



**NEW ALBANIA 1
1978**



COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AMIDST PIONEERS



On the occasion of the New Year 1978, five hundred pioneers came to Tirana from all the districts of the Republic and met their most beloved teacher and educator, comrade Enver Hoxha. Comrade Enver, together with other Party and State leaders spent an unforgettable evening with them. On this occasion he talked to the pioneers about the care which the PLA and the people's state-power show for the up-bringing and education of the younger generation.

Among other things, comrade Enver Hoxha said: «You have all gathered here this evening to celebrate the New Year. You have come from all over Albania and that is a very fine thing. Just as our entire people are united to a man around the Party, here tonight too, we are like a big family. We representatives of the Party, are very happy to have hundreds of pioneers gathered around us here this evening. In greeting you, my comrades and I greet all the Albanian youth and the Albanian people, inside and outside of the country, wherever they live, and on this occasion we wish them a joyous and happy year and may the love in their hearts, in the heart of every Albanian for our beloved socialist Homeland, increase.

We also greet all the pioneers of the world, as well as all our communist comrades who are fighting throughout the world for a happy life in their countries too, because theirs is a difficult life, which cannot be compared with the happy life which our people, our pioneers enjoy. Our hearts beat in unison with the hearts of all the revolutionaries and pioneers of the continents of the world who hope and are fighting to emerge into the sunlight, too, as our people, our youth and pioneers did.»

A COLLECTIVE OF CREATORS

NADIDE REÇI

NTE stands for the Electro-Technical Enterprise. We see this brand on many articles of daily use which have become part and parcel of our lives.

It is 10 years since the Electro-Technical Enterprise was set up in Tirana. It commenced its life like many other enterprises in our country, with two departments, a small number of workers, and a few simple products.

With the passing of the years, the enterprise has grown, and now it has undertaken an important task: to supply the consumers with a large number of electrotechnical appliances, which, just a few years ago were imported.

One example which indicates the level of mechanization and the increase in productivity is the fact that, whereas the labour force has increased 1.5 fold, the range of new appliances produced has increased 12 times over, during the same period. Among these are incandescent and fluorescent lamps, domestic electrical appliances, spare parts for motor vehicles etc. Production of such things as electric bells, 5-8 and 12 volt transformers, magnetic cut-outs etc., has extended greatly in the past two years.

There are innovators working in every department. Through their study and research work they have succeeded in building a series of machines which have automated the work processes in the department and now they have begun the serial production of electrical spare parts for motor-vehicles.

The NTE is an enterprise where women predominate: they may be found not only at the machines but also in the leading positions in workshops and brigades. Due to the care that usually characterizes women, the quality of the products has improved and their aesthetic appearance is very good. This has made it possible to offer these products to the foreign firms.

In the near future, NTE will become known to customers abroad. Besides this, production of many important new products is envisaged during the years of the 6th Five-year Plan.

This has been achieved through raising the professional-educational level of all the workers. Today more than 75% of the workers have completed their general and vocational secondary schooling while continuing their jobs. The remainder are still attending the vocational secondary school. Some of them have gained diplomas from higher schools in courses responding to the needs of the enterprise. The number of electrical, mechanical, and chemical engineers working there is twelve times greater than eight years ago. The engineers and technicians run the qualification courses which are regularly attended by all the workers. Some of these engineers teach in the vocational secondary school in the evenings.

The fact that their products have replaced those which were imported before, and that they are increasingly satisfying every customer and family, is a great joy to the workers of this enterprise.



Woman worker Rina Dimroçi at the coilwinding sector of the electrotechnical plant in Tirana.



In the technological bureau of the plant: Aleksandëra Jançu at work.

Fatime Ymeri doing the final quality check on lamps.
Photos: S. Xhillari



THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAGAZINE «NEW ALBANIA»



The 30th anniversary of the publication of the first issue of the illustrated magazine, «New Albania», was commemorated with a meeting organized in the Palace of Culture in Tirana, at the end of December last year. This was the first Albanian periodical to appear in foreign languages and its aim was to make Albania, in all its aspects, known to foreign readers.

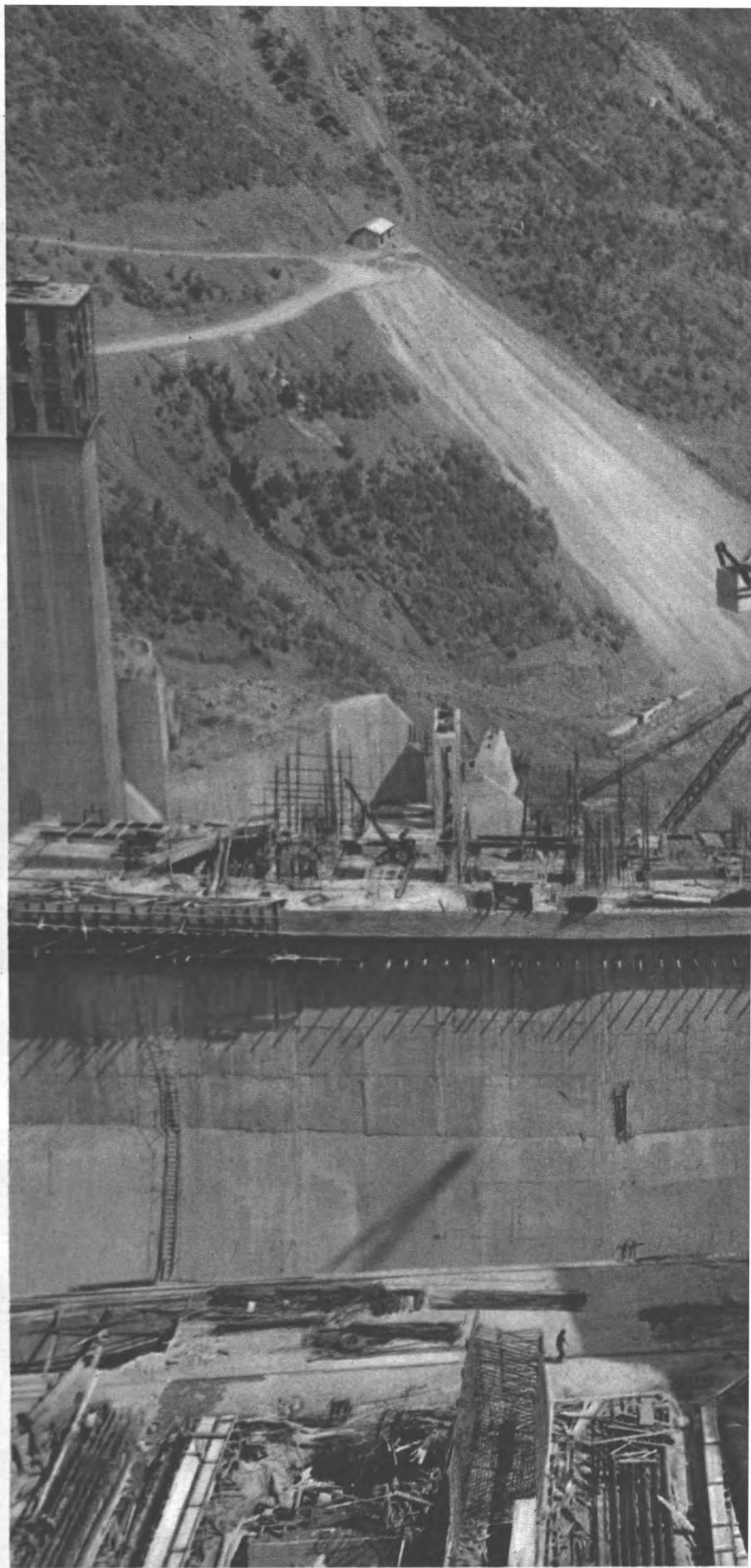
Since 1947, the magazine, «New Albania», has been militating shoulder to shoulder with all our people's press. Today, it has become a worthy organ of our press, which enjoys prestige abroad and has readers in all continents. The magazine, «New Albania», has grown parallel with the development of the whole country: at first it appeared only in French, while today it appears in 8 languages: Albanian, French, Russian, English, Spanish, German, Italian and Arabic. Each issue runs to about 70,000 copies. The content of the magazine has accurately reflected the Marxist-Leninist line of the Party of Labour of Albania, its struggle in defence of the purity of Marxism-Leninism against imperialist and revisionist enemies. Through the articles, documents and photographs in the pages of the bimonthly «New Albania», the foreign reader has been able to learn about the development of the revolution in our country. The range of themes of the magazine, covering all fields of life, has enabled the friends and wellwishers of our country to know the life of the people, the creative and self-sacrificing work of our workers, peasants, intelligentsia, on the various fronts of socialist construction.

With their poisonous propaganda, the imperialist enemies, modern revisionists and reactionaries of every hue, have tried to befog the reality of socialist Albania, to obscure its successes, and to isolate Albania from the world abroad. This period of more than three decades has shown that every attempt of the enemies in this direction has failed. No imperialist, revisionist or any other kind of fog, has been able to cloud the reality of Albania, a reality as brilliant as the light of the sun. This reality has now become known in the four corners of the earth: from Japan to Portugal, from Canada to the Latin America and Australia. The correct Marxist-Leninist line of the PLA with comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, the victories achieved thanks to this line, have brought about that Albania enjoys great international authority and prestige today. Albania has become an example inspiring confidence in the peoples who are fighting for freedom, democracy and socialism. Our country's propaganda abroad is active propaganda based on the Marxist-Leninist truth of Albania. In this direction, the magazine, «New Albania», performs an important function.

Along with our increasing victories, the growing prestige of our country in the world, and the ever greater interest shown in socialist Albania, the number of readers too, has risen from year to year. The number of direct subscriptions from readers in 1977 was greater than the total print in 1970. «New Albania» is sold in the bookshops of various countries, is distributed by the Associations for Friendship with Albania, and goes to about 60 countries of the world.

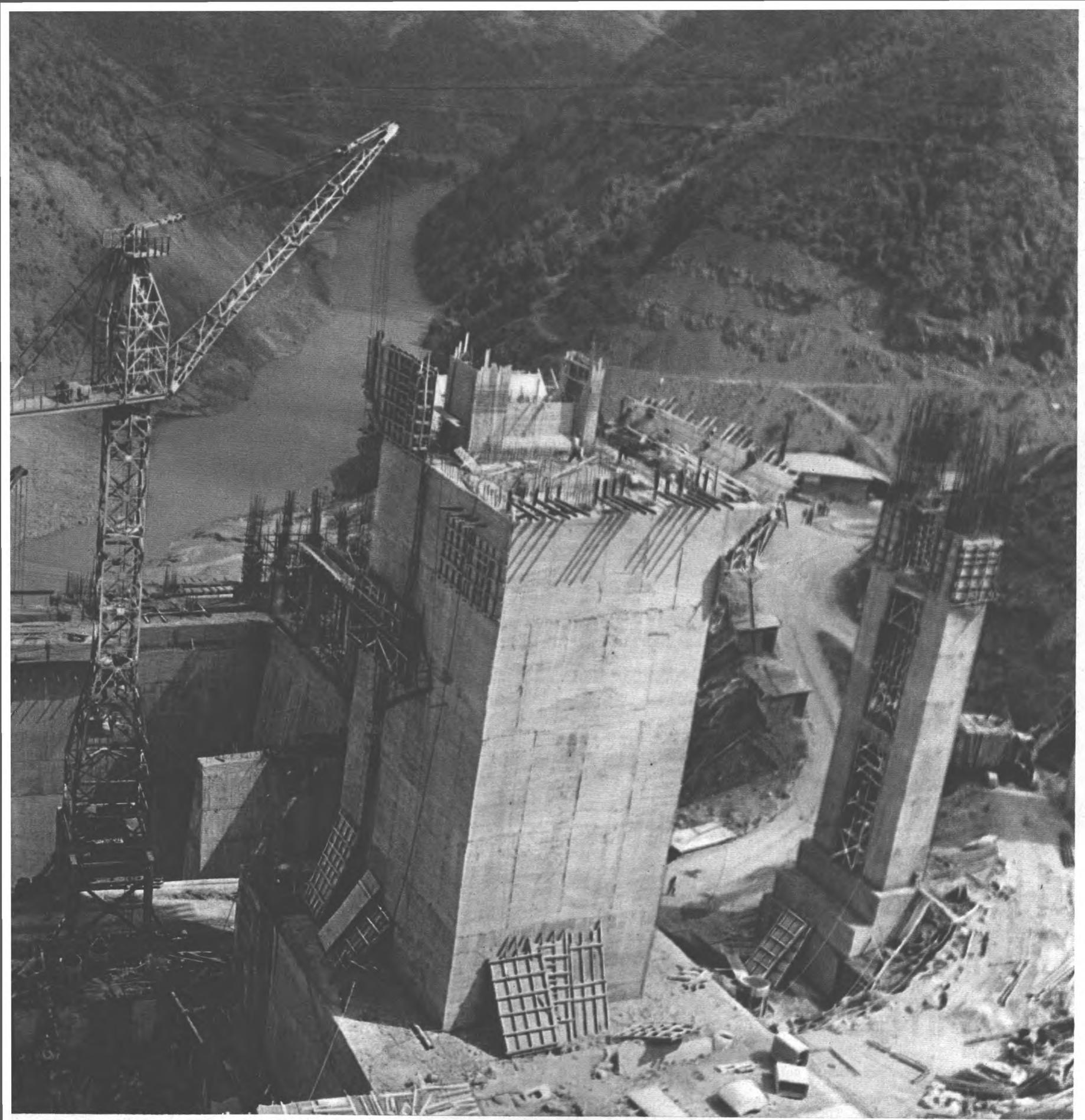
A pointer of the friendly and revolutionary feelings towards our Party and comrade Enver Hoxha, is the large number of letters that come to the editorial board. These letters originate from every part of the globe. They come not only from the countries of Europe and America, but also from Japan, Australia, Guinea, and even from the Island of Mauritius far to the east of the coast of Southern Africa. The burden of the overwhelming majority of these letters is message of friendship and sympathy for the PLA and comrade Enver Hoxha, a message of sympathy and solidarity with socialist Albania. In these letters the readers express very warm words about the Marxist-Leninist policy and stand of our Party, in the case of Albanians living abroad they express their longing for the Homeland, and they express good wishes and admiration for comrade Enver Hoxha, solidarity with and support for Albania which is standing firm as granite rock against the pressures and blackmail by imperialists and revisionists of all shades. In the majority of the letters sent to the editorial board, the readers request materials about Albania — a map, our national flag, the portrait of comrade Enver Hoxha and his works, the Constitution of socialist Albania, the history of the PLA, a certain issue of the magazine missing from the collection, or they ask questions about the solution of this or that problem in Albania.

Friends from different countries of the world who have visited Albania, have expressed their good impressions about everything they have seen in Albania, through the pages of the magazine. They make a high assessment of our successes in the fields of economic, social and cultural development. In their impressions on Albania, which remain documented in the pages of the magazine, they express their admiration over the fact that in Albania there is no exploitation of man by man, no impoverishment of the masses, unemployment, or degeneration of the younger generation. They admire the vitality of our people, a vitality which has its basis in the socialist order, under the wise and farsighted leadership of the P.L.A.



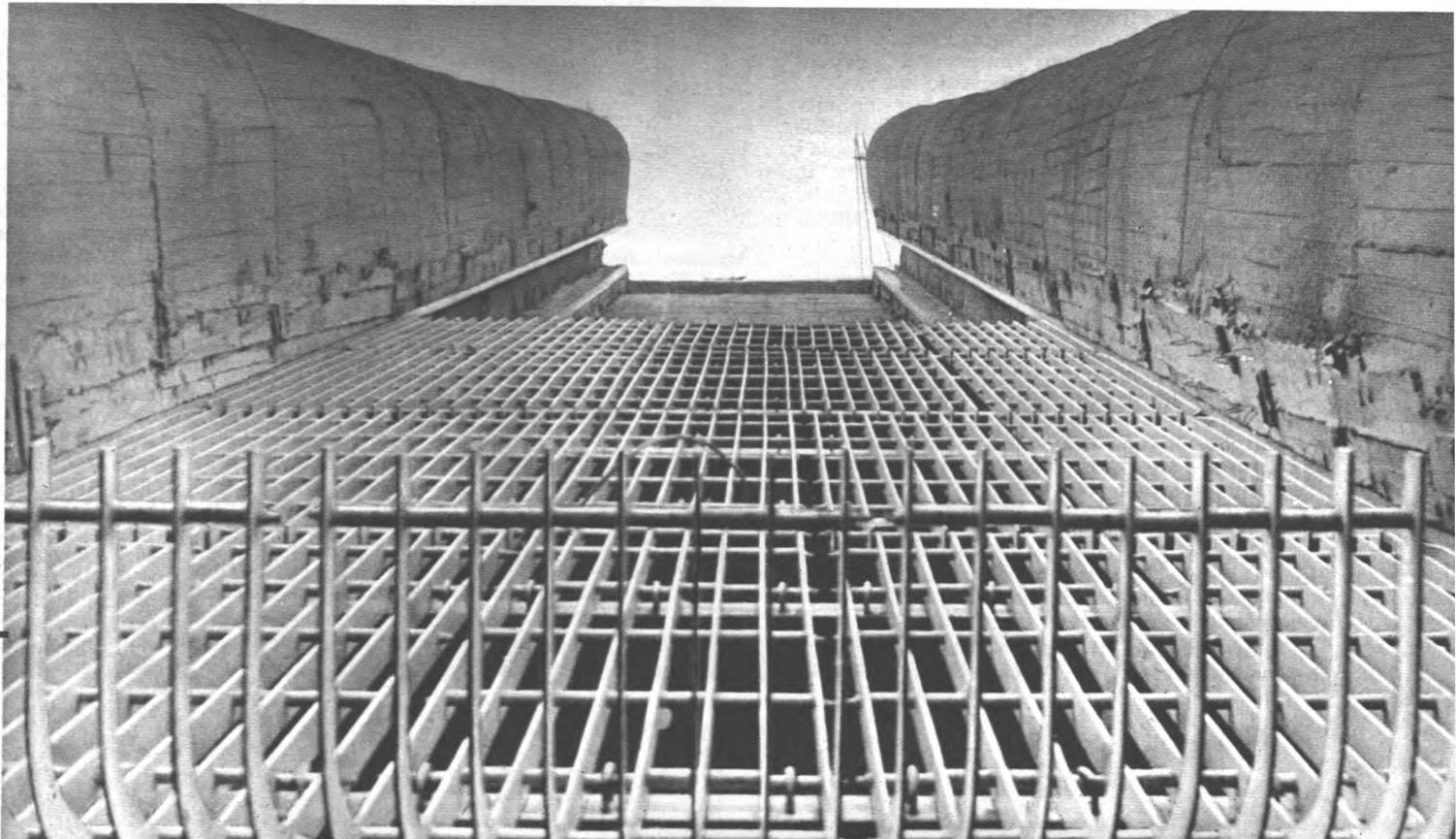
FIERZË,

THE HYDRO-POWER PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT FIERZA ON THE DRIN RIVER IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS OF THE 5TH FIVEYEAR PLAN (1976-1980). THE LARGEST OBJECT IS THE DAM 165 METRES HIGH WHICH IS BEING BUILT IN GRAVEL AND STONE WITH A CLAY CORE. THESE PHOTOS SHOW SOME ASPECTS FROM THE WORK ON THIS PROJECT. THE FIRST TURBINE WILL SOON BE IN OPERATION. WHEN THIS PROJECT IS FULLY COMMIS-

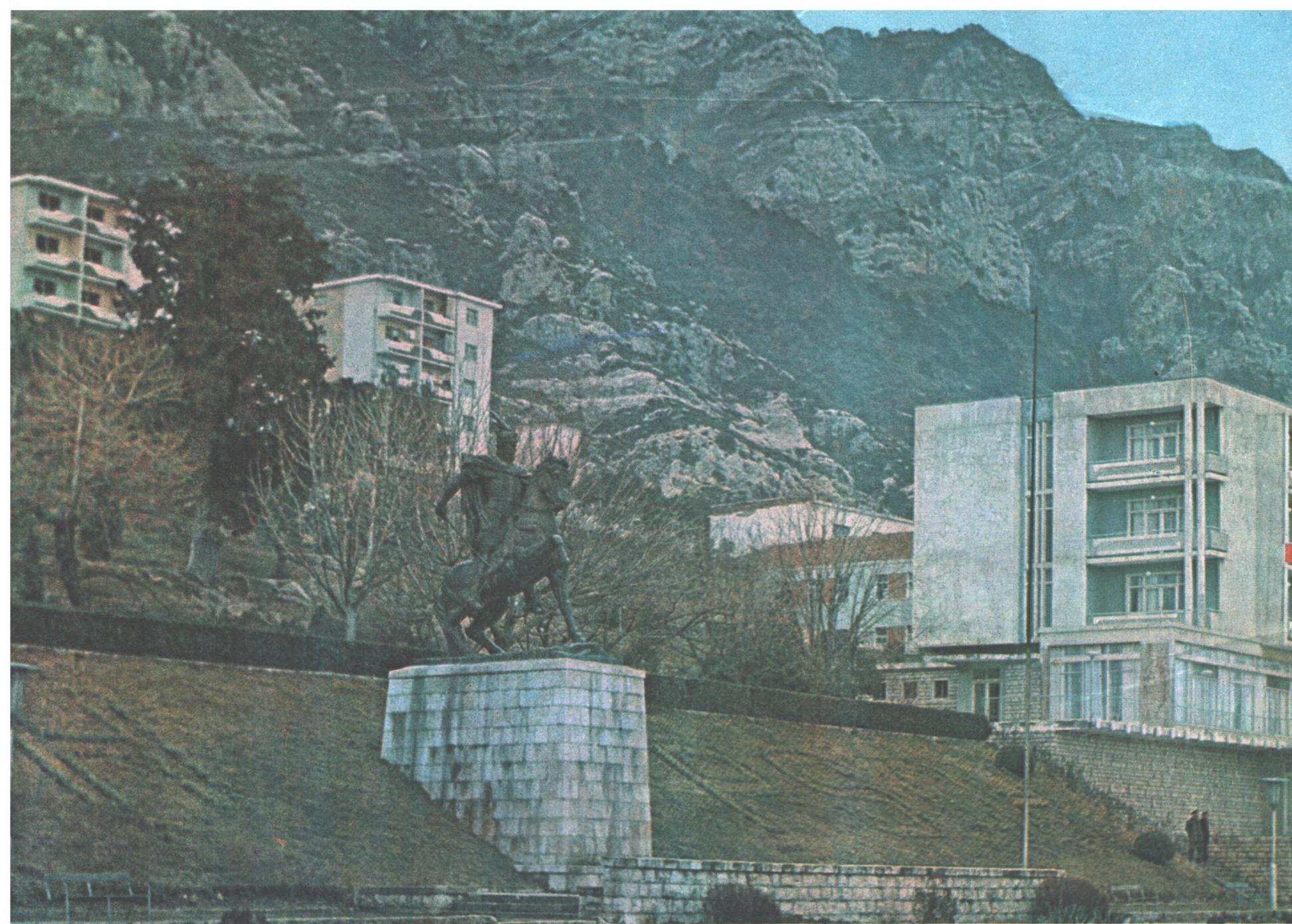


1978

SIGNED AT THE END OF THIS FIVE-YEAR PLAN, THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER FROM THE HYDRO-STATIONS WILL BE TREBLED.



Photos: S. Nenaj, P. Kumi



THE PASSION OF THE ARCHITECT

SHABAN VANI

«No, no, horizontal construction is not suitable for Kruja!»

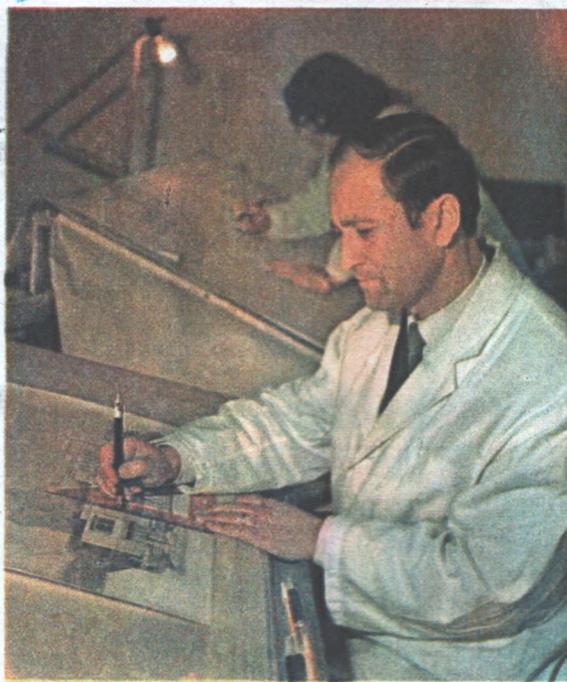
Haxhi Subashi threw his pencil on the drawing board and stood up. Then, turning slightly towards the wall added: «I wish I had a very big picture of Kruja, a gigantic picture taking up this whole wall. Then, I would be able to see my town better and I would harmonize all the future construction...».

Haxhi Subashi is an architect in the city planning and design office under the Executive Committee of the Kruja district People's Council. His passion is to give the city in which he was born and the former Capital of Albania in Scanderbeg's time, a new appearance.

He does not remember when his love for this profession was born. His talks with his father were mostly about construction. But Abdulla Subashi worked in a much narrower sphere than his son — he worked building roads in his hometown or the neighbourhood because pre-liberation Kruja had only a primitive oil press and lime kilns.

The boy liked technical drawing and was enraptured by any photograph showing a beautiful building. Years passed and he began to see such works, not just in photographs, but in reality, throughout our country.

And one day Haxhi Subashi saw that he was very close to attaining his dream — the state granted him a bursary to study at the Construction Technical school in Tirana. In 1954 he finished this school with no marks below excellent. For four years he worked



Architect Haxhi Subashi in his office.

in the building sector. He had nothing to do with the finer points of the work, as he had dreamed with that vivid imagination of youth, but this experience in building work was another school for him. This was the school of life. In 1958 Haxhi Subashi was granted the right to study construction engineering at the University. At that time, the superphosphate plant, the first of its kind in our country, and together with it, the town of Laç, the fourth in that district, were under construction. The city of Kruja, too, formerly backward had begun its industrial march. After graduation, the young architect worked for two years on this project.

In 1966, the town planning office was set up under the Executive Committee of the

Kruja district People's Council. The perspective of mass construction was opened to the ancient city with such a glorious history.

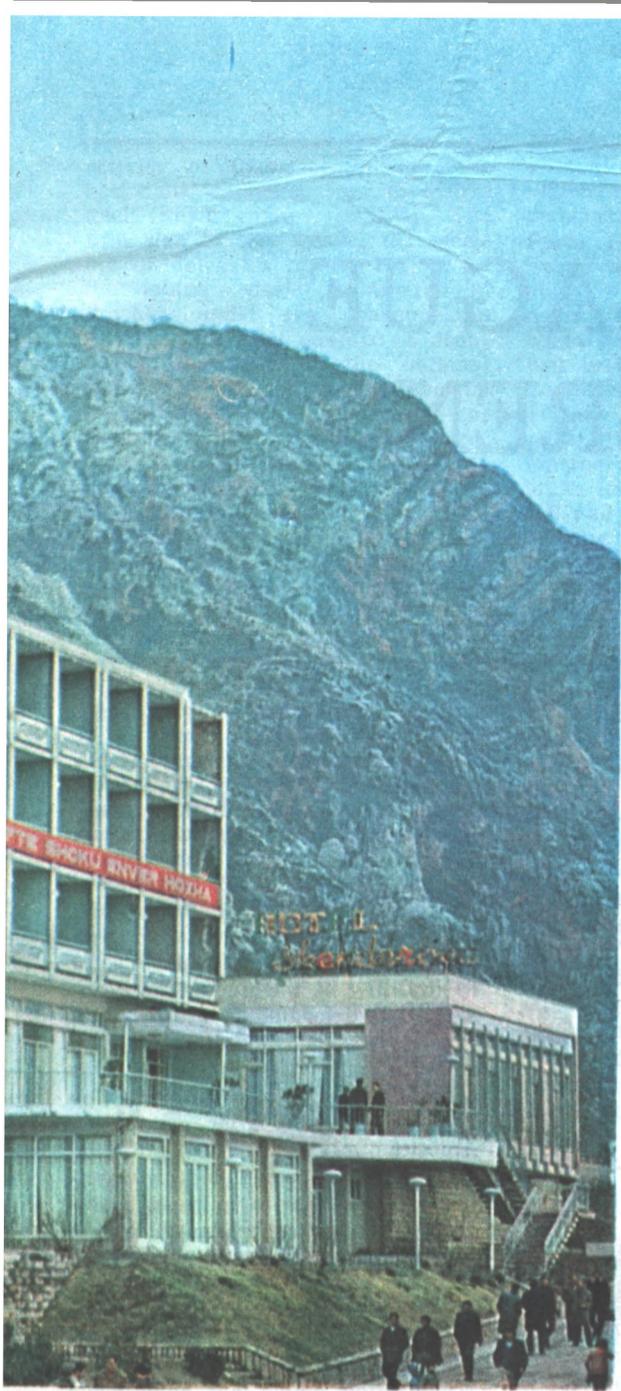
You may get acquainted here with industrial projects, residential buildings, outline plans of new villages... Through them, one can «read» the biography of the building work, throughout the Kruja district.

Haxhi Subashi has a special love for the city of his birth. For him, Kruja has a number of special features which are rarely to be found in other cities of Albania. Kruja is a balcony city facing the Adriatic, perched on the side of the mountain which rises sharply above it.

For this reason, the architect has been most concerned to preserve the nature and historical characteristics of Kruja. Together with his comrades, through studies and consultations, he has found the most suitable form. The new buildings stress the vertical. Each of them seems to be a component part of this rocky terrain, the continuation of it, almost like castles attached to the ancient fortress. From a distance, they seem as if they have grown from the rock and are competing with the mountains. Moreover, they are a tasteful combination of elements of the national tradition with the modern. They are harmonized in such a striking manner that it is difficult to distinguish clearly where the one begins and the other ends. The result is that all these buildings look like a unified ensemble, in which the modern is the continuation of the ancient.

«The rugged terrain, concern to avoid damaging the olive trees, the need to combine the new buildings with the existing ones, all these things make our task difficult», says the architect.

When a new residential building is to start he thinks of it just as if his own children were going live out their lives in that building. Working in this spirit he has made it possible for the residents of each main section of the building to have views of those characteristic features for which Kruja is famous, the ancient castle, where our legendary hero, Scanderbeg, with his army destroyed the Ot-



toman hordes in the 15th century, the industrial projects and the villages spread out on the plain below, and the sun setting below the blue waters of the Adriatic...

«In designing the new hotel, we were careful to ensure that the most attractive views of Kruja, that is, of the places where people usually spend the most time, can be seen from the various sides.

The same can be said for the blocks of flats: the living rooms mostly face the West, looking at the most characteristic aspects of this city. The balconies also face this direction. Thus, a striking combination of the external architectural aspect with the functional aspect has been achieved.

During the last ten years, so many four and five storey buildings have gone up in Kruja that, today, they house one quarter of the city's residents (The population of Kruja is now double that of the pre-liberation period).

A wrinkle furrows the architect's brow — «The work of the architect is linked with spending large sums and bears a heavy responsibility for the future. Whereas in applied arts of sculpture you can destroy a work you have begun and start again, a building which has been started must be completed and it won't be only the present generation that judges it.

Haxhi Subashi showed us a series of photographs. He had taken them himself. They show buildings which no longer exist, as well as various projects at different stages of construction... In a word, they represent the whole dynamic of construction in Kruja in the last ten years.

«What we have done so far is only the beginning... The times raise new, bigger tasks for us.

The architect and his comrades study, search...

When we left, night had fallen over the town. From the plain, below, Kruja looked like a mass of glowing embers stuck on the steep mountains side. Looking at the flickering outline of that city, as ancient as it is new, we could not help thinking of the burning passion of Haxhi Subashi, the vivid dream of the young architect of the ancient city...



Views of some of the new buildings in the city of Kruja.

THE ALBANIAN LEAGUE FOUNDED AT PRIZREN

Prof. ARBEN PUTO

The Eastern crisis of the 1875-1878 period was an event of great importance for the entire Balkan peninsula. It affected Albania too. It was precisely at this time that the Albanian problem was brought to the notice of the diplomacy of the great powers.

Albanian could not stand aside from these events, and during these years, increasing activity by the patriotic circles can be seen. The most advanced elements see this as a favourable opportunity to integrate the movement of insurgency in Albania within the united front of the oppressed nations in struggle against the Empire. First, the increasing efforts by the Sublime Porte to arouse in the muslim population of Albania a religious fanaticism capable of increasing tension to the maximum in their relations with the neighbouring populations, had to be neutralized. The activities of the writer, Zef Jubani and the abbot Preng Doçi from Shkodra, that reached the point of proposing the idea of collaboration between the Albanians and the Montenegrins, were particularly fruitful. The anti-Turkish revolts throughout Northern Albania broke out even more powerfully. It is interesting to point out here that the Russian consul in Shkodra, Shpeyer, wrote in November 1876: «It is difficult to predict the result of the uprising, but whatever happens, undoubtedly, Europe will soon have another problem to solve: the Albanian problem».

In fact, this new situation aroused hopes that the Albanian aspirations might be taken into consideration; however, later events led to the loss of these hopes.

Just as in the past, the big powers did not recognise the national interests of the Albanians, while the neighbouring states renewed their claims to the Albanian territories. The Albanian regions of Dibra, Tetova, Gostivar and Kaçanik were included in the Western «vilajet» of Bulgaria. This fact, among others, impelled Abdyl Frashëri, an outstanding Albanian patriot deputy for Janina in the Ottoman parliament, as well as a great number of personalities of Southern Albania, to gather at Janina. From here they sent a memorandum to the Porte demanding administrative autonomy for the whole of Albania. The memorandum included the following points: the unification into a single province of

the four vilajets, institutions to be entrusted to functionaries of Albanian origin, the introduction of the Albanian language in such compulsory schooling as there was, and in juridical practice, the guarantee that the local recruits would carry out their military service in their own region, the allocation of the bulk of the budgetary income of the province to local needs. The Janina memorandum did not produce any effect. Never, up to that time, had the Albanian public displayed such great indignation as that following the events of the Balkan crisis.

Other dangers were soon to threaten the integrity of Albanian territory. Encouraged by the victories of their great defender, Serbia and Montenegro recommenced operations against Turkey, marching towards the South. In January 1878, the Serbian troops entered the district of Kosova, while the Montenegrins advanced towards Shkodra. Immediately the occupiers launched an unprecedented wave of persecutions with the aim of driving the local population from their homes. In one of its orders sent to its armies on this question, the Belgrade government declared: «The fewer Albanians and Turks that remain, the greater the service you will render your country.» The driving to the South of tens of thousands of Albanian muslims caused a great stir in the country. In February, Greece, too, joined in the game. Though it had remained neutral, it hastened to make the most of the defeat of the Turkish army by occupying territories belonging to the Janina vilajet, and to this end, it urgently sent a detachment of some hundreds of «volunteers», to the Saranda region, on the Southern coast. The action failed.

The immediate result of the stand maintained by the neighbouring states was the cessation of Albanian revolts against the Sublime Porte. At the end of April, the whole country was shaken when it learned that the treaty of Saint Stephan, signed on the 3rd of March, 1878 between victorious Russia and Turkey, had decided on the ceding of Albanian territories to the Balkan states, and precisely the handing over of the Sanjok of Prishtina to Serbia, the regions of Ulqini, Hoti, Plava and Guçia were given to Montenegro, while Bulgaria would take those of Korça, Pogradeci, Dibra, Gostivari and Tetova. Local defence committees

were formed spontaneously in various regions of Albania to face up to the threat.

At the same time, «The central Committee for the defence of the rights of the Albanian nationality was formed in Istanbul under the chairmanship of Abdyl Frashëri, who became its guiding spirit, with the participation of many distinguished personalities of the Albanian national movement, belonging to the three religious cults, such as P. Vasa, J. Vreto, Z. Prishtina, S. Toptani etc. forced to act in illegality during the whole of its existence. «The Albanian Revolutionary Committee», as it was called by foreign diplomats of the time, defined the course it would follow, which it announced at the end of May through a manifesto addressed to the Albanian people. In it, the Central Committee stressed its objective. It put everything in motion to defend, the rights of the Albanian nation before world opinion and European diplomacy. While strongly denouncing the annexationist aims of the neighbouring countries towards the Albanian territories, the manifesto expressed the desire of the Albanians to live in peace with all their neighbours of Montenegro, Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria. It concluded: «We demand nothing of them and covet nothing which belongs to them; but we are absolutely determined to preserve everything what is ours at any cost. Thus, Albanian lands must be left with the Albanians».

The creation of a political organization with an armed force at its disposal and acting in more or less legal circumstances, became an urgent need for the realisation of the program of the Committee. Naturally, in its initial stage, the main point of the program, could be nothing other than the defence of the threatened Albanian territories. Upon this basis, certain temporary common interests linked the Albanian movement with the Sublime Porte, the former aiming to have its hands free in regard to the Turkish authorities, while the latter profoundly desired that the resistance of the local population should create an obstacle to the schemes for the partitioning of the Empire.

In Albania, preparations began immediately for the summoning of an assembly made up of personalities from all regions as quickly as possible. On the other hand, the decision taken by the big powers

not to recognise the treaty of St. Stephan and to submit the conditions for the Russian-Turkish peace agreement to the approval of an international congress, due to meet on June 13, 1878, in Berlin, encouraged efforts in this direction.

The assembly gathered at Prizren on June 10, 1878, three days after the opening of the Berlin Congress. About 80 delegates from the vilajets of Kosova, Shkodra, Manastir, and Janina were present. The opening speech was delivered by A. Frashëri, who, after making an exposition of the political situation at that period concluded by inviting the delegates to unite in a single front against the danger of the partitioning of the country and to form a national league according to the old Albanian tradition. The assembly unanimously approved his proposal, thus creating the political organization which has gone down in history under the name «The League of Prizren». It immediately issued the call for the setting up of an armed force comprised of volunteers. Its defence committees were invited to join it. Both during the debates in the League of Prizren about the adoption of the program of action and during the events to follow, two clearly divided trends became apparent. On the one hand, many pashas, big estate owners and reactionary representatives of the high Islamic clergy, (whose stand was in fact dictated by the Sublime Porte) tried to give the League the character of an Islamic organization which was to include the Albanian and non-Albanian Muslim population of the Balkan peninsula (Bosnians, Bulgarians, Turks etc.), whose main aim would be to preserve the integrity of the Empire. The other trend was represented by Albanian nationalists, with A. Frashëri at the head. They wanted to give the League the character of a patriotic organization which would unite in its ranks all Albanians without religious distinction. The objective of the League was to be not only the defence of Albanian territories, but also, when circumstances presented themselves, the struggle for Albania's independence from the Sublime Porte.

After it had elected the Central Council of the League and drafted the memorandum directed to the Congress of Berlin, the assembly dispersed, recommending to those taking part that they should form local committees as quickly as possible. After the proceedings of the

Assembly of Prizren, during the activity of these committees, the nationalist tendency was to affirm itself much more strongly. The first sign of this was at the meeting of delegates of the regions of the Janina vilajet. Gathered in Frashër, under the chairmanship A. Frashëri, they adopted a document in favour of the national orientation of the League. On its part, the regional committee of Shkodra, while opposing any predomination of religious sentiments over national sentiments, declared in a petition addressed to the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Beaconsfield, on June 18, 1878: «The Albanian whether Catholic, Orthodox or Muslim, hates both the Turkish domination and any other foreign domination».

The powers at the Congress of Berlin did not take the existence of an Albanian problem into consideration and continued to regard Albania as Turkish territory. The Congress made a new division of the Ottoman Empire intended to reduce the Russian influence in the Balkans. Bulgaria's independence under the protection of Sultan was recognized, but with its borders much reduced in comparison with those defined by the treaty of St. Stephan. They no longer included Albanian territories. The powers refused to give the sanjak of Prishtina to Serbia, while giving it other regions populated mostly by Slavs in compensation. As regards the Albanian territories that Montenegro coveted, the Congress of Berlin refused it only the city of Ulqin, while recognising the annexation of Plava and Gucia. The High Court of Berlin also satisfied the claims of Greece, by recommending as the border, the line of the Kalamas-Salamvria rivers, while stressing, on the other hand, that the definition of new borders should, in any case, be examined by a Turkish-Greek commission.

In response to the decisions of the Berlin Congress, the League made rapid preparations to prevent the annexation of Plava and Gucia. Thanks to the rallying of many volunteers, an Albanian army numbering some tens of thousands of men was formed within a very short time. However, when the attention of the Albanians was directed to the border with Montenegro, the first conflict between the League and the Sublime Porte broke out. Applying the decisions of the Congress of Berlin, in August, the Austro-Hungarian troops began their march to the South to occupy Bosnia-Hertgovina. Although it had accepted this decision, the Sublime Porte attempted to oppose its implementation by setting some of the local populace against it. To this end it demanded that the Albanian League founded at Prizren should actively defend the Muslim «brothers» from Bosnia with its armed forces. Supporting the idea of the nationalist trend, the League refused to send its troops to Bosnia. This was the first disappointment of the hopes of the Sublime Porte in regard to the League.

The second dates from the end of the month, with the arrival in Albania of the Sultan's extraordinary envoy, Marshall Mehmet Ali Pasha. The former delegate of the Berlin Congress had come to try to convince the Albanians not to oppose the decision to cede Plava and Gucia to Montenegro. The

Marshall did not want to take any account of the people's movement which was expressed in hostile demonstrations against the Sublime Porte. He continued his march towards the border to hand over the above mentioned places to Montenegro. But, on September 1, 1878, when Mehmet Ali Pasha had only just arrived in Gjakova, the local Committee of the League proposed that he should leave the city and return to Istanbul. Following the Marshall's refusal, bloody clashes broke out between the Turkish forces and those of the League. The fighting ended three days later, with the death of Sultan's envoy, on September 6, 1878.

The events in Gjakova had great repercussions, both inside the country and abroad, because Marshall Ali Pasha was very well known in European diplomatic circles. Foreign observers in Kosova considered that this was the beginning of an armed revolt of the Albanian people against the Sublime Porte. A few days later, on September 11, the Consul general, Lippish, wrote in Vienna: «Under such circumstances, it would not be surprising if the fire of the uprising, which has engulfed these lands, were to spread its flames in all directions, and if the movement, with its ruinous consequences, were to be turned against the Sublime Porte. The insurgents and the League dominate the situation today».

In that clash at Gjakova, another fact became known: the Sultan's envoy was not the only one to meet his death. Abdullah Pasha Dreni, chairman of the local committee of the League, who maintained connections with the Turks, shared the same fate. In general, that was the punishment meted out to elements who collaborated with the foreign occupiers. Meanwhile, the Sublime Porte did not dare react, and fearful of aggravating the situation, was obliged to treat the whole affair gently. Apart from this, it did not dare to carry Mehmet Ali Pasha's mission through to the end, thus postponing the question of handing over to Montenegro the regions that had been allocated to it. The atmosphere of tension between the Albanians and the Sublime Porte gave the nationalists the opportunity to put forward the question of a re-examination of the line adopted at the assembly of Prizren, with the aim of definitely committing the League to the course of national demands.

The Albanian League founded at Prizren occupies a special place in Albanian history, not only because of the great influence it exerted on events within the country, but also because of its repercussions at the international level. It was precisely thanks to the Albanian League founded at Prizren, that the Albanian question became recognized for the first time on the diplomatic scene. Certainly Albania and the Albanians had long attracted the attention of one or the other power, but not at that level at which it was raised after the League. None of the powers participating in the Berlin Congress had expected that their decisions over the Albanian territories would arouse such opposition among the local population, organized by the Albanian League founded at Prizren. This forced them to reexamine the decisions taken several times, over the next three years.

A BROAD PROGRAM OF WORK

On the eve of the New Year 1978, the Central Commission in charge of activities dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Albanian League founded at Prizren in 1878 was called together. The Commission discussed and approved the program of political-social and cultural-scientific activities which will be held all over the country during 1978. This program envisages the organization of a commemorative conference in June, at which the working people will solemnly commemorate and honour this marked historic event. Following this a National Scientific Conference in Tirana and people's commemorative meetings will be organized, as well as scientific sessions in the districts of Kukës, Peshkopia, Shkodra, Gjirokastra and Korça, which were important bases of the Albanian League during the years 1878-1881.

The National Scientific Conference, to be held in Tirana, will be organized by the Academy of Sciences and the University of Tirana. Based on the assessments of the PLA and comrade Enver Hoxha of the renaissance in general and of the Albanian League of the years 1878-1881 in particular, the Conference is intended to shed new light on this glorious event. By reassessing the known documents and using new material and documents, it will bring out all the aspects of the struggle of the broad masses of the people, who, under the leadership of the League, and fighting in an organized way on all fronts against the Ottoman rulers, the imperialist great powers and chauvinist monarchies of the Balkans, emerged as the masters of the territorial integrity of the Homeland, national unity and the right to autonomy and national independence, for the social and cultural progress of our people. Moreover, the conference will shed light on the outcome of historical processes and traditions which the Albanian League created at Prizren, elevated to a higher level, and will criticize and refute the bourgeois and revisionist views on the Albanian League of foreign authors, who, in a number of instances, deny its importance and distort its character.

A large number of historians, scholars of different profiles, scientific co-workers, teachers, patriots, veterans, writers and artists, in the capital and the districts have set to work to prepare these activities.

A steady increase in the publication of different articles has begun in the press in general and in the scientific and literary-artistic press in particular, devoted to the Albanian League, created at Prizren, and the role of the masses and the most renowned popular figures during this period etc. In special Radio and Television programs our working people will gain intimate knowledge of many different aspects of this event. The New Albanian Film Studios will prepare documentary films dedicated to the patriotic Frashëri brothers and the 100th anniversary of the Albanian League. Our drama theatres and other creative artists, writers, composers, painters, sculptors, etc., will reflect this event from an artistic angle. In this context, during 1978, an exhibition of figurative arts devoted to patriotic themes, will be opened in Tirana for which, under the care of the League of the Albanian Writers and Artists, our professional and amateur creative forces have been engaged. A number of composers have devoted special attention to this event and a concert will be organized with their works.

The people are awaiting the scientific publications with special interest. The Institute of History is preparing a series of scientific publications in Albanian and foreign languages: monographic studies on the Albanian League and national movement, documentary volumes with acts and decisions of this League, with correspondence of our renaissance fighters, memorandums of our national movement etc. During the days of the National Scientific Conference in Tirana, an exhibition devoted to the Albanian League founded at Prizren will be opened with a wealth of documents from archives, foreign publications etc.



Green houses, or as we call them «roofed fields», have been built even in the coldest regions. During winter they are green with different crops. On the market in Albania one finds fresh vegetables all the year round at reasonable prices. The State has invested and continues to invest large sums for the development of this branch of agriculture.

Within the period from 1972 to 1977 alone the area of heated greenhouses has increased eight fold.

They produce high yields: 1,200 quintals of tomatoes, 1,300 quintals of cucumbers, etc. per hectare.



INDOOR AGRI- CULTURE

DHIMITËR MAHTA

Travelling through Albania, one is struck by the big areas enclosed with glass or plastic. Various kinds of out-of-season vegetables are cultivated in them. Thus, when the nearby mountains are white with snow, these roofed fields are green.

«Roofed fields» can be seen in such zones as Korça, where the temperature goes far below zero.

There are two kinds of roofed fields: with solar heating only — covered with glass or plastic, and with central heating — covered with glass.

Early vegetables are grown in the former, while in the latter vegetables for winter are grown. The state has invested considerable funds for the development of this branch of agriculture, thus creating a powerful material basis, which ensures continuous production both for the needs of home consumption and for export. Thus, one can find various fresh vegetables at reasonable prices in Albania, all the year round. Compared with a few years ago, consumption of vegetables is very much greater and is steadily increasing.

The first hothouses with artificial heating in Albania were set up on the State Farm of Sukthi (Central Albania), and later, from year to year, they were extended all over the country. During the years 1972-1977 the area of hothouses with artificial heating increased 8 times and it is still extending rapidly. The main vegetables grown in the hothouses are tomatoes, cucumbers and capsicums which provide fresh products from October through to June of the following year.

The average yields from hothouses with artificial heating during these years have been as follows: tomatoes-1200 quintals per hectare, cucumber-1300 quintals per hectare. If we add the production taken from second crops, the yield per hectare achieved amounts to 1600-1700 quintals.

Very good conditions exist for the development of vegetable crops also, in areas protected by glass or plastic, without artificial heating. Early crops of tomatoes, capsicums, eggplant and cucumbers are grown in them to give production 15-16 days earlier than those planted in the open.

View of heated greenhouses at Levan in the Fier district.

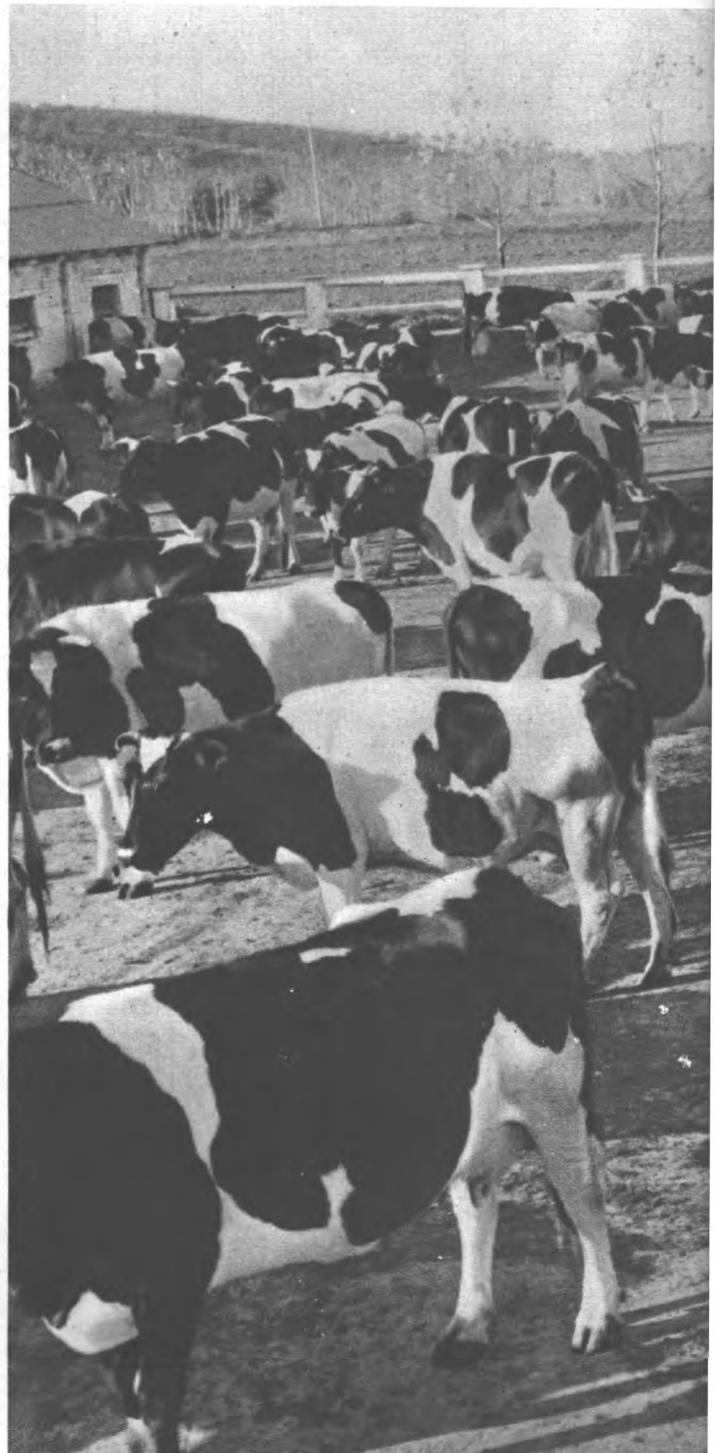
Working on the plants in these greenhouses.

Greenhouse products in the district of Tirana.
Photo: N. Kodheli



AN ACCOMPA

TH. KËRKESHI



During the first days of January we visited the State Farm at Kamza, on the outskirts of Tirana. This is a specialised dairy farm and its main task is to supply milk for the citizens of the capital.

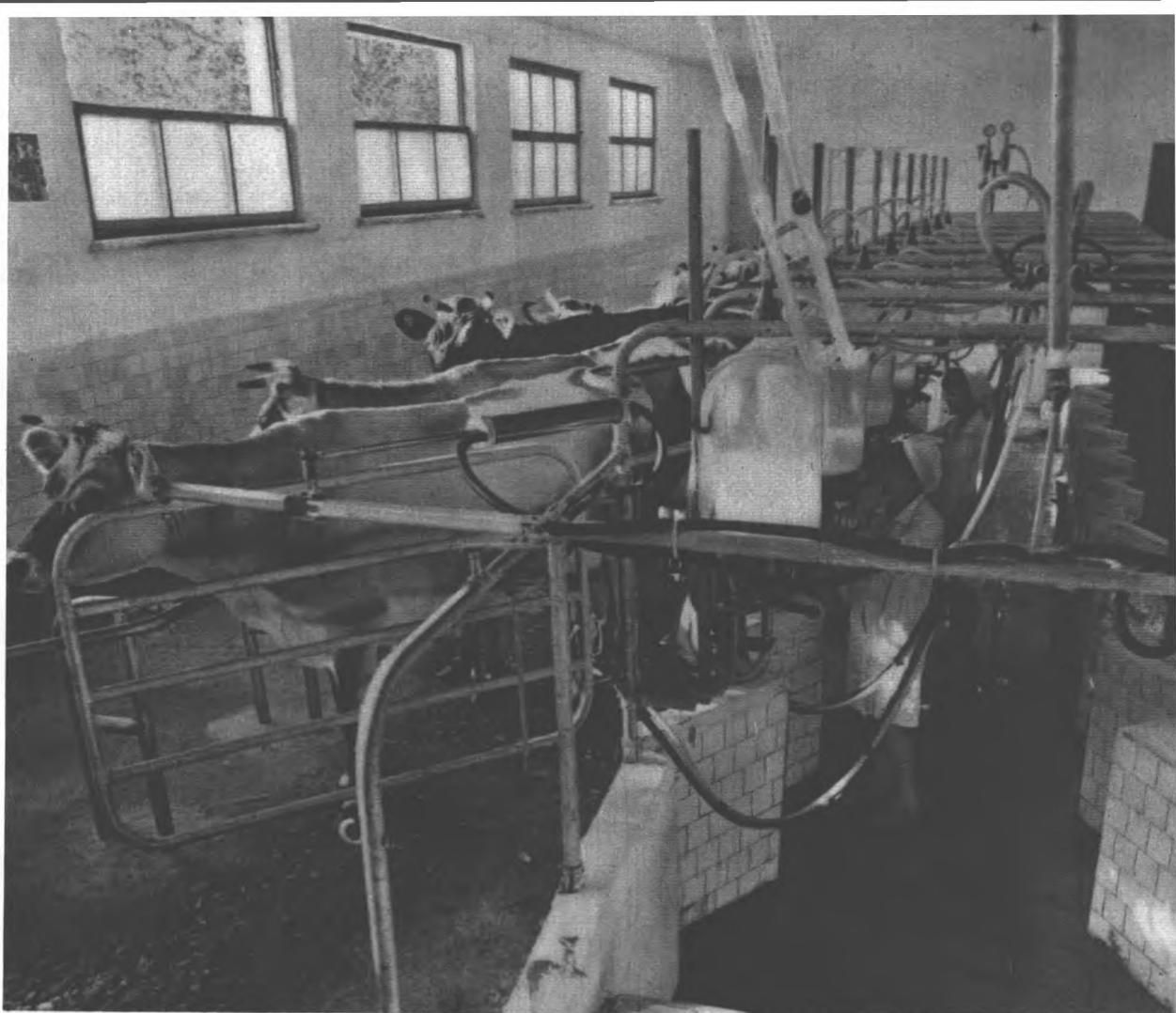
It has about two thousand cows. A good material-technical base with a capable staff of specialists, to look after them has been established.

The cows are divided between different sectors. Together with the chief veterinarian we went to see the livestock complex of the central sector. The modern byres are in a circle with spacious yards, paved roads and other necessary amenities. They are clean with ample light and fresh air. The removal of manure is mechanised. Included in complex is fodder preparing unit as well as the calving section and special stalls for raising calves and heifers. Milking is by machine.

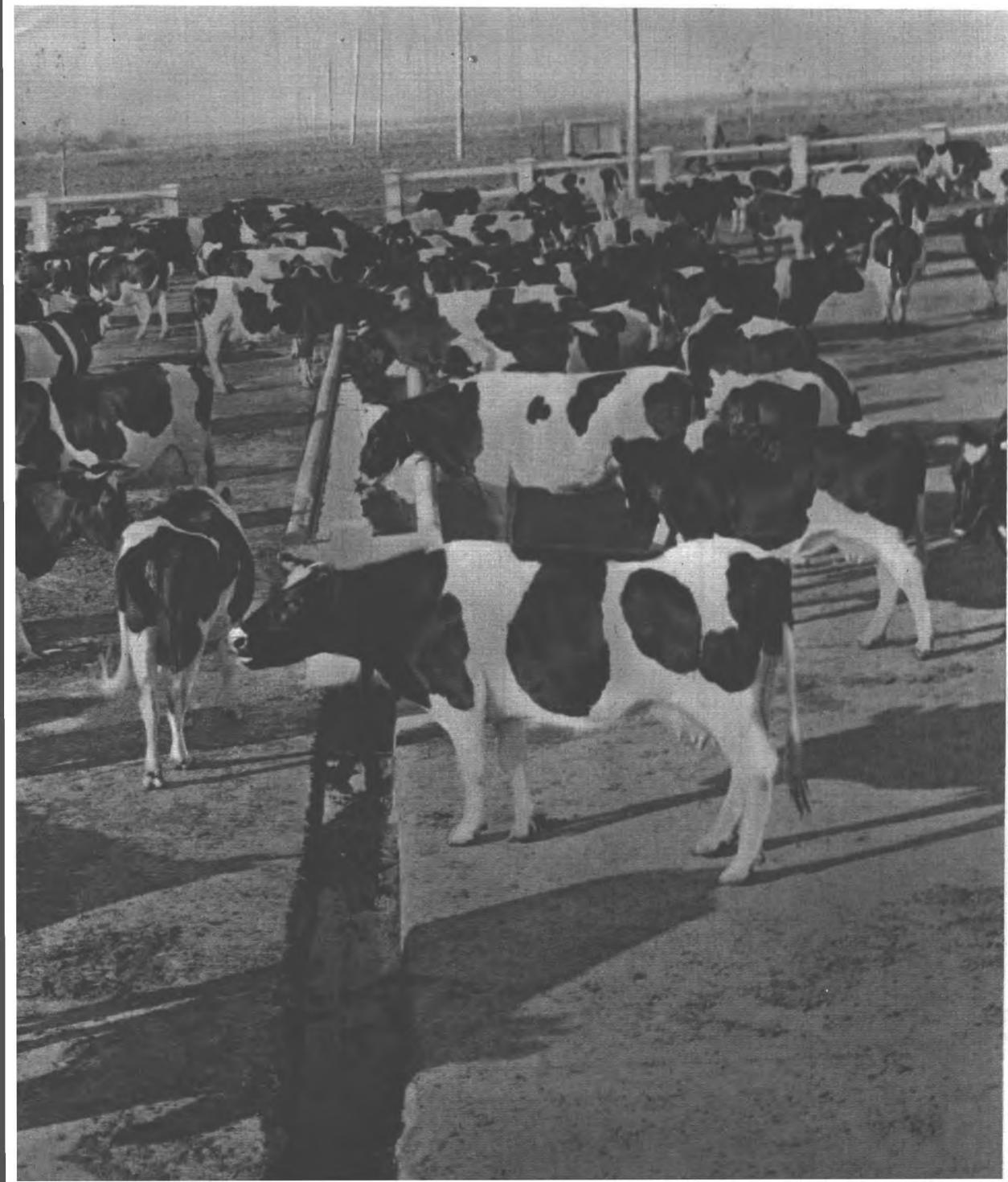
Before the liberation of Albania (1944), in this region, as all over the country, the predominant breed of cow was small in stature and with low productivity. Now at the Kamza farm the majority of the cows are pedigree Friesians. Last year the average yield was 3,500 kilograms of milk per cow. In the first sector, an average of

3,700 kilograms of milk per head was produced from 1,100 cows. The working people of the complex achieved the best results. Here 700 cows produced on average of 4,000 kilograms of milk per head. Some of the model milkers have got 5,000 kilograms of milk per cow, and in a few instances even 6,000 kilograms. These are called «record cows». To achieve this has required a great deal of work, progressing gradually from phase to phase. First of all the method of herd improvement was applied by cross breeding with pedigree stock, suitable for the conditions of the farm, as well as by strengthening the fodder base. Up until 1957 this improvement was done by natural breeding alone. Since then the most modern methods have been used at Kamza and all over Albania. Ensuring food for the cows has been put on a scientific basis too. The farm has a large area of land at its disposal for raising fodder crops.

Today there are tens of cooperative and state farms in Albania where pedigree cattle predominate. Among them are the state farms at Sukth, Lushnje, Maliq, Thumana, the zootechnical enterprise in Shkodra, and the agricultural cooperatives of Lumalas, Shijak, Buchimas. These cows



NIMENT OF INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE



give high milk yields and every year provide thousands of calves and heifers for breeding purposes. These farms also have special beet raising centres.

The best known breeds used for herd improvement are Friesian and Jersey for the lowlands and hilly regions and the Oberinntal breed which is being introduced in the mountainous regions.

As a result of all this work the number of cattle has increased 70% and milk production per cow, almost six fold as against the pre-war period. 25 years ago, only 3% of the cows were of improved breed, whereas now more than 75% of them are of high productivity breeds. In the state sector 80% of the cattle are pure bred and 20% crossbred.

In most of the state and cooperativist economies modern cattle complexes have been set up, equipped with machinery to supply water, for milking, for fodder processing and removal of manure. They employ thousands of workers and specialists who are steadily raising their professional abilities. In all the big economies there are different qualification courses and vocational secondary schools. The Higher Institute of Agricultural Studies has special zootechny and veterinary faculties.

During the sixth five year plan, 1976-1980, the output of milk is envisaged to increase thirty-five to thirty-seven percent, mainly through further herd improvement, the strengthening of the fodder base, and an increased number of cows.

The cattle raising farm Maliq in the Korça district. Photo: ATA

In one of the byres at the state farm at Kamza, Tirana.

The state farms and many agricultural cooperatives have been equipped with milking machines.

In the picture: one of the byres of the Zootechnical Station in Shkodra. Photos by N. Kodheli

FRAGMENTS FROM THE LIFE IN

HALIM STOLIA



View of the town of Lezha and the plains to the west.

Lezha is a city in the North – West of Albania. The population of the city itself does not exceed 10,000 residents. In ancient history books, Lezha is mentioned under the name of Lissus. It is known as an Ilyrian city as early as in the fourth century before our era. The relics of antiquity – the castle overlooking the city, archaeological discoveries, speak of the antiquity of the former Lissus which is called Lezha today. The people of Lezha speak with pride about their city because of another fact. It was here that the legendary hero of the Albanian people, Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg, died on the 17th of January, 1468.

As can be seen, this city has a

history which dates back over many centuries. It has witnessed many invasions, from the Romans to the Goths, the Ottomans, Venetians and the Slavs, up to the fascists and nazis of our century. The people have also experienced the savage oppression and exploitation of the monarchic regime of Ahmet Zog. The people of Lezha have a saying which goes like this: in the time of Zog oppression and poverty hit us from three directions – from God, from the King and from the river, in other words, from religion, from the regime and floods. Despite all the ups and downs over the centuries, unlike many other Albanian cities, such as Antigonea, Amantia, Bylis, Apollonia

etc, Lezha managed to survive through to the years of people's statepower, the years of socialist Albania.

Now, Lezha, breathes freely, it is growing, becoming stronger and more beautiful day by day. It has assumed the appearance of a small socialist city, where life is in full swing, where the people, with a song on their lips are working, creating, and guarding the victories achieved.

In the past those who wrote about Lezha described in detail the diocese, the tribute and taxes taken from the peasants, the tragedies and customs of the vendetta, the swamps infested with malaria, the death toll from tuberculosis, the

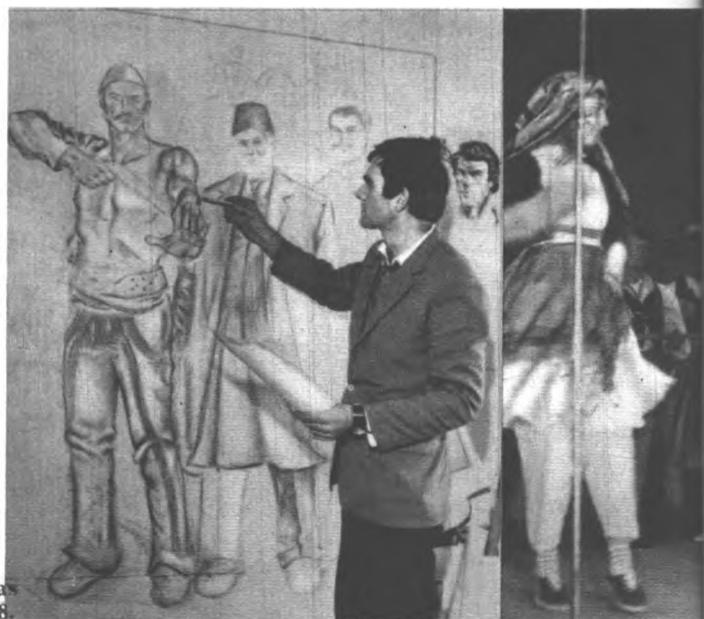
speculations of the Venetian merchants with the local feudal chiefs and the Sublime Porte. The chronicles of present day Lezha has nothing in common with the chronicles of medieval times, with the chronicles of the cities in the capitalist countries. A short chronicle of twenty four hours would be enough to give us a simple outline of the features of the socialist city.

Here it is.

January, 1978. A cold day. We are approaching the city. The first buildings come into sight: beautiful, white, five-storied buildings with flowers on the balconies. Beside the road, the pylons carrying power in the high tension lines to the city stand rigid as soldiers on



The National Hero, Gjergj Kastrioti alias Skanderbeg, was buried here in January 1468.



A CITY



parade. Beyond to the distant horizon stretch the beautiful fields of the regenerated plains, with those big irrigation canals, beside which powerful tractors and excavators are working. There is a dialectical connection between these fields and canals, between the two rivers the Mat and the Drin, between the humming of the high tension lines and the beautiful city of Lezha. In the past, the Drin and the Mat rivers used to burst their banks and flood these fields, ruining crops, carrying away houses and livestock, and forcing the people to climb to the tops of trees to escape the fury of the waters. And today? The two rivers have been tamed and flow peace-

fully in their beds. Their waters irrigate the lands of Bregu i Matit and Lezha Island, Zadrima and Balldreni. The monstrous power of the twin rivers has been imprisoned by the dams of powerful hydroelectric stations and now, that energy pours through the copper cables to the city to give it light, movement, heat. Here we have a synthesis of what our people have been able to do during thirty-three years under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania.

But let us pursue our chronicle and leave the reader to draw his own conclusions from the facts.

We enter the city and stop outside the building of the Party

Committee of the district. This is the nerve centre directing the whole life of the city. Here the working people and the apparatus are concerned with the most varied problems: from the major problems of agriculture and industrial production to the questions of the communist education of the younger generation, relations in the family, and archaeological findings which shed light on the history of the city.

Between the Party Committee and the Executive Committee of the People's Council of the district, which is the organ of statepower, there exists an harmonious cooperation which is based on the strong links of the Party with the peo-

ple, on the leading role of the Party in the entire life of the country.

Together with Comrade Nezir Osmani, inspector of culture in the Executive Committee of the district, we shall visit a number of centres typifying the life of the city. Our first visit is to the maternity department of the hospital. Here life begins. Here they fight for the life of man. The hospital is a new beautiful building overlooking the city. The time is about 7pm. Outside it is cold, about minus ten degrees celsius. But inside it is warm, a constant temperature of about 22 degrees. The corridors shine with cleanliness. On the walls a slogan «Quietness heals». Tonight, two young women doctors.



Painter Nikolin Ivanaj at work preparing a new tableau.

Amateur dancers of the House of Culture.

Cooperativist Lena Ndue Markaj consulting the pediatrician.

Donika Keraxhi and Violeta Iso are on duty. «The situation is normal», they say. «Two babies were born today in the maternity department, they are both doing fine. There are no infectious cases. We are getting ready to go down to the base. That is to the villages and work centres to check up upon and assist with hygiene and sanitation. The Director of the hospital is in charge of a health team». In the wards of the hospital we met the surgeon, the nurses and the patients. Lina Ndue Markaj comes within none of these categories: she is not a patient or part of the staff serving in the hospital. She is a peasant from the higher type agricultural cooperative of Bregu i Matit. «I came here a week ago with Mira, my one month old daughter». The little girl was sick and she brought her to hospital. «There are other mothers here like me», says Lina, «We stay here and feed our babies which are still breastfed. The state provides us with food and a place to sleep at the hospital free of charge. Indeed we still get our pay in the cooperative even for the days we stay here at the hospital with our children».

Lezha is mainly an agricultural district. However in the years of people's power, industry, too, has developed beyond any comparison with the past. The newest and biggest industrial project is the paper factory. Today in the boiler department, the second furnace was lit for its first trial. In the other departments of this great factory, installation work is nearly completed and final tests are being run. Soon the timber from our forests will pass through the processing departments and provide us with a wide range of papers. Nok Përvahti is in charge of the shift in the boiler department. «At one time I was an ordinary mechanic at a machine station», he tells us, «while today, I am able to manage the work on the powerful boilers which will supply steam to the whole factory». Everywhere in the factory you can see young men and girls, with plans and specification in their hands occupied with the machines and control pannels. Arben Oshafi, Chairman of the Trade Union Committee,

is quite young too. Despite that he explains in detail how the factory will be when it is fully completed, how many workers and specialists it will have: «We are going to produce high quality typing paper, newsprint, offset paper, writing and drawing paper. Of course these are just the beginning because later our engineers and technologists will be able to create new production lines».

We leave the enthusiastic young people of this factory and go to another place — ShënGjin. We were too late to meet fishing fleet. It had put to sea that night. In the Radio communications centre we received this report. The ship «The Tenth of July» is in sector 28-32 with a catch of 25 to 30 boxes of fish. The ship «Drini» is in sector 29-33 with ten boxes. The figures continue for the other ships of the fleet. At the port we met the crew of the fishing boat, «Islam Mustafa». It is not long ago that this ship, with its Captain, Fran Ivanaj, wrote a glorious page in the history of our fleet. Pirates wanted to capture our ship. Being unable to do this they killed the Captain as he stood at the wheel. An ordinary seaman, the assistant motorman Nikolin Çobani immediately sprang to take the Captain's place. Now Rroku, Nikolini, and the others are preparing their ship to put to sea.

The machine and tractor station is the agricultural machinery base of the district. With a few notes, the engineer of the enterprise, Anesti Kondakçi, tries to give us a more or less clear picture of the role which agricultural machinery plays in the development of agriculture. Tractor brigades Centers have been created attached to the agricultural cooperatives. These give great assistance in keeping all the agricultural machinery in good order and uninterrupted operation. Now, in these days of winter, they are carrying on vigorously with deep ploughing, opening up new land, and other seasonal work.

Not far from the Machine and Tractor Station is another enterprise, the Water Directory. Comrade Myftar Lleshi gives us some details about where they are working at the moment and how the workers of this enterprise are distributed. «The plains of Lezha, lie between

two rivers, the Drin and the Mati, and the sea. Using powerful machinery, stopbanks and drainage canals, we are fighting to protect the land from flooding. Two stations with very powerful electric pumps discharge excess water into the sea. On the other hand, to prevent the land getting parched in the summer, and to ensure that the crops grow well, vigorous work is going on to open an irrigation canal which will take water from the Drini to supply the plains of Zadrima. Other irrigation canals, like that of the Mati River, are kept in good order and the network from them is being extended. Seen from above, from an aeroplane, the Plain of Lezha looks rather like a chessboard set out in regular squares divided by many irrigation and drainage canals».

Continuing our chronical through the town, we call at the Hydai Lezha secondary school. These days, the pupils have their term holidays. However the teachers are on the job. We find them all at a meeting of the Teachers Council. There is only one question on the agenda, to complete the basis of teaching material for the classrooms within two days. After the meeting, the teachers go to their classrooms. There, together with pupils who have come to help, they work to prepare for a good beginning of the second term of the school year. In another part of the school, the classrooms are being got ready. In the evening, adult workers of various ages will come here to attend the part time school. They are part of that great army of 70,000 pupils who are attending secondary schools of different categories, part time.

Let us proceed with our chronical. Comrade Nezir Osmani, who accompanied us, set out for the agricultural cooperative to assist with measures in preparation for the Gjirokastra Festival. The Gjirokastra Folklore Festival will be held in October this year. In the former festivals, Lezha, won awards with its groups, receiving first prizes and banners. This year, the people of Lezha want to succeed again in Gjirokastra.

Accompanying us through the city now is another worker of culture, the composer Agim Velaj. We go with him to a number of

work centres. At one time, Agim was an ordinary worker, a turner in a repair shop. Today he is known throughout the country as a composer. He talks to us with enthusiasm about the town of Lezha where he has been working for many years, although by origin he is from another town.

On the way to the city museum, we meet a platoon of soldiers: They are girls from a work centre who are marching to the rifle range, singing as they go. For us, the defence of the socialist Homeland is the duty above all duties. «We work, work, and stand on guard». These are the words of the song the girls are singing.

The museum is very busy. Comrades from the Party Committee and Executive Committee are working there. A photographic album is being prepared with scenes from the progress of the Lezha district in the years of the people's statepower.

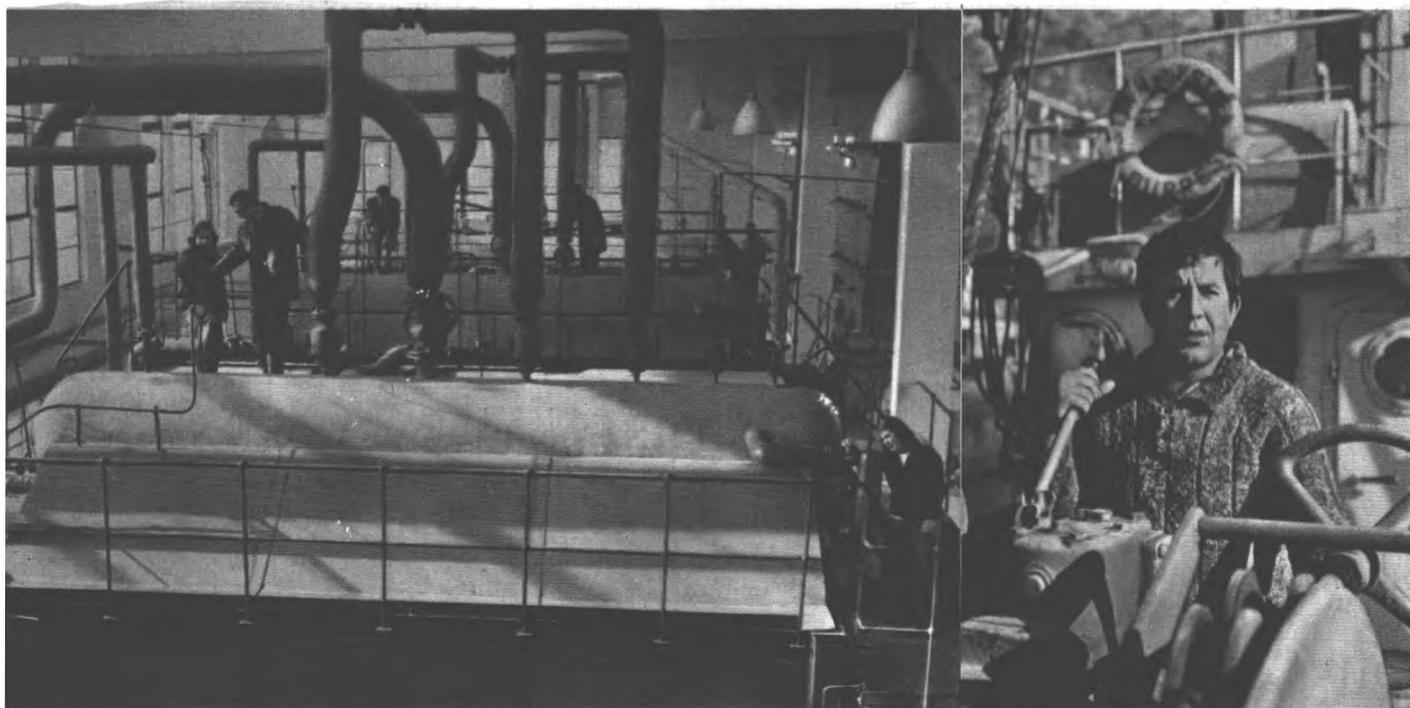
It's a beautiful afternoon in the city. The wind has died down and the sun is warm. The streets are full of young people, workers and pupils. The shops are full of goods, products of our textile combines, factories and plants. The display cases in the food stores are full, and the prices are still the same as years ago, although in other countries of the world have gone sky high. The fruit and vegetable shops are selling oranges, dried figs and fresh vegetables.

We could go on talking about many sectors, about the libraries and bookshops, about the amateur artistic groups, about the new family life in which new socialist norms have been established. But let us end our chronical in the studio of the drawing teacher of the «Hydai Lezha» Secondary School, the painter Nikolin Ivanaj. Nikolin is a young man. However, his paintings have been seen by foreigners in our exhibitions abroad. Nikolin's works were included in the most recent exhibition of Albanian painting, in Algeria. Now he is working on a tableau with an historic subject. The patriot Ismail Qemali was accompanied to a Conference in London by another Albanian patriot, Isa Boletini. The Albanians were told to leave their weapons at the entrance to the conference chamber. They observed the custom. Between sessions of the meeting, one of the participants in the conference happened to say, «See, we disarmed the Albanians, we took their weapons». «No», said Isa Boletini, «you have not disarmed us at all». And from his sash he drew a second pistol which he had kept out of sight.

Such are the features of Lezha, a small city, many centuries old, which in our days, has assumed the features of a true socialist city where the people are united by their common work and common aims for the building of the new life, socialism.

The new paper factory which will soon commence production.

This fishing boat bears the name of Fran Ivanaj. Photos: S. Xhillari



Facsimile of the organ published by Japan - Albania Friendship Association.



Publications of the Association about our country.

THE FOUNDING OF THE JAPAN-ALBANIA FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

A National Conference held in the city of Osaka, Japan, in November last year successfully founded the Japan-Albania Friendship Association.

The representatives who took part in the Conference approved the report and the constitution and elected the Council and the Executive Committee of the Association.

The Association was formed as a result of a number of activities carried out by the Japan-Albania Friendship Movement during last year, such as the setting up of the «Contact centre», the founding of its organ, «Friendship and Solidarity», the formation of branches in the principal cities of the country, and so on.

The founding of the Japan-Albania Friendship Association will promote the movement of friendship and solidarity between the Japanese and Albanian peoples.



A scene from the hall where the meeting on literature and art in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania was held.

A MEETING DEDICATED TO ALBANIAN LITERATURE AND ART

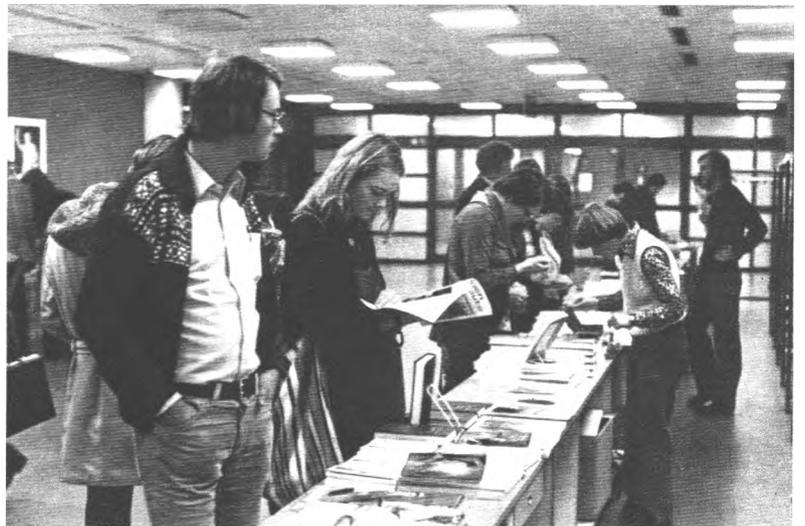
On the occasion of the participation for the first time of the Albanian Publishing Houses in the International Book Exhibition in Frankfurt (in the German Federal Republic), the Association of Friends of Albania organized an evening dedicated to the literature and art of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. Friends not only from Frankfurt but also from many other cities in the German Federal Republic took part.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairwoman of the Association, Inge Junk, spoke of the great successes achieved by our people during the years of the People's State Power by relying firmly on their own resources. She also stressed that today, Albania enjoys the respect and admiration of peoples throughout the world.

Inge Junk concluded her speech with a call for even more work to strengthen the friendship between the German and Albanian peoples and to constantly increase the number of friends of Albania.

At this Session, the leading member of the Association, Karen Wagner, read a paper on the significance of the Albanian literature and art of socialist realism.

During the evening the Hamburg musical group, «Elbshpielers», presented a number of Albanian songs.



Books and organs of our press exhibited at the International Book Exhibition at Frankfurt.

The Hamburg musical group performed Albanian songs.





Shaban Hysa: «THE LAND REFORM» — oil (170x266 cm).

THE SOCIALIST COUNTRYSIDE IN THE WORKS OF OUR PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

ANDON KUQALI

In recent years, more and more local and national exhibitions of figurative arts on particular themes have been organized in Albania. Last autumn such exhibitions, on the theme of the countryside, were opened in most of the district centres of the country and even in villages. The best works from these exhibitions and subsequent works by our artists were displayed last November in the National Exhibition on the theme of the countryside, which included works by 200 professional and amateur artists. In statues and reliefs, in thematic compositions, portraits and many

landscapes, in engravings and decorative works of applied arts, the viewer can see skilfully portrayed in elegant plastic forms and true colours, typical peasants, and especially peasant women, dynamic aspects of the vigorous collective work in the flourishing fields and gardens of the cooperatives, scenes full of light and vivid colours of nature profoundly transformed by the hand of man, and other aspects of the life in our socialist countryside today, as well as those that recall the peasant revolts against feudal-bourgeois social op-

pression and injustice of the past, and important historic episodes of the revolutionary development and progress of the countryside under the guidance of the Party of Labour of Albania.

The essential thing in the art of socialist realism is its proletarian partisanship which is expressed through its ideo-artistic content. The works of the Exhibition dedicated to the countryside portray themes, subjects and figures typical of the Albanian socialist countryside in its revolutionary development.

A striking feature of the works in this exhibition is their combination of heroic and epic elements with lyric and even idyllic elements. And this is so because we are dealing with the new life in the village, with agricultural work, with nature.

M. Dhrami's sculptural group, «The Shepherd's Melody», portrays a happy moment when the peasant stretched out in the leafy shade of a tree is playing his flute, with his rifle close at hand, while nearby, in silhouette, is the harmonious figure of a young peasant woman who sits listening. The powerful

symmetrical rhythm of two dancers, in M. Bushi's sculptural group, «The First sickle», portrays the joy of the Myzeqar peasants over the abundant harvest. In a relief by Th. Thoma entitled «The Pickers» we see portrayed with fine, elegant draughtsmanship, the procession of pickers carrying the boxes of grapes. The vigorous portrait of a brave, beautiful and hard-working cooperativist woman, her hair wrapped in a typical kerchief is given in K. Rama's bust «The Dropull Woman», while the slightly larger than life proportions and plastic forms of the bust, «Zenel Gjoleka», by H. Beqiraj give the legendary picture of a peasant fighter of the past.

Harmonious colour contrasts and an atmosphere of movement pervade the tableau, «Celebration in the Highlands» by D. Jukniu, reflecting the joy of the highlanders on the day electric light reached their village. In the painting, «The Brigade leaders», by H. Nallbani, a group of cooperative members in working clothes are coming forward with their work tools on their shoulders, majestic in their simplicity, while the whole tableau is

Hasan Nallbani — WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE — oil (110x108 cm).



Danish Jukniu «CELEBRATION IN THE HIGHLANDS» — oil (170x220 cm).



permeated by the warm colours of the soil and its fruits. S. Hysa's tableau, «The Land Reform» has been constructed with a bold sweep and in clear colours. In a dramatic composition, the tableau, «Pulling out Fences» by P. Mele, portrays a moment from the beginning of collectivization in the countryside. The warm links of the leadership with the people is the leitmotif of many compositions. Z. Shoshi's tableau, «Speaking About the Land», shows comrade Enver Hoxha among the peasants during the war years.

The landscapes in this exhibition cover a wide range of different types and stand out for the artists' diversity of styles.

There are many works in this Exhibition pleasing to the eye with the beauty of their draughtsmanship, colours and forms, which attract attention with their interesting motifs. They inspire lofty thoughts and sentiments, love for society and work, courage and patriotism.

With the truthfulness of their artistic portrayal and their socialist content, these new works respond to the revolutionary aspirations of the masses.

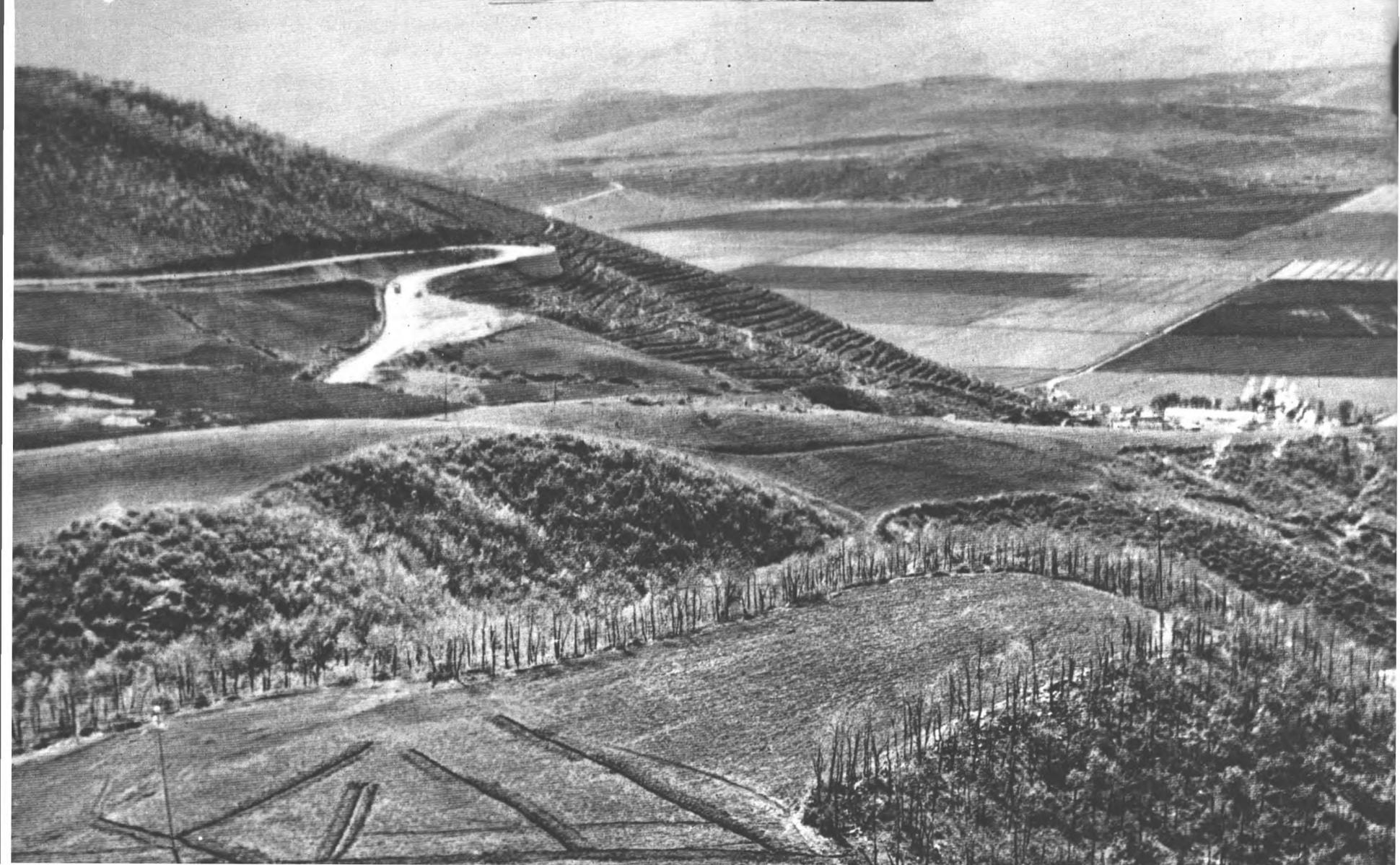
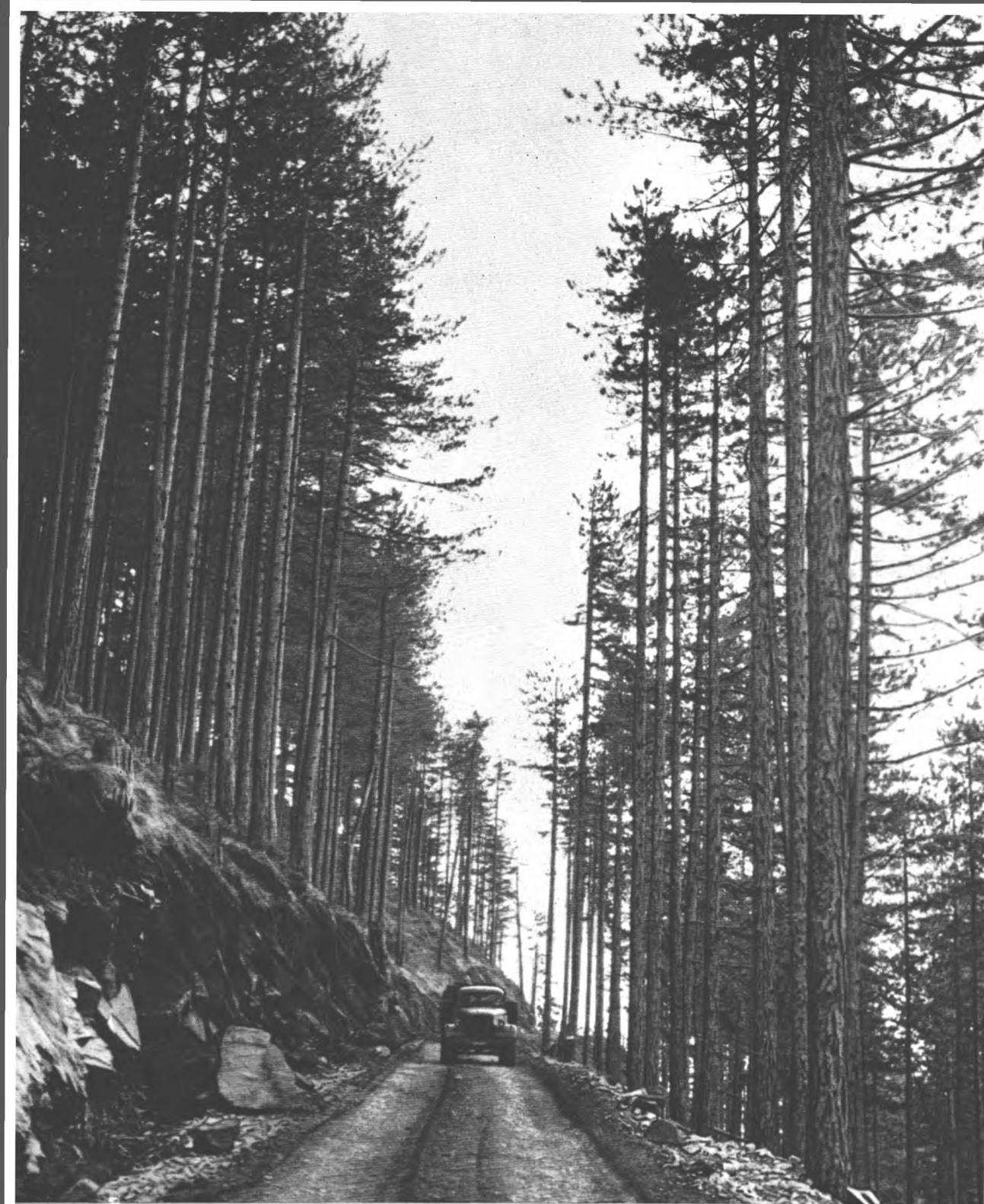
AFFORESTATION AND

Afforestation of hills and mountains is a permanent problem not only for the working people of agriculture but also for city workers, who time after time make contribution with voluntary labour in plantings trees. Thanks to this care, «the march» of the forests over the slopes of formerly bare mountains and hills, is a phenomenon which strikes the eye everywhere in our country. The bare mountain slopes, the catchment basins of irrigation reservoirs, river grovels and coastal sands, places which are unsuitable for agriculture, are planted with young trees.

In general, afforestation has been concentrated on the hilly and mountainous regions of the country, in places where planting trees is part of the fight against erosion, too. After many years of persistent work, the creation of the coastal belt protecting the plains from Vlora in the south up to Velipoja in the north, has been achieved.

In conformity with the economic requirements of the country and the surrounding environment, in afforestation priority has been given to the planting of different kinds of pines, which produce valuable timber and grow quickly, such as the black pine (in the mountainous zones), the coastal pines (soft, wild and maritime pines) in the coastal low-lands etc.

A great deal of work is being done for afforestation of the water catchment basins of the irrigation reservoirs, for their protection against premature filling with silt. This work will be completed in 1978 for the existing reservoirs and will continue in the future parallel with the construction of new reservoirs. The varieties planted in these basins are those



OF THE HILLS MOUNTAINS

most suitable to hold the soil well and which give greatest protection. Tree planting is combined with the construction of stop banks, retaining walls, brushwood fences, etc.

The poplar, as a fast growing tree with many uses, especially for the paper industry has been planted on the banks and in the gravelly beds of rivers. The sides of the national roads and major canals have been planted with poplars, thus adorning our fertile plains with green belts.

Beside the major projects, extensive afforestation work has been carried out around the cities and other residential centres, thus creating very beautiful parks.

All this work for the transformation of the nature through afforestation, starting from seed selection has been carried out on sound technical-scientific foundations.

Forest nurseries have been established in every district and they meet all the needs of the country for saplings. Technical designs based on study of the conditions of the country and the aim pursued, are worked out for afforestation projects.

Apart from the considerable funds the state makes available every year for afforestation, the broad working masses of town and countryside make their voluntary contribution to extending the forests and the fight against erosion.

Bearing in mind the great role forests play as the source of timber, in protecting the soil and improving the climate, care for their preservation and extension is increasing, not only to meet the immediate needs, but also bearing in mind the needs of future generations.



In the forests of Martanesh (Central Albania).

View of the Prrenjas and Qafë Thana zone.

Photo: S. Xhillari

A formerly barren spot in the Puka district is a nursery for forest saplings today.

One of the sections of the forest trees nursery in the Kruja district. Photo N. Kodheli.





SKANDERBEG IN EUROPEAN LITERATURE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY

JUP KASTRATI

With our national Hero, Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg (1405-1468) at the head, our people, fought with outstanding heroism during a quarter of a century. They resisted countless Ottoman forces and always emerged victorious, because they were fighting for freedom, independence, for their land. Led by Skanderbeg, our people resisted the Ottoman onslaught with rare courage, defended their own territory and at the same time defended Europe.

Thus, the figure of Skanderbeg became so famous that many writers and scholars in different parts of the world were obliged to write and speak about him. Over a period of five hundred years more than one thousand works have been compiled or published about Skanderbeg. Even during the 17th century, historical and literary works were still being published about him.

That century opened with a publication in Polish by Marcin Czerminski. At the same time, in the work, «The History of the city and Kingdom of Naples», Summonte reproduced, almost word for word, all the passages related to Skander-

beg by Pontano, Pikolomino and Zarite. Meanwhile, Jacob Shrenk published in German a work on the Great Kastriot. In 1603 in his work in English, «The History of the Turks», Richard Knowles tells of the life of Skanderbeg, as Barleci recorded it. In 1604, Lavardin republished in French the well known work, «The History of Gjergj Kastrioti, called Skanderbeg, King of Albania» This work contains his outstanding deeds of valour and famous victories over the Turks. There is no difference between this publication and that of 1597 by the same author. With his attractive style, Lavardin made this valiant Albanian leader well known in France. Three editions of his book were printed within one year. At the beginning of the book is the well known sonnet by the poet Ronsard. In 1605, in Venice, Lukari published his book in the Italian language «A Rich Summary of the Annals of Ragusa». This work describes the founding of the city, the origin of the Republic, what it owned its government etc; it also mentions important events, its wars customs, costumes, magistrates families etc. On pages 94, 96, 106



110 there is valuable information about Skanderbeg. This well-informed analyst also knew about «The History of Skanderbeg» written by Pal Angelli. Lukari had made use of this work himself for his own book. In the same year, Johan Mariana, in the Latin work, «The History of the Affairs of Spain» mentions the treaty between Skanderbeg and Alphonse of Naples and about the participation of Gjergj Kastrioti in the final battle over who was to inherit the throne of Naples.

In 1606 an epic poem by the poetess Margarita Sarroki «Skanderbeyada», written with great warmth and feeling, was published in Rome. In 1607, in the Latin work «The Deeds of the Hungarians», Pekenshtejn also deals with the military activities of Skanderbeg and his victories over the Turks. In 1608 in his book, in Italian, «Supplement to the History of Pal Jovio» Rushelli deals with the battles of the Albanians, led by Skanderbeg. In 1609, G. Pontano published the very interesting work entitled: «Skanderbeg, that is, the Life and the Valiant Deeds performed Successfully by Gjergj Kastrioti, King of Epirus, called Skanderbeg after his Great Deeds Against the Cruelty and perfidity of the Turks». The author has enriched his book with the Hero's own speeches. He gives us a short summary of the historic events of this outstanding Albanian warrior.

The year 1610, saw a reprint in Italian of the work «The Outstanding and Glorious Activity, as well as the Triumphant Campaigns which Gjergj Kastrioti, called Skanderbeg, Prince of Epirus, carried out against the Turks in which the true method is shown of how to fight, how to lead an army, how to make soldiers ready for war and to emerge triumphant in any difficult undertaking». It is said that this work was written in Latin by Dhimitër Frengu, but scholars have expressed conflicting opinions about this, so the problem is still unsolved.

In 1614, the historical novel, «Skanderbeg» by the writer, Chevre, was published in Paris. The scholar, Adam Buholcer, in the Latin work, «A Chronological Index», published in Frankfurt, in 1616, devotes considerable space to our National Hero.

The National Library in Tirana has a hand-written copy of the work in Turkish, «The Crown of Histories» (1621). This work contains events dating back from the founding of the Osman Dynasty to the death of Selim the First. This rare manuscript speaks about the preparations of Sultan Murat the second for the invasion of Albania, the different Turkish incursions against Albania and the stand of the Albanian people, the capture of the castles of Elbasan and Shkodra and the extension of the domination in the district of Vlora as well as about Scanderbeg.

In 1629, a work in Spanish entitled «Prince Skanderbeg» by Martinez de Mora, was printed in Madrid. In 1631 the publication appeared in Paris of «The Negro-Pon History». This novel, in

French, contains the life of Alexander Kastrioti, the great grandson of Skanderbeg and his love affair with Olimbia. A frontispiece note reads «Completely edited and published by I. Bodwin.» The reader would imagine that this is the name of the author, but in fact this is only a pseudonym. According to Barbier, the name of the compiler of this literary work is Pierre de Buassat (1603-1662). In 1634, in Hueska, a district of Aragon, a well known comedy was published in Spanish called, «Prince Skanderbeg», written by the renowned author, Luis Velez de Guevara. In 1635, a book in Italian called, «Portraits and Eulogies of Outstanding Leaders», written by Roshjo, Maskardi, Leonidha, Trensareli etc. was published in Roma. This work contains 127 portraits. Among the others are the portrait and eulogy of Gjergj Kastriot Skanderbeg.

In 1635, a book was published in Latin called, Gjergj Kastrioti Epirus, called Skanderbeg, the mighty and invincible Prince of the Epirots, returned to his people and Homeland», by Frang Bardhi. This work was been translated into Albanian by Prof. Stefan Prifti and has been published in two editions. In 1641, the work by Bodier, «An Account of the General History of Turkey» was published, in which there is a description of the battles of the Turks, their invasions, uprisings and their most renowned deeds. In the fourth edition in French, revised and supplemented, several pages have been dedicated to the lofty figure of Skanderbeg. In 1643, a Latin poem of 894 lines was published in Lubeck called, «Skanderbeg», that is a poem of praise about the birth, life, and death of Gjergj Kastriot, the fearless former prince of the Epirots» Under the title is the following note, «Recently given to the pupils for exercises in the school of Kubece, now extended and elaborated with the greatest zeal by Jacob Kokert Lubecens, Vice-Rector of the school». It seems from this explanatory note, that this book was used in the school as a textbook for Latin exercises.

In 1644, the work by Chevrois entitled, «Skanderbeg», was published in two volumes totalling 1,192 pages. The whole work has been divided into four books. Later this great book was translated into English and republished twice in 1721 and 1729. In 1648 in Bologne the historical novel by Fosset, «The Scourge of the Turks» was published. During the same year, it was republished in Rome under a slightly different title, «The Armed Prince or the Real Scourge of the House of Osman. A history as true as it is replete with Political lessons».

This brought the first half of the 17th century to close with works written about Skanderbeg in the Latin, Greek, Polish, German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish and other languages in various cities of Europe and in different literary genres, such as poems, drama, novels etc, or scientific works, such as histories, biographies, monographs etc.

THE TITLE «PEOPLE'S TEACHER»

In our socialist society, the teacher occupies a very honoured position. The figure of the teacher, as the educator of the younger generation with the features of our communist morality, is a figure of high prestige which has been formed through the decades of history but particularly in the years of socialist Albania.

When we say that the high morale figure of our teacher has been created through the history of many decades, we remember the first teachers of the Albanian language in past centuries, especially in the first half of the 19th century. Occupied by the Turks for nearly 5 centuries, with great difficulty, Albania managed to preserve and develop its ancient cultural traditions. The occupier did not allow the opening of Albanian schools nor even the writing of the Albanian language. The great struggle of our national renaissance at the close of the 19th century, had to be waged before the first steps towards schooling could be taken in Albania and the first Albanian schools could be opened. The first teachers of the Albanian language were, first of all, fighters for freedom. They linked their educational work with the cause of the freedom and independence of Albania. After the proclamation of independence in 1912, the figure of the teacher who still had to work in very difficult conditions to spread knowledge and schooling was regarded with love and respect among the masses of the people.

During the National Liberation War new horizons were opened for the Albanian teacher. Besides fighting the war in the liberated and still occupied zones, the great struggle began to eliminate illiteracy and this continued after Liberation too. During the war, in the liberated zones schools were opened, teachers' conferences were organized, and the First Teachers' Congress was held. The Communist Party of Albania attached great importance to the question of education and culture. It worked out the guide lines for the great reforms and revolutionary transformations in the field of education. The People's State Power created the conditions for compulsory eight-year schooling, for the general education free of charge for all, for the extension of schooling both territorially — from the towns to the most remote villages, and in range — from pre-school education to higher schooling of university and post-graduate level.

The lofty figure of the teacher in our society has been built up through the efforts of many generations of teachers, who have contributed their toil, their blood, and, in many cases, their lives. Petro Nini Luarasi, who was one of the first teachers of the Renaissance period, was poisoned by the enemies of the Albanian people. Luigj Gurakuqi, the first director of the Pedagogical (Normal) school, opened in Elbasan at the end of the first decade of our century, was killed by the agents of King Zog. The dedicated teacher and great poet, Millosh Gjergj Nikolla (Migjeni), died from tuberculosis contracted from the difficult conditions in which he worked in the period of the feudal-bourgeois monarchy. The partisan, Ndreç Ndue Gjoka, who started to open the first schools in his region during the National Liberation War and after Liberation, was assassinated by bandits organized by imperialist and clerical reaction.

Because of the great merits of our teachers in the past and the work they are doing today for the education of the younger generation, amongst the splendid conditions which have been created for educational work, the People's State Power has established the teacher in a place of honour. The supreme state organs have created titles of honour for the teachers. Such are the titles, «People's Teacher» and «Merited Teacher». Besides these titles, various other decorations are awarded to teachers according to their merits.

According to state dispositions, the title «People's Teacher» is awarded to teachers of pre-school institutions, those of the lower and higher cycle of the eight-year school, those of the secondary and higher schools who have done more than 15 years work in education and have distinguished themselves in the field of people's education, have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the new school, for the teaching and communist education of the younger generation and for tireless work in the cultural uplift of the people, for the construction of the new society in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. The persons awarded this high title by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, receive the medal with the respective citation.

The title «People's Teacher» has been awarded to many patriotic teachers, such as Petro Nini Luarasi, Pandeli Sotiri, Hoxha Tasimi, Luigj Gurakuqi, Millosh Gjergj Nikolla, Ndreç Ndue Gjoka, Thoma Papapano and many others.

Recently, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the University of Tirana, 8 untiring workers for our people's education were awarded the title «People's Teacher». They are: Kahreman Ylli, Aleks Buda, Kol Popa, Eqrem Çabej, Mahir Domi, Kol Papanisto, Shaban Demiraj, Sotir Kuneshka, as well as Vehbi Bala of the Higher Teacher Training Institute of Shkodra.

THE PENSIONERS OF BURIZANA

In recent years, a big palace of culture has been built in the centre of the «Bajram Curri» higher type agricultural cooperative, at Burizana, the Kruja district (central Albania). Through the various materials and photos, the cooperativists recall or learn about the past of the region.

There we met with some pensioners of Burizana village.

One of them is Nezir Dani. In July last year he retired on the pension, but this has had little effect on his way of life. He enjoys good health and he knows this is thanks to his work. Besides his work at home he carries out several duties to the benefit of the cooperative. More than anywhere else, Nezir is to be found in the grain stove of the cooperative, weighing the corn, or among the youth of the cooperative working in the fields. In the afternoon he is usually to be seen in the Palace of Culture. He likes to read the newspaper and to attend cultural activities.

Nezir Dani is one of the best known figures in the village. You can see his photograph on one of the stands of the museum, he was the secretary of the National Liberation Anti-fascist Council in September 29, 1944, when there was fierce fighting in this zone against the nazi invaders. He worked in this post for twelve years. His name is listed among the names of founders of the cooperative on September 26, 1956. Today, he is the happy father of five children.

Among other things Nezir Dani told us about the wellbeing of his family and of his fellow villagers. Just in the past five years 106 new houses have been built in Burizana village, and 735 radios and 56 TV sets have been bought.

Their pensions are adequate to assure them a comfortable living. In Albania, the member of an agricultural cooperative pays nothing from his personal income into the pension fund. The costs are financed by the contributions from the agricultural cooperatives and the state budget.

The pensioner Dervish Faruku is known in Burizana as an expert in raising seedlings. In February 1976, when he became 65 years old, after working for 25 years, he retired on the pension. He says life is activity and activity is life. Therefore he is always engaged in work for the cooperative and he enjoys good health. It is a special pleasure for him to place his experience in the service of all. These last two years he has trained young specialists in raising seedlings.

One of the oldest men among the pensionists is Ramadan Hima. Now he is more than 83 years. As soon as the unique system of pensions for the members of the agricultural cooperatives was established in Albania, Ramadan got full pension. He has found his own way of serving society. In the past, he was one of the poorest people in the village, but he alleviated the pain of want with song and playing the lahuta (a musical instrument) because they have been his closest companions since his youth. Today Ramadan has a lahuta he made in 1932. With this ancient folk instrument and with his young heart he appears on the stage of the Palace of Culture and the hearths of culture, and he plays it in the meadows of the village too. For Burizana villagers, Ramadan and his lahuta have become two synonyms. Ramadan Hima is full of energy and enthusiasm. Being a member of the Old Men's Artistic Group of Kruja, he has had the chance to visit other districts of Albania. The great transformations of our country have become a source of inspiration in increasing his repertoire.

Here we said something only about some of the pensionists of Burizana, but others are no less active. If you talk to them they will tell you about experiences from life which you won't find in any book.

What urges these old folk to work, where lies the source of their enthusiasm. They are the generation which suffered the bitter past and enjoy the blessings of our days. All these great transformations have taken place before their eyes. They have been active participants in doing away with the swamps in this region, in construction. For a long time now, neither huts, nor wooden ploughs nor malarious people are to be seen in Burizana...

The people of «the white age», as we call the pensionists, enjoy the close company of the younger generation of the cooperative, who get advice from them and honour them for the road they have traversed and for the contribution they are making every day.



Pensioners of the «Bajram Curri» Agricultural Cooperative at the village museum.

In his meeting with the children, pensioner Sabri Xhafa speaks of the Burizana of the past.
Photos: S. Xhillari



During 1977, the workers of the Institute of Monuments of Culture in Tirana carried out maintenance and restoration work on over 100 monuments in every part of Albania. This work was done by the workers of the district branches and workshops of this Institution under the supervision of the restorers of the Institute.

Of interest are the restoration work at the archaeological centre at Apollonia — on the monument of the Argonauts and the Nymphem — the work on the walls of the acropolis and tower houses of the Illyrian city of Zgërdhesh near Kruja, and that on the castles of Berat, Shkodra and Drisht. Large-scale restoration work has been carried out on the houses and architectural ensembles of the museum cities of Gjirokastra and Berat as well as at Korça and Elbasan. Last year, an increased volume of restoration work on the peasant houses which have been proclaimed monuments of culture on account of their architectural value was done.

Steps have been taken to reinforce the basilicas of Voskopoja and the church of Ristos in Mborja in the Korça district and other monuments, and to preserve their mural paintings. Restoration work has been done on the iconostasis of the Himara cathedral, on a number of icons, as well as on a number of ornamental ceilings and five places of the characteristic houses in the city of Shkodra.

A very fruitful contribution has been made by the sector for the setting up and reorganization of museums as, for instance, the museum of popular education in Korça, the house museum of the renowned painter, Vangjush Mio, the museums of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War in Korça, Elbasan, and other districts.

The plan of scientific themes for 1978 envisages a great number of jobs on monuments of various genres for which the plans of restoration have already been completed. In addition to work done on many dwelling houses of the museum cities of Berat and Gjiroka-



Temple of the Argonauts at Apollonia (Fier district) before and after restoration.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE MONUMENTS OF CULTURE

stra, work will be done on a number of monuments at Butrint such as on the Nymphem and the Roman Baths, on the basilica and the surrounding walls of the Nymphem, and the walls of a number of dwelling houses of the ancient city of Apollonia, on the surrounding walls of Hekal, on the citadels of Kanina, Shkodra, Durrës, Kruja and others. In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Albanian League founded at Prizren, work will be done on several historical monuments.

It is worth mentioning that this year will mark the completion of the work of discovering examples of folk construction in all the villages of Albania, in order to register those which are of significance for the history of Albanian architecture, while proclaiming the most typical and perfect ones as monuments of culture. This major scientific action will be a very important contribution to the enrichment of the heritage of material culture created by our people through the centuries. On the other hand, this year will mark the completion of the text of the history of Albanian architecture up to 1912. It will be amply illustrated with the necessary materials, and will portray the great architectural wealth which the Albanian people have created through the centuries, its place in the contemporary world, and its special features. This book will be the crowning achievement of the research work done so far in this field.

At the same time 1978 will mark an increase in the publishing activity of the Institute of Monuments of Culture. Three volumes of the series «Monuments» will be sent to the press. They will contain articles on architecture and the restoration of monuments of architecture and art. The workers of the Institute have prepared two albums, one of the city of Kruja and the other of the museum-city of Gjirokastra. During this year monograph on the architecture of the museum city of Gjirokastra and other publications on method and of a popular character, will be sent to the press.



Characteristic dwelling houses in the museum-city of Gjirokastra before and after restoration.

Photo R. Veseli

ON THE STANDS OF THE «ALBANIA TODAY» EXHIBITION.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BRANCHES OF OUR HEAVY INDUSTRY AND IT HAS MADE GREAT PROGRESS. THE 1960 PRODUCTION OF THIS BRANCH WAS TURNED OUT IN ONLY 20 DAYS IN 1976. IN COMPARISON WITH 1960 TODAY IT PRODUCES TWELVE TIMES AS MANY SPARE PARTS AND 130 TIMES AS MANY MACHINES AND ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT. THE «TRACTORI» PLANT ALONE EMPLOYS NEARLY AS MANY CADRES OF HIGHER TRAINING AS THE ENTIRE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY EMPLOYED IN 1960. AT PRESENT THIS BRANCH OF OUR INDUSTRY MEETS 82 PER CENT OF OUR NEEDS FOR SPARE PARTS. BY THE END OF THE 6TH FIVE YEAR PLAN THE WORKERS OF OUR ENGINEERING INDUSTRY WILL REACH THE TARGETS SET BY THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA AND MEET 95 PER CENT OF OUR NEEDS FOR SPARE PARTS.



THE FIRST MOTOR PRODUCED BY THE «TRACTORI» PLANT

It was a great joy for the whole collective of the «Traktori» plant in Tirana when it succeeded in producing the first 75 h.p. motor of Albanian make.

The production of this motor is the result of several years of work by the collective of the «Traktori» plant, because a good part of its details had long been produced. It embodies the sweat and toil of the workers and the engineering-technical personnel of all departments.

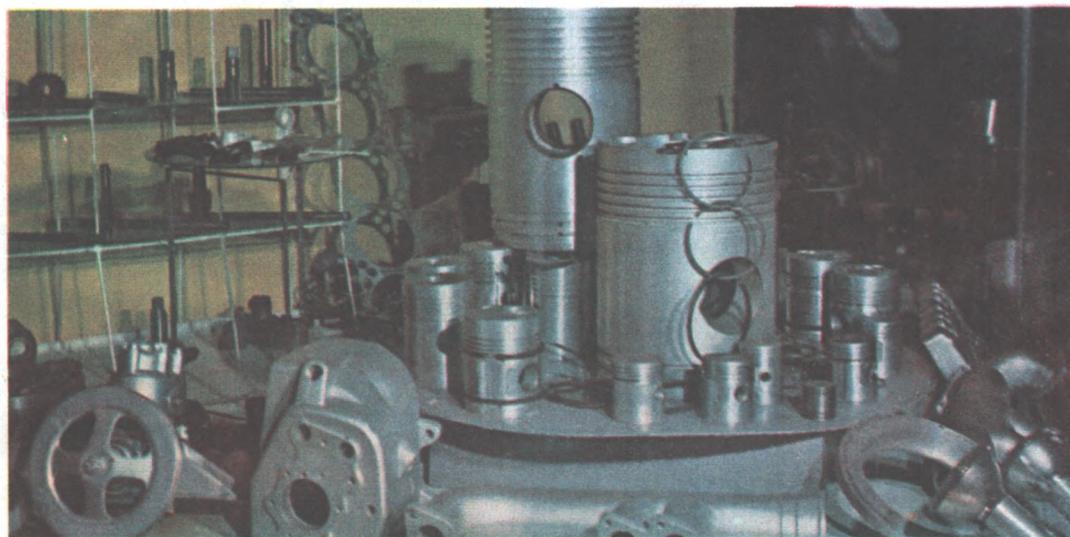
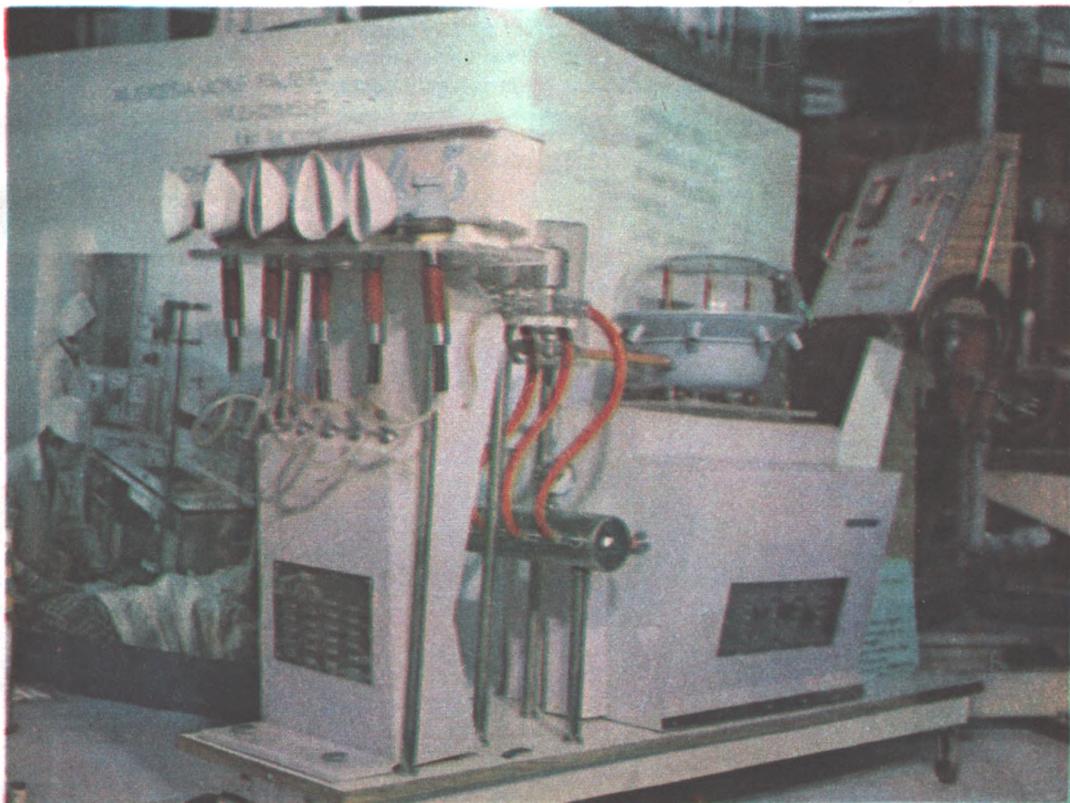
In conversation with the chief engineer of the plant, Qemal Daja, and other workers we learnt that serial production of this motor will soon begin. It will be used chiefly in agriculture and other branches of the economy. Now the road has been opened for the production of the first Albanian tractor in the near future. The experts at the plant told us that designing work is now under way for a new type of

universal motor for the mechanization of agriculture.

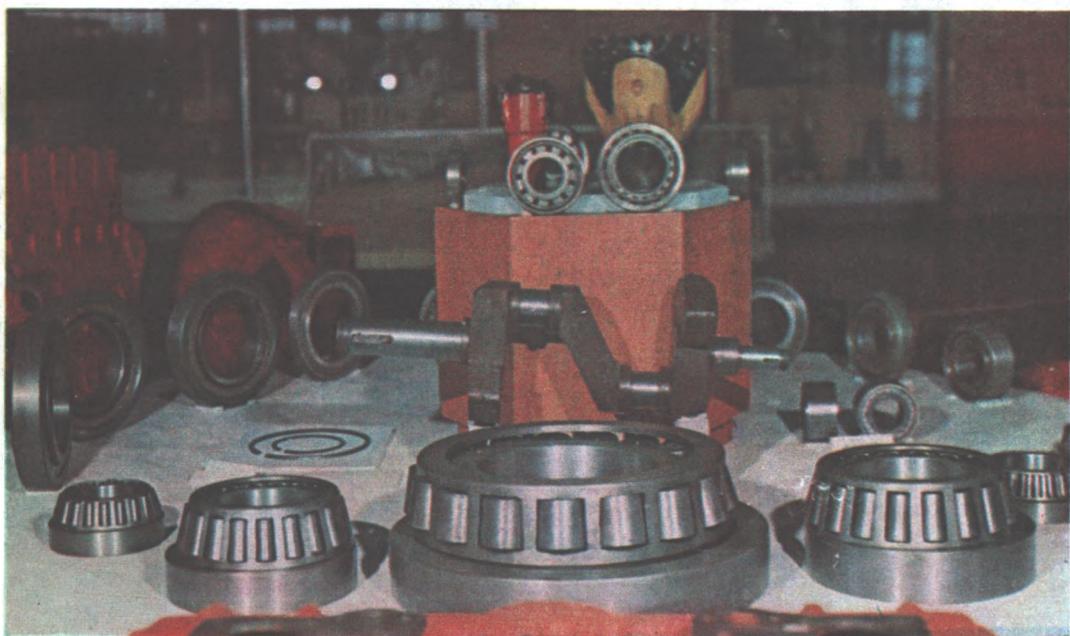
Basing their work on the principle of self-reliance the collective of this plant, the initiator of the revolutionary movement, «To work, fight and live as under siege», has succeeded in providing the economy with about 400 details and aggregates which were formerly imported, within the first two years of this five-year plan. For the production of these items, 3,000 items of equipment, 2,100 cutting instruments, 390 measuring instruments and about 200 dies and models had to be produced.

The collective of the «Traktori» plant had pledged that by 1980 it would produce 100% per cent of the spare parts required for the types of tractors within its range. Now, by producing this 75 h.p. motor, they are carrying out this pledge two years ahead of schedule.

THE INDUSTRIAL MARCH



Products of our mechanical engineering industry. Photo S. Xhillari



Albania has long since been transformed from the backward agricultural country it was before liberation, into an agricultural-industrial country and has taken and is taking important steps in the course of its transformation into an industrial-agricultural country with advanced agriculture. In 1975 the total volume of industrial production was 97 times greater than in 1938. During the same year industrial production constituted about two thirds of industrial and agricultural production taken together, as against only 8% in 1938. Industry produces about 57% of the total social product and about 46% of the national income. Thus industry has become the leading branch of the national economy, a reliable and powerful base for the development of all the other sectors and branches of the economy.

Today, Albania utilises its natural resources independently, has created and is creating new branches of the heavy processing industry. Albanian industry processes oil, copper and a series of agricultural products. Now it produces machinery and equipment, chemical fertilisers, iron and steel, and will soon produce nickel, cobalt, galvanized iron, steel sheet and tubes, high quality fuels, liquified gas, hydrochloric acid etc. and is opening mines, plants, factories, hydro power stations, railways etc. Thus the program for the creation of a complex heavy and light national industry is carried out.

With the development of the processing industry during the sixth five year plan (1976-1980), in 1980 more than 65% of the volume of exports will be made up of locally processed products, as against 46% in 1960.

Before liberation, about 75% of the industrial output of the country was produced in only four or five cities, whereas today, every district of Albania has a series of industrial projects of different branches. Once backward, simply agricultural districts are known today as districts with important enterprises of the extracting and processing industry. For example the district of Fieri (in Southern Albania), is known for the extracting and processing of oil and gas and the production of chemical fertilizers, the district of Dibra, for the chromium industry, Mirdita and Kukes for the copper industry, Pogradec and Librazhd for iron-nickel, Berat for the textile industry and so on.

As a result of the creation of new industrial centres in the districts the number of new towns has increased. Now, there are three times as many towns in Albania as before the war. A good part of these towns have been created in mountainous districts.

The entire output of copper extracted during 1946 is now extracted in six days. In 1975 the output of copper ore increased more than six times over in comparison with 1960. Eight times more blister copper was produced than during 1960.

In 1976, production equal to the total output of the engineering industry for 1960 was produced in just 20 days. As against 1960, this important branch of heavy industry now produces 12 times more spare parts and 130 times more pieces of equipment and machinery.

THE CINEMA



Shots from the new Albanian feature film «Tomka and his Comrades».

THE PIONEERS IN THE WAR FOR FREEDOM

- ABOUT THE FILM

«*TOMKA
AND HIS COMRADES*»

LUAN DIBRA



The Anti-fascist National Liberation War, as an unprecedented awakening of the consciousness qualities, and outstanding virtues of the people, with those major upheavals and deep-going social and psychological transformations, is a great and endless source of spiritual nourishment for the patriotic and revolutionary education of the people and rising generation of Albania. This is why the theme of the war remains a permanent theme for all our artists. It is important that in being dealt with over and over again this theme must always remain fresh, new truths and aspects must always be revealed by going deeply into the great processes of our people's revolution, so broad and complex, that the portrait of the heroes of the war, so powerful and modest in their heroism must emerge in all its majesty that the power of the ideas of the Communist Party to transform and inspire are presented truthfully, ideas which became the mental and spiritual property of the entire people, from the old folk to the children. One merit of the film, «Tomka and his comrades», a production of the «New Albania» film studios, is precisely its original and convincing treatment of the great theme of the war, seen from the angle of the contribution made to the revolution by the children, as a completely natural integration in a cause which had to do with the life and death of a nation and an entire people.

The film is dedicated to children, but it deals with great ideas of the history and noble spiritual tradition of our people. The cause of freedom is the concern of all: under no circumstances, can the Albanian ever tolerate foreign domination. When the children in the film, under the very noses of the German nazi, known for their cynicism, savagery and cruelty insist on keeping the little piece of ground where they play, it is not merely a question of children insisting on a place to pursue their childish interests. It is a resolute confrontation, inspired by deep hatred and a clear conviction and consciousness, of these sons and daughters of the people with the merciless enemy, with the tanks, rifles, guns of an invader armed to the teeth, who does not hesitate to commit even the ugliest crime. And the children, who feel and understand this, do not waver, are not afraid and dance right under the wolf's jaws, with powerful courage. Behind them stands a whole people with the Party at the head.

The children's heroism is presented in a most natural way. The children who are performing heroic acts are, at the same time, still children, with their innocence and purity, their jokes and rich dreams. The evolution of their character and spiritual world proceeds in conformity with the circumstances, with the nature of the heroes themselves, with the atmosphere and relationships which each of them has with people and life.

Assessing the artistic values of the film, it can be said with confidence, that «Tomka and his comrades», constitutes not only a new success, but a real step forward in the creativeness of the film producer Xhamfize Keko, who has now become well known for her films about children. This time we have to do with a more profound and mature treatment of a theme which, while it is about children, also interests adults for the valuable generalisations made of the period, the rich background of thoughts and events, the pleasure and emotions which the film arouses.

The acting of the children is undoubtedly a very important factor in the achievement of the artistic values of the film. Almost without exception they are talented, intelligent children, with a rare ability to adapt themselves to their roles.

«Tomka and his comrades» is a new production, with real ideoesthetic values of the «New Albania» Film Studios, which will serve the revolutionary, patriotic and artistic education of the children and the rising generation.



Relief with mythical animals on the wall of the chapel of the St. Nicholas monastery at Mesopotam in the Saranda district (of the 18th century).
Photo: R. Veseli

THE LEGEND OF BISTRICA

To the south-east of Saranda, at the far end of the Bistrica plain, stands an isolated hill, almost quadrangular in shape. Its slopes are eroded, while below, it is surrounded by four streams. On top of the hill are the ruins of the Finiq acropolis (one of our most important archaeological cities. Beyond the hill towers the jagged peak of a mighty mountain. In contrast to the other parts of our south-west riviera, with their rich and varied cover of pines, citrus, and olive trees, which beautify this district, this mountain behind Finiq stands bare a rugged rocky peak. Only near its crest there are two rows of trees to be seen, winding across cliffs and gullies, right around the summit. These two strange-looking rows of trees on that barren mountain strike the eye immediately and attract the attention of visitors. According to legend, in ancient times a terrible dragon has descended upon this region: every day it demanded a living person to eat. The entire region was becoming depopulated and fear reigned in every home as each awaited the day of his own dreadful fate. One day a brave and clever peasant emerged from the ranks of the people. He decided to get rid of the monster and thus save the district. What did this courageous man do? He loaded his donkey with a bundle of tinder, and putting a burning ember in the middle of the load, set off for the dragon's den. He was both clever and brave this peasant. When he came to clearing full of human bones, and face to face with the terrible dragon, he was not afraid at all. The brave man said: «Hey there, Dragon! You expected only one, but

today there are two. However it would be better for you to eat the donkey first and keep me for after... as something more delicious. I tell you this for your own good, but you may do as you wish...». Without suspecting the trick, the dragon listened to the peasant and swallowed the donkey and its load first. But meanwhile, the burning ember was spreading the fire inside the tinder. Soon, the dragon felt the fire in its belly. Maddened with pain, it dug its claws into the rock and began to roar, to twist and to writhe, with scalding slime and flames pouring from its mouth. «Water, water, I'm burning,» roared the monster so that the mountain echoed to the heavens. But there was no water anywhere round about.

Belching smoke and flames and vomiting scalding slime, the dragon slipped and slid down to the mountain gorge. But not a drop of water did it find there, either. Then, it prayed to the earth: «Oh, mother of us all, give me a little water from your bosom to quench this great fire burning inside me!». There and then, the earth opened and the water of the Bistrica river gushed out. The dragon plunged in its head and breathing clouds of smoke, drank till it burst. But the flow of the river has not stopped since that time, while on the scorched slopes of the mountain the marks of the dragon's claws remain to this day. There where the slime fell on the earth as the dragon slipped and slid down to the gorge, those two strange rows of trees sprang up, and they have put out new shoots, leaves and branches ever since.



SHEFQET MUSARAI

HOW THE «BALLAD OF THE BALLI KOMBËTAR» WAS CREATED

Shefqet Musarai is one of the most outstanding representatives of the new Albanian culture, one of the writers, most honoured and beloved by our readers. Musarai was born on the 27th of April, 1914, at Smokthina in Vlorë. He passed his childhood in the great upheavals of the First World War, when the district of Vlorë was in the frontline of great power inter-imperialist clashes. Shefqet Musarai was six years old when the people of Vlorë, especially the people of the district of Mesaplik, hurled themselves over the barbed wire of the positions of the Italians who wanted to maintain their occupation of Vlorë. The democratic movements, the bourgeois democratic revolution of 1924, and the spreading of revolutionary M/L ideas in Albania, moulded Shefqet Musarai as a young man with progressive and revolutionary tendencies. In 1930 he began to write about the most acute problems worrying the country and the people, seeing these from the realist angle. Thus he entered the pleiad of those progressive workers opposed to the official conformist literature.

But the thing that gave the young poet the possibility to freely express his feelings of love for the people and hatred for the enemy

was the creation of the Communist Party of the Albanian people. Musarai was a member of the Party from the time it was founded. He fought with the rifle and the pen. He became one of the most skilful writers of the illegal leaflets of the Communist Party and a collaborator with many clandestine organs of the press such as «Zëri i Popullit», «Bashkimi», «Kushtrimi i Lirisë» etc. During the war, as a genuine revolutionary, he carried out important political duties and functions, taking part in the big partisan detachments (the First Partisan Shock Division). During the war he also wrote the texts of many partisan songs, sketches and satirical poems. But the major work of Musarai in the war period was the «Ballad of the Balli Kombëtar», a poem which attacked the collaborationist organisation, «Balli Kombëtar» and the local traitors with the powerful weapon of satire. This work was the culmination of that very broad cultural and artistic creative work of Musarai which was born in the days of the National Liberation War and which constituted the embryo of the new culture of socialist Albania. Below we are publishing the author's own notes about the creation of the poetical work. «Ballad of the Balli Kombëtar» (editors note).

The National Liberation War, organised and led by the Communist Party of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, was at the same time, a great popular revolution. It included all spheres of the life of the people, from the organisation of the state to questions of culture, literature and art. Thus, as early as the days of the war for national liberation from the Nazi and fascist occupiers, the first beginnings of a new revolutionary culture, which was to become the basis of the socialist culture of our days, emerged. The satirical poem, «The Ballad of the Balli Kombëtar», was created in the conditions of that revolutionary impulse of the National Liberation War when, in

illegality under very difficult technical conditions, leaflets, communiques, newspapers, and magazines were published, scores of epic and satirical poems were written, when partisan songs were composed in the mountains and the prisons to be sung later in demonstrations and in the firing line. But first of all, let me tell the reader something about the subject. The Balli Kombëtar, the collaborationist traitor organisation, was created as a reaction against the National Liberation Movement.

Included in the Balli Kombëtar were the most fanatical representatives of the feudal, bourgeois, including personalities who had deliberately avoided openly compro-

misising themselves with the fascist occupiers, and who, consequently, enjoyed a certain credit, especially in the ranks of the intelligentsia of that time.

Although, behind the scenes, the creation of the Balli as an organisation was encouraged and approved by the fascist occupiers, it proclaimed itself as allegedly illegal and with slogans of struggle against the occupiers. But this did not last long. The touchstone of whether what the Balli declared in its so-called illegal propaganda was true, would be its active participation in the armed struggle against the enemy, a thing which it had no intention of doing and did not do at any time. On the con-

trary, badly exposed through its own stand, it sank even deeper into treachery until it united its weapons openly with the occupier and committed the most monstrous crimes.

With the fall of Mussolini and on the eve of the capitulation of Italy, when the greater part of Albania had been liberated, and the people, led by the Party, were preparing to take the power into their own hands, the leaders of the Balli turned over the page and rushed to reach agreement with the partisans. The Party and the National Liberation Front demanded that the organisers and leaders of the Balli must render account for their treachery and crimes while the

masses deceived by them must unconditionally join the National Liberation Front and fight with weapons against the new Nazi invaders who were striving to take the place of the former.

The Balli, which was in fact a collaborationist organisation, could not accept these conditions, and, as was natural, very quickly put itself in the service of the new occupiers, always, under the lable of an «illegal nationalist organisation». For more than a year on end, it took part as the right hand of the Hitlerite invaders—in burning and devastating the country, in mass murders and internments, in the hope that in this way the People's National Liberation Movement would be liquidated and it would be able to secure statepower as usual.

But all the efforts and demagogy of the Balli were defeated, just as its Hitlerite patrons were defeated, by the strength and iron will of the Albanian people led by the Communist Party.

In the Spring of 1944, the National Liberation Movement had become greatly extended and the initiative of the war was now passing into the hands of the National Liberation Army organised in brigades. It was now clearly apparent that the victory of the people was inevitable. The Balli Kombetar, which could see disaster approaching, hastened once again to manouver to hang on at least to a few dominating positions for the future. This in brief is the subject of the poem.

* * *

«The Ballad of the Balli Kombetar» was written precisely at the time, (May 1944), when the National Liberation Movement numbered whole partisan divisions and brigades in its ranks, when the Hitlerite invaders were on the decline and at the great anti-fascist Congress of Permet, the people's delegates from all over Albania elected as Commander-in-Chief of the National Liberation Army, and Head of the Provisional Democratic Government of the People, the founder and tested leader of the Albanian Communist Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The Ballad was written at the request of a group of anti-fascist youth who wanted to ridicule the tragicomedy of the Balli, to express their profound indignation over its grave crimes, to laugh to scorn its ludicrous declarations in which it said one thing and did another. The Balli Kombetar was trying to keep the wheel of history from turning. But the wheel of the people's revolution, crushed the Balli, showed it up for what it was, an organisation of Don Quixotes. The partisans wanted something simple written about those Don Quixotes. They wanted the text for a song which could be sung and danced too. But as the author having always made a target of the Balli Kombetar with my illegal publicist writings, I took up my pen and instead of a text for a song, I created a poem which I never imagined would be so well received and withstand the passage of time. It was published illegally in Tirana on the courageous initiative of the printing workers in one of the printing establishments under the control of the Germans.

The merit that this poem had in hitting right on the mark and serving the broad masses of the peo-

ple and the youth for a greater and more determined mobilisation against the enemy and the traitors is due, in the first place, to my education in the Party in the ranks of which I had the good fortune to take part from its foundation. Right from the beginning the Party never ceased to teach the workers of literature and art to get rid of any sort of intellectual pose of independence form society and to consider as more sacred than anything else, the duty to live in the ranks of the people with its hopes, worries and aspirations, and to serve the great cause of the people, the national and social liberation and the construction of a more worthy future, with both the pen and the rifle.

This kind of education led me to write poems dealing with the main problem of the great historic moment which I lived through, together with the people, when I was thirty years of age.

In fact as a worker of the illegal agitation and propoganda of the Party during the war, I always found myself, in my publicist and literary writings, in confrontation with the propoganda of the Balli and had exposed its unscrupulous treachery and demagogy. Thus, at the beginning of January, 1944, the pamphlet, «Yesterday and Today», published as a pamphlet on one of the enemy printing presses dealt in biting satire, with the majority of the problems which would be treated five months later in the verses of the «Ballad of the Balli Kombetar», in which the certain victory of the truth and justice of the people over the deception and treachery of the Balli was clearly forecast.

The Ballad of the Balli was created mainly as a satirical work, but the satire is frequently accompanied by epic elements. As such it could be called a tragi-comic poem because that was true of the activity of the Balli Kombetar: tragic for the hideous crimes which the members of the Balli committed, comic because of the fact that they became ludicrous with their efforts to pose as patriots. The reader scoffs at the Balli in the Ballad and at the same time the poem makes him aware of the great background of the genuine effort which the legendary national liberation war of our people constitutes. The characters in the poem, in general are historical characters, but the poem presents them as representatives of their respective classes. At the same time they preserve their individuality and characteristics, which in the context of their activity, sometimes assume a comic and sometimes an epic character. One main character in the poem who represents the common people, the brave, wise, and generous patriot, who hits the traitors hard with his simple but stern tongue, is the figure of Dai Ceni, also an historical character.

The «Ballad of the Balli Kombetar» is read with interest even today. It pleases me as the author when I see that the work that was written without any great pretensions in the days of the war is still a work of value even today. As I said above, the great merit for this belongs to our Party, to our people which guided me and suggested to me not only that I should take up a theme which would be able to withstand the passage of time, but that I should treat it from that realist viewpoint which would make it valuable even in our days. For me this is the greatest reward.



Photo: V. Koçi

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND

JONUZ DINI
Director of the Puppet Theatre-Shkodra

Like many other professional theatres of our country, the Puppet Theatre in Shkodra was born on the basis of the amateur theatre. Along with its transformation from an amateur theatre to a professional one, its quality improved, its repertoire was enriched and its popularity with the audiences grew. Now, we can say that this theatre has become dear to the children and has become part of their lives. In all its activity our theatre tries to inculcate in the children the sense of what is good, what is beautiful, love for work and the collective, loyalty to the Homeland, the struggle for justice and truth. We consider the young members of our audiences as collaborators. In strongly emotional situations, the actors enter into dialogue with them, and ask their opinion about this or that negative character, ask their opinion of, and stand towards, the mistake or crime he has committed etc. Their vivid replies are harmonized with the atmosphere of the play, without clashing with the main idea, but on the contrary, increasing the dramatic force and educational effect of the play through this collaboration.

Our active repertoire includes 17 plays. These are performed interchangeably. The themes cover a wide range. There are plays which deal with life at school, the vigorous work going on from end to end of our country, the National Liberation War, the people's liberation struggle, etc.

Our theatre gives performances not only in the city, but also in the villages of the district, setting up the stage in the places most suitable to the children, in the schools, or the village square. Our theatre has become known also through its performances broadcast on T.V.

MEETING AT THE AIRPORT

NIKO NIKOLLA

After a long flight of 21 hours, passing over three continents, I landed at an airport. Dawn was breaking. In the misty rain, the runway lights gave the surface a glassy sheen. Although it was the end of Autumn, the breeze blowing in from the Tyrrhenian sea was warm.

I entered the great vestibule of the airport and enquired the address of the airline whose aircraft had brought me here. I was taken somewhere to the middle of the hall. The airline office was a sort of counter behind which a woman was standing in silence. When I introduced myself she responded with a quiet smile. Several times she looked at me quietly, through her glasses, but she said nothing. She tried several numbers but got no reply. Again and again she tried but it was no use. At last she turned to me apologetically and said:

— I'm sorry, I can't help you. There is no reply on any of their numbers. But don't worry... Perhaps a little later...

The conversation was interrupted by a burly, broad — shouldered man, with close cropped hair and a blue uniform, who came rushing in without so much as «by your leave», he spoke a few words to the woman behind the counter in a mutilated parody of her mother tongue from which, it could be deduced that he wanted a ticket to London, on the aircraft which I had just left. The woman with glasses heard him out quietly and replied curtly, as though she couldn't care less:

— None available!

The burly man with close-cropped hair tried again, but this time for a closer destination — Paris.

None available! replied the woman with glasses.

He tried once more but this time closer still — Geneva.

None available! Came the same curt answer.

I thought I ought to speak because something unfair was going on. If I had encountered such a thing in one of our travel agencies I would have intervened at once. The plane I had just left had fewer than 20 passengers. This had stuck in my memory like a feeling of fear, because when you travel all night across three continents and see that great cabin, with room for 150 passengers, almost empty in the semi-darkness, it creates a sort of anxiety, especially when you fly through the monsoons over Africa and the aircraft rocks and bounces like a truck on a pot-holed road. And now, after this flight lasting nearly 21 hours, this employee of the airline could not give this passenger a ticket to go about his business. If the airline were to hear of this it would fire her on the spot, and she would be out of a job. However, she seemed not in the least concerned about this danger.

The burly man with close-cropped hair muttered something in his own language and stormed off to find another agency.

Although I knew the plane was flying almost empty, because she had been so ready to help me, I asked the question again in a round about way.

Were all the seats full or is there some strike by air service workers?

— No, — she said in a tone of relief. — But you don't know who he is.

— How could I? — I replied with increasing curiosity.

— He, — said the woman, — is from the U.S. 6th Fleet. Didn't you see how he behaved? Thinks he has the weapons and can do anything he likes. Damn them! They'll get no tickets from me! We didn't invite them! What do they want here in the Mediterranean?

Her tranquil tones had disappeared and she was speaking angrily.

— They are prowling around here with their eyes on you and on us. Everyone knows how things stand with us, but you are lucky enough to have a quiet and beautiful country with good people. I'm going crazy here from the roar of these engines. It seems to be boring through my brain — she said as if abandoning herself to despair.

Taken by surprise at this unexpected turn of the conversation I remained silent as if I did not know what to say.

Perhaps what I said about your country sounded to you like compliments — said the woman with glasses — or you may have taken them worthless flattery, devoid of sincerity, as part of my job to butter up the passengers. This is what the company is always insisting on, and wants us to do even more of it, but I hate the falsity and hypocrisy, which our company fosters so carefully.

— Please — I began, but she cut me off.

— I know what you are thinking — the woman with glasses went on, — I know what you're thinking. The way this conversation has gone, anyone might have had some doubt's perhaps not about the tone, but about the sincerity of it. But it went that way because of that ominous fleet which is

prowling the waters of the Mediterranean. You must have noticed that when people sense a danger they are always more definite and less reserved, and speak more clearly and sincerely about what they really feel. This is the first time I have set eyes on you, but you are from a country that has played a part in my life. I know Mokra in Albania.

She pronounced the name Mokra clearly and accurately.

— Excuse me, but I can't help being astonished at this. I am from those parts, too...

— It's a long and painful history for me — she went on. — If it were not for Mokra, I would have grown up an orphan. And not only me, but six girls, because we were six sisters. Now, I am the only one left. One of them was killed by an earthquake less than a month ago. She was the fifth sister to come to a tragic end. Please don't probe any deeper; our family would serve as a tragic theme for a novel. But now I am fortunate to have my father, the dearest person I now have, living with me. He is the man who was reborn in your Mokra, Albania... Yes I'm not exaggerating, but expressing my father's and my own sincere feelings. He has no reason now to eulogise anyone, because for the past two years he's been completely blind, as a result of an accident at the «Zanus» plant. Now I work for this foreign air line. I have to get up at four in the morning to come here, and when I go home in the evening I know how I feel. But can you imagine what a blind man can do on his own all day long? They say the work day is 8 hours, but I

A TALK WITH THE READERS

WORLD LITERATURE IN THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

In their letters the readers often ask about the criteria guiding the translation of world literature into the Albanian language, and what is being done in this field.

In reply to these enquiries we are publishing this article by DONIKA OMARI, chief of the editorial board for foreign literature, at the «Naim Frashëri» Publishing House, Tirana.

To acquaint the Albanian reader with the most outstanding works of revolutionary and progressive world literature is a permanent task of the publishing houses of our country. Foreign literature in Albania is published according to certain scientific criteria, always setting out to provide the readers with works of sound content and high artistic level. Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: «We must

choose the most progressive, the most revolutionary authors and books, dealing with the most revolutionary moments, so that we can illustrate to our reader what he has learned about the history of the peoples, about their class struggle, and the development of their progressive thought.»

During the 33 years of the People's State Power, the fund of translated literature has been in-

spend 3 to 4 hours travelling apart from anything else. To calm her, I took out a packet of cigarettes and proffered it to her. She thanked me but did not take a cigarette. I found I didn't want one either. A feeling of pity was mounting inside me. A few minutes passed in silence. She seemed to pull herself together. She took off her glasses, wiped them with a handkerchief, and after putting them on again said:

— Excuse me — What I told you is no concern of yours, but when we are fed up we want to pour it all out to someone.

— Lady — I said, a little hesitantly, — a person has to be strong. Life has taught those Mokra peasants you just mentioned a great deal. It's not for nothing they say that the evil fell on iron and melted it, fell on wood and burnt it, fell on stone and split it, fell on man, but he endured it. In the world, man must not submit to his fate, must not be passive, because in this way they will trample you down. One must be strong and wise to cope with misfortunes. In Mokra which you mentioned, they have had their full score of misfortunes, but the man of Mokra, like every Albanian has known how to withstand them, to cope with them, and life, there where it seemed to be dying out, has emerged stronger. When someone sets himself an objective, and fights for it without retreating, he is sure to emerge triumphant. Excuse me for asking how you came to know Mokra, a thing which I find astonishing. I ask less from curiosity than from that human feeling every one experiences when he hears his own country, praised, especially when he is far away.

— That's right, — she said, — That human feeling makes not only you but me too, feel respect for that people, who have helped in my life, though indirectly. My father was in your country during those awful years for your people and ours. They were two brothers in the 104th Infantry regiment. They set out for Albania. We were told that Albania was a wild country where the people were cannibals. What hadn't we heard! But my childish imagination neither understood nor concerned itself with these things. I only knew that my father was far away, across the sea in the moun-

tains. But he was not alone, his elder brother was with him. He was better able to fend for himself because he had gone to work in the USA, too. That was all we knew. But what happened later on upset all that. It is clear that my father went there as an invader therefore the fate of every invader awaited him. I know, the history of your country, sir I have read about it. Indeed I greatly enjoyed reading it. When someone forces his way into your home he doesn't expect you to welcome him with flowers. And the fate of every invader is known. But the day came when fascism, which had got our country into an impasse, surrendered. Of course, the road it had taken could have no other end. At that time, my father was ill in a hospital in a town by a beautiful lake. In the morning he met his brother who had decided to surrender to the German troops, who were considered as our allies and were coming to take over. This, according to him, was the best way to get home. They parted in the morning but by lunch time he learned that the Germans had shot his brother as soon as he surrendered. Every one in the hospital was terrified. An Albanian helped my father. He did not allow him to fall into the hands of the German troops, but took him away. My father often tells me what happened that day, because it is unforgettable. He relates this history to every one, especially to those who happen to say something about your country. This is how my father tells it:

— I was very ill. The Albanian took me and helped me, but during the night we were faced with something unexpected that I shall never forget. When we found ourselves face to face with the partisans, my blood ran cold. Since our allies, the Germans had killed my brother, what are the partisans going to do with me who have come as an enemy! I was taken to the Commander. He questioned and I begged him not to kill me, because the Germans had shot my brother in the morning. He had left five orphaned children, while I had six. The commander cut me short:

— First get well. When you get better we'll look into the matter. We do not have hospitals and medicines, but anyhow, we will do our best to treat you in the peasant's homes.

— Then he had asked who would help him. A tall man came forward and he took me to his house. They lit a fire for me, gave me food, but I could neither eat nor drink. They put me to bed. During three months of suffering, I often thought that it was all up with me. But those people looked after me like their own child. One day the war burst out over the village. Children, adults and the old folk cleared out immediately. It's all over, — I said, I'll fall into the hands of the Germans after all. I cannot escape death.

However, my hosts put me on a stretcher and took me with them into the forest. We were without food for two days and nights. The little milk they got from a goat they gave to the children and me. That was the longest and hardest winter I have passed. In the spring I began to recover and one day, when I had begun to get up and felt I was gaining strength, I asked them to take me to the commander, the one who, when I was so sick and demoralized, had told me that I must first recover and then they could look at my case. But instead of meeting him I heard the partisans singing a song dedicated to him. I was taken to the new commander. I was astonished when I learned that commander was that tall man who helped me that night by taking me to his village. I stood silent in front of him. How should I speak, what should I say?

Father still did not understand. His mind and soul were disturbed by two opposing feelings. On the one hand, gratitude that they had saved his life, on the other, the thought that now he had recovered they would settle accounts with him because he was an invader. It is somewhat ridiculous, but remember that my father is a very simple man and did not know the Albanians, and even less the partisans. As father tells it — «I said to the new commander:

— Put me on trial and sentence me. However I have not killed any one and have not committed any crime.

The commander looked at me thoughtfully without speaking. Finally he said to me:

— We do not kill victims, we kill fascism, nazism, the enemy. You are a victim. That is what fascism reduced you to. Therefore, don't sit idly praying, but pick up the rifle and come and fight. In this way

you will be doing your duty towards your own people, too.».

«From now on I am with you. But even with this I can never repay you». That is how he felt it. Many years have gone by since that time, but he never forgets you. He always remembers you with the greatest respect, and the most profound sincerity.

From Spring to Autumn, when your country was liberated, my father was with the partisans. He kept a diary during that time. He himself says that he was a poor writer, but what he has seen and written there would amaze you. Some time ago, one of my nephews came and asked his grandfather why what he said about Albania was different from what was written in his geography text-book. One of the teachers had told the pupils that what was in the text-book was untrue, but my father told my nephew another way of exposing the lies. Together with twelve of his school mates, he sent a letter asking many questions about the content of the geography text-book to an Albanian magazine. Some time later this letter was replied to by the pupils of a secondary school in a village on the Adriatic coast, directly opposite us. What those Albanian pupils said was a well deserved reply. They completely exposed the lies in the geography text-book. My father was delighted and next time my nephew came he sang him your partisan song «Comrades unite in the unit».

— Thus my friend, — said the woman with glasses. — Those words I said about your people I learned from the gratitude of a simple man.

After a moment's silence she remembered that she had to do something for me and began to dial the telephone number I wanted.

A flush spread over her pale, strained face when the call was answered.

— There you are — she said, handing me the receiver, take it, they have answered at the other end».

About an hour later, when I was leaving the airport, she said to me:

— When you go back to your country, please do something for me — go to Mokra and tell them what I said. Tell them these are the words of a simple woman who, although she has never seen them has the greatest admiration for that country and those people.

creased and enriched in an organized manner; thus our reader is becoming ever better acquainted with this literature.

The classics of world literature enjoy special respect and love in our country. We now have in our libraries the full translations of Homer's two great poems, the «Iliad» and the «Odyssey», we also have the full translation of «Don Quixote» by Cervantes and «The Divine Comedy» by Dante, the major works of Shakespeare, Goethe's «Faust», Tolstoy's «War and Peace», etc.

In Albania we choose and translate those works from classical literature in which the fine artistic form complements a sound content, with lofty humane ideas, democratic principles, and in general, an objective and realistic stand by the

author towards the phenomena of life and society.

This criterion — the question of the conformity of the artistic level to an important social content, is the basic one for the publication of foreign literature in Albania. Another criterion is the proportionate, and not spontaneous, representation of this literature in time and space.

Here we have a very broad range — from the Homeric epos up to the classics of the beginning of our century, from the American novelists of critical realism to classical Chinese poetry. Many French classics have been translated. There is a long list, both of authors and works. Following «The Misanthrope» and «Tartuffe» come most of Molier's other works, then follow «Le Cid» by Corneille and «Andro-

maca» by Racine, «Candide» by Voltaire, and the revolutionary comedies of Beaumarchais. Our readers are acquainted with the critical realists of the 19th century Stendhal, Balzac, Hugo, Merimée, Flaubert, Zola, Daudet, Francin, Maupassant and Rostand, through their major works. From the authors of the Commune, we have in Albania, Valeis, Pothier and other poets of the Commune.

From the English writers of the past undoubtedly the best known in our country is Shakespeare, and after him comes Dickens. We have also translated Milton and Defoe, Swift, Burns, Scott, Thackeray, Hardy, Stevenson and others.

Russian classical literature is very widely represented, beginning from Pushkin and Lermontov to Tolstoy, Turgeniev and Chekhov.

The Russian revolutionary-democrats, as well as the outstanding critic, Belinsky and others, have also been translated.

Among the German authors, Schiller takes first place in regard to the number of works published in Albania. The patriotic and freedom-loving sentiments of his dramas have ensured always great popularity among our readers. The classic German literature is also represented by Goethe, Heine and Lessing.

The American, Mark Twain is dear to our readers. «Tom Sawyer» and «Huckleberry Finn» attract readers of all ages in Albania. Whitman, Longfellow and Cooper are known and read, too.

From Italian literature apart from Dante's, «Divine Comedy», Goldon's comedies, «The Decame-

«PROFARMA» – TRADE MARK OF ALBANIAN MEDICAMENTS

If we were to look back at the newspapers of March 1948, our attention would be attracted by a small news item which informs its readers that the first pharmaceutical laboratory in our country had been set up at the clinical hospital in Tirana. That day marks the birth of a new enterprise for the production of pharmaceutical products which has since then become very familiar to the people under the well known name of «Profarma».

Imagine how many small phials bearing the typewritten white lable «distilled water» were turned out. These were the first products which in this field are scarcely even a beginning, but which are so necessary, and, up to that time, used to be purchased abroad with gold. We used to import even camomile.

Only a few years later this small laboratory had turned into a big and important enterprise. Twenty years ago it was housed in a spacious building with many annexes, surrounded by perennial green. Today, the sectors of this enterprise are equipped with up-to-date apparatus and machinery. Now the number of cadres of higher training is four times as great as the total number of workers at the beginning. Production has increased a great deal and so has the number of workers employed, 85 per cent of whom are girls and women who attend the many qualification courses and the vocational secondary school of the enterprise.

The sole aim of the increase in

pharmaceutical production has been to constantly meet the requirements of human and veterinary therapy for high quality medicaments. So far about 900 different pharmaceutical and cosmetic products have been produced. This wide range of preparations meets all the requirements of advanced modern therapy. Now there is no medicament which exists in the other countries of the world which is not available in our country. A good part of the products are produced with local raw materials.

More than 20 tinctures and extracts, about 8 species, and more than 30 specialities have been produced at the «Profarma» industrial enterprise from medicinal herbs and animal organs, and these products keep increasing. Last year 4,255 chemical and physical-chemical analyses were made. The first steps have been taken in the purification of certain chemical substances which are used in production.

Now that first small pharmaceutical laboratory, established 30 years ago is remote in our memory while the opening of the new modern antibiotics factory in our country is close at hand. As a result, «Profarma» will soon be producing antibiotic tablets from the products of this factory. This is the course of the rapid advance characteristic of our country. The numerous pharmacies which extend to the most remote corners of our Homeland are being supplied with an ever increasing quantity of the products turned out by this enterprise.



In the sector where distilled water is produced.



«Profarma» products.

«Beyond this Place» by A. Cronin, the «General's Star» by E. Morgan etc.). It would take a long time to mention all the great number of works of modern literature which have been translated, including works from all continents, from novels by Latin American authors, with their common concerns about the fascist dictatorships such as «Mr. President» by M. A. Asturias and neocolonialism («The Partner» by H. Prieto), to other authors engaged with the crucial problems of their own countries, such as novels by the African writer, S. Ousmane, the Indian writer K. Markandaja, etc. Included in our translations are some of the best known poets of our time, such as R. Tagore, G. Lorea, P. Eloard, L. Hughes, and P. Neruda, as well as the playwrights, A. Miller, G. B. Shaw, E. de Filippo, P. Weiss, J. B. Priestly, etc.

The literature of socialist realism, headed by Gorky, Maiakovsky, Lu Sun, H. Barbusse and B. Brecht, occupies an honoured place in our translated literature.

The names of communist writers whose works have been translated in our country occupy a major place, including Fourmanov, Seraphinovich, Fadajev, Gorbato, Ostrovsky, Gladkov, J. Fucik etc.

Their best novels such as «Chapajev», «How the Steel was tempered», «The Young Guard» etc., serve the revolutionary education of our reader. There is a constant demand, especially from young readers for the works of Gorky, Mayakovsky and Brecht, and they are reprinted time and again.

Many works of a revolutionary spirit have been translated from Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean literature. Among the communist poets, apart from Mayakovsky and Brecht, we also have Vapcarov, Smirnsky, and others, in Albanian.

In the future too, the selection of works from present-day world literature will continue to be made according to the ideartistic criteria we mentioned above so that they correctly represent the pro-

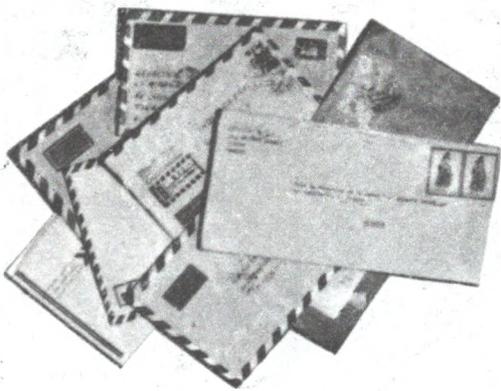
blems of our time and make their contribution to the enrichment of the artistic values of our literature. As comrade Enver Hoxha stressed at the 8th Party Congress, «...the most correct stand towards publications from foreign literature and art gave powerful encouragement to the development of our own art and literature.»

In the future too, our reader will have many other new works available, some of them by authors who will be published for the first time in our country. Novels by the Swedish writers I. L. Johnson and W. Moberg, novels by H. Mann, E. M. Remarque and stories by Thomas Mann, a novel by the Portuguese writer F. de Castro, novels from Latin America, by M. A. Asturias, R. Gallegos and A. Azevedo — distinguished writers of their respective countries, a novel by H. Bazin, a novel by Victorini, and stories by I. Calvino, will be translated. From Italian literature, of special interest will be two works denouncing the antipopular

policy pursued by the bourgeois governments and the opportunism of the revisionist party (the novel «The Riff-rraf» by S. Strati and the autobiographical story «Chicco» by F. Piras). From Turkish literature, works by I. Qemal, O. Qemal, and the well known humorist, A. Nessine will be translated.

From foreign drama, works by Brecht, G. Hauptmann and S. O'Casey, will be translated, from the revolutionary poets, works by Mayakovsky, Volker, S. K. Neumann, I. Turvin, Attila Joseph as well as present-day Greek and Italian poets.

The question of the selection of works from world literature for translation and publication is linked with a study and the best possible knowledge of this literature. This remains a continuous task for us, and this is dictated by the need to make all those spiritual values of progressive mankind that enrich the spiritual life of every people, the property of our national culture.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

M. MME. DONZE AND JEAN — France
At the beginning of the New Year, 1978 we send the editorial board of your magazine, «New Albania», our most sincere good wishes, and, through you, we wish all the Albanian people, from the Highlander in his village to Comrade Enver Hoxha in the capital: good health, joy in work and daily life, successes in the fulfillment of the targets of the five year plan, and in Albania, among all the peoples of the world.

«New Albania» magazine, which we read with great pleasure, keeps us in regular contact with the Albanian reality and gives us the opportunity to follow the continuous marvellous development of your country in all fields. The magazine shows what a courageous and persistent strong, educated and indomitable people can do when they take their fate into their own hands.

We were very attracted by the cover photograph of your 1977 editions, the young violinist, a worker at the new Valias mine, May Day in Tirana, a young woman worker of the glassware factory in Tirana.

Thank you for dealing with several of the themes we have proposed in our letters.

Together with our thanks, please accept, dear friends, this expression of our most sincere and friendly feelings.

SUSAN CARREY — England. The magazine, «New Albania», has given me a broad picture of life in your very beautiful socialist Homeland. It has provided us with valuable information on the achievements of the Albanian people, which we have no other way of learning in England because there is very little news about Albania.

I am a student and have been interested in Albania since I was 14 years old, I hope to visit your country in the future.

I would be very grateful if you could send me an Albanian-English dictionary and any other information on the Albanian language, as I would like to learn to speak a little Albanian.

A. ROZMIAREK — Poland. I have been interested in Albania for a long time. I know very little about your very beautiful country. I am interested to learn about your country and especially about the life of the youth in Albania.

Some time ago, I happened to see a copy of your magazine. After I had read all the article my interest in your country became even greater. Therefore I would like to know more about Albania.

VALTER DI DONATO — Belgium. Through your magazine, I have come to greatly admire the progress of the Albanian people.

Albania also shows the freedom loving

peoples that the strength of a people does not lie in the size of the population but in its will to defend its independence, freedom and dignity to the end. The correct revolutionary Marxist-Leninist line, which the Party of Labour headed by comrade Enver Hoxha has always followed is exemplary. Your people have a rich history of struggle and battles. They have never bent the knee to any foreign invader. They have preferred honourable death, fighting arms in hand, to surrender and subjugation to enemies.

A.T. POULSON — England. We listen regularly to the programs of Radio Tirana, through which we have learnt about the successes which your country has achieved.

We admire your people and regard Albania a great fortress of Marxism-Leninism.

The establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in your country, the liquidation of the backwardness and religious obscurantism, the ensuring of true freedom for the people, as well as the other socialist successes are great victories for your Party with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

We would like to read publications about your country especially the speeches of Comrade Enver. Please tell us how we can get them.

Revolutionary greetings.

H. JESTRABEK — Federal German Republic. As a reader of your magazine I wish first of all, to congratulate you on a very interesting publication.

I am a friend and admirer of socialist Albania. In 1974 I had the honour to visit your beautiful country. This visit filled me with enthusiasm. I have a special interest in socialist literature and arts.

Could you please help me to become acquainted with your writers and the literature of socialist realism in Albania.

ANTONIO E MARIA ANTUNES — Portugal. We are writing to congratulate you on the thirty-third anniversary of the liberation of Albania.

Your struggle for liberation is a rich experience for the peoples of the world.

The heroic manner with which you fought the Nazifascist occupiers clearly demonstrates the will of your people.

Our greetings are addressed especially to the Albanian youth, because it, too has been a fundamental factor in your struggle. The example of the Albanian youth should be followed by all the young people who fight for liberation and socialism.

We would be very grateful if you could send us a copy of the newspaper, «Zëri i Popullit» of the 29th of November, 1977.

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Pupils doing experimental work in the laboratory of the general secondary school in Puka a town in the mountains of northern Albania.

Back Cover

The valley of the Valbona River in the Northern Alps.

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CORRECTION

1) On page 30 in the introduction to the article: *How the «Ballad of the Balli Kombëtar» was created*, the second last line of the first column should read: *But the thing that gave the young poet the possibility to freely express his feelings of love for the people and hatred for the enemy was the creation of the Communist Party of Albania and the National Liberation War of the Albanian people.*

2) On page 36, in Letters to the Editor, at the end of the first paragraph, after the tenth line, read: *raising the prestige of Marxist-Leninist Albania among all the peoples of the world.*

