workers of art and culture of the capital took part. Also present were the Chairman of the Albanian League of Writers and Artists, Dritëro Agolli, the Chairman of the Albanian Committee for Cultural and Friendly relations with the Foreign World, Javer Malo, and the director of the fourth directorate of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Xhustin Papajorgji. The Greek poet Jani Manikas, with his wife, the

artist Meri Vojaxhi, and the poet Thanos Trangas attended the gathering.

At this gathering the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Greece to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Stathis Micopulos, and other functionaries of this Embassy were present.

The poet Llazar Siliqi spoke about contemporary and classical Greek poetry.

«From the most ancient times to the present day,» said the poet Llazar Siliqi among other things, «the finest poetry through the centuries, like all the progressive democratic culture of the talented Greek people, has always had

freedom as its aims. The folk and cultivated poetry of the Greek people has preserved and sung to the freedom-loving spirit.»

Llazar Siliqi went on to speak about the work which is done in our country for appreciation of the culture and art of the Greek people. He said that even before the liberation of Albania and the triumph of the people's revolution, but especially and mainly after it, the Albanian poets and scholars, basing themselves on the teachings of our Party of Labour and comrade Enver Hoxha about the dialectical Marxist-Leninist appreciation of world culture, have always valued the great traditions of the Greek people.

In the course of the evening dedicated to Greek poetry, the players of the People's Theatre recited poems from classical and contemporary Greek literature, as well as Naim Frashëri's poem «The true desire of the Albanians» in Albanian and Greek. Likewise fragments were recited from the poem, «Albania I Hail You» by Jani Manikas, which he had dedicated, as the poem says, to the «generous and brave Albanian people», while the poet, Thanos Trangas, recited his poem dedicated to our country, written during his stay in Albania. The artist Meri Vojaxhi recited the poem to the People's Heroine, Persefoni Kokëdhima, also written by J. Manikas.

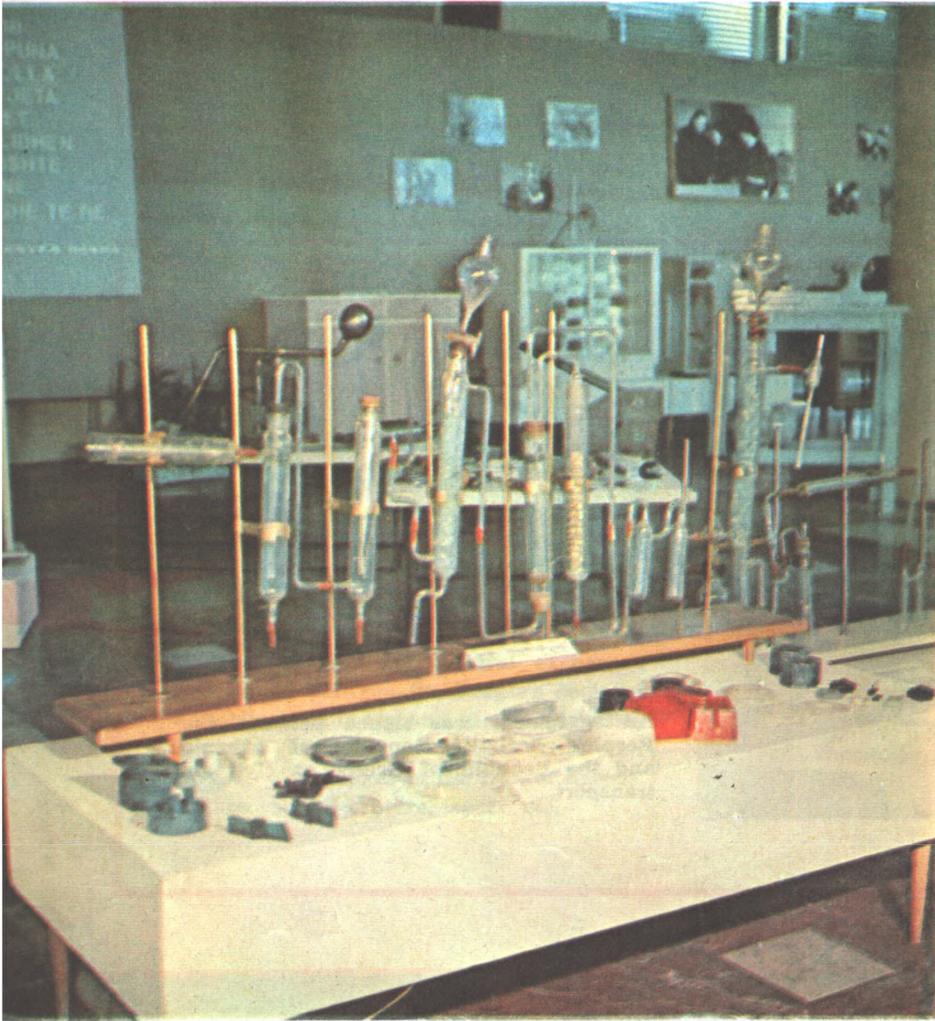
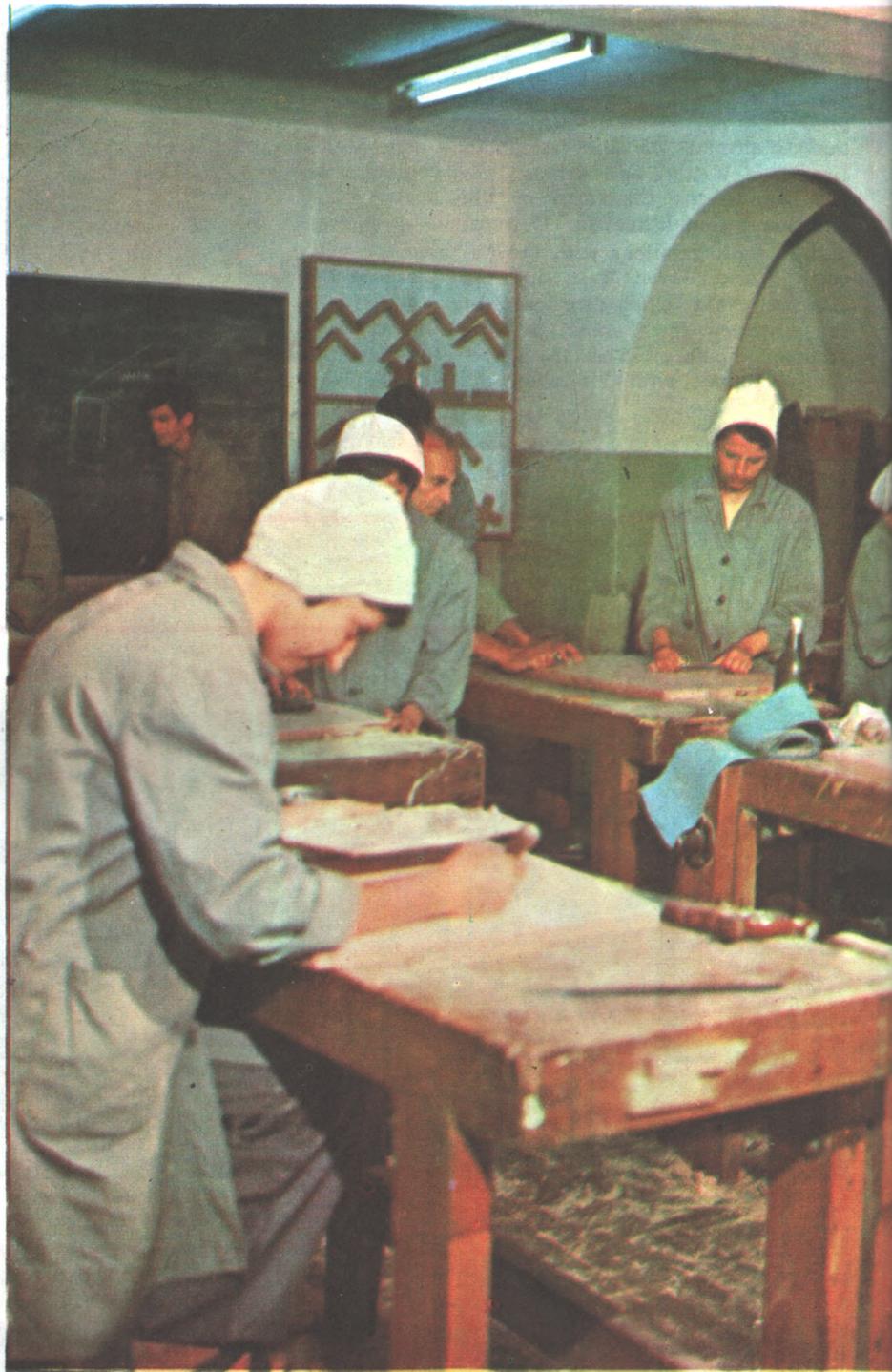


An agreement was signed between the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the Republic of Greece on civil air transport.



PRODUCTION WORK IN SCHOOLS

Eng. SEIT TAJAJ
Teacher in the «Qemal Stafa» General Secondary School.



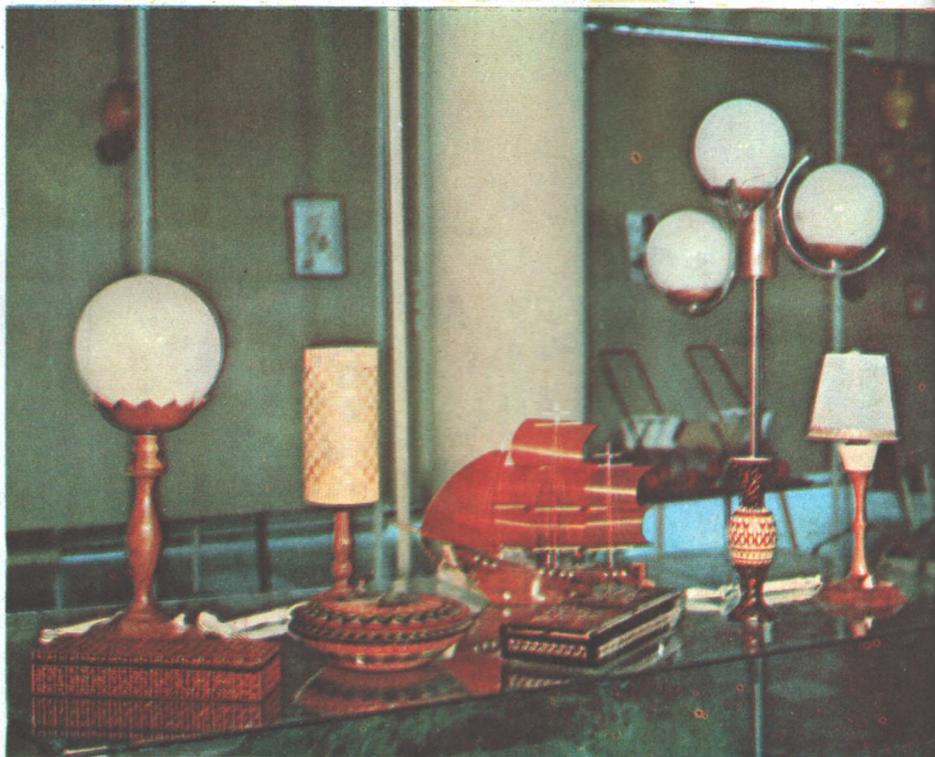
Our school is steadily consolidating its socialist features and revolutionary character. It is successfully putting into practice the new educational reform which has placed the Albanian school on the basis of the three components: lessons-productive labour-physical and military training.

In its efforts to carry out these tasks, our school is struggling to strengthen its work for the communist education of the students, to contribute to the reduction of the fundamental differences between physical and mental labour, to make the students familiar with socialist production and the technological application of the achievements of science in the field of production and to make them capable of defending the Homeland.

To attain this a multi-branched production base with a timber processing shop, an engineering shop, an electrical work-shop and a department for experiments in the field of chemistry has been established at our school. The pupils themselves make a great contribution to the setting up of these departments. There they carry out their productive labour, which is a component part of the communist education of the younger generation, because in this way lessons are combined with ideological, political, social and economic activity.

The linking of theory with practice in our school is done in the course of reinforcing the knowledge which the pupils have acquired earlier. On the other hand the process of learning is so arranged that the study of theory is carried on parallel with productive labour.

The linking of lessons with productive labour is not only an object of the polytechnical education, but also a component part of its content. During their productive labour, the pupils are set tasks by the teachers of scientific subjects and solve them directly in pro-





duction, with the help of the teachers of production who have come from the ranks of the working class.

The pupils learn to calculate the labour consumed during the processing of metal, and study the functioning of motors and other mechanisms. On the other hand while working with metal cutting machines the pupils acquire knowledge about the phenomena of heating during the cutting of the metals, about the temperatures at which the instrument is deformed, become acquainted with the crystalline structures of the metal and its changes during thermic and mechanical processing, knowledge which the pupils gain from chemistry. While working in the various departments of the repair shop, the pupils are taught to turn their hand to anything. In this way, by learning how to use their knowledge in concrete work, the pupils gain an understanding of how to apply it in every field of production.

Our school is a general secondary school. However when our pupils graduate, they have been trained not just to continue higher schooling, but are able to start work directly in production and find their feet quickly in any occupation, using new machines and applying advanced technology with confident hands.

The products which our pupils have turned out have not only served to raise the teaching level in our school but have been supplied to several schools of the capital, equipping them with chemistry laboratories, timber processing machines, chemical plants etc. Other details and objects have been produced in cooperation with the mass consumer goods enterprises.

The organized links with the working class and the peasantry have exerted a great influence in our achievements in the field of productive labour. Meetings with vanguard workers, brigade leaders in agriculture and heroes of Socialist Labour are frequently organized in which they tell the pupils of their experience in work.

1 Various products made by the students of the «Qemal Stafa» secondary school of general education.

2 Students working in the woodworking shop of the school

3 These are some of the electrical devices produced by the students of another school in the capital, the «Sami Frashëri» general secondary school.

4 The sector of glassware work at the «Qemal Stafa» general secondary school.

THE PROBLEM OF THE ORIGIN OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE AND OF THEIR LANGUAGE

Prof. EQREM ÇABEJ

When the problem of the origin of a people is raised, it will be examined and solved more readily from the aspect of the perseveration and continuity of its language than from the ethnic viewpoint, because language, more than other elements, is the characteristic which distinguishes one people from the others. However for any people of any country or period, such a problem is complex and in the Albanian conditions it is especially complicated. It is complex because, as we know, in the formation of a people as an independent entity with its individual features which distinguish it from other peoples, various circumstances of a geographic nature and multiple historical ethnical, economical, cultural and linguistic processes, play a part. It is complicated because in this field of Albanian Studies the lack of historical sources and documents is keenly felt. However, despite this poverty of sources, with the constant care of the Party of Labour of Albania and comrade Enver Hoxha, the new Albanian science is striving to get to the solution of this problem with the means at its disposal. And in this field it has achieved lasting results which have taken their place in the field of international science. Because of the complex nature of the problem the method to be applied must also be complex. A number of scientific disciplines must collaborate on it. In particular historical geography, history, linguistics, ethnography and prehistoric archaeology are involved in this. The results in any one of these fields should be taken into account and duly appreciated by the other disciplines, should be combined with their results so that wide range of facts can be gathered together into a few general principles, into a few more reliable facts, in order to arrive at some sort of synthesis.

The Albanians are autochthonous or native to the Balkan Peninsula since they have been living there since early prehistoric times. Together with the Greeks, they are the most ancient people in this region; they are heirs to the ethnical situation of the period of antiquity in this part of Southeastern Europe. Under these circumstances, the question as to where the Albanian people originated can be put in other words: Under what name were the forefathers of the Albanians, that people which has spoken the language from which the present Albanian is derived, known in the Balkans in ancient times? Hence, from which ancient people of this Peninsula do the present Albanians descend?

During the last century the hypothesis was very widespread that the Albanians were the descendants of the Pellasgians. This hypothesis or theory, founded by foreign scholars, was reechoed far and wide among the Albanian poets and writers in Albania and Italy. It found fertile soil in the ideas of romanticism which spread later in Southeastern Europe, at a time when other literary trends had emerged in the West. Subsequently the Pellasgian theory was refuted. In Greek and Roman documents, the Pellasgians are mentioned as a pre-Greek ethnical stratum no longer in existence during the ancient period. Authors like Herodotus and Strabo speak of them as of a more ancient period and describe them as barbarians, that is, not Greeks, and having a language different from the Greek language. They place them in the zone of the Aegean Sea, principally in Thessaly spreading on one side towards Epirus and on the other side towards Asia Minor, towards Crete and other islands of the Aegean zone. Meanwhile, they are presented everywhere as a legendary people, shrouded in the mists of mythology, a people without concrete historical consistency. Although in later periods there has been some acceptance of their connection with the Illyrians and Thracians, it must be said that such ethnic and linguistic element as may, with considerable reserve, be called Pellasgian, for many reasons, including those of a geographical character, is in no way sufficient to provide any scientific basis for accepting a Pellasgian origin of the Albanian people.

Proceeding from a more realistic basis, in order to clear up the problem of the origin of the Albanians, we shall turn, first of all, to history as the continuation of the prehistoric situation in the Balkan Peninsula. In the period of antiquity, this part of Southern Europe was inhabited by a number of peoples, different from the present ones and differing from one another. It is known that the

western regions of the Peninsula were inhabited by the Illyrians, the eastern regions by the Thracians, the southern regions by the Greeks, and the centre by the Macedonians, who were different from the Greeks and spoke a language of their own, according to Herodotus a «barbarian language», that is, not Greek. Leaving aside some minor populations, like the Iranian tribes in the eastern part of the Peninsula and certain Celtic tribes in the northwestern and central regions, this was the ethnic situation during the Greco-Roman epoch. Hence the question arises: from which of these peoples do the Albanians descend, from which of these languages does the Albanian language descend? In this problem, the Greeks, or the Hellenes as they were called at that time, are automatically excluded as a different people from the Albanians. Likewise excluded are the ancient Macedonians, as a relatively small people and geographically more remote from the Albanian language region, although, because of the territorial affinity, some links cannot be completely denied. Under these circumstances, there are two peoples, the Illyrians and Thracians, who can be considered as the ancestors of the Albanians.

The Illyrians were one of the major peoples of ancient Europe. Leaving aside their distribution in prehistoric times, during the historical period they extended from Istria near Trieste in the northwest and from the regions near the banks of the Danube in the north, to the Gulf of Arta in Çamëria in the south to a city which at that time, was called Ambria. Thus, the Illyrian tribes inhabited the present regions of Albania together with Çamëria, Montenegro, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Dalmatia and Croatia, hence, all the eastern seaboard of the Adriatic with its respective hinterland. The Messapians and Iapygians of Apulia in Southern Italy are, by all indications, Illyrian tribes as well. In the east the Illyrian tribes extended up to the banks of the Vardar and Morava rivers in Northern Macedonia, to Kosova, a region which in ancient times was called Dardania, and to a part of present Serbia. In those regions the Illyrians bordered the Thracian tribes and here and there were mixed with them. The Thracians, too, were one of the major peoples of ancient Europe. Herodotus calls them the greatest people next to the Indes. They extended from the borders of the Illyrians in the west up to the shores of the Black Sea in the east, from the Aegean in the south to the Carpathian mountains in the north. Thus they included part of present-day Greece and European Turkey, Bulgaria, Rumania and part of Hungary and Poland. Because of the lack of source material, mentioned above, we are able to discover very little about the fate of these peoples and their component tribes, and the further back we probe into antiquity the more this obscurity deepens. We know, for instance that the concept and name Illyrian came and was spread only after some time, emerging from a population of this name and including tribes with ethnic and linguistic affinity. In Homer's epics this name does not appear. The names of individual peoples, like those of the Dardanians and the Peonians, who in historical times lived to the north of the Macedonians, appear on the historical scene much earlier than the general name, Illyrians. It is known, also, that under the influence of the Greco-Roman civilization and, especially, during the long period of the domination of the Roman Empire, these ancient peoples of the Balkans were eventually partly hellenized and many of them romanized. In other words, without being wiped out as peoples, they were assimilated, gave up their own language and in some regions adopted the Greek language and even more of them, the Latin language. This took place especially in cities, in administrative and military centres where the Romans had established their garrisons. However in mountain regions this assimilation was not carried out completely. The local population preserved its ethnic character and mother tongue for a longer time. Some of these peoples entirely escaped romanization. Living evidence of this is the Albanian people, who must be the descendant of one of these unromanized peoples or tribes.

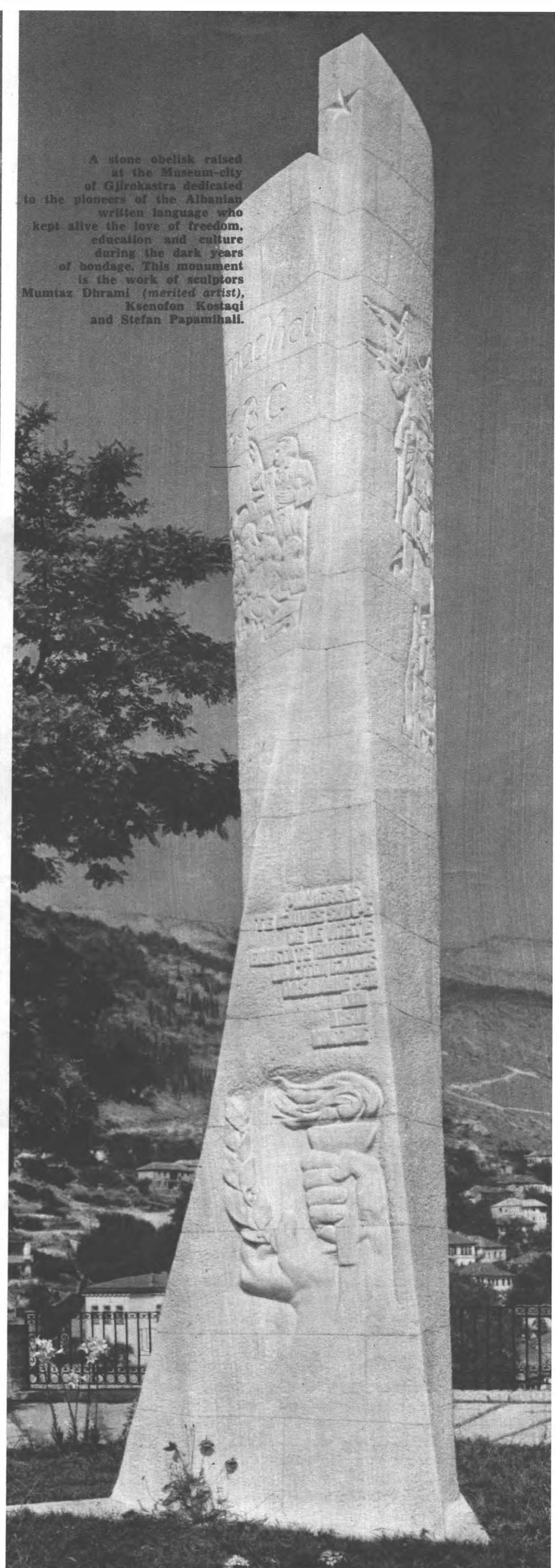
The question of the paternity or line of descent of a present-day people from an ancient people, of a known modern language from an

extinct ancient language, is quite simple when we have relatively accurate knowledge of the ancient people and their language. But, as we have said, in connection with the Albanians and the Albanian language this problem remains specially difficult. Because of the lack of written documents, the ancient languages of the Balkans are little known or entirely unknown. From the language of the Thracians there are a few inscriptions, from the language of the Illyrians of the Balkans up till now not a single inscription has been found. The inscriptions of the Messapians of Southern Italy can be read but up till now the interpretation of them remains uncertain. From both these languages, Illyrian and Thracian, certain so-called glosses remain, that is, few words quoted by Greek and Roman authors, together with their meanings, given in Greek and Latin. There are also quite a large number of names of places and persons engraved on stone or quoted in texts by classical authors, the majority of them of unclear linguistic significance and meaning, among which modern scholars have found a free field for what are often arbitrary judgements. Thus the two languages in question remain almost unknown by us. We do not know their linguistic structure, grammatical system, or their vocabulary. Under these circumstances the means for comparison are missing. We lack the key to compare the material of the Albanian language with that of the two languages in question.

This being the case, the criterion of the language must be considered together with the geographical and historical situation. From the standpoint of historical geography it is known that the present Albanians inhabit those regions where the Illyrian tribes used to live in ancient times. From the historical point of view, it has been rightly pointed out, as far back as two centuries ago, that there is no fact, no historical reference, to show that the Albanians come from somewhere else, that they settled on this territory at a given historical period, for instance, towards the end of antiquity or during the early mediaeval period. Under these circumstances, common sense urges acceptance of the idea that the Albanian people is native, autochthonous, in these regions, if not as far back as the dawn of prehistoric times, at least since the period of antiquity. These two reasons, that of their inhabiting the former Illyrian territory and that of autochthony, automatically give rise to the idea that the present Albanians are the descendants of the Illyrian tribes of the south and that the Albanian language is the continuation of one of the ancient Illyrian dialects. Indeed it can be said that the burden of the argument falls more heavily on those who deny the Illyrian origin of the Albanians and of their language rather than on those who accept it. In this connection, it cannot be accidental that the name of the Illyrian tribe, the Albanoi, which the astronomer and geographer Ptolemy of Alexandria in Egypt, mentions during the second century of our era in the region between Durrës and the Candavia mountains in Central Albania continues to exist in the form of Arbër, Arbën, Arbëresh, Arbënes, the name by which Albania and the Albanians were known in the Middle Ages, is alive to this day. From the linguistic viewpoint, to these circumstances must be added the fact that the continuity of the names of cities, mountains and rivers of the Albanian territory of the ancient days in their present forms has developed in conformity with the phonetic rules of the Albanian language. These include such comparisons as Scardus — Shar, Scodra — Shkodra, Drivastum — Drihtë, Pirustae — Qafa e Prushit, Lissu — Lesh, Isammus — Ishëm, Ishm, Dyrrachium — Durrës, Aulon — Vlonë, Vlorë, Thyamis — Çam and others. This also is evidence of the Illyrian autochthony of the Albanian people, because this development from the ancient forms of these names to the present forms cannot be explained except by means of the Albanian language. It cannot be explained either by means of the Roman or Slav languages or by any other language of the Balkan region. There are also other data from the field of linguistics of the Illyrian continuity, such as the identity between a number of names of early Illyrians and present-day Albanians. Apart from this, those few words which are known from the Illyrian language can be clearly explained by the Albanian language. And many words in Messapian inscriptions can be explained by our language. In this way, the date of historical geography and of the language supplement each other. There are also a number of parallels of an ethnographic character which we shall not go into here. From the field of archaeology it is worth mentioning that in certain prehistoric settlements on the Albanian territory a continuity of the material culture can be seen, a continuity from ancient epochs to the early mediaeval period. This fact adds weight to the geographical, historical and linguistic arguments already mentioned.

As regards the Thracians and their language, on the evidence of certain historical and linguistic data (place names with Thracian features), the presence of Thracian elements in the northwestern part of the Balkan Peninsula and especially along the southern Adriatic coastal regions was pointed out long ago. They must have long been mixed with Illyrian elements, but we are unable to tell from the Illyrians and the Thracians who were natives and who newcomers. In conclusion, for historical reasons also, one can say that the Illyrian element lies at the basis of the formation of the Albanian ethnos, although there may have been a Thracian component also, but certainly of smaller dimensions. At the present stage of knowledge it is difficult to determine how the process of this ethnic and linguistic formation took place and in what territorial and historical circumstances it took place. The result of the process, which is the Albanian people and their language, can be seen more clearly than the course of development which was traversed until the present situation was brought about.

A stone obelisk raised at the Museum-city of Gjirokastra dedicated to the pioneers of the Albanian written language who kept alive the love of freedom, education and culture during the dark years of bondage. This monument is the work of sculptors Mumtaz Dhrami (merited artist), Ksenofon Kostaqi and Stefan Papamihali.





One of the weaving rooms at the Textile Mills in Berat

ALBANIAN TEXTILES

Albania has a developed textile industry. It has been set up entirely during the years of our People's State Power and is represented by two textile combines, one in Tirana and the other in Berat, and by one knitwear combine and several factories in Korça, Gjirokastra, Pogradec and other towns. Today our textile industry meets all the needs of the country for various cotton fabrics, for woollen and mixed cloth, for various cotton, synthetic, and mixed cloth, for various kinds of linings, for silk fabrics, for woollen and cotton blankets and so on. It turns out all kinds of

knitted goods as well as thread for sewing and embroidery.

Albanian textile products are also in demand in foreign markets. Today Albania exports various cloths, fabrics, knitted goods, etc., to many countries of the world, dealing with many firms. Albanian textiles and knitted goods go to the People's Republic of China, Italy, Cuba, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria and other countries.

Ready-made clothes are exported to many countries, including France, Cuba, Hungary, Rumania and others. Goods made of poplin,

calico, duck, denim as well as corduroy products, which are highly prized both for their strength as well as their colours, occupy an important place among these.

Because of their high quality, Albanian textiles and ready-made clothing command ever increasing interest abroad. The various fabrics are of pure cotton in attractive designs and stable colours. The woollen and cotton blankets stand out for their fine weaving, softness and warm and fast colours in various patterns. The knitted goods are very strong in pleasant colours and various designs, and are very resistant to wear and tear.



ON THAT MARKET DAY

NAUM PRIFTI

Teki looked at his comrade who had just entered the room and from the expression on his face guessed that his mission had failed. Nevertheless, to be more certain he asked him:

«Well, Zhani, how did you get on?»

«Nothing doing in that direction either», said Zhani shaking his head. «They have shifted sergeant Merzo from the guard post. I've just come from his home. According to what Mrs Merzo told me they have removed all the Albanians from the check points and the blackshirts have taken over those duties.»

They had had great hopes of getting the aid they had gathered for the partisans out of the city by this method and when the scheme collapsed a lively debate took place in the room.

«We can't wait any longer», said Teki, «If we can't do this job today, market day, we've no hope that our chances will be better on other days.»

«Maybe comrade Spiro will help us find some way out.»

«Comrade Spiro will have every right to criticise us heavily because we undertook this job and up to now we've done almost nothing» said Teki, in an unexpectedly stern tone.

«The situation...» said Zhani, «All sorts of things happen in wartime.»

The two comrades stood facing each other on either side of the window. The morning sun of a July day was pouring beams of light in past the edges of the net curtain.

«I think we're in for a hot day» said Teki pulling back the curtain with his finger and looking out at the cobblestone street.

Zhani understood that Teki had spoken only to change the subject of that discussion which had gone on and on. He crushed out his cigarette butt in the ash tray, puffing out a cloud of smoke, and sighed gently.

The wheels of Uncle Shamet's rubbish cart creaked over the cobblestones. He would stop at the gates and ring his bell so the housewives would know he was there. But it was not necessary to call them because at that hour the city was very quiet on account of the curfew and the people could hear the clip-clop of the horse's hoofs, the rattle of the wheels over the cobblestones, the cheerful ringing of the bell and Uncle Shamet's cough, from far away.

«The curfew's over» said Teki, as though a burden had been lifted from him.

«It was bound to end eventually but what are we to do?»

«Just what I said, divide the things up among the peasants who come down to the market and let them to take them where they are supposed to go.»

«I do not agree», said Zhani. «We had a hard time collecting these things and now you want to split them up again.»

«We are not splitting them up but trying to get them out of the city without the patrols detecting them.»

«I do not agree» said Zhani and the conversation was back again to where it had been before.

The two activists looked at each other.

There was a knock at the door and in came the housewife.

«But you haven't slept at all!» she said surprised when she saw the bed undisturbed. She cast a kindly glance at the two young men and read their frustration in their eyes. She was used to their secret meetings but whenever she saw them tired and out of humour she would say to herself, «Who knows what's worrying them now. One slip and they've done for the poor boys!»

«Let us open the window a bit!» she said feeling the revulsion of all non-smokers at the stale, smoke-laden air. «You go into the other room.»

Teki and Zhani entered the other room where the aid for the partisan battalion was gathered. There was a big pile of jackets, pullovers, socks, scarves, trousers and shirts stacked one on top of the other. These were the things that the two activists had been discussing. At other times they had smuggled such things out in various ways, often passing the guard post with the help of Merzo, a sergeant whose brother was a partisan and who had placed himself at the service of the movement. Last week, however, the situation had become much more difficult. Eversince major Bertolini, of the Security force, and two of his militiamen had been killed the control had become much stricter at all points. The Albanians had been removed from all guard posts and trusted fascists had been stationed in them. City patrols, searches of houses and citizens were stepped up. Bursting with rage and spite over the killing of their associate, the Security forces and the army were taking severe measures. Every load entering or leaving the city by cart or pack horse, the saddlebags and even the sacks and bundles which the peasants carried, were thoroughly searched.

The bell of Uncle Shamet's cart rang outside the gate.

«What if we use Uncle Shamet's cart?» suggested Zhani and his eyes sparkled with inspiration.

«I have thought of that too, but it's no use» replied Teki. «The garbage is dumped beside the stream while the guard post is further on. If Uncle Shamet attempted to go further out, first it would arouse

suspicion about why he was acting differently from other times, and second, they might check what he had in his cart and then all this stuff would be lost...»

«It's a damned shame to leave it all here.» said Zhani holding up a roll-neck wollen pullover from the pile.

«Don't worry comrade Zhani, we'll get it out!»

«By distributing it among the peasants who come to the market...» said Zhani, scornfully.

«And why not?»

«Because not even a quarter of it would reach its destination. We have been toiling for a month under the noses of the fascists and the militia and you know what was in store for us if they had caught us. While now you want us to toss away all the work we have done by turning these things over to the peasants who have come to town for their own needs and their own problems.»

«Why, do you think they will keep them for themselves?»

«Of course they will! Why do you think they have come to market? To buy some bits of clothing because winter is approaching. Haven't you seen what goes on on Saturdays, comrade Teki? It's barter day — take 20 kilos of maize and give me a jacket! 'If I give you 30 kilos of apples will you give me that coat?': I have seen them myself, with my own eyes», said Zhani.

«It is one thing when it comes to buying, but when you tell them they will be helping the partisans it is another. They couldn't keep it.»

«Get away with you. The peasant by his very nature is a materialist, a petty-bourgeois.»

«Are you starting to theorise...»

«He hasn't got a developed class sense like a proletarian», continued Zhani.

«Man, how are we to get these things out?» cut in Teki, and his voice and the way he pronounced the word «man» betrayed his origin as a peasant who had grown up in the city.

Zhani held up a striped woollen jacket: «When a thing of this kind, which he has hankered for so long, falls into his hands why will he take it to Lavdar, to the partisans' quartermaster? How can we be sure that instead of going to the partisans, the peasant with this jacket on his shoulder, will not go the security office and tell them: «take it for it was given to me by a certain person at a certain place to take to the partisans»

«Do you think everybody is a crook?»

«Of course, here are honest folk, too, but be realistic, Teki!» he said in a friendly tone, «not even a

PROSPECTORS

quarter of this stuff would get to the partisans. This is fraught with risks.»

«Of course, we might lose something» admitted Teki «but despite that we will manage to get some of it out. But I'm not worried so much about that as about something else. This situation may go on a long time and we have to find a permanent solution»

«What you propose is a foolhardy venture. Call in some unknown peasants, hand them the goods and let them get them out the best way they can.»

«It's a venture all right, but a worthwhile one. We'll take the things to the Zalli Inn. The peasants will come there, each will take something, put it on and go his way. Let the Italians at the check-points search them to their hearts' content»

A special knock was heard at the gate. Zhani said:

«This must be Spiro.»

Spiro was a member of the Regional Committee. Dressed as a plumber with a bag of tools on his shoulder and wearing a peaked cap he told the housewife, as soon as she opened the door:

«I came to repair the pump on your well.»

She recognized the password and ushered him into the room.

«How are things going?» he asked taking off the cap, which had left a clearly visible line across his forehead and round his head.

Zhani summed up the situation in two words:

«Spiro, we're stuck and don't know what to do». Although Spiro was a member of the Regional Committee no one addressed him as comrade Spiro as was usual at that time. Apparently this was due to his friendly manner and that great modesty in his behaviour which long years as a factory worker had cultivated in him.

They told him briefly how they were bogged down at this point and of the debate they had had.

«Have you any other variant?» he asked frowning.

«No!»

Spiro thought that the greatest responsibility for whether this operation came off successfully or failed would certainly fall on him.

«Tell me comrade, who is it keeps the partisans out there in food?»

«That's what I say, too» put in Teki who up till then had hesitated to take part in the discussion, «We should have more faith in the people.»

«That's it.» Spiro continued, «The countryside is the base of our National-liberation War which is led by the party of the working class. Nevertheless, Zhani is right in one important point, namely that the enemy too have their own men in

the countryside. They are the spies, the Balli adherents and others. We should keep our eyes wide open. We have comrades who know the peasants and the enemy.»

They took a hand cart, loaded the goods into it and took them to the Zalli Inn. The plumber went to the marketplace and having found a member of the National-liberation Council from Lavdar whispered into his ear: «Who side with us are to come to Zalli Inn one by one for some business of the Party.»

After a while the peasants began to trickle into a room of the inn and Zhani Tabaku and Teki Fusha handed over the goods. As a business-like man and out of curiosity as to how many would be lost Zhani quickly made a list of them. That day he would be going to Lavdar, which was one of the principal bases of the region, and there he would verify how many of the goods reached their destination.

A tow-headed peasant with thin lips, sharp teeth and small shifty eyes came in. His lot included that striped jacket. He held it up, turned it front and back as if he were buying it, and having put it on looked at himself in a mirror hanging on the wall.

«Does it suit me?» he asked with a wink. Zhani and Teki exchanged a knowing glance.»

«Fine!» said Zhani. «Take it and good luck!».

«Then, so long!» he said and saluting them with his hand, stepped outside, his face beaming.

«Don't expect to see him again,» said Teki. «But after all, as you saw, he didn't even have a jacket for himself, poor fellow...».

Zhani was still thinking about Spiro's words «Of course we'll have losses...»

Within an hour the goods were distributed and Zhani Tabaku set out on a mule for Lavdar. Before they parted Teki Fusha asked him:

«If you can, send me a note so I can report to the Regional Committee. But be sure you tell me the truth,»

Three days later he received a small slip of paper in Zhani's small neat handwriting.

«Fantastic! All the things arrived within two days, not a single thing missing. I counted them several times and they are over and above the original number. I can't tell how this came about, perhaps we did not record them... I don't know what to say.»

«It's clear enough to me», said Teki to himself. Some peasant besides carrying out his instructions, has thrown in his own jacket as aid to the partisans.»

He folded the paper, stuck it inside his shirt and set out to look for Spiro at one of the bases of the Party.

Members of one of the geological expeditions which have built camps in the mountains ranges east of Tirana. Especially during the summer such temporary prospecting centres of the geological workers spring up all over Albania. They discover the great mineral wealth hidden in the bosom of the earth. With their tireless work the geological workers are blazing the trail ever more clearly for industrial development, especially for the development of the mining and metallurgical industries. The results of their work are the new copper, chromium, iron-nickel, coal and other mines, which have been added to the socialist economy year by year.



TWO THOUSAND SPECIES OF PLANTS

A view of the botanical gardens of the University of Tirana, an important scientific, teaching and cultural centre. It was established 10 years ago and now possesses 2,000 species of plants mainly of the Albanian flora.

New plants of economic value have been produced in this botanical garden. After being studied from the bio-ecological aspect, these plants are recommended to the respective sectors for application. It serves also as a live plant laboratory where the students of biology, agronomy, forestry and the pupils of various categories of schools become acquainted with the very rich flora of our country.



HERITAGE OF ALBANIAN FOLK CULTURE

PELLUMB KARKANAQE



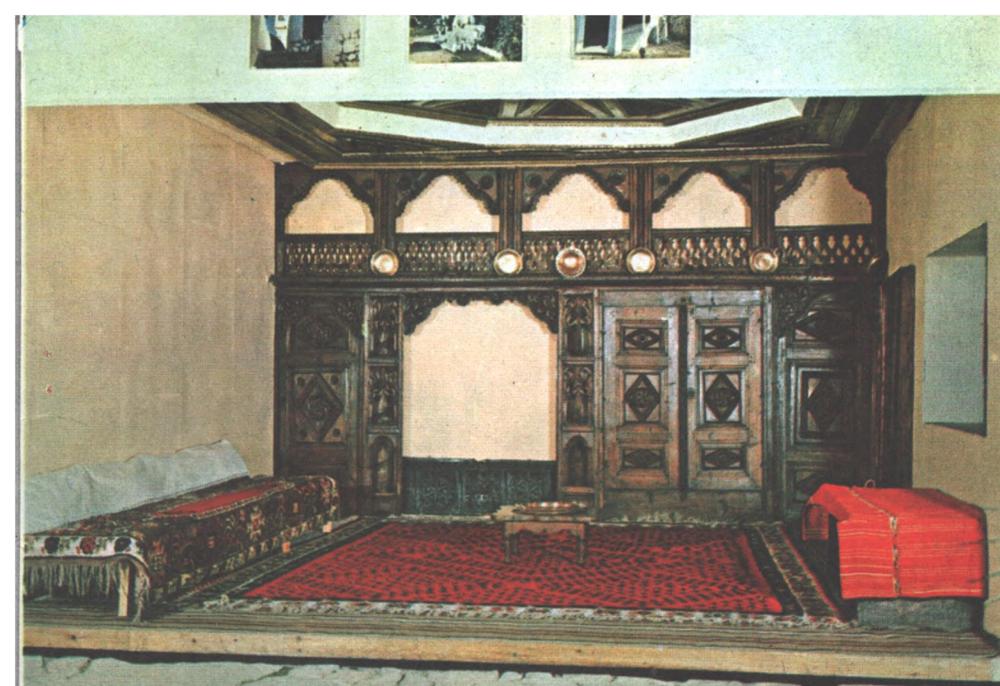
Within a short period the Ethnographic Exhibition which was opened in the Capital became known to tens of thousands of visitors of various ages and walks of life from all over the country. Although not of very large dimensions and with materials restricted to the limits of an exhibition, it gives a reflection of the rich cultural heritage of our people, of Albanian ethnography.

In order to reach this point, a great deal of persistent work has been required of our workers in ethnography. From the past our country inherited no ethnographic institution, no specialized cadres, no ethnographic museum or exhibition, no fund or basis of materials for such work. Our new institutions emerged as small nuclei of scientific work, without experience of the tradition of an organized work, and thus they began their activity, starting from the beginning.

The sector of ethnography, set up in 1947, planned the urgent collection of ethnographic materials throughout the whole territory of the Republic, especially where they were in danger of disappearing. For this purpose many expeditions to gather information and materials were organized. Albanian ethnographers went all over the country collecting documentary material of our national culture, enriching the ethnographic fund in order to create a reliable foundation for scientific work.

Today, great wealth of materials has been collected and systematized at the Ethnographic Sector of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and this provides the basis for further ethnographic studies according to their nature. The ethnogra-





Views of the Ethnographic Exhibition in Tirana. Photo by N. Baba

phic funds have been divided into a number of groups: objects of material culture, ethnographic archives, the systematized collections of photographs and drawings, the card index and a library. The fund of material culture contains more than 16,000 items, that of photos and sketches, 14,300 maps, plans, sketches, water-colours, paintings and others, and a library with nearly 200 different volumes of Albanian and general ethnography.

In 1948 the Ethnographic sector opened the first Ethnographic Museum in our country, exhibiting new materials, and each time rising to a higher level in regard to both the scientific treatment of their content and their aesthetic presentation. Today we have museums of this kind in the Shkodra, Kruja, Durrës, Elbasan, Korça, Berat, Fier, Vlora and Gjirokastra districts too. There are also a number of minor museums for teaching purposes, house museums and museum corners which have been opened in the most remote regions.

Our country has been represented with ethnographic materials in a number of exhibitions and displays in many countries of the world, such as in the People's Republic of China, Britain, France, West Germany, Austria, Cyprus, Sri Lanka, etc.

But the ethnographic activity in Albania extends beyond the collection, preservation and systematization of materials to scientific study of them.

For the workers in ethnographic science, acquaintance with and adoption of the Marxist-Leninist methodology and the materialist interpretation of the social phenomena of the people has been an important step in the

fields of ethnographic studies. A number of scientific studies of various themes have been conducted in the field of Albanian ethnography on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist methodology.

In these scientific works, the traditions of our national culture have not been treated as lifeless material, as a closed chapter of our people's activity, or a heritage of value only for history and museums, but as an activity full of vitality which is developing and mounting to new heights parallel with our economic and social development. Scientific workers from various fields of activity are engaged at present in the elaboration of the traditions of the people, developing and raising them to a higher level. In their activity, our architects are striving to put into practice the forms of our national architecture, stylizing them and developing them further, our craftsmen preserve the old forms and motifs in their products, and artists of the various genres are making efforts for the preservation and further development of the artistic traditions of our people.

All these successes were made possible thanks to the constant interest and all-round aid of the people's power in the direction of scientific activity for the discovering, collection, systematization and study of the material and cultural heritage of our people. Everything positive and progressive which the former generations have created has been or is being brought to light, has become or is becoming the property of the people in order to preserve it. This serves as a major mobilizing force in the struggle to build the new life and culture in our country.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LOUIS SOUSA — Portugal

I am a Portuguese student and a regular reader of your magazine «New Albania».

I like your magazine very much and through it I follow with great interest the difficult but splendid struggle of the Albanian people which is led by the Party of Labour of Albania for strengthening Albania as the bastion of socialism in Europe.

Your successes in all directions are the best proof of the superiority of the socialist system over the old, decayed capitalist system, and are, at the same time, an encouragement to all the peoples who are fighting to liberate themselves from any kind of capitalist and imperialist oppression.

If it is possible I would like to receive the Bulletin of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency — ATA.

M.&Mme DONZEAUD SEAN — France

We were delighted to receive the marvellous album on «Albanian Folk Art», the pamphlet «General Information on Albania», and your letter accompanying them.

This is a proof of your friendship which we appreciate very deeply. We are most grateful and thank you sincerely. This album in colour about a rich and brilliant reality presents all the aspects of the artistic heritage of the Albanian people in a very clear way.

The characteristic scenes of Albania of the past and of the present which supplement what is presented, testify to the care shown by the editors in preparing this ethnographic album.

Please convey to them our heartfelt congratulations.

This album reminds us of our friendly visit to the Ethnographic Museum in Tirana, and many other things which we shall never forget.

For us the «New Albania» magazine is a very valuable communication.

The pamphlet «General Information on Albania», published as a supplement to your magazine, is brilliant for it enables one to take a quick look at Albania in all its aspects, from its geography to its exports. It is a concentrated, overall view very useful to all foreign readers.

RABLI KADA — Algeria

I read the «New Albania» magazine which I like very much both as to its content and to its presentation. Through it I am learning many interesting things about the successes which the Albanian people have achieved in the construction of socialism.

I am a worker of the Algerian trade unions and my job means that I live among workers. Therefore I am interested to learn more about the role which the workers in your country play in political, social and cultural life.

Please send me materials in this direction. Perhaps in the future it may be possible for me to visit Albania.

WOODLAND JACKSON — USA

I have received a number of copies of the «New Albania» magazine and I send you my sincere congratulation on this beautiful publication dedicated to the cause of socialism. I plan to study in the field of history and geography. I like your materials on the glorious past of your people published in the «New Albania» magazine. I would like to know more about the history of Albania and I am interested in receiving materials in this field. Would it be possible for you to send me a large-scale map? I also collect flags of different countries. Could you send me a flag of Albania?

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FRONT COVER: Lefteri Xhavera, distinguished worker at the designing sector of the glass factory in Tirana.

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At the «Qemal Stafa» Stadium in the capital. Photo by P. Kumi

FOOTBALL A SPORT OF THE MASSES

AHMET SHQARRI

The twelve best first division teams in the country took part this year at the football Championship.

This season the championship was held in three phases. In the first and second phases, the 12 participating teams played two matches with each of the other teams on a home and away basis. At the end of these two phases the 6 teams which had won the most points formed group «A» which would contest the title of champion. The aim in this was to raise the qualitative level of matches between the strongest teams. The other six teams formed group «B». They played a series of matches in order to decide their positions in the general classification table for their group.

The fast, collective play and good training in the three components (physical, technical and tactical) were some of the outstanding features of the 31st National Football Championship. The «Dinamo» team of Tirana demonstrated these qualities best and won the title of champion of the country for third season in

succession. The «Dinamo» team has won this title 12 times. What strikes the eye most in the champion team is its attacking play as one of the principal requirements of modern football. Together with the Dinamo team, the «Skanderbeg» team of the city of Korça remained one of the main contenders for the title of champion, right to the end. The players of this team were outstanding for their collective play and rapid, rational actions, which often took their opponents by surprise. With these qualities the Korça team well deserved the second place it won in the final classification. The «Vllaznia» team from the city of Shkodra, which earned third place, showed up well especially in regard to the clear tactical structure of its play. The well-known Tirana teams, «Partisan» and «17 Nëntori», also played well, both within the country and abroad.

In addition to the 12 teams which play in the first division 16 other teams play in the second, and 15 in the third division. Thousands of school children, workers and cooperative farmers have formed hundreds of football teams

which play popular matches in local championships. The matches between these teams too, are followed with great interest by the working masses. The strongest teams which emerge from these contests are then entered in the national championship of the 3rd division. It is this broad mass movement which has made it possible for a number of teams from work centres such as those of Selenica, Ballsh, Patos, Memaliaj, the Metallurgical Complex at Elbasan or of the agricultural cooperatives of Narta, Progonat, etc., to take part in contest on a national scale.

An ever greater number of talented young players are taking part in this wide range of teams and activities. For the development of football stadiums have been built in nearly all cities. Thus, in addition to Tirana which has two big stadiums, Korça, Durrës, Shkodra, Elbasan, Vlora, Gjirokastra, Lushnja and other towns have also their own stadiums. Thousands of playing fields have been established by the youth at work centres, schools and agricultural cooperatives.

