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NEW ALBANIA

**1970
No 5**

**YEAR XXIV
ANNIVERSARY**



Comrade Enver Hoxha among the voters of the electorate 219.

Brilliant Victory of the Democratic Front of Albania



For the happiness of the people.

On September 20, 1970, throughout the People's Republic of Albania, elections for deputies to the People's Assembly, for councillors, for people's judges and assistant-judges took place. In the electors' lists of the 264 precincts were registered 1,097,123 electors in all.

In the vote for deputies to the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania took part 1,097,123 voters, equal to 100% of all the electors.

For the candidates of the Democratic Front of Albania in the 264 election precincts gave their votes the 100% of the voters.

The candidates for councillors, judges and assistant-judges presented by the Democratic Front were given 99.99% of the voters.

This result is the greatest victory achieved at elections so far. Our of 264 deputies elected to the People's Assembly, 61 are women.

The high readiness of the electors, their great enthusiasm and high feeling of responsibility with which they went to the polling booths and the fact that all the votes were given to the Front candidates, show their high consciousness as masters of the country, to full use the right of elections guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania and by the Law on the Elections to the People's Assembly.

The election campaign was an ardent manifestation of the steel-like unity of the people round the Democratic Front led by the Party of Labour of Albania, an expression of the unwavering determination to adhere to and apply right to the end the profound revolutionary Marxist-Leninist line of the Party of Labour of Albania. By giving their votes for the best sons and daughters, the Albanian people made another big step forward in the struggle for the further strengthening revolutionization and democratization of the people's power, of the dictatorship of proletariat and the whole life of the country. This showed that the people are loyal to Marxism-Leninism and to the correct and revolutionary policy of the PLA, they showed that they are determined to carry revolution always forward, to unceasingly strengthen their people's power, to engage themselves with ever multiplied energies in the complete construction of socialism, for their prosperity, for the blossoming and strengthening of their socialist motherland, for defending their freedom, independence and all victories scored. They showed that they will accomplish as always their internationalist duties in the struggle against imperialism and modern revisionism, for the triumph of revolution, socialism, freedom and progress in the world.

On the Seventh Morning

by Dritero Agolli

It is the seventh time we come up to this polling booth. And these seven times have been early in the morning. And all the seven times we have made towards the polling booth together with Comrade Enver Hoxha. He has given his vote for us and, we ours for him. On the first morning we had not seen a vote-bulletin, for we did not know to read, but we used ballots in stead. We would take a ballot and put our fists in the polling booth leaving the ballot in it. There were two polling booths and we might put the ballot in the one we wished. Usually one of the booths remained empty, or very seldom there could be found one or two ballots. And we called this polling booth "The black box". We put our ballots into the white box, there, where Comrade Enver Hoxha would put his own ballot. Then, in the second morning which came after four years, we had in our hands vote-bulletins and placed ink and pen in our vote cabins because we had learnt to read and write. The first morning found us 80% illiterate, the second one found us almost 100% learnt. It had to happen thus, for, that was why we put our ballots in the white box and left the "black" box empty. Had we put our ballots into the "black" we would have had a black veil before our eyes, in a word, we would have remained illiterate. But this did not happen as we went together with Comrade Enver Hoxha and listened to him when he put that small ballot and said: "For the happiness of the people". And, thus, it is today the seventh morning that we get up early together with the founder of the Party and of the socialist state and stand before the polling booth.

Let us see Albania from this seventh morning. She has awoken more beautiful, more powerful, with skilled, more clever and more revolutionary people, with a richer life, with strong beat of the pulse. These people who elect and are elected have gone all-out to make their country more advanced, to tell the world what they have done. These people take pride in being fellow travellers of Enver Hoxha, in voting for him and in being voted by him.

Here, he is coming to vote this seventh morning and as always he is greeting about with a sweet smile. We rejoice together with him, laugh and greet together.

On the first morning he had a few silver hair; on the seventh morning his hair has grown white. Every white hair is a great toil for the happiness of the people, for the triumph of socialism and communism. We hail him and he walks to the polling booth.

"Long live Comrade Enver Hoxha!" We have got so familiar with him that we merely call him comrade. We feel a very profound love and affinity when we see him near the polling booth with a vote-bulletin in his hand. Our faces bear happiness when, after voting he says: "Cheers!" The face of that one for whom this morning is the first morning bears happiness and very happy is also the face of the man who votes for the seventh time. Very joyous is the face of this child with flowers in his hands. Who knows? This child tomorrow will vote and may be will become a deputy. Zoica Haxho, a woman dancer had a bouquet of flowers in her hands in the first morning in 1945, and her lips bore a smile when being before Comrade Enver Hoxha. And here she is a deputy.

It so happens when the people are in power, it so happens with us, the fellow travellers of Comrade Enver Hoxha.

We have come to this polling booth for the seventh time. And these seven times have been seven mornings.



The election day turned into a day of celebration at all the voting centres.



The whole people have gone all-out for the complete electric reticulation of the countryside (oil-painting).

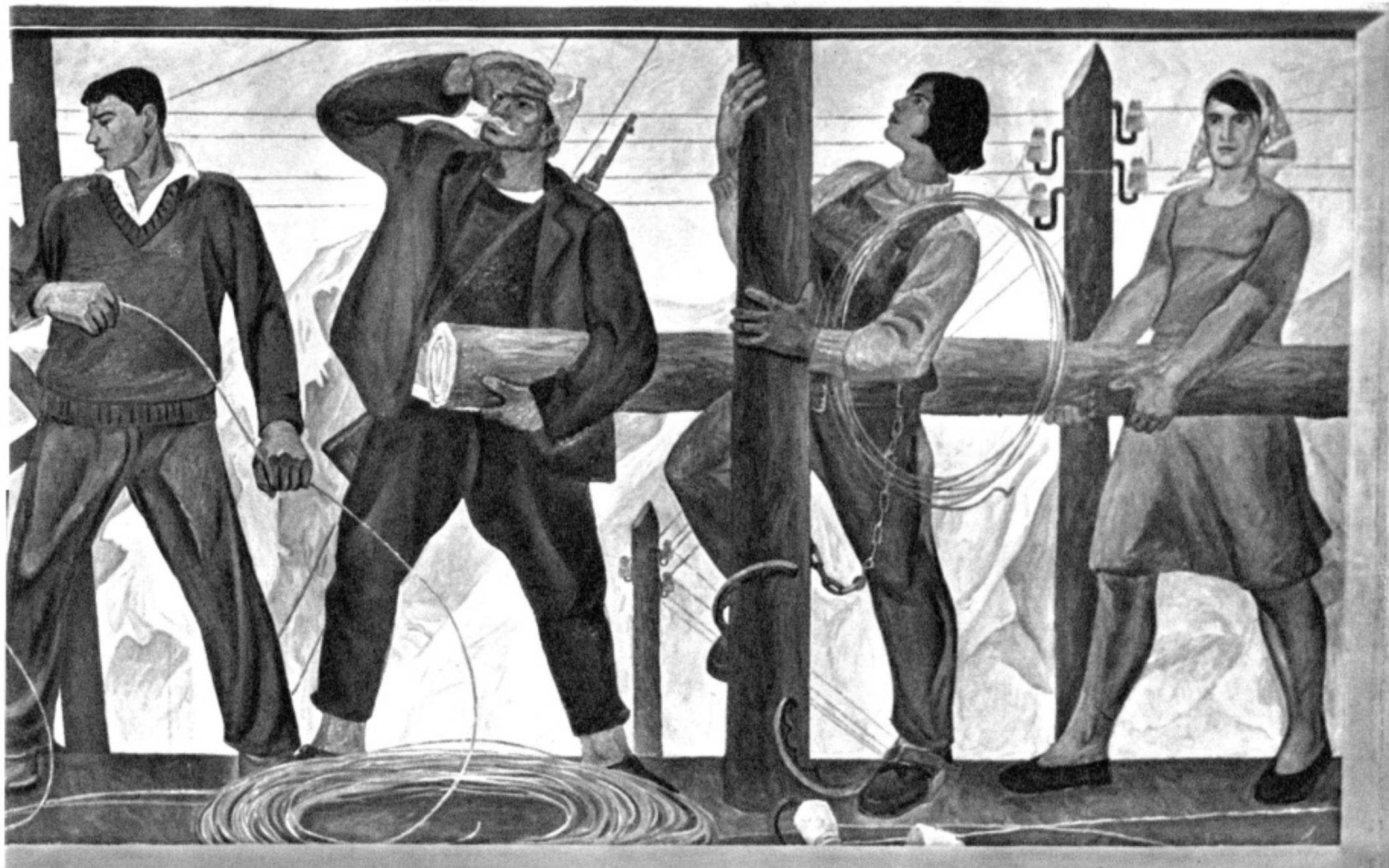
by Agim Faja

Now in the whole of Albania, in every Albanian house, even in the remotest mountainous areas of the country, electric light is shining. Oil lamp is done away with in Albania. Our country is completely electrified.

In December of the year 1967, the Fourth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania made the great historic decision: The complete electrification of the Albanian countryside, should be carried out till November 8, 1971, that is on the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Party. To solve this task, our people's power, had done a good and well studied work for several years, laying the stress first of all on the development of electric energy at higher rates than the other branches of national economy. Electrification is an urgent necessity to advance not only production but also education, culture and the improvement of the living and working conditions in general. New Albania inherited almost nothing from the past even in this field. Though rich in hydro-energetical sources. Our country had plunged in darkness.

A number of hydro-power stations were built since the first years of liberation. Starting from that time and almost every five years, the production of electricity has been doubled. Many rivers have

LIGHT



been harnessed, many dams have been built, many mountains have been pierced, many high tension lines have been built, until finally, the Central Committee of the PLA took the great decision on the electrification of all the Albanian countryside in less than four years.

The whole people were mobilized to put this decision into practice. Workers and coop. members, old and young, young pioneers and pensioners started to work to make their contribution to the electrification of the countryside, to translate into reality the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha that "electrification and the scale of using electric energy is one of the most important indexes which characterize the rise of the living standard and culture in the countryside".

There were electrified 787 villages out of 2,546 villages our country boasts of, when this decision was taken. Thus, in less than 4 years there were 1,759 villages in the remotest and the most difficult areas to be electrified, twice as many as those electrified during all the years of the post-liberation period.

Mass heroism surmounted every difficult. The alliance of the working class and coop. peasantry was so strong that there was not any insurmountable setback for them. As a result of the large state investments and of the mobilization of all our people, the

decision of the Party on the electrification of all the villages of the country by November 1971 was completed ahead of schedule, at the beginning of November 1970.

This is an historic victory, which shows the superiority of our socialist system, the great possibilities that the common, collective economy offers; this shows that any task however difficult it may be, can be carried out when political power is in the hands of the people.

The complete electrification of our country creates new possibilities for a higher rate development in the socialist construction. Now, our people are able to undertake great actions in the field of economic and cultural development.

The bringing of the electric bulb in every Albanian house, and the use of electricity in the villages, narrows to a considerable degree the difference between city and countryside. Electrifications as well as a series of other measures taken and being taken towards the construction and the expansion of cultural and social institutions in the countryside, the building of motor roads, the extension of telephone service to the remotest areas — all these measures promote socialist construction.



The first meeting must be

Now starts a new life, the school life.

Photo: by S. Xhillari

Thousands of joyful noises, thousands of smiling faces, thousands of bouquets of flowers September brought out into the streets, pavements, school yards and the alphabet, pupils, students, workers and peasants' sons and daughters and the workers and co-op farmers themselves. This year, in our country, approximatively, one out of three goes to school. Therefore, it is quite natural that the first day of the school year should become a popular celebration. When the schools open their doors again, we cast a swift glance at the road we have passed, how have we strode. And what do we see?

There is no saying of comparison, but of overturn. Mirëdita, one of the mountainous regions of the country, had only 4 schools, whereas this year 40 schools of different circles open their doors. The same may be said about all the districts of Albania.

The State University of Tirana is expecting this year 7,300 students for day courses, 1,400 of whom coming directly from production, start the first year. Students of 30 different specialities are to be graduated. Teachers, parents, all the people have to shed more sweat, to set their hearts and souls on bringing up the new man, beginning with 63,000 children, who, for the first time, would take the alphabet book and would smear their hands with ink. They will be future workers, engineers, artists, agronomists, philosophers, who will shoulder the coming Five-Year Plans, who will highly uphold the glory of socialist motherland. They are the future.





Since the first day of school, they feel the teacher's caresses, their second mother.

An hour of botanical lesson in the "green room" of the school.

Photo: by S. Xhillari



New Laws

The People's Assembly begins a new legislature after the September the 20th elections. What were some of the bills passed by the previous legislature of our legislature organ.

In 1967, a special bill was passed which abolished taxation on the incomes of all factory and office workers, whereas last year all local taxes those on official acts and stamps paid by the population were abolished. Thus, the People's Republic of Albania became the only country in the world free of taxes and imposts.

One of the most important laws passed during this period is the Law on the New Educational System. In accordance with it, our educational system develops on the basis of the organic links between learning, production labour and physical and military training. As it is known, education in our country is acquired free of charge in all categories of schools. Workers and peasants also get schooling without having to suspend their work.

Last year, by special decree, village, town and city quarter law courts were established. This is an important step towards the uninterrupted development of socialist democracy in our country. These law courts are links in our legal system and play a special role in drawing the broad working masses to exercise justice. The chief method employed by them in their activity is the education of the masses while at the same time carrying their function in trying some simple civil cases such as crimes of small social peril as well as contraventions.

In working out the reviewed legislation, mass line has been followed on a large scale. As a result, the laws have become simpler, clearer and can be easily grasped by the broad masses of the working people. Among the reviewed acts we can mention the Code of Labour, the Law on Social and State Insurances, on People's Councils, on Copyright, on Innovations and Rationalizations etc.

During the coming legislature, the People's Assembly will pass many new important acts, of which of special importance will be the Penal Code, Civil Code as well as the reviewed Codes, of Penal and Civil Procedure.

Price Policy

In our country prices are fixed and unique all over the Republic. Everywhere, in the North or in the South, the same commodity is sold and bought at the same price. There is no fluctuation of prices from one district to another. All the customers are placed on equal footing. Prices are fixed in a centralized way. No influence is exercised on them by the offer or the spontaneous demand of the market.

Price is the expression in money of commodity value. But that does not mean, that the special price for a commodity expresses at every time the value, the necessary social work performed for its production. In our country there are fluctuations of prices round the value, but this fluctuation is not caused by the influence of the offer and demand, but in a conscious way and follows some well-defined aims. So for example for the main articles of first necessity the selling price is almost the same as that of the value of the commodity. There are some articles, like those of pharmaceuticals, confections and articles for children, which are sold at a price below their value. And that is done purposely to stimulate their use and aid some social groups, such as the families with many children. At the same time there are some articles sold at a higher price than their value, such as luxury articles, the use of which is not a necessity. To this category belong the alcoholic drinks too, etc. In the same way the prices of cotton stuffs and woolen stuffs, as well as the prices of ready-made garments produced by them are fixed in such a way as to lead the customers' demand more to ready-made garments than to stuffs. This is purposely made to increase the demand for ready-made garments, because it is a well-known fact that the organization of production in series, creates new great possibilities for saving raw materials, for increasing qualification, for specialization and for the increase of productivity. These are all factors which help to reduce production costs.

In our country the aim of production is not profit but the satisfaction of the material and cultural needs of the working masses. Between production and price there exists a reciprocal dialectic relation. The reduction of prices is the cause for the increase of the demand, and together with consumption. And that encourages the producers to go forwards, to find new ways and possibilities to increase production, to fulfil in this way the needs of the customers. The crisis of superproduction are not known to our planned economy.

In our country for the prices of goods of retail sale there is only one way: the uninterrupted reduction. Until now there has never been noticed an increase in prices for any goods, on the contrary they have been continuously reduced. Up to now they have been reduced many times. And the profit of the working masses is millions upon millions of leks. Naturally that is not the only way for the increase of the real wage of the workers. Side by side with the reduction of prices, the increase of the low nominal wage of the workers is being applied, too.

CHRONICLE

— At the invitation of the Government of the People's

Republic of China, an Economic Delegation of the People's

Republic of Albania headed by Abdyl Këllezhi, Alternate Mem-

ber of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the

Party of Labour of Albania, visited the People's Republic

of China.

Heartfelt welcome to the Albanian Delegation at the

airport of Peking.

— On the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the liberation of Rumania, there was opened in Tirana a photo exhibition "View from the Socialist Republic of Rumania" and a feature film "The foreigner" was shown.

— A programme on cultural exchanges between the People's Republic of Albania and the United Arab Republic for the years 1970-1971 was signed in Cairo.

— In Ankara, a protocol on cultural exchanges for the years 1970-71 was signed between the People's Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey.

— A delegation of Italy-Albanian Friendship Association headed by Giorgio Pulisi member of the Association's National Council and director of the magazine of the Association "Albania Oggi", who was invited by the Albanian Committee for Friendly and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, visited Albania.

According to the plan for cultural cooperation between the People's Republic of Albania and the Socialist Republic of Rumania, a delegation of the Journalists Union of Albania visited the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

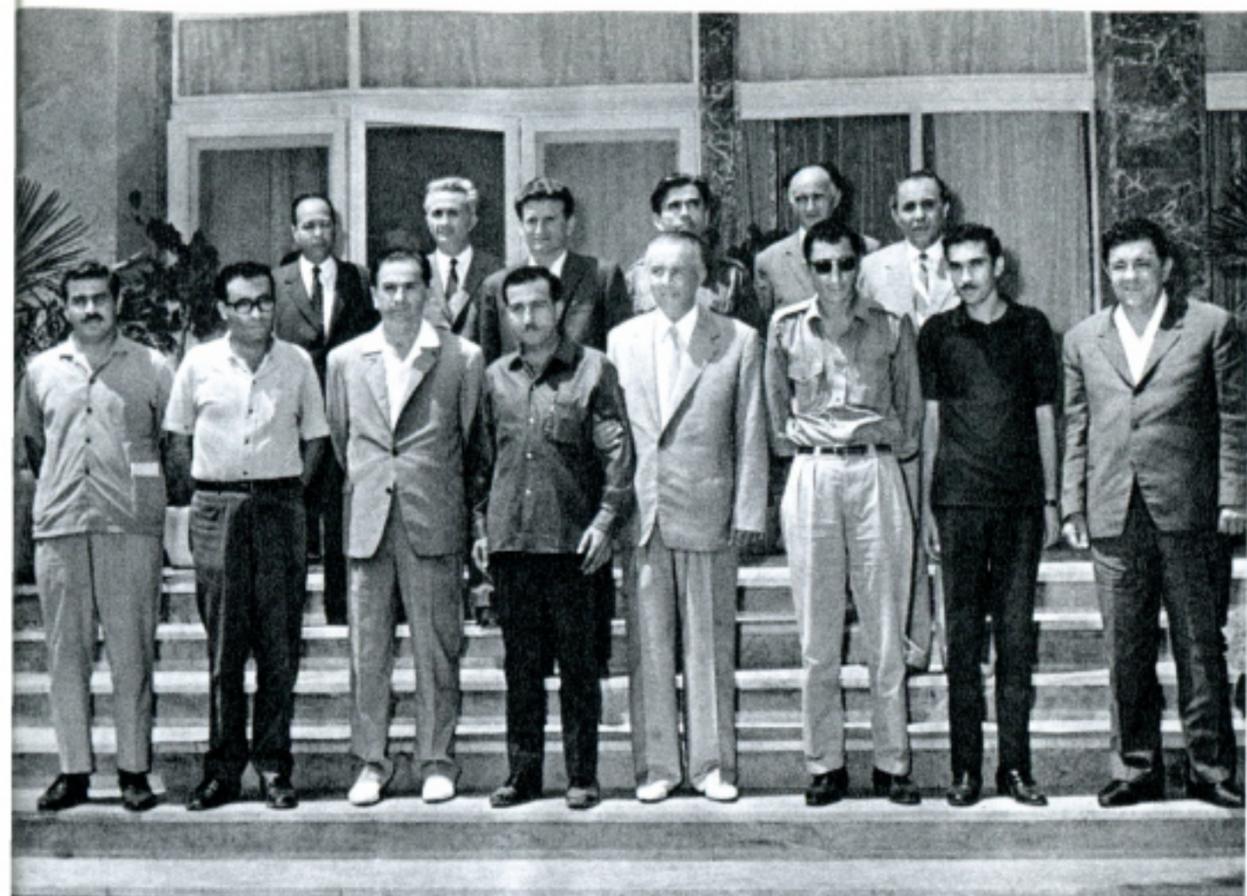
— A Korean feature film was shown in Tirana on the occasion of the 22nd anniversary of the foundation of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea.

Meetings were held at some work centres, too.

— At the invitation of the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions of Syria, a delegation of the Albanian Trade Unions attended the 16th Congress of this Federation.

— At the invitation of the Council of Ministers and the General Council of the Democratic Front of Albania, a Delegation of the Movement for National Liberation of Palestine (Al-Fatah), headed by Abou Djihad, Member of the High Central Committee of the Movement (Al-Fatah) and Member of the General Leadership of the Al-Asifa Forces, visited the People's Republic of Albania.

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the P.L.A., Comrade Enver Hoxha received the Palestinian Delegation.



The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha receives the Palestinian delegation.

— A series of activities were organized in our country on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

There was organized in Tirana a festive meeting, an exhibition "25 years of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam" was opened and a feature film "The call of the front" was shown. Commemorating meetings were also held on the occasion at some work centres in Tirana, Vlora, Elbasan and Peshkopi.



The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, Comrade Mehmet Shehu received the Delegation of the Science Academy and Printing Establishments of the People's Republic of China and had a friendly and cordial talk with them.



The presidium of the festive meeting to the 25th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

A HEART-FELT MEETING



Chairman Mao Tsetung had a very warm meeting with the Alternate Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the People's Republic of Albania, Abdyl Këllezî, with the Government Economic Delegation led by him, as well as with other visiting Albanian comrades in Peking.



In Tirana, an Exhibition on the Successes of Socialist Construction in the People's Republic of China opened. Thousands of inhabitants of the capital became acquainted with the victories the great Chinese people have achieved.



AN INVINCIBLE REVOLUTIONARY FRIENDSHIP



A festive meeting was organized in Tirana on the 21st anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China, devoted to the great achievements of the Chinese people under the people's state power and to the great revolutionary friendship that binds the People's Republic of Albania and the People's Republic of China.



In many work and production centers of the Capital, meetings were held on the occasion of the National Day of the Chinese people, October 1. In the photo: View of the working collectives of the "Mihal Duri" Printing Establishment in Tirana.

THE WAY OF COPPER

Albania is very rich in useful minerals. Some of them had been known and processed since ancient times.

The copper ore was known in Illyria at the time of the Roman invasion in the I-III centuries. The reputation that the miners and the Pirust metallurgists enjoyed at that time made the Roman emperor, Trojan, to remove some of them to Transilvania to have them exploit the gold mines there.

In the long Ottoman occupation, the development of mines stopped. Whereas during the First World War up to the liberation of the country, Albanian mines were exploited by foreign capitalist companies.

The people's regime undertook fundamental measures to develop copper industry. There was organized the geological service and many new sources were discovered; many foundries and enriching factories were built.

In 1960 copper production increased three times, in comparison with the year 1950.

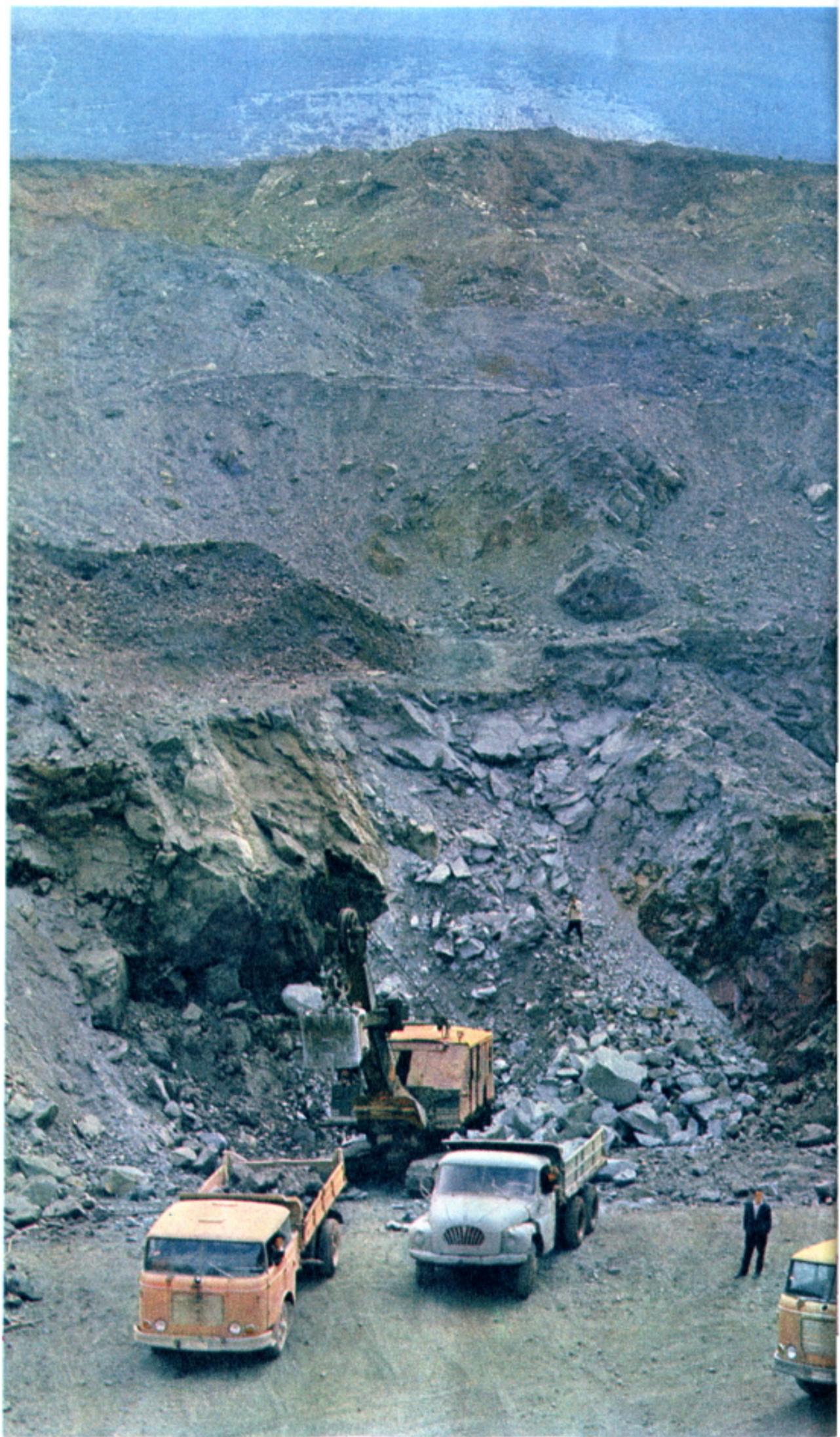
At present copper production has increased much more and several thousands of workers are engaged in this industrial branch. A few years ago the whole of the copper ore was exported because we didn't have any processing industry. Now, the necessary material basis for completing the metallurgical cycle and for its complex processing is created. The construction of Copper Processing and Refining Factory in Rubik and of Electric Copper Wires in Shkodra cut short the long way that copper had to travel. How it passes from the mine to the plant; no need to send it abroad. The stage of the processing of copper after its extraction from the mine is followed by its refining in the proper plants and is completed with the full processing in the Wire Plant of Shkodra.

Now our plants process about 70% of blister copper out of which refined copper, brass and electric wire are profited. From its refinement we take also its by-products, gold, silver, selenium, nickel, copper sulphate etc.

The Wire Plant of Shkodra turns out about 600 wire assortments of various dimensions, starting with 0,05 mm with multisorted wires and clothing, which meet nearly all the demands for lines, machines and electric apparatuses of the country.

Our country exports ready-made wire and other copper products.

Eng. Franko Krraqi



These lorries loaded with copper ore are now heading to the processing plants.

Photo: by Y. Manoli



The copper-smithy.

Photo: by S. Xhillari

Waggon loaded with copper ore.

Photo: by L. Mazreku



At Construction Sites



②

① The newly built Glassware Factory in Kavaja under operation. Hundreds of young girls of the Town of Kavaja who have graduated from middle and professional schools, work in this factory.

② The Copper Enriching Factory in Rrepës of the Mirdita District is nearing completion. This project is being built with the fraternal aid of the People's Republic of China. It will soon turn out its products.



③

③ First mass consumption plastic articles turned out in the new Plastics Plant at Durrës, now on sale, are very much to the buyers' liking.

④ The new House of Culture in the Joint Agricultural Cooperative of Kavaja. It has such facilities as a performance hall with a capacity of 500 seats, a library, a meeting hall, a reading hall, a recreation hall.

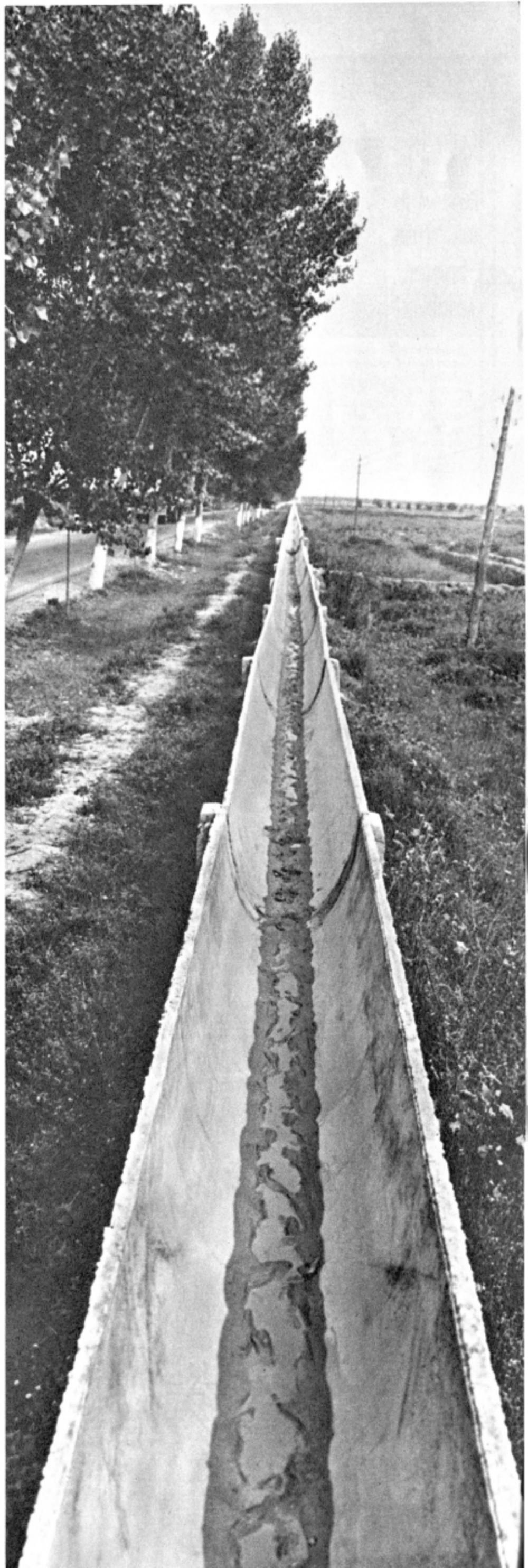
Photos: by Pandi Cici

⑤ "Zallherr — Ura e Gjolës" irrigation canal (Tirana District), will irrigate 1,500 hectares of land. It is 30 kilometres long.

④



⑤



Why Is It Regarded As One of the Important Monuments?



Sketches by N. Proгри.

Here we are referring to the St. Kolli church in Voskopoja — Korça District. It is one of the most magnificent buildings of the basilic style belonging to the XVIII century. Its interiors and exteriors have been decorated with mural paintings which belong to the brush of eminent Albanian artists. The interior mural paintings display the talent of the distinguished artist David Selenicari and his fellow-mates.

This is the only church in our country which is decorated with David's paintings. There are many paintings in this church which belong to the brush of this outstanding artist of the XVIII century. Their artistic value transcends the borders of the native country. David is considered to have been one of the best three artists of the Eastern Church in general.

Sports Games in Ancient Apollonia



Apollonia of Illyria seems to have been not only a big city but also a centre where sports games were held. According to an inscription discovered in this city, during festivities in honour of nymphs, various sports events were held. Athletes from many countries took part in them. There were also gymnasiums where during the day sportsmen trained themselves, held running races, wrestling etc.

The gymnasium halls and the squares in their front were places where not only athletes but also artists, philosophers and young poets met each other.

Often some tools and devices are discovered in the tombs which must have been used for massaging by the athletes. There have also been discovered earthen ware decorated with paintings which depict running races. They were given as prizes to the winners of those races.

Haxhi Ali — the Sailor



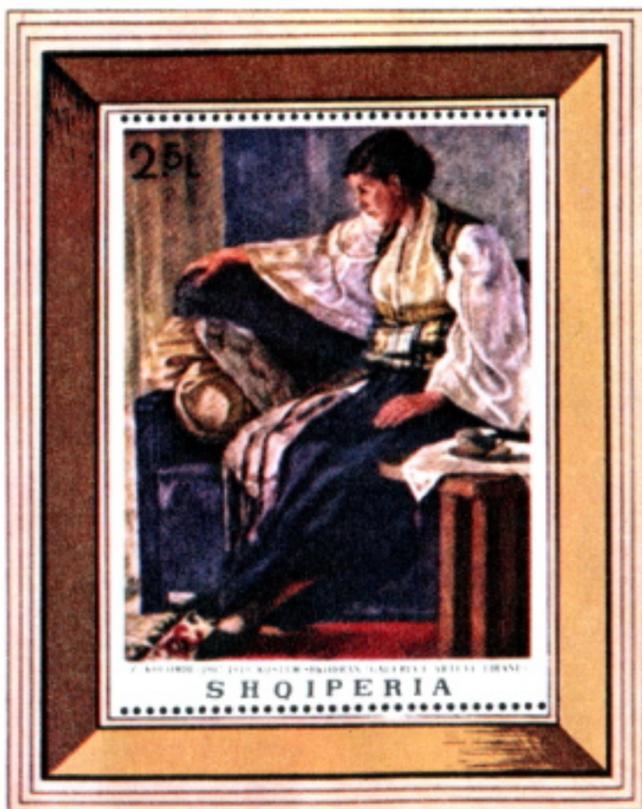
The Ulqini and Himara people are recognized by the Albanians as their best sailors of the past times. They had their outstanding seamen whose exploits were handed down from one generation to another. Those exploits are connected with their dauntless struggle against foreign piratical ships which came to rob and devastate the Adriatic and Ionian coasts.

The common hero of both the Ulqini and Himara people was Haxhi Ali from Ulqini who lived in the first quarter of the XVIII century. In 1730, for six months in succession he and his son blocked the passage of the piratical ships on the Adriatic. The English sent a naval squadron to encounter this resistance. Fierce fighting ensued. Haxhi Ali and his son were killed in this encounter. Their bodies were buried in the Sazani Island. In token of respect for the sea warriors all Albanian ships sailing past this island dropped a loaf of bread and a bottle of oil into the sea.

The Earliest Traces of Our Figurative Arts



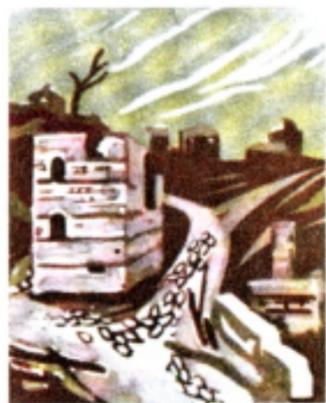
The most ancient findings of figurative art discovered in Albania belong to a period of 4-5 thousands years ago. Those findings were unearthed during the archaeological excavations carried out on the Maliqi Plain some years ago. The Maliqi Plain — near Korça used to be a swamp in the past. It was drained in the years of the people's power in 1948. During the excavations plastic figures made of ceramic were discovered. They are figures of men and animals. Nearly these anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures, children's toys made of clay were also found.



Ethnography on Philately



Borova



Borova is a village in the Kolonja District. The name of this village reminds us of one of the most inhuman massacres committed by the Hitlerite occupationists on our soil.

On the 6th of July 1943 the Hitlerite motorized division Jeger killed 107 people and burnt down the whole village. Of those killed, 57 were children among them toddlers and up to the age of ten.

After liberation Borova was built anew. In place of the ruins new beautiful houses have been put up lit by electricity.

Mother and Child Were Saved



Rain, much fog, pitch darkness. . . phones are ringing. . . In the remote village of Tomorrca a woman is struggling with death. . .

There was a car in Tomorrca but it could not drive to Chorovoda — the centre of Scrapari as it could get bogged down in the mud. It was an urgent case which required a surgical operation. What is to be done then? The mother and the child must be saved.

To the aid of Merjeme Kalemi who could not give birth to the child came the chief of the district health department the surgeon Profit Cani and Pranvera Shimi the would-be midwife.

The road had been badly damaged. To their aid came the soldiers of a nearby military unit. For more than an hour they struggled with the mud and won the battle.

It was half past four o'clock. Now the doctors had the final say.

The day was breaking. It was a beautiful serene dawn. The mother's face lit up with a smile when she heard the first cry of her just born daughter.



A Hut - Museum

Oh, what sufferings calls up to our minds this hut. Many were the hungry children who shut their eyes within the muddy walls of those huts not to open them any more. Streams of tears have flown in them, was it the only hut in the Vraça village of Shkodra? The whole of the village was a piling up of huts with thatched roofs. The hut was the dwelling place for villagers and their animals such as the single cow of the villager which supported his family.

But today Vraça like the rest of Albania has completely changed its aspect and the way of life. Of 340 families in the village more than 300 have built utterly new beautiful houses. The houses are well furnished, lit by electric lights and with radio sets. In the middle of the village there is a two-storied building. It is the 8-year school with a teaching staff of 21 teachers.

Children are being brought up healthy. There are 6 creches and six kindergartens in the village now. The cooperative members send their children there. They have to pay nothing for it, as the expenditure is met by the agriculture cooperative special fund.

What a striking contrast between the hut-museum reminding us of the past and the Vraça of today.

Decorative Stones in Our Country



Decorative stones comprise a big natural resource for our people's economy. A Marble-Cutting Factory has been put up in Tirana. The grand palace of culture in the centre of the capital has been dressed up in our country's marble. The same can be said of many other social-cultural buildings. Our marble are also known abroad.

The value of marble stone lies in their purity, colour, transparency, physical and mechanical qualities etc.

Of late new strata of marble have been discovered. They are snow-white marbles of very high transparency, marbles which can be hewed by sculptors, red marbles with some natural white decorations, marbles of white and rose mixed colour of good transparency.

There are also some marbles which stand out for their very high decorative qualities. They are of white and grey colour with a maize of pick colour lines. Their transparency is also good.

These marbles can be easily hewed, a thing which has already been proved by the fine sculptural works of the "Migjeni" Art Enterprise in Tirana.

The above described marbles are of special importance as they can have a wide use in many branches of the people's economy. On the other hand they help the geologists to find new marble reserves.



Albania is the country of folk song and dance festivals, the land of the beautiful and manly costumes, serious and delicate, that fully suit the many-coloured relief of the Albanian nature.

The colours that embellish the costumes with their shades, add beauty to shapes and rival nature.

The ethnographers discover in them the antiquity of the Albanian people, whereas, the handicraftsmen discover the deftness and the skill of the work, the painters discover the harmony of colours and proportions, the poets the love for life, and the historians the etymology of the Illyrians. This branch of ethnography has been reflected in philately in more than thirty samples and is now making up a perspective item of its own. Every year, in May, podiums of folk festivals are raised over city and countryside grounds, on which, the best singers, rhapsodists and dancers sing and dance. Dressed in their characteristic costumes, they represent their regions. Their peculiar head gears, beautiful vests, *çakçirs*, man's shirt (man's garment that hangs from the waist; or *çitjane* (a woman's folkdress) with the many-coloured girdles that shape their beautiful waists, boots (peasant boots made of leather) or their characteristic shoes attract anybody who lays eye on. And it is a real harmony of colours. Any colour is resplendent in itself, but the harmony depends on its associates. And it is precisely here that, art has worked up to a climax. When we see these costumes we have the sense as if we are reviewing the various regions of Albania; Malësia e Madhe, Zadrima, Kukësi, Dardha, Myzeqeja, Tirana, Dropulli, Labëria. Any of these costumes has its own history. Many a lot are linked up with some kind of legends. Look at sample one! This is an old woman highlander costume of the North which dates back to the XV century, i.e., since Scanderbeg's time (1405-1468). The legend has it that the lower edge of the costume "Xhubletes" was red and only after George Castriot's death and the occupation of Albania by the Turks, they, in sign of mourning, dyed the skirt black. Later on, it were only the brides who added to it rings of beads, whereas lasses some white rings that horizontally passed across the "xhublete". Apart from the above-mentioned details, the philately items, that, in one way or the other have to do with ethnography are many a lot. Of ethnographic interest is the set worth 2.5 leks, a reproduction of the work of Zef Kolombi (1907-1945), which depicts a woman in national dress and in a family environment. The original of this work is preserved in Tirana, in the Art Gallery.

Foreigners About Albania



Master in His Own House

This is the sixth time, I visit Albania since 1964. For that reason I have the privilege to draw comparisons, to follow the process of the development and to have the possibility of estimating the results. Only that, which has been built within those 6 years, would have been enough, as far as time and works built, are concerned, to surpass all the other south-eastern European countries, in the field of the increase of production in agriculture, in the progress in the field of industry, in the increase of the capacity of foreign trade, in the further perfecting the educational and health system and in the increase of the consciousness of the people.

The majority of foreigners, it seems to me, make a mistake, when they compare Albania with their own countries. They say: "... yes, but in our country. . . ." This way of judging is quite dilettante and unjust. This measure can't be applied as a comparing criterion. All the conditions, be they historic or economic, political or social, are quite different for different countries. 25 years ago Albania had to start from the scratch. It had almost nothing and within those 25 years it has successfully jumped from Middle Ages to modern times. Up to 1912 — and one must not forget that from that time on has elapsed no more than a generation — in that country were the Turks. They remained here for 500 years. . . Even after the liberation from the Turks for the country there followed years of political chaos, poverty and ignorance, there were years of wars of colonialism of adventurism and boundless corruption. The names of Esad Toptani and Ahmet Zogu are the symbols of many evils the country experienced at that time.

At first was Scanderbeg, then came Enver Hoxha. The first has merits for his own country and even more for Europe — Europe, 10,000 beds, every village is electrified and has its own school, the roads and the railway line are being extended, the standard of living though slowly is being steadily improved and above all one can notice that the Albanians today don't pay a single tax.

"... yes, but in our country"! Yes, what is it that we do have? We have ours and Albania hers. And that which Albania has is not little. Only this must be taken into account the others don't count.

Herbert Lucht
Austrian journalist

I Saw Two Million Eagles

I visited Albania for the first time. As an historian and expert on south-east European problems (modern and contemporary period), I know the history full of events of this country and I have even published a series of studies in this direction.

The trip I made for getting scientific knowledge put me with historical places, with archives, museums, libraries and particularly with Albanian historians. I am extremely pleased with this trip to return home carrying with me new materials which deal with the history of Albania of the XIX and XX centuries, especially with the selfless and heroic struggle of the Albanian partisans during the World War II.

The trip put me in direct contact with the Albanian people too. I admired their love for work and their hospitality. I saw the Albanian civilization, quite modern hotels and buildings, agricultural farms which yield rich products due to the man's persistence; I saw youth breaking mountains, opening tunnels so that the railroad network be extended, etc.

They say that Albania is the country of eagles; Passing through the country I saw two million eagles, namely, the whole people, vigorously working for the prosperity and happiness of their homeland.

Prof. Doctor **Nikolae Ciaqir**
at the University of Bucharest

Joyful Faces



Albania, with her wonderful nature, where the mountains and the lakes fascinate travellers by their beauty, is doubtless one of the most beautiful countries of Europe. The wide and well-built roads help to a great extent the country's economy and tourism.

The building of many industrial compounds is the greatest pride of the Albanian people. A great impression makes especially on you the "Mao Tsetung Textile Mill". One is only glad to notice the enthusiasm with which they work in those factories.

I like especially the Dvorani Farm in Korça, and its tireless and hospitable manager. The big fruit-tree plantation and the excellent organization of the work on it were an event which left a great impression on me. To the traveller, it seems impossible, that the numerous and endless terraces situated on the mountain slopes, are made by man. Here a special credit goes to the army, which as far as I could notice, was actively taking part in the building of those terraces.

That which I liked best in Albania was the excellent attitude of youth. Untired and continuously inspired by lofty ideals and often working under very difficult conditions, it takes an active part in the building of the country. During my visit at the railway, I noticed only happy faces, and I tried in vain to find out anyone with a tired expression on his face. The attitude of the Albanian youth to one another and to their parents is excellent and exemplary. Unfortunately one can't notice such a thing in other European countries. One has to greatly praise the government too, which takes great care, for keeping and well preserving the cultural values of Albania. It takes care for the building of new museums too.

Duka, Graz-Austria

A Lovely and Hospitable Country

We would like first of all to express our great satisfaction and our sincere feelings for the possibilities the Writers' Union of Albania offered us, to visit this country, which is so lovely, so beautiful and so hospitable. Indeed the Palestinian people will never forget the stand adopted by the people, Party and Government of the People's Republic of Albania in support of the just cause of the Palestinian people. Though our visit to Albania was a short one, we had the possibility to become convinced about the following facts:

1) In your country there exists a good and positive cooperation between the PLA and the broad working masses of industry and agriculture.

Everywhere we felt and we saw the great admiration and love those masses cherished for their great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

2) In different fields, in agriculture and industry you have achieved great successes. Such successes would never have been achieved, without the socialist revolution led by the PLA.

3) From what we saw, we are sure, that the Albanian people are marching forward with great strides, for the building of the prosperous socialist future. Suffice it to mention here that the electrification of the whole of Albania will be finished in 1971, and it follows from official statistics that the trade balance is in favour of the Albanian export.

4) The Albanian people, the Party and the Government, as far as we could notice, believe in the application of the Marxist-Leninist principles and that the struggle for progress and emancipation in the

world is one, and that the world's peoples have a common enemy — world imperialism.

Therefore the Albanian people support with all their forces our Palestinian people, the Vietnamese people and all the other oppressed peoples who are fighting for their national liberation.

5) Albania is rich not only in her militant people, in her legendary history full of heroic deeds, in her socialist achievements, but she is rich in her beautiful panoramas too, which make her a fascinating country, for tourists.

This factor becomes more important when one takes into consideration the few expenses the tourists make for the first class service they receive.

At the end of our visit we came to the conclusion that it is for the best of our peoples, if the existing friendly relations between the Palestinian and the Albanian peoples be further strengthened, to reach thus our common aims against our common enemy. In this respect the artists and the writers of the two peoples have a high mission and a great responsibility.

Khairi Hammad

General Secretary of the writers' Union of Palestine

Odeh Butros Odeh

Member of the Executive Committee of the Writers' Union of Palestine.

Foreigners About Albania

The Gold



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- ① Reconciliation of the rivals.
Photo: by L. Mazreku
- ② A scene from one of the performances of Dance Ensemble of the Tirana City.
Photo: by L. Mazreku
- ③ The Returning home of the ensemble.
Photo: by S. Xhillari
- ④ The Popular singer Naile Hoxha.
- ⑤ Dance, characteristic for the South of Albania.
- ⑥ The popular singer Ibrahim Tukiçi.



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en Necklace Is Brought to Tirana



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The Folklore Ensemble of Tirana successfully competed at the autumn international festival of Dijon (France). The festival was attended by 30 folklore ensembles of 16 different countries of Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Shortly after the first performance, commentators of the French press unanimously carried the opinion that the Albanian Ensemble would win the first prize without fail.

This is what the Dijon newspaper "La Dépêche" says: "Albania appears, the curtain rises, and the marvel is repeated again. These are still the great hours of festivity. Powerful choral group, virtuoso orchestra, magnificent dances staged finely, comprise a fascination beauty, dancers and splendid costumes... It's 1970 year's laureate". It was before the results of the competition had been announced that another southern provincial newspaper "Le Progrès" had expressed the same idea: emphasizing that "the golden necklace belongs to the Albanian Folklore Ensemble".

The moment of the announcement of the result was a delirium with the Albanian group, which would carry to Tirana "the golden necklace". There was not the slightest doubt on its success, for three days in succession, so outstanding was the peculiarity of this group. The other newspaper "Le Bien Public" points out that the star of the festival was Albania, which won "the golden necklace".

What is the history of 1970 year's laureate in the international festival of Dijon?

Tirana Folk Ensemble was founded in September of 1957. This artistical collective includes well-known folk-singer, the dancers' group, a vocal complex, folk instrument-players as well as the orchestra. Some of the singers and artistic leaders of this ensemble have been awarded different titles and prizes for distinguished merits in the fields of creation and interpretation. Such are the folk singers like Fitnete Rexha (Honoured Artist of the PRA) the soloist Ibrahim Tukici (Honoured Artist and laureate of the Republic's prize) the ballet master Panajot Kanaçi, and the composer Tish Daija (the artistic leader of the ensemble).

Through its art this collective has made and is making a valuable contribution to the discovery, preservation, processing and development of our folklore.

Albania, a beautiful country laying on the beautiful coasts of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, this country with an old and glorious history, has, in the course of centuries, created a great folklore wealth which has become the subject of interesting studies by different experts from all over the world.

This country, in the course of those 26 years of the People's Power, alongside the vigorous social and economic development, has achieved a cultural and artistic development

never seen before.

Folk song and folk dance, this rich heritage of our ancestors, preserved in the centuries with love and passion, with the country's liberation became the property of the whole working people, began to be treated with a high artistic dignity by the soloists and by the countless amateur and professional collectives of the country, everywhere in mountains and valleys, on the scenes of theatres and of the houses of culture erected in every village. To the complexity of sounds, movements and popular dynamism, which is added by the colourful costumes of the people, which when intermingled in the performance with the acting of our soloists and dancers, in different forms and aspects, form a most beautiful symphony of colour.

Our folklore ensemble has done a great work to present, as one should, the folk songs and dances to the outside world. It has given performances in more than twenty countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The ensemble has been awarded the first prize of the Balkan countries in Bulgaria, it has occupied the fourth place in the festival of Afro-Asian countries and the Mediterranean countries in Cairo, it has been awarded a diploma in the festival of the Balkan and Adriatic countries, as well as in the youth festival in Helsinki.

A Blood-Shot Lesson⁽¹⁾

by: F. Ballanca

It was a blazing sunset and the three of them were passing along the village path with steps which echo like the sounds of a bell. Five feet tramped on the stony road. The woman held the rifle on her shoulder with the barrel looking downward. She hung on the mighty shoulders of two tall men.

— This way, said Sadri, leading across the wheat planted field.

— Hold out, said the other grievously. — Here we are. And they continued to walk through the wheat.

They were exhausted not by the burden but by the woman's pains who never complained. She had got a bullet in the calf of her leg and they had been unable to take it out. Now they were carrying her to some safe base.

In the far-end house of the village they put her carefully on a blanket laid by Sadri's mother, without taking off their eyes from her.

— Are you better, bacë? (2) asked one of them.

The woman nodded, meaning that the wound was hurting her, but she didn't speak.

— I am calling Ahmet the xherah (3), said Sadri. He will take the bullet out of the calf of your leg. He went out whereas the other one, Neki, seized his rifle and stood on guard.

1) This story is devoted to Shota Galica (1895-1927), a heroine of the Kosova people. Alongside with her husband, Azem Galica, she led the units which fought for freedom and independence, against the enemies. She remained the leader of the revolted units after her husband's death, concealing his murder from the enemy.

2) bacë = A title given to very honorable old people.

3) xherah = popular doctor.

— Some water please, mother, — the woman spoke in a soft voice.

Then she took the pistol out of her packet. It was a big black pistol and it seemed as though it groaned in the woman's hand. It was an iron relic of her murdered husband.

She got the glass of water but did not drink. She poured it into her wound and then splashed the water on her face as if to refresh herself and then carefully hid the pistol under

Drawing by S. Marko.



the pillow. The pistol recalled her husband's image and she always kept it by her.

When the doctor came in she tried to stand up, but Sadri stopped her.

Don't irritate your wound, he muttered. We have to walk so long and we lack horses. The peasants can't help us, for there are no longer men in the village nor can we find horses. The enemy ruined us. The woman lay again on her back with her eyes fixed on a cradle hanging down from the ceiling.

She had never cradled a baby. She had nine children though.

They were her children and the unit's. Their parents were killed in struggle and she offered them the mother's love. She wanted so much to recover and fight again. And she didn't moan; she didn't know to moan because her breast was broad and tranquil as a mother's breast that springs life. And the doctor was surprised. Vrak-vruk, Neki nervously cradled the baby. Sadri spaced in the room and the old mother beared tears in her eyes.

The cradle seemed to hang down as if from the sky.

— Xherah, — the woman called — finish you work quickly. He bent over the woman with the red-hot snuffers and tried to take the bullet out.

The stench of the burnt flesh spread in the room. She recalled her and the unit's children.

The doctor was sweating all over and was surprised at her power of endurance.

"This woman, can't be a woman" he thought. "Something must be hidden behind this long black hair".

He would give everything to reveal this. This thought was tormenting him just like the snuffers were tormenting the woman.

"He must have disguised himself as a woman" he thought.

"Vrak-vruk" waved the cradle.

Everybody knew the woman. Everybody knew she was leading the unit.

But many others thought that her husband's soul was alive in her. And she was a man not a woman. This is what people were thinking, and the doctor was thinking so, too.

She had been leading this group of men bravely and the enemy did not know of her husband's death. The Albanians attacked the enemy with her husband's name on their lips and the woman never said that she was tired of fighting. Her husband's name caused fear and terror among the enemies and it was the woman who fought, it was she who led the men, it was she who brought up the children of the killed men.

Pull your braid, said the xherah — Pull it powerfully so that you must not feel the pain. Be patient, you brave woman. And she thought of how she had carried down in to a natural well the corpse of her husband not to be found by the enemy; never to be touched by the enemy's hand, so that the enemy lived with the fear of his name.

My wife, had her husband said; If you have strength, fight.

And she was still fighting, perhaps better than her husband.

— Take the bullet out, xherah, she, groaned, take out the bullet of the enemy.

— Pull your braid, xherah kept saying sweating all over, pull it tightly.

And he was surprised to see her hair not falling.

"Is she really a woman?" he thought.

Neki waved the cradle nervously with his eyes resting on the wound.

How well the woman shot. None could shoot like her.

For years lasting this woman had led this unit of men, a unit of brave men; and she was a woman.

Those Albanians would gather in the nights and attacked in the dark. They fought against the enemy for their soil and honour. And the woman led them.

This tall woman who pulled the braid to let no scream come out of her mouth led those brave men. She had a white skin and a white heart too. But was she a woman or a man?

And the xherah sweated while trying to take out the bullet, suffering more than the woman.

The xherah was fifty years already. He had been curing fighters for nearly forty years. He ground medicines and wrapped wounds. And he cured them all.

Was it he who cured the wounds or the men's keen desire for life?

Their desire for vengeance and their thirst for freedom or the doctor's hand?

He wrapped wounds, tore worn-out shirts and tightened the wounds to stop bleeding. He took out bullets with burning snuffers. And he had never carried a rifle. He was a xherah. All the people knew him as such. He gave life to the dead.

Fifty years was he, but never had he been called "bacë" whereas the woman who bite the braid was still very young; she was a woman but all the fighters of the unit called her "bace". And he was sweating all over. The woman had a strong and mild flesh. And her flesh kept the bullet tight and didn't the snuffers take it out.

"Eh, how many wounds must the woman have in her body and heart". Sadri kept thinking.

Whereas the xherah was being tormented by that thought. "She is not a woman" he continued to think. "She has long braids. She must not be a woman".

He had been curing since ten years of age, but never had he seen such a woman. None could bear such a pain. How could she be a woman.

The xherah remembered how once his father had shown him a fighter with seven wounds. He did not moan. He suffered in the bed and tears rolled upon his cheeks.

— This is a real man, his father told him. — No need to tie him up. Look at him my son, perhaps you'll learn something from him.

His father had been a doctor and very young when he came to this land, but his son failed to learn. He became a xherah. And now he was fifty and had never seen a stronger man than the one his father had told him. But the woman! She seemed even stronger.

She opened her eyes and saw through the cloud of pain the shapeless face before her.

— You must take the bullet out, xherah, — she repeated. It is difficult to fight without

legs. Then, the children are waiting for me. The struggle does not wait, xherah.

But he could not pull it out. It seemed as though the bullet went deeper in the flesh.

"A woman"! xherah said to himself, "I have heard that a woman somewhere in France placed herself at the head of her people? Fought like a man, but the big landlords burnt and killed her. She was a witch, they said. And she died, my father told me".

Sadri said: — We have no time xherah. We must leave this place early in the morning.

— Go on xherah, — called Neki, — Take that bloody bullet out. She is suffering too much.

And the xherah continued to use his snuffers. "Will she die"? he asked himself. "She may die", he thought. "The bullet does not want to leave her flesh, for she dared become a man. Time is against her".

The xherah let the snuffers fall from his hand and buried his sweated chin in his hands. He looked at the waving cradle. He was as white as paper.

"What did the struggle matter this woman", thought he sorrowfully. "Why didn't she stay at home and waved the cradle"?

"I can't take the bullet out," he said loudly at last.

The men present there, fixed their eyes on him scornfully. The woman leaned on her elbow and took the pistol from under the pillow.

The woman never missed the target.

— I say xherah, — the woman spoke. It's fifty years you are living in this land.

— Yes, fifty full years, bacë — answered the xherah with trembling lips instinctively pronouncing the word, bacë.

The big black pistol weighed in the woman's hand and the produced in him the impression of a man.

— Fifty years are many, but are few also — the woman added.

— Few, he repeated frightened. — I want to live.

— And you have learnt nothing. — said woman.

The men kept silent. Only the woman talked. Her voice was calm, but this calmness as if suffocated the xherah.

— We have many a time learnt, that the bullet needs another bullet. We have learnt this since we were in cradle.

"What is she going to do with me"? "will she kill me"?

Then the woman made a simple movement as if to scratch her foot with the pistol.

— Look here, xherah, she said. He turned his head and with terror in his eyes saw that she had put the barrel of the pistol in her wound. Then a crack was heard and the xherah thought himself to be dead.

The bullets slid in her calf and made a hole in the floor.

That blood-shot morning five feet echoed in the narrow path of the village. A woman was leaning on the mighty shoulders of two tall men and walked without moaning. She had put her arms round the necks of her two comrades, two brothers with their hair like the wheat of the field they were passing through. And she was not complaining. . .

THE BR



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" . . . Ilyr has changed a lot — said the script-writer, looking at the photo we had given to him. Yes, he has changed a lot . . ."

He seemed as if he was talking to himself. We, as a matter of fact, did not follow him.

— Excuse us, who is Ilyr? It seems he is a personage of your film.

— Yes, one of the personages. I'd better say the most important. Now, he is really happy. He lives with his comrades, not alone. He lives with the collective and not only with books and his "very well" marks that are margined beside every subject matter.

— Could you not explain yourself more clearly?

— The film starts with a morning, when all the boys and girls of a street (all of them are children, pupils) gather in the square, among the apartment houses, to do the morning exercises. Only Ilyr doesn't take part. He pretends to have a head ache, lies in bed for it is not still the time to go to school, as for the morning exercises he has no desire.

Since the beginning of the film, new lines spring up and the spectator becomes acquainted with the life and the problems of different residents, the keen humour of an old man, thoughts of an aunt, with different stands.

Ilyr's stand becomes a social problem. Somebody criticizes him for his idleness, another one appreciates his work at school. "What of morning exercises — said those who supported him. He is a capacity. He learns well. Well done of him" However, life is much more complicated. One day Ilyr was confronted with something that he had never faced before. The teacher of geography asked him to speak

about the lesson. He answered confidently as ever before.

"Very well Ilyr", — says the teacher at last. The good pupil has always a good knowledge of the data's of the book.

But someone, after getting permission from the teacher adds something. He tells interesting details about the Albanian alps, legends and history, flora and fauna, for the up-to-date changes. What a change between the words of Ilyr that had been picked up by the geography book, and those of his comrade, who had just come to this school.

— You are from the alps? — the teacher says.

No. I am mountain-climber, — answers the newly arrived pupil smiling.

The talk we were having with the script-writer turned out to be interesting. We had intended to ask him a series of questions, but they fell through. We were following with interest the content of the film. Ilyr joined with the group of the newly arrived pupil, and when the summer has set in, he set out for the paths' of alps, started a life full of events, the paths that lead through the beautiful Albanian nature, the nights in mountaineering camp "city"; We find him cooking supper, washing, chopping woods, lighting the fire, sewing his torn shirt or trouserses.

We asked the script-writer, Flamur Topi, as how did the idea for the script of the film "The Brave" spring up.

— First of all I should say that for me being a doctor, the theme of the health is essential, a very important question. And the source of the physical training are exercises. Of a broader horizon are tourism and mountaineering.

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And the education is just like the seed of a plant, which, if it is not sown in seed-time, it can't neither spring nor grow, I think that the children's education with the love for sports is a matter of principle. This is the first thing that urged me, as a doctor, to treat these problems in the script for the feature film.

— What about the other reason?

— There is a resemblance from my life in the idle figure of Ilyr.

I keep the most beautiful remembrances of my childhood in the mountaineering groups, in our country, with its extraordinary fascinating and beautiful nature.

— Did you know the producer before?

— No, we became acquainted shortly after the screening began. But, Gëzim Erebara is a good producer. I have seen some of his documentaries and feature films. He is familiar with his job. So is Sami Kokona, the screenwriter, an experienced one, author of a series of documentaries and feature films. I've gone through some materials and I think it as a task to thank the comrades I've just mentioned for their good job. But to be exact, the spectators have the last say.

— Something more: as far as we know, you engage yourself with literature too. If you could tell us, what do you like best, literature of medicine?

— I like medicine best. There is no doubt that literature is a beautiful domain, very fine. But my aim is that through literature I raised medical problems.

— Has script of the film "The Brave" been awarded with a prize in the literary competition of 25th anniversary of liberation?

— Yes, I won the second prize.



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① Snapshot from screening.

② These are main heroes of the film.

Photoes: by L. Mazreku

③ The producer is satisfied. This scene may be shot.

④ Now Ilyr has changed for better.

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The Novels of 1970

The year 1970 was a lucky year for the Albanian novel. During this year, almost every month, the reader had in his hands one or two important works by Albanian authors.

The novel is the favourite literary genre of our reader. Now, it is not a rare thing that the first circulation of 14,000 copies is sold out in a day.

The Albanian literature of the past had an unequal development of literary genres. Alongside with a powerful poetry which is represented by a pleiades of great authors, we had a relatively weak development of prose and an unimportant dramaturgy. This may be explained if we bear in mind the objective conditions in which Albanian literature was born and developed.

In the occupied Albania where demands for national liberation were predominant, poetry as an ardent expression of these demands, placed itself at the head of literature. The prose which always seeks to find a broader ground of social development, fell behind. This accounts for the first Albanian novel, which at the same time is the first great work of Albanian literature "Milosao" published in 1836, that is written in verse.

During the 100 years to follow, our literature did not boast in prose of any work as good as "Milosao". The Albanian novel remained generally sentimental, with much more attempts than successful realization of the depiction of society and its contradictions. There have been published many novels indeed which have played their important part in the development of our literature, but in no way can the role they played be compared with the great role played by poetry. It was after the year 1944, the year of our country's liberation, that Albanian novel found its way of full development. Under the people's regime there have been written and published the real important novels of our literature which stand at an incomparable level as to the pre-liberation novels both concerning the content and the artistic realization. The year 1970 is the 26th years of socialist Albania. During this year there were published in our country more novels than during the period of from 1836 to 1944.

We will introduce you to some of the novels of this year and to their authors.

The series of publications was opened with the novel "A difficult birth" by Elena Kadare. This is the first novel in the history of the Albanian literature written by a woman. The novel was enthusiastically received. The literary criticism considered it as a beautifully written novel, with lyricism and real warmth. This novel deals with problems of emancipation of the Albanian woman in the years of socialism.

"Commissar Memo" is the first novel of the well-known poet and story-writer Dritero Agolli. The plot of the novel is taken from the

National Liberation Struggle.

With his powerful variety of colours which characterizes his prose, with his sound democratic spirit and with his powerful realization, Dritero Agolli has written one of the most beautiful novels about the liberation struggle in our literature.

The novel was well received by readers and literary criticism.

Ismail Kadare, the author of the noted novel "The General of the dead army" published this year his new novel "The Citadel". The author has taken the plot of his novel from history. He has found a strong analogy between the resistance of the Albanians led by Scanderbeg in the XVth century against the Turks and the resistance of our people against the revisionist blockade in the 60 years. The novel, "Troublous December" is the first written by the poet Fatos Arapi. This novel treats some emotional scenes from a real event of the recent years, an event which shocked the life of the country. It speaks about a powerful earthquake, the consequences of which were heroically faced by our people.

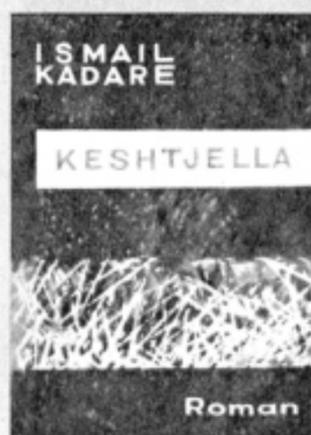
The prose-writer Dhimitër Xhuvani in the novel "Again on feet" gives the portrait of a new man who faced with a terrible misfortune, finds in our reality and in himself support and force to cope with his own drama.

"The whole city laughs" is the title of the satirical novel written by the prose-writer Qamil Buxheli. In this novel the author mercilessly satirizes all those bureaucrat elements who hinder the development of the mass culture here, in our country. The plot of the novels unfolds in a town whose house of culture together with its bureaucrat leaders becomes an object of a laughing-stock in the town.

The rest of the novels published this year are works treating of various subjects picked up from our socialist reality. There are novels about the working class and the life of cooperativist peasantry. Very soon the voluminous novel "The white south" of the well-known writer Jakov Xoxa will be out. This novel deals with parts from the life of our coop. peasantry during the struggle for narrowing the differences of city and countryside.

A number of young writers have presented to the "Naim Frashëri" Publishing House their first novels for consideration. In these novels they reflect different aspects of our life with fresh and various styles, with a powerful realization and a sound ideological spirit.

Their heroes are workers, peasants, students and office workers. Events generally take place in our days. It is of great importance the fact that these novels bear a variety of styles, this testifying to the fact that socialist realism presupposes a variation and originality of styles with boundless possibilities besides the very sound revolutionary content.



The Mailbag of the Editorial Board

1. — *Eduard Sarlet*, Belgium

First of all I write to express to you the great sympathy, I cherish for your glorious people, who are firmly advancing on the road of socialism and communism.

The century-old struggle of the Albanian people as well as the successes scored since their liberation are a source of admiration to the workers who are fighting against the capitalist exploitation and oppression. . .

Your magazine presents in a lively way the Albanian life. It gives a full account of the achievements of your people and helps to broaden my knowledge about Albania, about her people and her Party of Labour.

Due to the many reproductions of pictures and sculptures in your magazine, I have got a more accurate idea of what the revolutionary art of socialist realism is like, the only art which complies with the interest of the working class.

The article "The cadres in production work" published in the issue number 2 of your magazine has filled me with a great enthusiasm. Through it one can learn that revisionism and bureaucratism in your country are being vigorously fought. The intelligentsia and the working class are one and the same and not separated from each other. All march determinedly forward holding the pick in one hand and the rifle in the other.

2. — *Diallo Ibrahima Kandia*, Guinea

I have the great pleasure and satisfaction to write to you this letter, aiming at a subscription to your magazine "New Albania".

I want to inform you that I am greatly interested in that magazine, because it makes me learn many things about Albania. Don't forget to send me by mail many magazines, postcards and photos of your leaders. If you have booklets, documents and newspapers about Albania, please send them to me because I love your country very much and want to become most acquainted with it.

3. — *Didier Schulmann*, France

Once in two month's time I receive your magazine "New Albania". I read it with a great interest because it is due to this magazine that I learn how the building of socialism under the leadership of the glorious Party of Labour and Comrade Enver Hoxha, has efficiently brought forward.

4. — *Barry-Outmane Barry*, Guinea

I learned about your important magazine from a classmate of mine. The magazine "New Albania", seems to me to be a window through which I can get acquainted with Albania in every field. I like very much your magazine, through which I learn many things I did not know before.

Allow me to ask for a favour: Please have the kindness and subscribe me to your magazine.

5. — *Tarjei Hamgen*, Norway

Through the M-L organization SUF, I have received a copy of your magazine "New Albania". I am a member of this organization and through it I have learnt something about your country, but still I know very little I ask you to send me the selected works of your great leader Enver Hoxha, the History of the Party of Labour of Albania, books on history, magazines and other things necessary to help me.

6. — *Lin Sao-cun*, P.R. of China

I am a Chinese youth. Responding to the call of our great leader, Chairman Mao, last year I left Shanghai for the villages of Chekiang Province.

Here in the village I often read your magazine "New Albania".

I love Albania and her heroic people and I rejoice at every success achieved by the Albanian people under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania and Comrade Enver Hoxha.

The Albanian people are a close comrade-in-arms of the Chinese people. Every heroic victory of yours in socialist revolution inspires us in the struggle against imperialism and revisionism.

My friends and I want to know more about your great country and your heroic people therefore we want, to have such a book in which one could read more about Albania.

7. — *Christine Weber* — West Germany

Recently I read your magazine "New Albania" in English, and I was very enthusiastic about it. I am interested in Albania, and I would have learned Albanian with pleasure, but there are no such textbooks here. May be you can help me. I would be very grateful to you.

8. — *L.W. Morton*, Australia

Recently I bought a copy of your magazine "New Albania" (No. 1/1970). That is the first publication from your country I have seen here in Australia and I liked it very much. I was surprised at learning about all the successes achieved by the People's Power in Albania.

Would you be able to tell me something about musical life in Albania?

The illustrations of the magazine are very nice, and I like especially the front-cover.

9. — *Otto Ludwig*, Denmark

I am a Danish journalist, who visited Albania as a tourist in July 1970. I was astonished at the rapid industrial development since the liberation and I will write an article about Albanian industry, for the magazine of the Danish metallurgical workers. I have a lot of facts and figures about your progress, but I want you to send me some black and white photos as soon as possible. Do send me please some photos from the Metallurgical Plant in Elbasan, from the Copper Processing Plant in Gjegjan of Kukës, from the Copper Wire Plant in Shkodra and from the Mao Tsetung Hydropower Station. When I will publish the article, I will send you a copy of it. This newspaper is read by 200,000 Danish workers.

10. — *Jayarata Maliyaganda* — Ceylon

I have read many issues of your magazine "New Albania" which are sent to a friend of mine. In order to read it regularly, please do send it to me.

I will show this magazine to many other friends too, who are interested in the achievements of your socialist country.

11. — *Seif-Al-Dein M. Saad* — Sudan

I want to be subscribed to the magazine "New Albania" in Arabic because I want to have a clear and vivid picture of Albanian's development in all fields. Your magazine sets a good example and makes clear to the Arab reader the stand of the People's Republic of Albania towards many international problems.

Through this letter I want to express my deep love to you and to the militant Albanian people, who are comrades-in-arms of all the peoples of the world, struggling for freedom and independence.

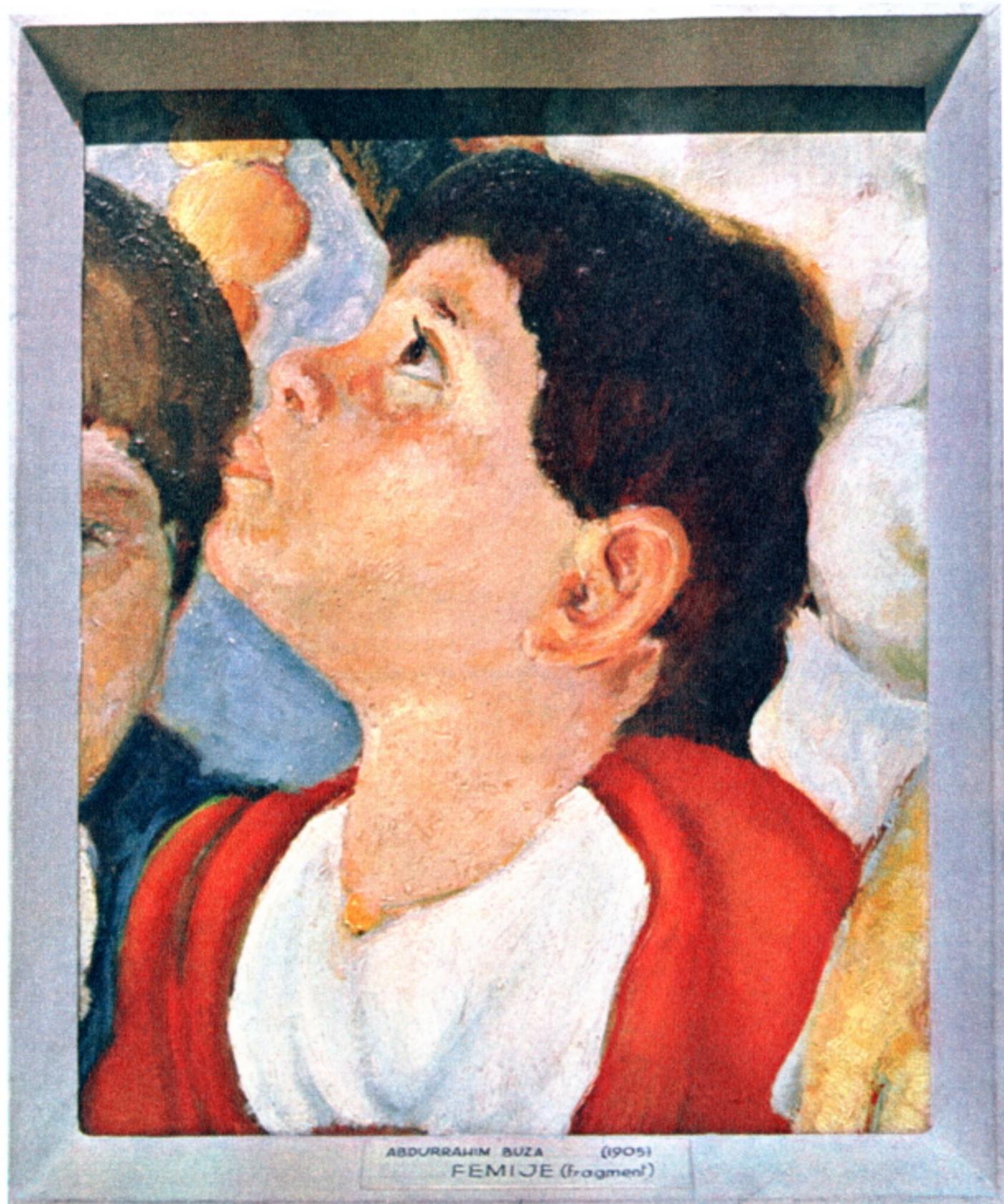
12. — *Mongep Bou-Anani* — Tunisia

I write for the first time to you to become friends with you. I am 18 years old and want to know, through books and magazines about the cultural and economic life of Albania. I would be very glad, if I can receive materials which show the road the Albanian peasantry has followed.

13. — *Marchand Dents* — France

I thank you for the magazine you have sent me. Through it I learned many facts unknown to me before, especially about the social life of your country and about the economic development in Albania, during those last two decades.

**In
the
Painters'
Studios**



ABDURRAHIM BUZA (1905)
FEMIJE (fragment)

①



②

① Child's portrait (oil),
by Abdurahman Buza

② Mountaineer's portrait in mosaic,
by Gavril Priftuli

③ The march of the "Revenge" partisan battalion,
by Sofiraq Sholla



On Guard for Children's Life

On the right of the street that leads to the industrial zone in the City of Shkodra, you are struck by a new beautiful building. It is the paediatrics building which was built up last year. We stepped in.

... Its halls and wards are full of light. 230 children, many of whom have come from the countryside, are cured here. There is a personnel of 154 people that serve here. There were only six doctors in the whole of the district before liberation whereas today there work 10 doctors in this hospital only.

Near a bed in the room No. 3 we see Lena Rrotoni, a peasant woman. She has come from Bushati. Her child had been at a stake. Now, two months after, her child is fully recovered. During her child's illness Lena stayed in this room, beside this bed. She was provided with all the facilities free of charge. There are 40 other mothers like her. During their stay here, they receive their wages in the institutions where they work. They attend the course "The mother and the child" in the hospital; they go in excursions arranged by the hospital and to various artistic activities. To the room No. 8 while talking with the doctor Mikel Noroçi, comes a woman dressed in the characteristic costume of the Zadrëma District. She was carrying her child in her arms.

— I came here to thank you doctor, for everything you did to save my child. . .

The doctor kissed the child. The child smiled. . . .

— This child weighed only 1,300 grams when was born, Mikel told us — now he weighs 3,400 grams.

On the upper floor, there were older patients.

We found some of them playing in the playing hall, some others reading in the study hall.





②

① A general view

② From this room, you can see all other wards of the hospital.

③ This mother from the highlands is settled in the hospital to sit at her sick child's bedside, till her daughter's recovery.





The former swamp of Maliqi — (Korça District) has been reclaimed into fertile land.

*Yesterday
and
Today*



View of "bridge on the Shkumbini River in the year 1945. . . Its place has been taken by a long double-deck bridge where simultaneously, the train, vehicles and pedestrains pass. This bridge was built by the youth with voluntary work.







①



②



③

① Our coast is daily embellished by man's hand.

Photo: by N. Xhufka

② There will yellow all along the coast the lemon and orange trees.

③ These are not amphitheatre rows, but terraces with citrus and fruit trees.

④ These rest homes are preferred both in summer and winter.

⑤ Morning in the Himara riviera.



④

⑤

Our Riviera

We were sitting on a rock and drinking in the beauty of the sea scenery. It was sunset and the horizon was being painted into orange colour. What a pleasure it was to marvel at the sight and hear the splash of the sea waves. The cooperative members were now back from their work. In a moment electric lights sparkled in the village. Thousands of electric lights began to twinkle from the seashore up to the mountain slope where Qeparoi is built. It is a fantastic view especially at night — the village of Qeparoi as if climbing the mountain, the electric lights tower to the skies.

Qeparoi is a village in the Vlorë District. Of late, work is going on there to bring running water pipes to every house. This is being done after they built public baths, laundry, bakery and dining halls. At present the whole of the riviera region has already completed the construction of the social-cultural projects. The villages along the riviera are among those pioneers who broke that path which leads to the gradual elimination of the differences between town and country.

There is no village in this region that has not its 8-year school. Every village has its own house of culture, out-patient clinics, creches and kindergartens. Today more than 1,670 pupils go to the lower, 8-year and the middle school of Himara. About 200 others pursue their studies outside their locality in Vlorë or elsewhere such as in the Tirana University.

There is a place in the world called "The golden sands". Our riviera has not been called by any such name; It has been called neither golden nor silvery though nature itself has lavished it with beauty and man's hand has left its embellishing trace there. This is an ever green spot. Olive groves and citrus plantations stretch along the seashore. Further up on the mountain slopes which some years ago were covered with bushes and shrubs one can see winding terraces planted with grapes.

What a contrast of dark blue colour of the deep sea waters with the ever-green scenery of the olive and citrus trees with the white houses on the background who seem to ride on each other's back just like an amphitheatre. . . .

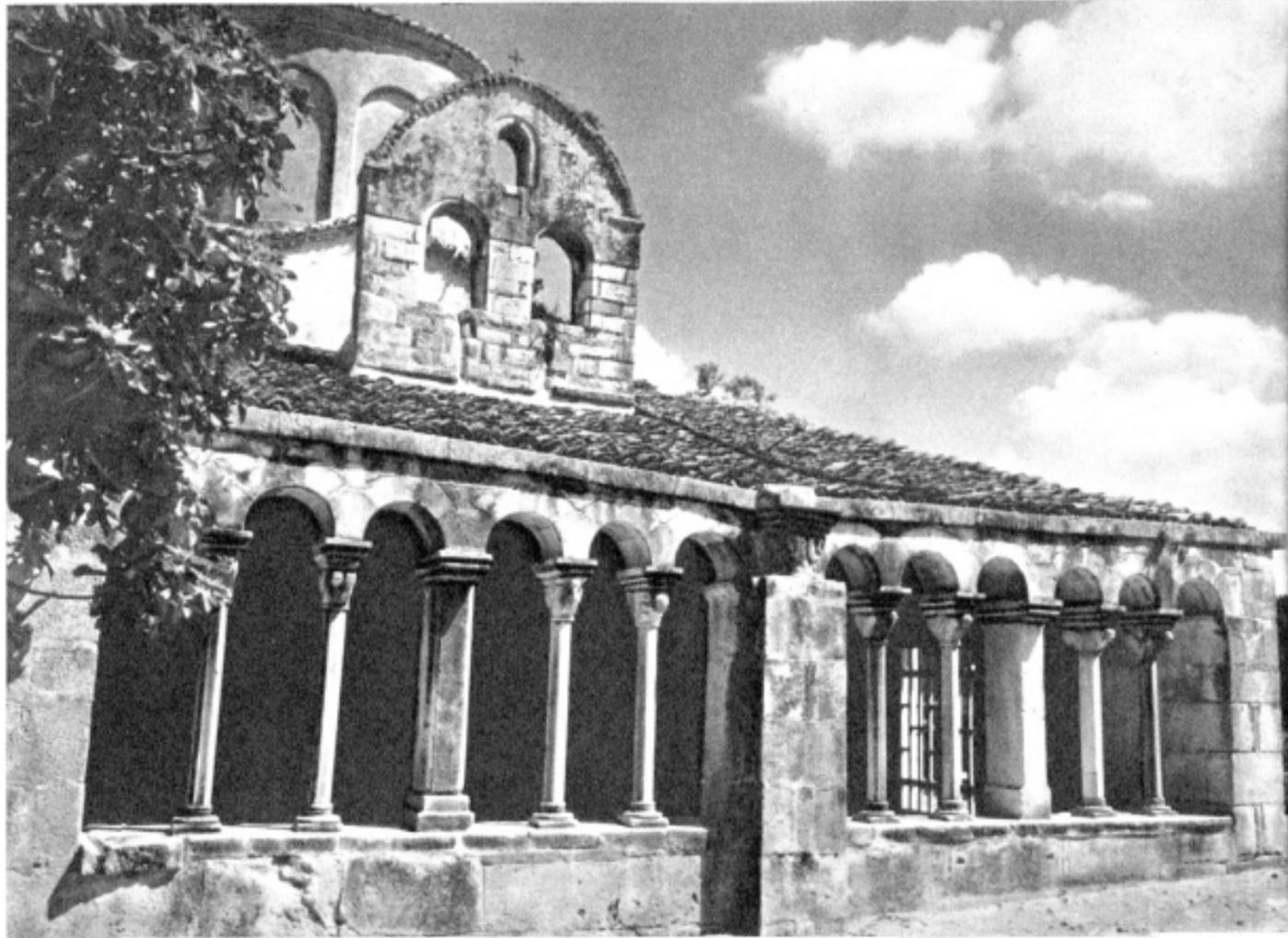
Down there is the Ionian Sea. . .



What Do These

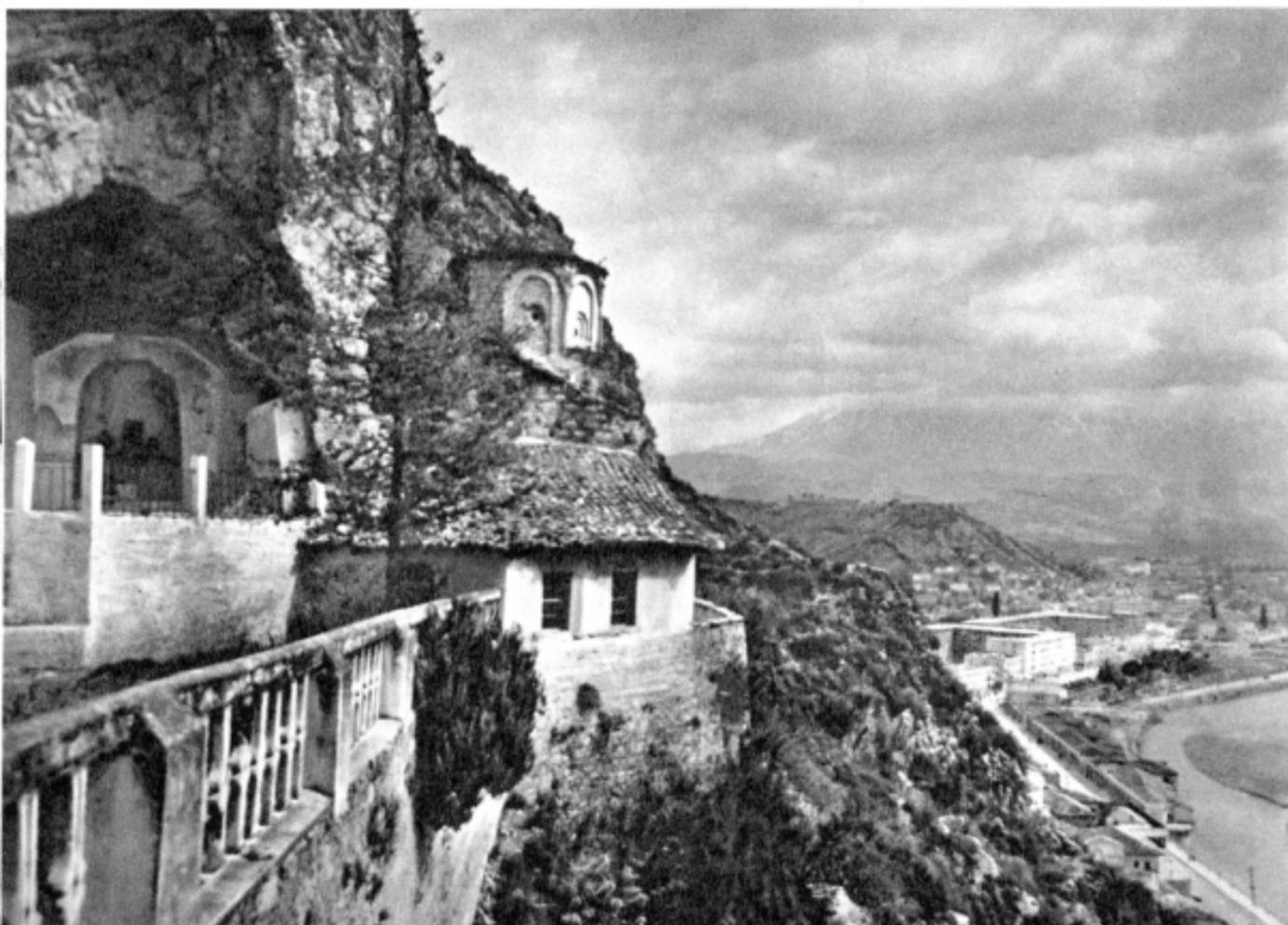


One of the towers of Berati fortress the walls of which date back to the IV-III centuries before our era, when the Ilyrians founded here the City of Antipatrea. The fortress rises up on a rocky hill on the banks of Osumi River, that overlooks the valley and the fields around. In the course of the centuries, the city continues to live under the name of Pulkeriopolis, in the early Middle Ages and later on



Belgrade and Berati. The tower we are looking at on the photo was rebuilt in the XVIII century and stands over a rock that falls sharply down the southern side. This position makes the part of the fortress impregnable. Viewing it from the lower part of the city, the tower stands as if in the air, thus diverting the attention of visitors.

The portico of monastery church of Pojani (District of Fieri) set up over the ancient ruins of Apollonia, was added by the turn of the XIVth century, being harmonized with the church itself—work of the first half of the XIIIth century. It is distinguished not only by its elegant arcade but also by capitals of columns, on which are carved animals and different monsters, that speak of an influence of romantic art. In the inner part of portico, there is preserved an important afresc with a great historic value.



In this photo is shown the church of St. Mëhilli, in Berat City, built upon abrupt rocks of the fortress hill. This monument was built in the XIV century and has been preserved without changes till our days. Its wall built in stones and standing within the rows of tiles, makes this church more picturesque, which is built amidst rocks, beyond castle's walls, in an outline, against which, it greatly stands out. Its construction is as perfect as bold and bears witness to the artistic and technical level of the time at which it was built.

Photos Show?



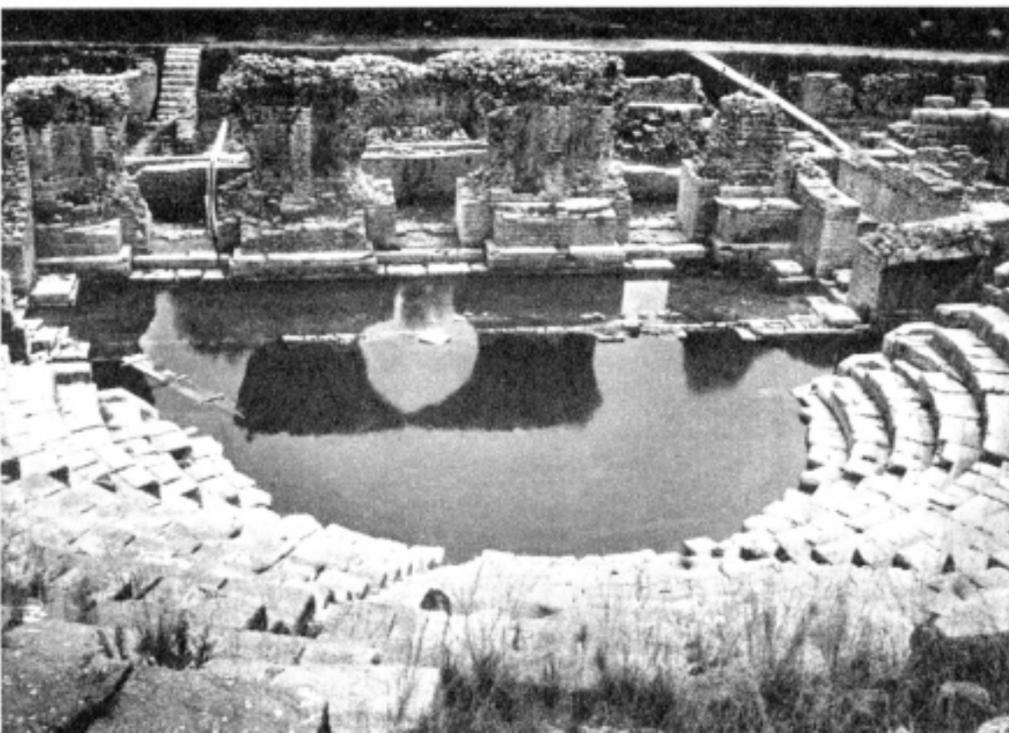
This road that winds across the olive tree-planted hills, leads to the Petrela fortress (outskirts of Tirana) built upon a rocky hill, dominates all environment.

The fortress was built during the V-VIth centuries and due to its position it had been impregnable. It played an important role in the course of the 25-year long struggle of the Albanians led by Scanderbeg in the XV century.



The fortress of Porto Palermo on the Ionian coast, in ancient times, was called Panoramus. It was rebuilt at the beginning of the XIX century by Ali Pasha Tepelena on a little peninsula amid the same bay.

From far-off, the fortress with its solid and well-preserved wall, seems to stand out over the rocky environment and appears as if built on one block amid a sea of a black blue colour.



The theatre of Butrinti viewed from the acropolis, built in the IVth century B.C. rebuilt in the first century, during the Roman period, is among the ancient theatres that are better preserved along the eastern coast of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas. Because of earth's fall, it is covered with water on the part of the stage creating thus, for the visitors, a suggestive scene. Cavera (place where public seat), is built of stones, having the upper rows built straight on the rock. From here there stretched, in front of the public, the field of Mursia silhouetted against mountains, having thus created a linkage with nature, an essential characteristic of the Greek theatre of the times.

READ IN THIS ISSUE:

Front cover: Dancer of the Tirana Folklore Ensemble Liljana Cingu holds the golden necklace with which the ensemble was awarded at the Dijon festival.

Photo: by S. Xhillari

Back cover: Albanian landscape.

— Brilliant victory of the Democratic Front of Albania

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S P O R T S

The autumn of every year brings back to Albania the echo in public gardens and stadiums, which are filled with thousands upon thousands of sport-loving people, for the autumn marks the beginning of the sports season. And the autumn of this year is very rich in sport competitions, national and international as well. The national football, basketball and Volleyball (men and women) championships began, and there are now going on other kinds of sports, the first successes on the international arena were registered. *Partizani* — the winner of the Balkan cup in Football: This was a deserved success of the Partizani football-players, several times champions of our country. A year ago, "Dynamo" of Tirana was the finalist. Partizani passed all the tests of this tournament: it won two times over "Universitatea" of Krajova (Rumania), it concluded the two matches with



Snapshot from the football match between "17 Nëndori" of Tirana and "Ajax" of Holland played in Tirana within the framework of the cup of Europe among the champion football teams. The match ended in a draw: 2 to 2.

"Sloboda" of Tuzla (Yugoslavia) with the score of 1:1 and 1:2 and in the final it defeated (1:1 and 3:0) "Stara Zagora" of Bulgaria.

Satisfactory result was achieved by "17 Nendori" of Tirana, which evened up with the score 2:2 in Tirana with the well-known "Ajax" team of Amsterdam.

Apart from the two competitions, our soccer-players will take part in the European football championship of grown-up and youths and play in the group to which, the German Federal Republic, Poland and Turkey belong as well as in the preliminary, football olympic tournament.

25 years of Albanian Football

The national football championship for the 1970-71 season is the 25th held after liberation of Albania. We call back the first championship, in April of 1945 year, when the Albanian people were healing the wounds

caused by the war. The best part of sportsmen had been partizans and had fought against the nazi-fascist forces. The football-players gave their own martyrs, too. Once, Albanian and no more than 10 teams with nearly 100 footballers, while today, either in the national championships or local ones amount to over 3,000 football-players, who take belonging to hundreds of teams.

In the course of these years the "Partizani" team won the title of champion 10 times, "Dynamo" 8, "17 Nendori" 4 and "Vllaznia" 2 times.

Albania in the other International sport competitions.

—The representative of the Albanian team in volleyball (men) took part in the selection tournament of world championship that was held in Sofia. It took the third place, leaving behind the teams of the German

Federal Republic, Turkey and Greece, which were all defeated by our team with the score 3:0.

—The Albanian student team which took part, together with a sport delegation, in the Universeade of Turin, merely caused a surprise in the match with the powerful team of Yugoslavia, the world's champion. The match was very fierce and only at the last seconds could the world's champion win it with the score of 74:72.

—In Zigen of the German Federal Republic there was held world's chess olympiad, where the Albanian representative team took part. The young Albanian chess-players successfully competed in their group and left behind many teams. . . .

