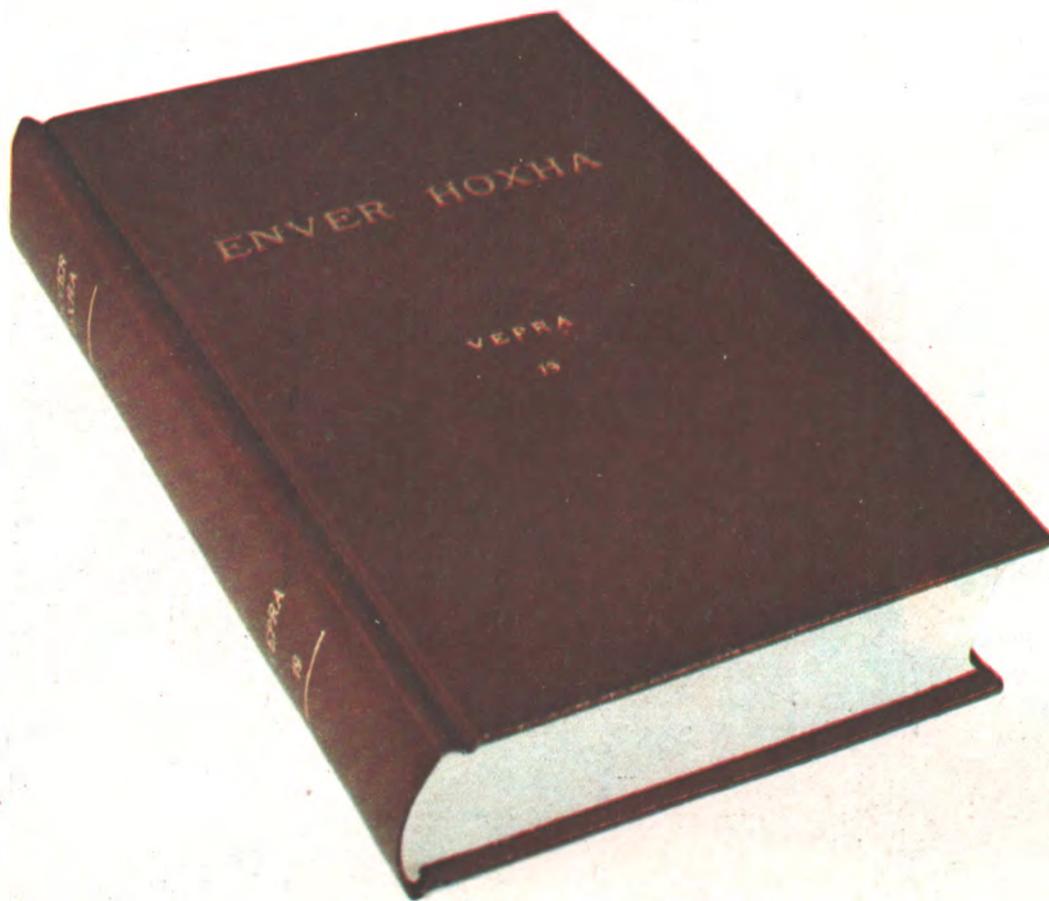




NEW ALBANIA

**5
1975**



VOLUME 19 OF THE WORKS OF COMRADE ENVER HOXHA

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

The main space in this volume is devoted to the documents in which the strategic and tactical line of the Party of Labor of Albania was worked out against the spread of modern revisionism and, especially, against the anti-Marxist divisive activity of the Soviet leadership headed by Khrushchev. Up to that time the Party of Labor of Albania had informed the Soviet leadership of its opposition and reservations about a series of incorrect theses and activities. But facts showed that the Khrushchev group was stubbornly, continuing on a wrong course fraught with danger for the international communist and workers' movement, a thing which was particularly clear in its organisation behind the scenes at the Bucharest Meeting in June 1960. This volume gives a clear picture

of the consistent struggle waged by the Party of Labor of Albania both at the Bucharest Meeting as well as the Moscow Meeting of 81 parties in November 1960. At Bucharest, the Party of Labor of Albania refused to pass judgment on the alleged mistakes of the Communist Party of China or to condemn it on the basis of materials full of slanderous accusations trumped up by the Soviet leadership without allowing the Communist Party of China the time and possibility to read this material and present its own views. At the Moscow Meeting, our Party voiced its views with revolutionary courage and before international communism, openly criticised the wrong line of the Soviet leadership on a series of major issues of principle. The Party of Labor of Albania did not make any concessions on principles and refused to follow the revisionist line of the Khrushchev group. A series of documents published in this volume, including reports, speeches, discussions and talks, are vivid testimony to this. Also published in this volume are a number of radiograms and letters sent from Tirana to Bucharest, Moscow, Peking, and New York, which carried the directive and revolutionary line of the Party of Labor of Albania.

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

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

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



The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania Enver Hoxha met workers, cooperative members, and cadres of the Party and the People's State Power during his visit in the Korça and Pogradec districts. He was given an enthusiastic reception everywhere. In the picture: Comrade Enver Hoxha amidst people of Korça.

COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AMONG THE WORKERS OF KORÇA AND POGRADEC

The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, Enver Hoxha, paid a visit to the Korça and Pogradeci districts. He was accompanied by the alternate-member of the Political Bureau of the CC of the PLA, Pilo Peristeri, and Member of the CC of the PLA Nexhmije Hoxha.

During his visit to the two districts he met workers, cooperative members, cadres of the Party and the Government. Wherever he went he was welcomed with joy and enthusiasm by the workers.

In Korça, the First Secretary of the CC of the PLA met the Members of the Bureau of the Party Committee and other leading cadres of the organs of the Party, Government, Army and organizations of the masses. Comrade Enver Hoxha was informed about the main aspects of the work of leadership of the regional Party organization in carrying out the tasks facing the workers of the Korça district. Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated them on the results achieved in the political, ideological, economic, social and cultural fields and spoke about the major tasks of the coming five-year plan. On this occasion Comrade Enver Hoxha also touched on certain aspects of the present international situation.

The visit which comrade Enver Hoxha and the persons accompanying him paid to the «Petro Papi» precision instruments plant was welcomed with great enthusiasm. The collective of this plant, young in age and profession have successfully and regularly fulfilled the targets of the plan. While visiting the various departments of the plant, comrade Enver Hoxha asked about the work, the problems of production, and the life of the workers. The workers told the beloved leader about what they had achieved, about the efforts and struggle to raise their professional level, to master the modern equipment,

and to carry out the Party slogan «we must build socialism relying on our own forces».

At the end of his visit, in one of the halls of the plant, comrade Enver Hoxha had a talk with a group of workers, specialists, and cadres of the plant and other enterprises of the district. Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated the workers of the plant and all the Korça working class, who stand in the front ranks of the working class in carrying out the line of the Party for the accomplishment of all the tasks in the fields of socialist construction and defence of the Homeland. «We come to you» said comrade Enver Hoxha among other things, «to gain new strength, to learn from you, comrade workers, because the Party instructs us to learn as much as we can from the class, from the people».

In speaking about the importance of industry at the present stage of socialist construction, Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed its leading role in our economy. He spoke of the necessity for discipline at work, and for economical use of materials. Everything turned out by the working class must be of the highest quality, as strong, beautiful, and cheap as possible. The working class, Comrade Enver Hoxha said, has striven and continues to strive to raise the proletarian democracy to an ever higher level. It has played and continues to play a decisive role in the struggle against bureaucracy, for a revolutionary style and method of work. Under the guidance of the Party, the working class has waged and will continue to wage an ever sharper class struggle against the external and internal enemies.

Comrade Enver Hoxha and the persons accompanying him also visited the knit-wear mill. He instructed the workers, most of whom are women and girls, to learn as much as they can about the technique and technology of production, to raise their level of qualification.

At the center of the higher type Agricultural Cooperative of Pojan called «Liberation», cooperative members from all the villages had gathered to greet the beloved leader of the Party and the People, comrade Enver Hoxha, and those accompanying him. The meeting aroused great joy and enthusiasm there. Comrade Enver Hoxha was told by the Chairman of the Cooperative about the successes this Cooperative had achieved especially in recent years. This year, in spite of the severe damage caused by hail at harvest time, the Cooperative gathered nearly 45 quintals of wheat per hectare over the whole area. Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated the cooperative members of Pojan and the whole district on the results attained and gave very valuable advice about how to achieve further successes in the future.

During his stay at Pogradec, Comrade Enver Hoxha was interested not only in the problems of the district, but also in how the work was progressing on the new Prenjas-Guri i Kuq railway, another initiative of our revolutionary youth. The meeting here was attended also by the Member of the Political bureau and secretary of the CC of the PLA, comrade Hysni Kapo.

On his way back, comrade Enver Hoxha stopped at the city of Elbasan where he met leading cadres and was informed about the good results achieved in industry, agriculture, and other sectors. Comrade Enver Hoxha was especially interested in how the work was getting along at the Metallurgical Combine which is being built with the internationalist aid of the Chinese people, the Communist Party of China, and the esteemed friend of our people, comrade Mao Tsetung.

Comrade Enver Hoxha congratulated our workers and the Chinese specialists on the good work they have done.

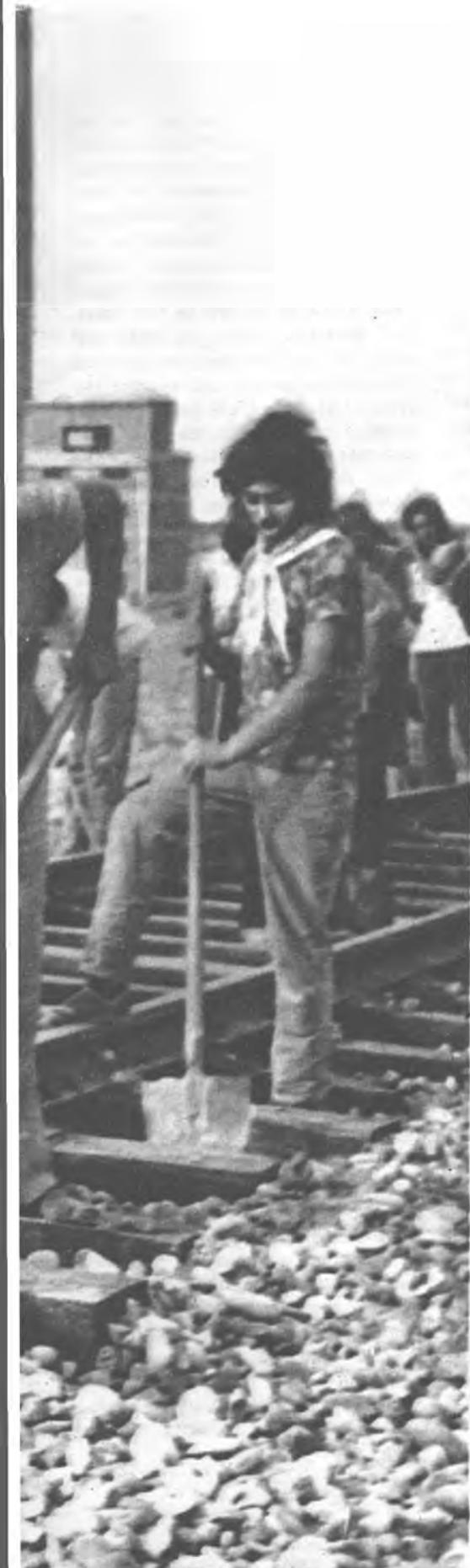
FIERY YOUTH

The torch passes into the hands of youth. They are the future of the country. One finds the Albanian youth not only in the schools, auditoriums and laboratories, but also on all the construction sites, in the workshops, fields, hydro-electric power-plants, side by side with the workers and peasants, in socialist construction. The combination of school with life, of books with revolutionary practice, are the motto of the Albanian youth. The mass actions, direct participation in productive labour on all the fronts of socialist construction, are schools of revolutionary education for the younger generation.

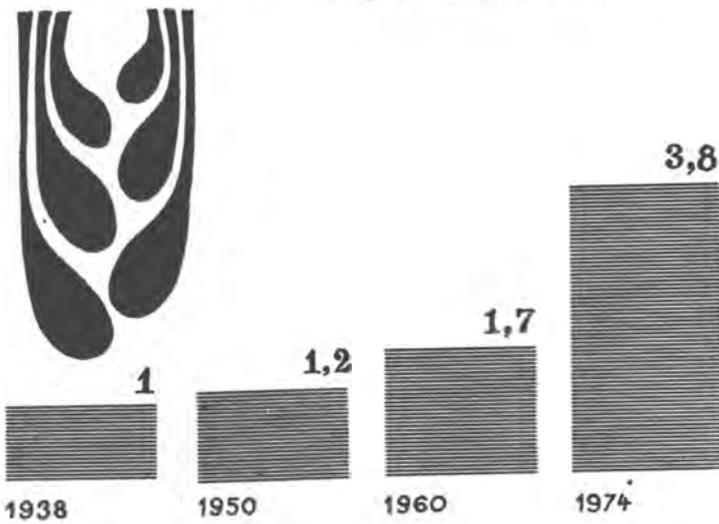




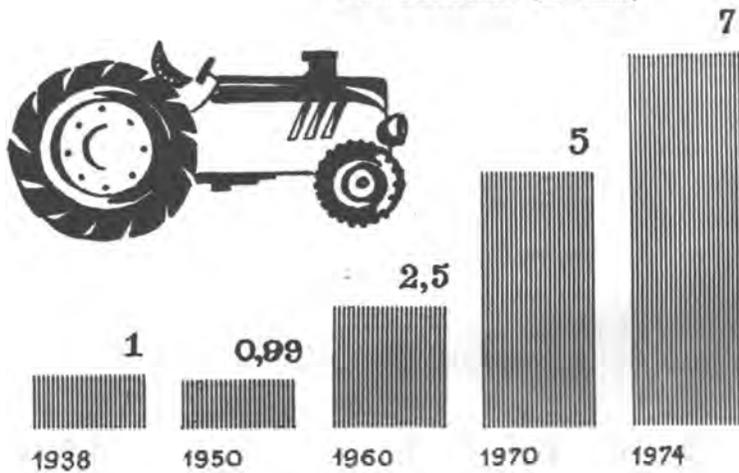
In these pictures you see young men and young women taking part in building the railway network within the Metallurgical Complex at Elbasan, as well as on the new railway to Guri i Kuq, Pogradec, Another group of young men and young women returning after working together with the cooperative members in the countryside.



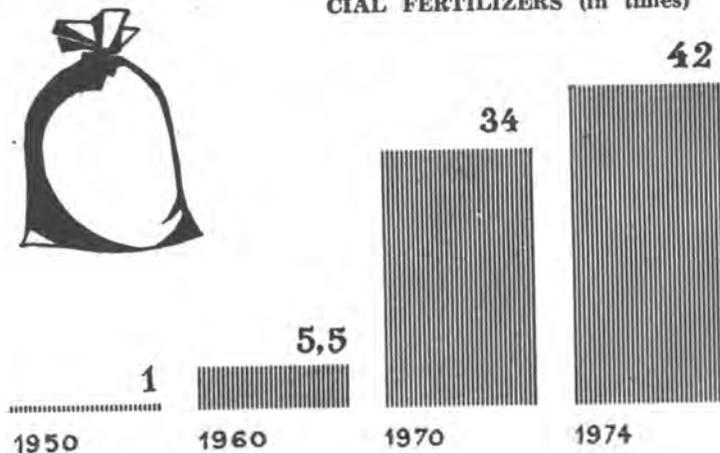
INCREASE OF TOTAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION (in times)



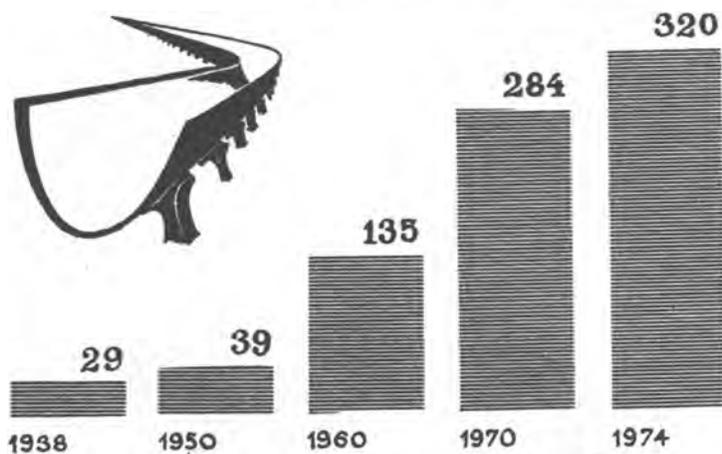
INCREASE OF POWER USED IN AGRICULTURE (in times)



INCREASE OF USE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS (in times)



INCREASE OF IRRIGATION CAPACITY (in thousand hectares)



THE FIRST REVOLUTION IN THE SOCIAL- ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Thirty years ago the law on the land reform was proclaimed in Albania. Its implementation marked the first revolution in the social-economic relations of the countryside.

Following the liberation of Albania from the fascist invaders and the traitors to the country, the most acute and urgent problem in the field of agriculture was to get rid of the old agrarian relations. This problem had to do with the radical solution of the antagonistic contradictions between the working peasantry and the big land owners, that is, with the greatest democratic change that had still to be completed. At that time this was the main field for the strengthening of the alliance of the working class with the peasantry.

During the National-liberation War, the Party¹⁾ had promised the peasants that it would strive to solve the agrarian question, and it had taken preliminary measures. Immediately following liberation it launched the slogan "the land to those who till it".

In August 1945, nine months after the establishment of the People's State Power the law on agrarian reform was proclaimed. Under this law, all the land belonging to the state, to religious institutions, as well as private land beyond the limits set, was expropriated without compensation. It was distributed free of charge, as private property, to landless and land poor peasants, the head of each family receiving five hectares. The buying, selling or renting of land was prohibited.

Part of the land confiscated was not distributed but was turned into State property. On this land State farms were set up, marking the birth of the State socialist sector in agriculture. In addition, the forests, waters and underground resources also became the common property of the people.

For the rapid and fair implemen-

tation of the land reform law, the Party set up the poor peasants committees. They played an important role in accurately defining the lands belonging to the State, to the feudal lords and the enemies of the people and in drawing up lists of the landless and landpoor peasant families. They helped in the distribution of the confiscated lands, and especially in mobilising the laboring peasants to detect and combat the hostile activity of the landlords and other reactionary forces who rose against the land reform law right from the start. The setting up of these committees from the poor peasants and all their work for the implementation of the reform was of great assistance in raising the class and political consciousness of the poor peasants.

The land reform was completed within fourteen and a half month from the day the law was proclaimed. This marked "the first revolution in the social and economic relations in the countryside", eliminated large-scale property in land, and swept away the survivals of feudalism and the class of landlord. The limitation of private ownership of land, forbidding the buying, selling, renting or mortgaging of land, hindered the polarisation of the peasantry and greatly restricted the possibilities for exploitation of the peasantry by the kulaks. Thus the land reform also contained elements of a markedly anti-capitalist character. This was because it was implemented by the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Our People's State Power took a series of other important radical steps to lift agriculture out of the backward situation in which the anti-popular regimes of the past had left it. Large sums of money have been invested in draining swamps, in controlling rivers, in opening thousands of kilometers of irrigation canals, and in building hundreds of big and small reser-

The land reform which was carried out in Albania thirty years ago eliminated large estates, and swept away the survivals of feudalism and the class of landlords. The confiscation of land, livestock, farming equipment and other assets was done without compensation. They were distributed to the landless and landpoor peasants free of charge.

voirs. The area of arable land has more than doubled and the area of land under irrigation has increased elevenfold.

The Machine and Tractor Stations, equipped with up-to-date means work not only in the lowlands but also in the mountain regions. The chemical fertilizer industry has been established and selected seeds are used on a large scale. Thousands of medium and higher cadres have been trained in secondary agricultural schools and higher institutes in all specialities.

But the greatest achievement attained in Albanian agriculture is its transformation to socialist agriculture. The large-scale socialist economies have created incomparable advantages for the intensification of agriculture. Yields per hectare have increased enormously while total agricultural production in 1974 was 3.8 times greater than before liberation. Livestock numbers have increased and herds have been improved by selective breedings. Thousands of hectares of land have been planted to different varieties of fruit trees in blocks and large plantations.

All the villages have been provided with electricity and thousands of social and cultural centers, such as schools, creches, and kindergartens, hospitals, public bakeries, dining-rooms, bath houses, laundries, tradesmen's service units, fruit and vegetable canneries, and so on have been built. Medical services are free of charge. Pensions and social insurance for incapacity for work have also been established for the peasantry. All these factors have created an entirely new situation in the Albanian countryside which is speeding up the process of narrowing the differences between town and countryside. -

1) The Albanian Communist Party, now the Party of Labor of Albania.



The socialist transformation of agriculture set Albanian agriculture on the road to intensification. The output of agricultural crops is always on the rise. This field of maize seen in the picture, belongs to the fourth brigade of the Sheq sector of the Frakull agricultural cooperative in the Fier district. Last year it harvested 113.7 qt of maize per hectare. This year, too, they expect high yields.

Threshing grain at the Çerava sector of the Leshnica agricultural cooperative in the Pogradec district. This year this sector set a record in yield of wheat: 71.3 qt per hectare from a plot of 18 hectares. The life of the peasants is improving from year to year on the basis of the increase in production.

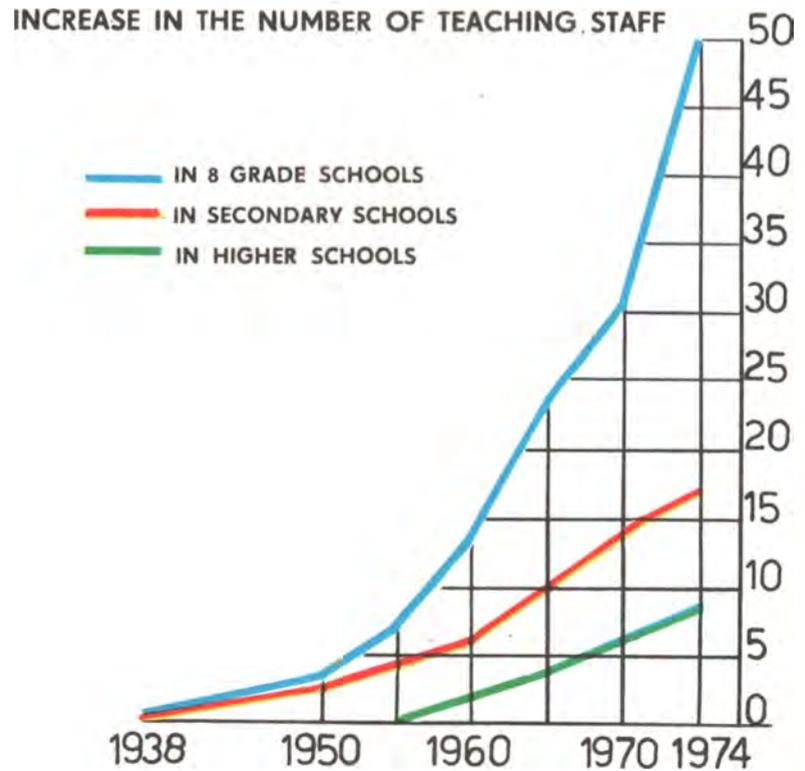
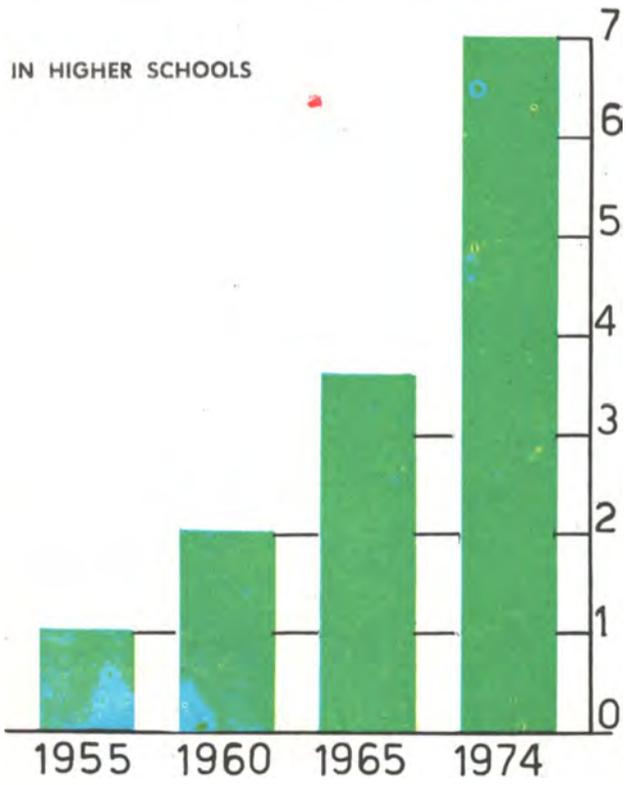
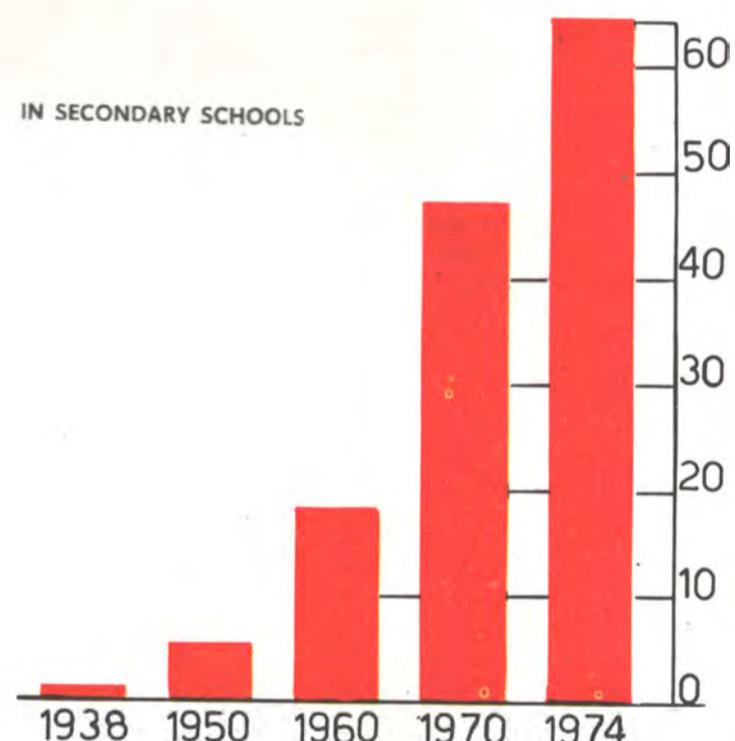
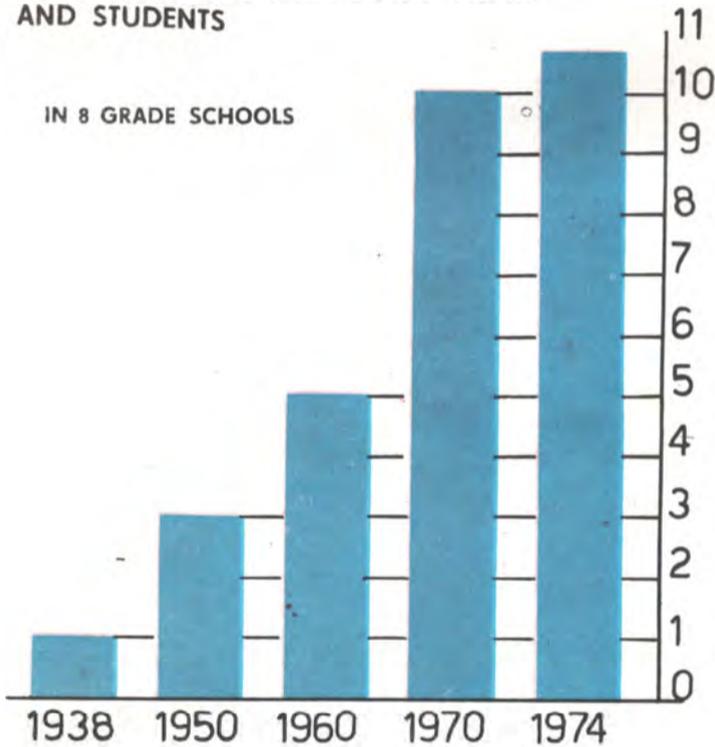


OVER 700.000.....

THE DOORS OF ALL THE SCHOOLS OF OUR COUNTRY OPENED ON SEPTEMBER 1st... OVER 700,000 PUPILS AND STUDENTS FILLED THE CLASS-ROOMS AND AUDITORIA. OVER 30,000 TEACHERS BEGAN GIVING INSTRUCTION. IN SOCIALIST ALBANIA ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION IS ATTENDING SCHOOL. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT FACT WHICH SURPASSES EVEN THE MOST OPTIMISTIC DREAMS OF OUR FOREBEARS. NOT MORE THAN THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO, OUR COUNTRY WAS ONE OF BACKWARDNESS AND IGNORANCE. AT THAT TIME, AMONGST EVERY HUNDRED ALBANIANS ONLY TEN TO FIFTEEN PERSONS KNEW HOW TO READ OR WRITE. IT WAS WITH THIS SORRY HERITAGE THAT SOCIALIST ALBANIA BEGAN TO TAKE ITS FIRST STEPS. TODAY, EDUCATION HAS SUCH A MASS CHARACTER THAT THERE IS NO FAMILY WHICH DOES NOT SEND ITS CHILDREN OFF TO SCHOOL, TO THE UNIVERSITY, OR TO OTHER HIGHER INSTITUTES OF LEARNING. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SUCCESSES ATTAINED AFTER LIBERATION. TODAY, OUR COUNTRY HAS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ITS OWN CAPABLE CADRES IN EVERY SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WILL BE TRAINED TO SOLVE OTHER MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS, WHICH OUR EVER ADVANCING LIFE BRINGS TO THE FORE.



INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PUPILS AND STUDENTS



SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT EDUCATION IN ALBANIA

1. — What is the school age?

Children enroll in schools at the age of 6 both in town and countryside. Formerly this age was 7 years. The change to 6 years was made taking into account two factors, first, the general uplift of the cultural level of the population, hence of the family, enabling the parents to be of greater assistance to their children, and, second the extension of the pre-school educational system (3,4 and 5 years). Pre-school education has now become an integral part of the school system in Albania.

2. — Who pays for education?

The State pays. There are no tuition fees for any category of school in our country. The State meets the expenses for the school plant, school equipment, salaries of teachers and supplementary personnel.

What does the family have to pay for? Only the textbooks. But the prices on textbooks are more or less symbolic. For instance, for pupils up to the school age of 12 to 13 years, the textbooks used for one year cost the family an amount equal to what an average worker earns in from one to one-and-a-half days' work. For a student of the secondary school the textbooks for one year may cost up to two days' earnings for a worker on an average wage.

The kindergartens for pre-school children are of two categories; those without meals (the family incurs no financial obligations) and those with meals. For the latter the family pays about 29 per cent of the cost of food, the State paying the remainder.

Bursaries for students of secondary and higher schools are arranged in this way: the State grants the full bursary to students from families with many children, hence, with lower incomes per head, while other families pay a reasonable contribution without affecting the minimum income per person. The constant rise of the standard of living, hence of the incomes, of families means that this contribution is not a heavy burden on them.

3. — How much does the State spend to train an engineer?

Training an engineer requires 4 years of study at the University plus one year of probation in production during which he prepares the thesis for his diploma.

Let us take a student on a State bursary. Every year he spends 10 months in the hostel. The other two months are his summer vacation. Hence he stays in the hostel 40 months all told. For this student the state spends a sum equal to the average pay of a worker for 36 months. Thus, the burden of the State is not small.

What does the bursary cover? From the bursary granted to him, the student pays for board

and lodging at the «Student Town», for textbooks, and has some pocket money left.

We do not include here the year of probation in production after four years because the student works and receives the corresponding pay. The University provides the student with the teacher who will guide him in preparing the thesis for his diploma.

4. — How many pupils are required for opening a school?

This is no problem for the city where pupils are numerous and schools function to full capacity. This is a problem for the rural regions, and not so much for the rural regions of southern Albania, where the houses are closer together, as for certain regions in northern and central Albania where the houses are still scattered far apart from one another. Secondary schools are usually opened at the headquarters of the agricultural cooperative, which includes from 5 to 10 villages. 8 grade schools of the higher cycle (with pupils from 10 to 13 or 14 years of age) are usually opened in all villages or one school to two neighboring villages of easy access to the pupils. In a number of these villages there are classes of from 10 to 15 pupils.

The problem is more difficult for the lower cycle of the 8-grade school (the elementary schools) with pupils ranging from 6 to 9 or 10 years of age. It is aimed to provide a minimum number of 12 pupils for each class. But this is not always achieved because the houses are far apart from one another, in which case schools are opened in different parts of the same village. They may have even 6 or 7 or 8 pupils per class. This is a sacrifice for the state but it does it in the interest of compulsory schooling for all. There are cases when hostels of limited capacities are opened at schools in highland regions in order to make it easier for pupils to attend. The children are lodged and fed there, going to their families from Saturday to Monday. These hostels are maintained and paid for by the agricultural cooperatives.

5. — Compulsory education

8-grade schooling is compulsory in Albania and is fully achieved in both urban and rural centers. After this, the students make their own choice. Most of them choose the 4-year courses in secondary schools (of general or vocational education) where there are 65 to 70 profiles and specializations to choose from. In towns about from 80 to 90 per cent of those who have been through 8-grade schooling enroll in secondary schools. The vocational secondary schools admit students on the basis of a plan, for the State sets correct proportion in training, for instance, nurses, electricians, teachers, economists, surveyors, and so on. There are no restrictions on the number of students enrolled in schools of general education.

In the rural regions the prevailing courses are agronomy, zooveterinary, fruticulture, horti-

culture, and similar ones necessary to the village. For other specializations which the village needs in limited numbers, the students are sent to city schools to be trained as mechanics, electricians, midwives, agrarian economists, building construction technicians, and so on and so forth. Students from rural regions attending vocational secondary schools in the Republic make up more than 50 per cent of the whole contingent of students. This is in order to impart a further impulse to secondary education for students in the rural regions where, until now, they have not had, nor could have had, the same possibilities as in the urban centers. An indication of this is the fact during the 1971-74 period 73 per cent of the total number of new secondary schools opened are in the countryside.

Apart from ordinary secondary schooling there is another choice open to pupils following 8-grade schooling they can attend two year schools, (half lessons and half work) during which they learn one trade or another. These are preferred by those who seek a shorter period of time to learn a trade. These are called lower vocational schools.

There are others who want to go directly into production after having been through 8-grade schooling and thus completed the compulsory schooling. But they may still be younger than 16 years of age which is the minimum age to be accepted as a worker. These can go into a workshop or factory as **students in economy** in which they work half-time (for which they are paid) and study the other half. They attend the system of courses which the establishment itself runs according to its own profile.

For workers who have followed these two latter roads, there are part-time vocational secondary schools in which they can acquire the complete secondary education in their profiles.

One other detail which deserves mention is that the curriculum of these part-time secondary vocational schools includes the subjects of general culture (mathematics, physics and chemistry for those of technical profiles and literature, history and geography, for those of social-cultural profiles) equal to those of the secondary schools of general education. This effectively prepares these students for pursuing higher education, if they choose to, so they do not feel deprived of this possibility as is the case in many other countries.

6. — How many pupils and students attend school this school year?

There are 750,000. In a population of slightly more than two million inhabitants, this means that one in every three persons attends school. In Albania, the eagerness for knowledge, culture, science, and technology is accompanied by the real possibilities which the political, economic and social order in power creates. Socialism does what no capitalist order can ever do. All the schools in Albania have their doors wide open, first and foremost to the children of workers and cooperative farmers. The overwhelming majority of the new students who enter the university and other higher institutes of learning each year are sons and daughters of workers and cooperative members.

Before the Kruja battlements

The defeats which Skanderbeg had inflicted on the Ottoman armies in Albania had enraged Sultan Murat the II. He decided to put an end to Albanian resistance once and for all, and in the spring of 1450 he set out in person, at the head of an army of about 100,000 men. The campaign lasted until October of the same year. In May the Turkish forces besieged the Kruja stronghold which was defended by a

small garrison. Skanderbeg with his main forces, remained outside the encirclement, launching surprise attacks on the enemy wherever they were least expected. The Turks were unable to take Kruja. The Sultan was forced to withdraw, together with his battle worn troops.

Thus the Albanian people, led by Skanderbeg scored a brilliant new victory over the aggressors.



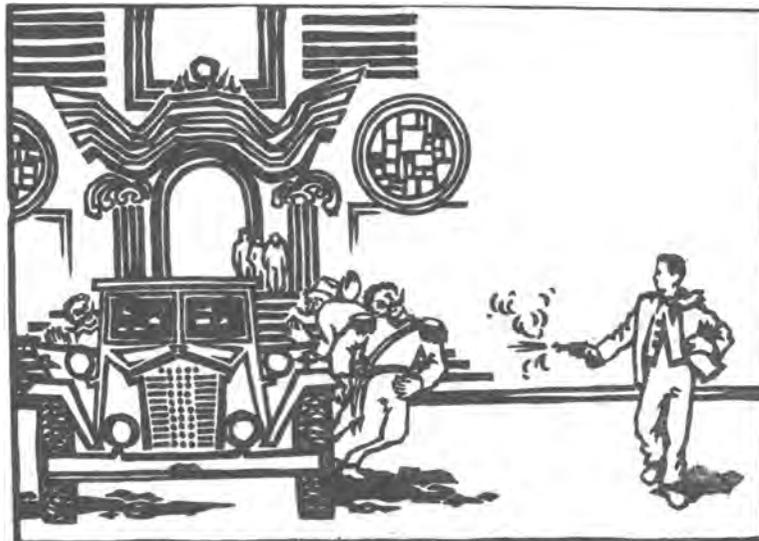
The greatest poet of the period of Albanian national renaissance

Naim Frashëri, the greatest poet of Albania's National Renaissance died seventy-five years ago in Istanbul. Naim was born on May 13, 1846, to a patriotic family in the village of Frashëri of the Përmet district. While yet young he joined the great movement of the National Renaissance and devoted to it all his physical and mental energies, all his talent as a writer. Naim won recognition as a poet in 1882 through his poem «Albania» which the Patriotic Society of the Albanians in Istanbul distributed among the patriots. Making a correct assessment of the role of the spread of education in the national awakening, he prepared a number of school textbooks which were published by the patriots of the Albanian colonies outside the boundaries of the Turkish Empire.

Later, Naim published two poetical works: «The Real Aspirations of the Albanians» and «Flocks and Farming». In the former he set forth the aspirations of the people for freedom and independence, whereas in the latter he sang with profound feeling to the beauty of the land of Albania, the physical and moral qualities of his compatriots, to the life and work in his homeland suffering under the Ottoman yoke. Naim's outstanding works are «The History of Albania», a collection of lyric poems, «The Summer Flowers», as well as the long poem «The History of Skanderbeg», which treats in verse the legendary history of our National Hero Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg.

The marksman

On June 13, 1920, the Paris press printed in banner headlines the news of the shooting of the big Albanian feudal chieftain, Esat Pasha in one of the streets of the French capital. Esat Pashë Toptani was one of the greatest betrayers of the independence of Albania, while the marksman was the young revolutionary, Avni Rustemi, born at Libohova on September 22, 1895. On his return to Albania, Avni Rustemi worked with might



and main for the democratic revolutionary movement. When Lenin died, Avni Rustemi rose up in parliament and proposed that five minutes silence should be observed in memory of the genius of the October Revolution.

The reactionary forces of the country, headed by Ahmet Zog organized an attempt on Avni's life on April 20, 1924. He died two days later. Avni Rustemi's murder became a signal for the launching of the June, 1924 revolution, which overthrew the reactionary Government of Ahmet Zog and brought to power a new Government with democratic tendencies, headed by Fan S. Noli.

DATES

Illustrations by Zamir Mati.



Thirty-three years ago...

On September 16, 1942, the First National-liberation Conference was held at the village of Peza, near Tirana, under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Albanian Communist Party. The Albanian Communist Party, which had been founded almost a year before, strove to lay the foundations for a militant unity of the Albanian people from its very first months. The Peza Conference, organised on a national scale helped strengthen these foundations. In addition to the communists it was attended by nationalists of various trends.

The Peza Conference took up and discussed the problem of the unity and organisation of the Albanian people in the fight against the fascist occupationists. The overwhelming majority of the participants stressed the active part and great organizational role played by the Communist Party in the National-liberation War.

The Conference elected the National-liberation General Council

and unanimously adopted the platform of the National-liberation War worked out by the Communist Party. Among other things, this platform envisaged the organization of all the patriotic forces of the country into a common national-liberation front without discrimination as to class, political conviction, religion, or region for an uncompromising battle against the fascist invaders and local traitors. It was decided to set up National-liberation Councils everywhere to serve as organs for uniting and mobilizing the people and as organs of State Power. The final stage would be the preparation of a general uprising of the people.

Thus, the Peza Conference laid the foundations of the National liberation Front and of the people's state power. It confirmed the leading role of the Albanian Communist Party in the National-liberation War, and in this way, marked its first major political victory.

Our newest festival

We are speaking about the people's festival of light. In the village of Agim in the Fier district near the transformer cabin on the side of the main street, a plaque has been set up. On it we read, «Electricity reached the village of Agim on October 25, 1970, one year ahead of schedule and fifteen years ahead of the longrange plan. This was the last village which was still without electric power».

This is the origin of the newest original Albanian red letter day, the festival of electric light.

Darkness was the inheritance left to the Albanian people by the reactionary regimes. Only at the end of the 20's was the first electric light seen in Albania. During the whole period of anti-

popular Zog regime, the installed capacity in our electric power industry totalled only 4030 KW with an annual production of 9.3 million KWH. The entire length of the powerline network was only 197 kilometers. Hence, electricity reached only a few workshops and the homes of the well-to-do in the principal cities. In most of the towns and the whole rural area electric light was unknown.

On October 25, 1970 all the 2546 villages of Albania and the home of every peasant family was lit with electric light. Now, the Palace of Culture in Tirana, alone, consumes more electric power than the whole capital city of our country consumed in 1945.



An artillery barrage against the traitor assembly

On October 18, 1943, the partisan artillery opened fire on the building where a so-called «Constituent Assembly» prepared by the German nazi was gathering. The partisan artillery shells landed on the Royal Palace spreading panic and terror among the traitors and the nazi invaders. One hour later, a clandestine leaflet under the title, «How Do the Albanian people reply to the traitor Assembly? With Artillery Fire!» was circulated all over Tirana.

During the great National-liberation War, the partisan army

seized weapons from the enemy and set up artillery detachments and sub-detachments which took part in the great battles for the complete liberation of the country, October 18 is celebrated in Albania as «Artillery Day».

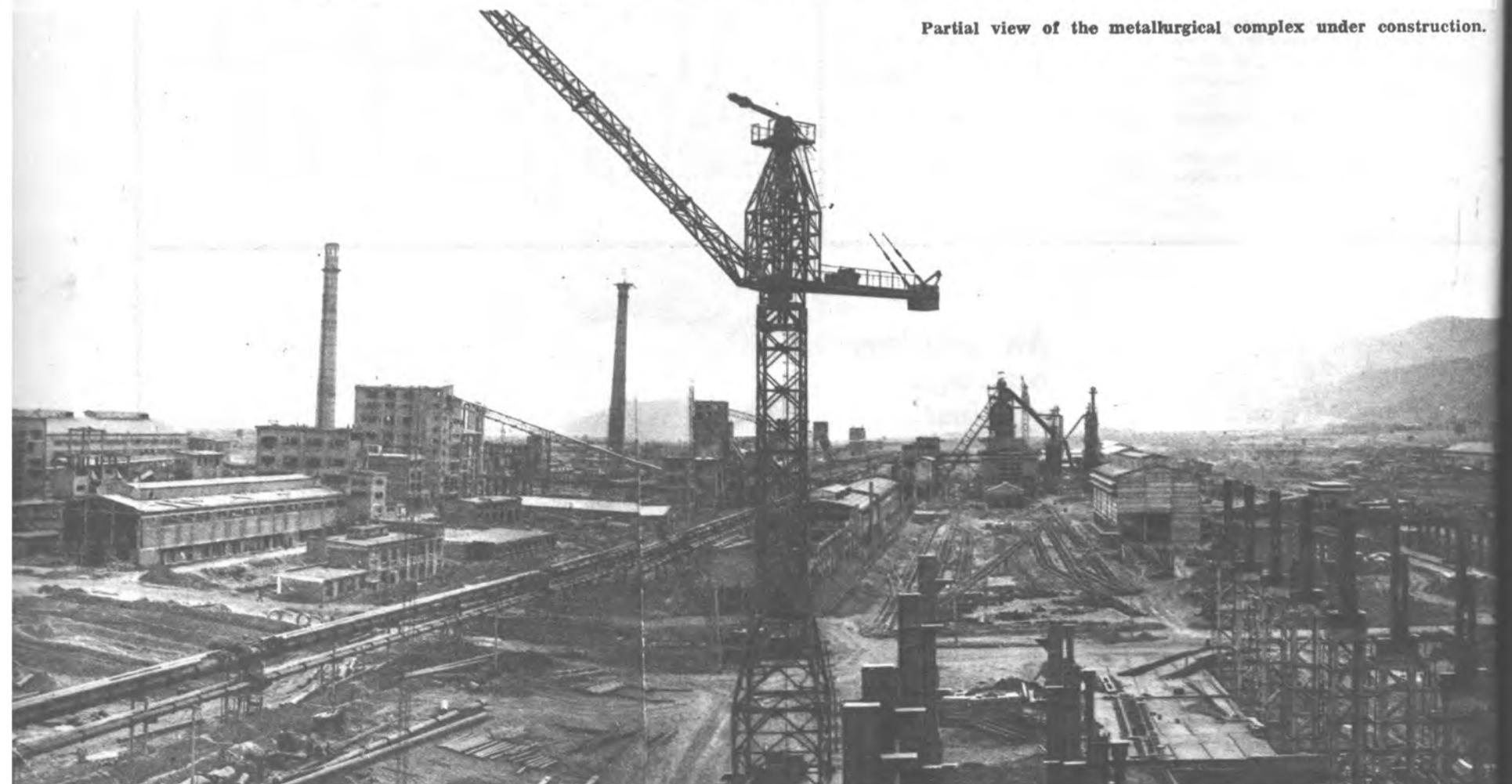
Today, the artillery of our people's army has become a powerful detachment of brilliant fighters and cadres, equipped with the most up-to-date, powerful armaments. Alongside all the other fighting detachments it stands alert in defense of the socialist victories of the Albanian people.

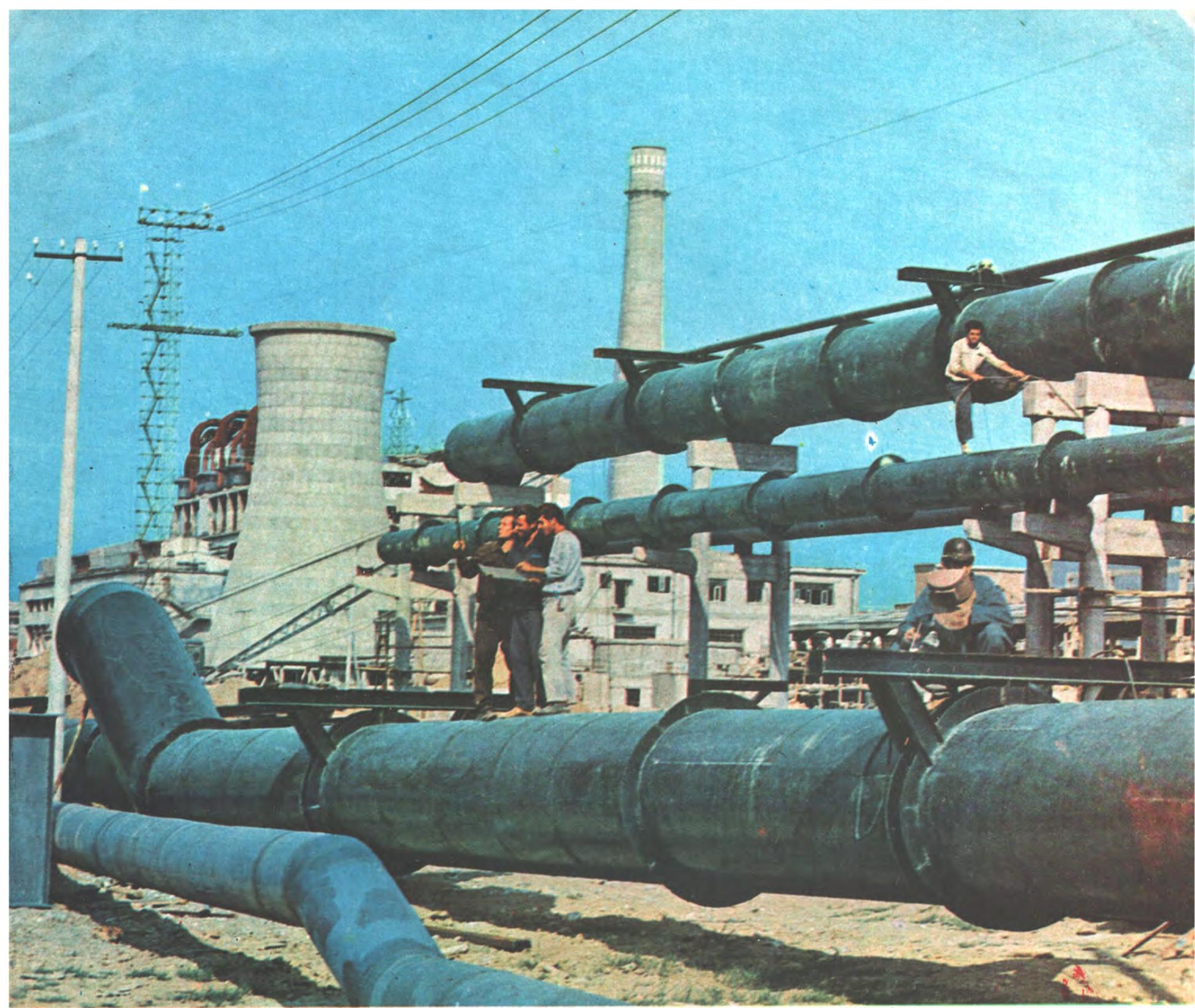


Builders of the furnace at the new metallurgical complex at Elbasan.

AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITES OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Partial view of the metallurgical complex under construction.





From south to north,
Albania has turned
into one great construction site.
During this five-year period
it is building projects
beyond even the boldest dreams
of our fathers.

The metallurgical complex in Elbasan,
the hydro-electric power-plant at Fierza,
the deep processing oil refinery
at Ballsh in Fier District
and many other projects,
which are being built
will not only increase
industrial production to high level
but they are also a big school
where the working class of socialist Albania
is growing and gaining strength.
The pictures on these two pages
have been taken
from the metallurgical complex in Elbasan
and the ship building yard at Durrës.



Pensioners in Albania do not feel cut off from society nor from the problems of the times. One finds them often among the youth and children in gardens and parks speaking of the past and of the present. Others find pleasure among their former work mates, while contributing to the production of material goods and imparting their many-years of experience.

In the picture: Pensioner Bilbil Shaka continues to go every day voluntarily to the oil wells to make his contribution to the careful accumulation and frugal exploitation of this great wealth.



Former teacher of the Kavaja Agricultural Secondary School in the Durrës district, Jovan Morcka, continues to make his contribution to the development of agriculture. In this picture we see him doing experimental work on growing raspberries which are little known in our country.



THOSE WHO FEEL NO OLD AGE

NOT ABANDONED, FORGOTTEN OR FACED WITH CONFLICTS BETWEEN GENERATIONS BUT WITH ALL-ROUND CARE, ACTIVIZATION, AND PARENTAL COLLABORATION - THIS IS THE SITUATION OF THE ELDERLY, THE PENSIONERS OF ALBANIA.

PLATOR ÇENA

A group of pensioners, some ten or twenty of them, living in Tirana, had made up their mind to plant a flower garden around their apartment block. And they were doing it. One was engaged on one job, another on something else and so on.

Many a passer-by stopped for a moment and watched what they were doing. It was fine to see them at work, and good to listen to their conversation when they paused to rest, because there was humour in what they had to say.

«Vaso, take a spell and roll 'a cigarette!».

«Don't worry about Vaso. He never gets tired... He has declared he has two ages. Don't you believe me? He reckons one is the age of his body, 74 years, and the other, the age of his heart, 35».

Everyone laughs including Vaso.

«What you say is true», he adds with a smile, «and I have so many years to spare that I might lend you some!».

Again a burst of laughter.

It was a group of cheerful and optimistic elderly men, living not far from one another. Their ages ranged from 60 to 75. Some had been pensioners for ten to fifteen years, while others only recently. They were of different professions, too. Among them were armymen, mechanics, iron workers, agronomists, doctors, drivers, office workers, and probably others. And they hailed from different places. What they had in common was the pensioner's age and the enthusiasm which kept them active. We can say without exaggeration that this characteristic is common to all our pensioners, in town and countryside. Our leader, comrade Enver Hoxha, puts it in this way, «The years may go by but our hearts never grow old. The fire within us will never die to the end of our days... The Party inspires us, guides us, and makes us younger every day in our thoughts, judgments and actions». Words which spring from a great truth which one sees, feels and is moved by, in Tirana and everywhere in Albania, in town and countryside.

Our pensioners belong to two generations. Among them are some who took part in the 1920 war, in the 1924 revolution, in the National-liberation War and in the postliberation battles for the rebuilding and the socialist construction of the country. They have been joined by the later generation who, during the National-liberation War and after it were called «the younger generation». Pension age found them working at their jobs heart and soul with revolutionary patriotism. None of them applied for the pension, straight away because «The works is wearing me out» «I'm sick of this life», or «I've done enough work». No. At the time they retired on the pension, these thousands of working people, each in his own way, promised that they would be fighters for socialism, soldiers of the Party, that they would let neither «their pick nor their rifle get rusty» that they would live the life of the people to the last day of their lives.

Elpiniqi Milo whom we met at her home said she received a very good pension «so good that sometimes I wonder if I deserve such treatment at a time when I have withdrawn from my job. But I could never imagine myself being merely housewife, though I am a mother of grown up children who help me in every way. Away from social work, my life would be void, meaningless. We owe a great deal to our Party and I will fulfil my obligations to it as a social activist as long as my heart is beating».



The children of the Tirana kindergarten N° 1 welcome their old cook, Vanthie Dumani, who has recently retired. She misses the children and one often finds her back amongst them.

The invalids Pandi Kocaqi and Nuredin Hoxha lost both legs but not the spirit and desire to be of maximum value to society. The mother of the martyr Sofo Meksi, is to be found among the young volunteers in very mass action, repeating, «They are the brothers and sisters of my Sofo! They are my children!».

There are hundreds of pensioners like these all over Albania; they are always up and doing, on one job or another, especially along with the younger generation because they still feel their responsibility towards it, without forgetting the duty above all duties, the defence of the homeland for which they are prepared to lay down their very lives. There is no job on which our pensioners are absent!

In our country, the day when a worker retires is a memorable occasion for him as well as for the collective with which he has worked. Very warm, sincere and moving ceremonies are held on these occasions. The collective is told about the good work of the pensioner, his high qualities and the gratitude of society towards him for having done his duty during all his working years. There are congratulations and good wishes, singing, and the taking of photographs. Such ceremonies are unforgettable.

«I experienced the emotions of such event some months ago», says the teacher of the Tirana University, Abedin Faja, «I believe I shall remember it as long as I live. But I am happy, and I am confident that however old I may be, I shall still have enough energy to put at the service of the cause of the people to the end of my life. In our country retiring from one's job in no way means that society has abandoned the individual, as we see and hear happen in the capitalist countries. Like our poli-

tical and social system, social security in our country is among the most advanced. I don't know how much the State invests in this direction but I am certain that it is a very large sum».

Let us add a few items of information to the above. The entire Social Insurance budget for 1975 is 479 million leks. Of this 306 million will be spent on pensions, including the pensions of the members of the agricultural cooperatives. This measure in favour of the peasants is further narrowing the differences between town and countryside.

Here are some other items: In our country, the Constitution, along with other laws, guarantees the worker the material means of subsistence in case of old age, invalidity, or the loss of the person who maintains the family. Hence, pensions in our country have become a very important political, economic, and social factor. The costs of paying pensions are met entirely by the State, except in the case of members of agricultural cooperatives where they are partially met by the cooperatives. In our country too, the conditions under which pensions are provided are very favourable, for instance, for women they begin from 40 to 55 years of age whereas for men they begin from 50 to 60 years of age, with seniority at work of 10 to 20 years for women and 15 to 25 years for men. Let us not forget the miners who are entitled to pensions as soon as they complete 50 years of age and 20 years of work, as well as the important social insurance payments for temporary incapacity for work, for maternity leave, for outfitting a new baby as well as the funds spent on holiday homes.

The Këmishtaj higher type agricultural cooperative in the Lushnja district is an agricultural economy in which one can observe the profound revolutionary transformations in our countryside in all their complexity.

What was Këmishtaj formerly? A forgotten village in the heart of the Myzeqeja plain. Smoke blackened thatched huts near a swamp. In winter the cottages were flooded while in summer they were infested by clouds of malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The yoke of the feudal bourgeois regime, the whip and exploitation of the bey fell on the peasants' shoulders. There was lack of drinking water, lack of electric light, and absolutely no schooling.

There was only a priest in Këmishtaj who gave the peasants absolution for their sins and the hope of happiness and prosperity in the other world.

What is Këmishtaj now? A good many years ago, the peasants of this region, freed from age-long exploitation, united the lands which the land reform gave them; united their oxen and implements and set up their agricultural cooperative. Today, a number of villages are united in this agricultural economy. Këmishtaj has now become an agricultural cooperative of the higher type.

Some days ago, 250 women, prominent agricultural workers and cadres of the Lushnja district, came together at this cooperative. They exchanged their experience on topics of agricultural and livestock production as well as on other topics of their political, ideological and social life. They wrote a letter to the beloved leader of our people and our Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha. Together with the letter, the head of the cooperative, the Heroine of Socialist Labour, Themie Thomai, sent comrade Enver Hoxha a detailed report on the work and achievements of the cooperative.

«I was immensely pleased with the very good results achieved by the Lushnja district in this year's wheat harvest and especially with the brilliant results attained by the members of the higher type agricultural cooperative of Këmishtaj.» This is what comrade Enver Hoxha wrote in his reply to the members of the Këmishtaj cooperative and their outstanding women comrades of the Lushnja district. «The experience of the Këmishtaj cooperative», added comrade Enver Hoxha, «should serve as a great school and become the banner for all the agricultural cooperatives of the country, a great source of inspiration to impart a new impulse to the development of our socialist agriculture».

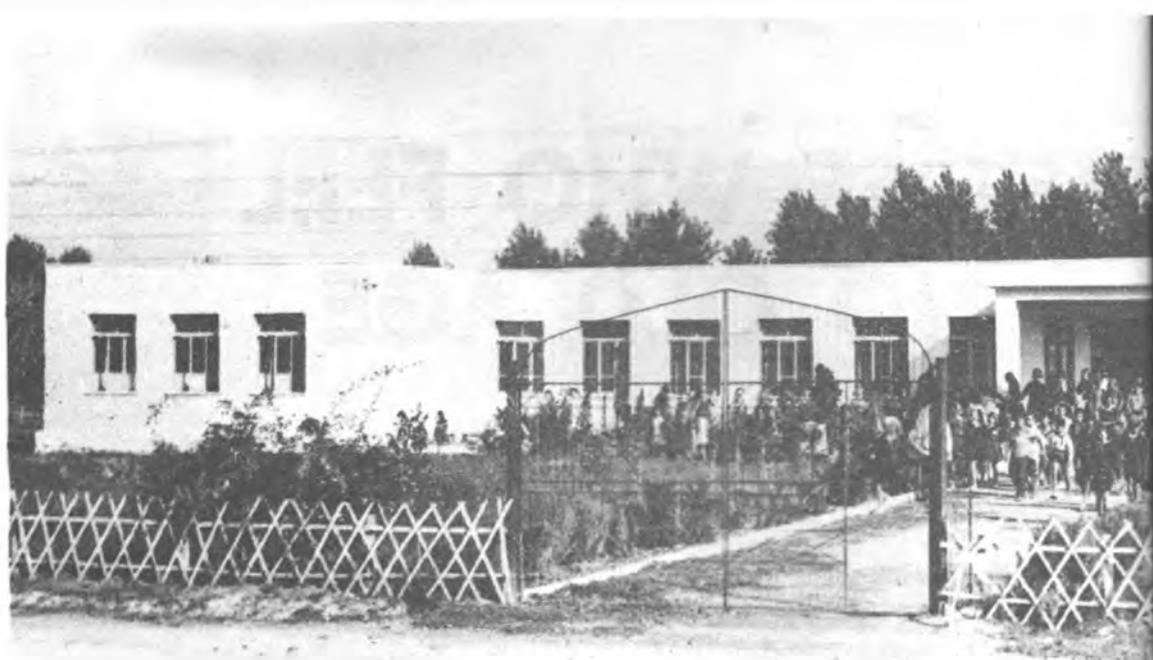
The letters exchanged between the cooperativists and comrade Enver Hoxha have been published in our press and they have echoed far and wide throughout our country. Këmishtaj is becoming the example, the banner, of our agricultural workers. Discussions are being conducted everywhere in cooperatives and state farms, drawing comparisons with the achievements attained by Këmishtaj, or other outstanding cooperatives of the country such as «Agimi» in the Fier district, Pojan in the Korça district, Çerava in Pogradec, Lower Dropulli in the Gjirokastra district and Lugaj in the Tropoja district.

In what does Këmishtaj set an example?

The results of this cooperative are truly encouraging. Within four years, the yield of wheat and maize has been doubled, reaching 43,6 and over 50 qt. per hectare respectively. Likewise, the yield of cotton has been doubled, the yield of beans has trebled, while milk per cow has increased 1,7 times.

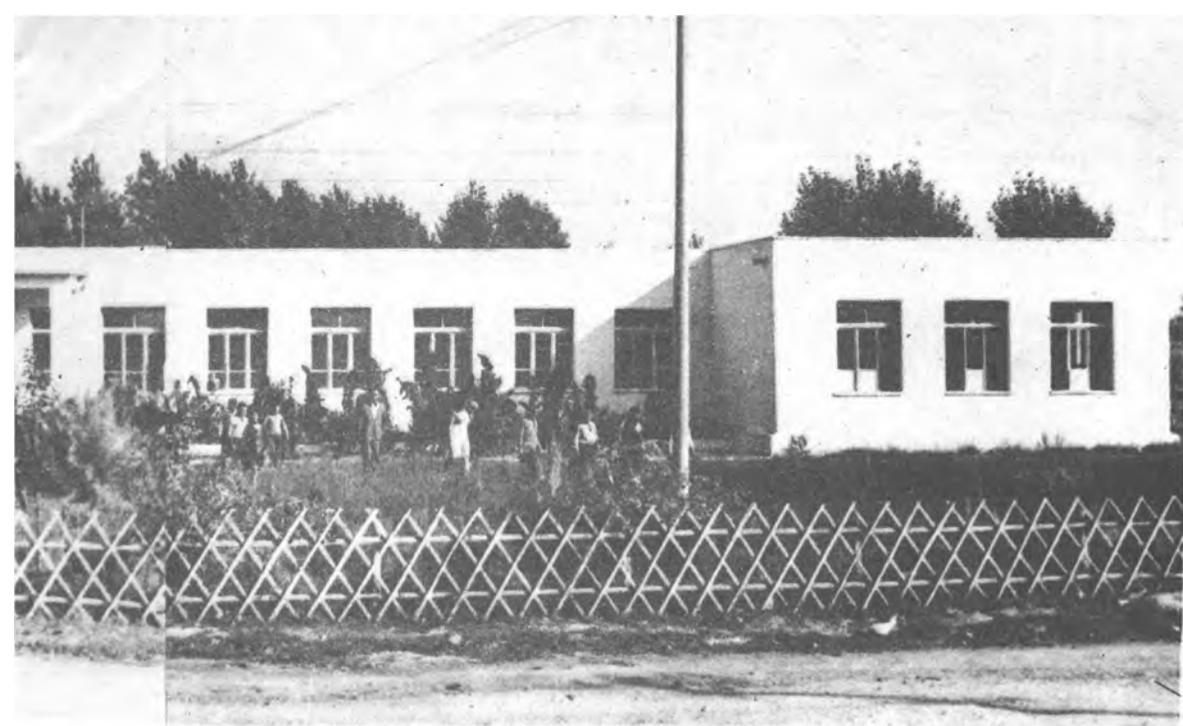
This cooperative is run mainly by women. The head of this outstanding agricultural economy is a gifted woman, the Heroine of Socialist Labour, Themie Thoma. Such tireless women as brigade leaders Athina Andoni, Prenda Lico, Ana Qorri, many women communists, members of the People's Councils and distinguished women members of the cooperative are in leading positions.

Another important factor has been the new form of organisation of the Këmishtaj cooperative, as a higher type cooperative which harmonizes the interests of the whole society better with these of the cooperative members. The scientific organisation of production has been further improved, the main economic management has been placed on a sounder basis, and



THE EXAMPLE SET BY KEMISHTAJ





1 The 8 year school at Këmishtaj. Of the 34 teachers, 27 are women. About 118 members of this cooperative have completed the agricultural secondary school. 30 others are continuing their studies part-time.

2 The example set by the Këmishtaj cooperative, its great successes, gladden and inspire all the workers of Albania also because many women are involved in running it. The head of the Këmishtaj agricultural cooperative, Themie Thomai, among her comrades in the fields of the cooperative.

3 Prior to the triumph of the people's revolution, the village of Këmishtaj was the property of large estate owners. The land was flooded by the rivers and the swamps reached to the outskirts of the village. The swamps have been drained, the fields have been systematized and brought under irrigation.



rational coordination of the various branches of production has been carried out.

Outstanding characteristics of the workers of the Këmishtaj cooperative are their passion for knowledge and persistence in mastering science and applying it in a creative way in their work of production. Albania is mostly mountainous with limited arable land for agriculture. The main direction of our agriculture today is to make it intensive. And intensive agriculture requires the application of agrotechnical science in all its complexity. The cadres and rank and file cooperative members of Këmishtaj have thoroughly understood this and they are working in this direction. Through proper combination of scientific experiment with advanced experience in all farm crops the cooperative has devoted special attention to systematizing and levelling the land, to drainage and irrigation, to rational use of fertilizer on the basis of the data of studies carried out and agro-chemical maps drawn at the cooperative. The best types of selected seeds have been sown. Everything has been done to care for the plants including the irrigation of wheat and rapid completion and bringing in of the crops to avoid losses.

From all this it turns out that in this cooperative of the higher type all the indices and factors which make up the complex of production of modern agriculture have been foreseen and planned for successfully.

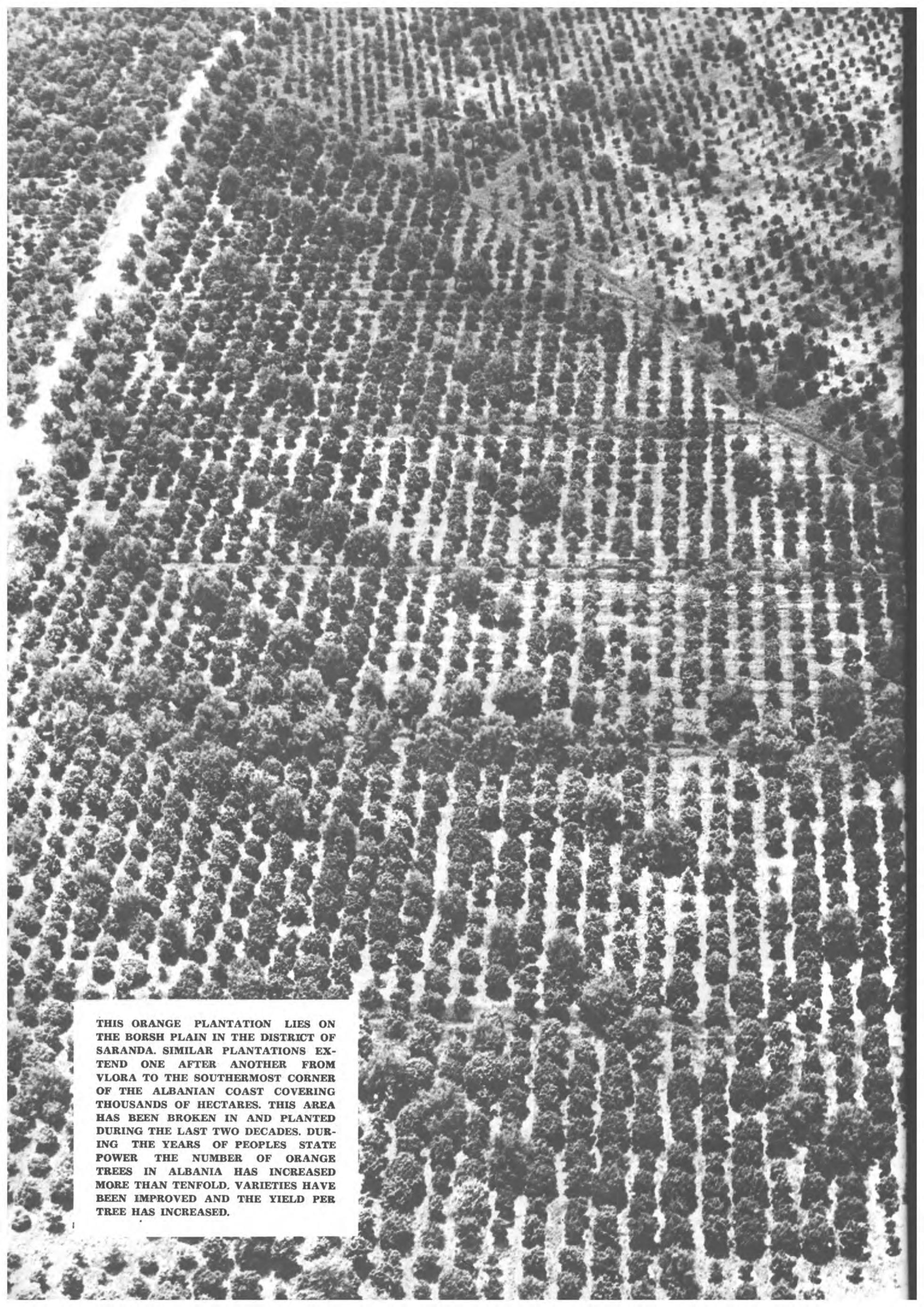
It goes without saying that these requirements of modern agriculture presuppose an appropriate educational and cultural level of the workers. The Këmishtaj cooperative, and for that matter any other cooperative cannot expect to achieve modern agriculture with illiterate members, full of prejudices like these of former times with soil on their hands and their eyes turned to heaven. Këmishtaj has attached great importance to education. 8 year schooling here is universal. The cooperative has 118 workers who have completed secondary school while many others are still attending. Twenty seven cadres of university-level training work in the sectors of production and in social-cultural activities. The 8 year school has 600 pupils and 34 teachers, 27 of whom are women. In the cooperative there is a scientific council and a scientific study group in which sixty cadres and cooperative members, including twenty five women, take part.

The Party organization plays the leading role in the cooperative. The communists are exemplary in all directions, ninety per cent of them work directly in production.

These factors make up that complex of management, organization, and work, which has enabled the Këmishtaj cooperative to become an advanced socialist agricultural economy. The consolidation of the socialist economic base has proceeded in complete harmony with the formation of the new man, with the development of social, political, and ideological life to a level beyond all comparison with the past. What the peasant of Myzeqeja used to be has been beautifully described by our distinguished writer, Jakov Xoxe, in his novel "The Dead River". There is an old song, in our country which runs like this:

"Mother married me down in Myzeqeja,
Curse you, Mother that sent me to this place
They have no clothes, they sleep upon the
ground,
Curse you Mother! that sent me to this
place."

It is the lament of a girl condemned by marriage to the misery of Myzeqeja. Today there are new songs. In Myzeqeja, in Këmishtaj the new Socialist life is flourishing. Miserable huts have given way to fine houses surrounded by fruit trees and roses. At Këmishtaj now there are houses and centres of culture, schools, and cinemas, radio and TV sets. On the stage, the young cooperative members themselves give concerts of folk songs and light music by our composers. Often hundreds of volunteer workers from the city come to the cooperative to help in agricultural work. Today there are good motor roads across Myzeqeja and the railway runs through it. The essential differences between town and countryside are becoming less and less. Prosperous, beautiful socialist life is in full flower here.

An aerial photograph of a vast orange plantation in Albania. The trees are arranged in neat, parallel rows, creating a grid-like pattern across the landscape. The ground between the rows is light-colored, likely soil or a path. The overall scene is a dense, organized agricultural area.

THIS ORANGE PLANTATION LIES ON THE BORSH PLAIN IN THE DISTRICT OF SARANDA. SIMILAR PLANTATIONS EXTEND ONE AFTER ANOTHER FROM VLORA TO THE SOUTHERMOST CORNER OF THE ALBANIAN COAST COVERING THOUSANDS OF HECTARES. THIS AREA HAS BEEN BROKEN IN AND PLANTED DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES. DURING THE YEARS OF PEOPLES STATE POWER THE NUMBER OF ORANGE TREES IN ALBANIA HAS INCREASED MORE THAN TENFOLD. VARIETIES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED AND THE YIELD PER TREE HAS INCREASED.

DUKAGJIN IN THE HEART OF THE ALPS

Dukagjin is one of the most remote regions of Albania, in the heart of the Albanian Alps. It comes into view quite unexpectedly, scattered among rugged peaks and gorges, with steep-gabled houses as white as the snow-covered mountains. The swift, clear waters of the Shala river run through it, beginning from the place called Theth, where the pictures you see on this page of our magazine were taken.

The centre of this mountain region is called Breg Lum. It is a junction linking the three large agricultural cooperatives of Dukagjin: Shala, Shosh, and Pult. The Shala cooperative alone comprises eleven villages situated on either side of the river.



The People's State Power brought electric light to all the mountainous Dukagjin district long before the electric reticulation of the whole country.

The Dukagjin people are tall and sharp eyed. It seems as if there is something of the lofty Alps about them. They are proud and modest, kindly and severe; their strong character is outstanding. These features are expressed in their attitude towards work, towards life, towards society, in placing the general interest above everything, in their love for their country, the mountains and the land.

The Dukagjin people are proud of their beautiful landscape, of their mountain streams, cataracts, mountain lakes, with perpetual snow on the peaks above them. But above all, they are proud of Theth, with its rare beauty. A holiday and rest center has been set up there to which workers and peasants from all over Albania come in the summer to spend their vacations.

1 The amateur artistic movement has developed even in the most remote mountain villages.

In the picture: Musicians and dancers of the amateur artist group of the Theth Agricultural Cooperative in the northern Albanian Alps.

2 The Breg Lum Agricultural Cooperative is also in the northern Albanian Alps. Its members strive for good yields in farm crops although under mountain conditions.

3 The Breg Lum village.

Photos by P. Kumi

The Dukagjin people are proud of their centre on the banks of the Shala river. Summer or winter they often come down there not only on holidays or for meetings but also to fulfil many of their needs. Since liberation Breg Lum, like Dukagjin as a whole, has completely changed its appearance. The hospital, shops, office buildings, the house of culture, the club, a 3 storeyed hotel, the hydro-electric plant, kindergartens and creches, schools, an agricultural secondary school have been built there. Dukagjin trains its own agronomists of secondary school level.

Before the liberation of Albania, Dukagjin was the most backward isolated and poorest region of the country. The man of Dukagjin had to make long journeys for a handful of salt or a sack of corn. And often he paid for this with his life and that of his family. He was dominated not only by terrible poverty but also by the even more terrible oppression of the tribal chieftains and religion which crushed him physically and morally. He bore the weight of their shackles on his soul. Church bells, these symbols of sorrow and backwardness, were sent deep into these mountains from the Vatican.

The people's revolution liberated Dukagjin from oppression and exploitation, from ignorance and illiteracy. It took a deep breath of freedom and scornfully rejected everything outdated and alien which had been like a noose around its neck. The people of Dukagjin are building their future with their own hands; they have become good farmers, taking high yields, opening up virgin land and increasing the number of their livestock. They will tell you about advanced agricultural technique and a cultured way of life. You may see them on the stage singing and dancing, or going to school. You find the Dukagjin woman or girl in the field and in the offices, as worker or director.

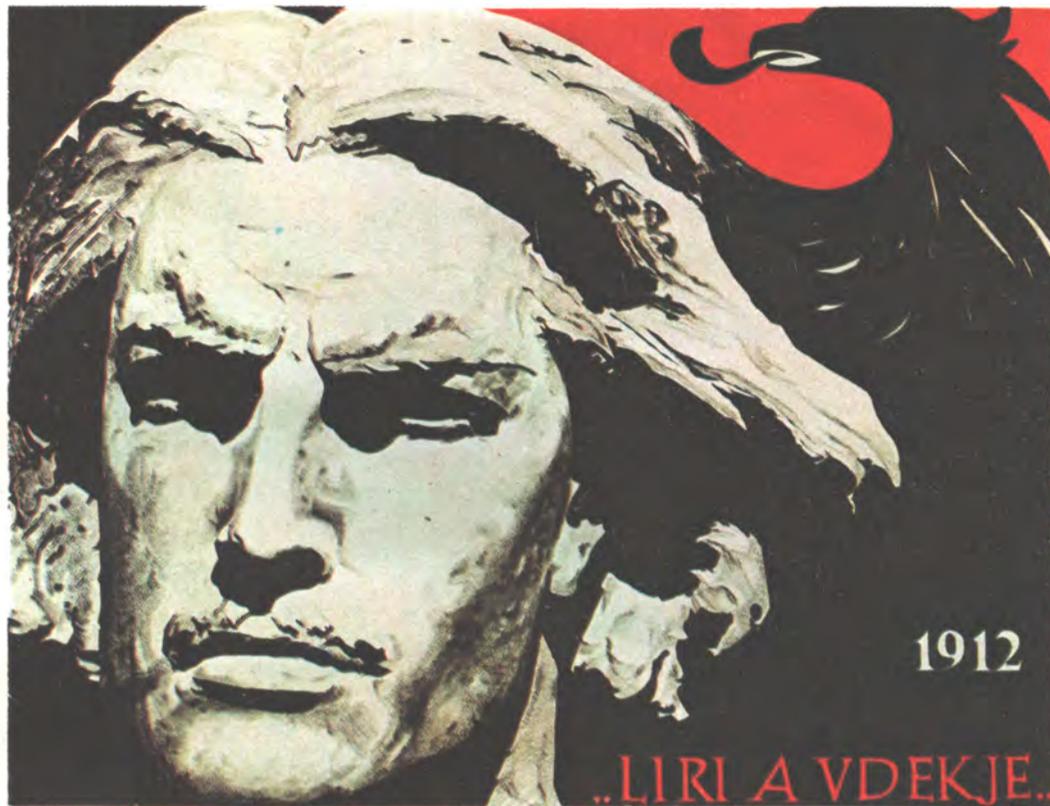




Painter Agim Dine has named this tableau «The Early Years». The theme has been taken from the first days after the liberation of Albania. Ordinances and circulars of the new organs of the People's State Power were posted in the city streets on the confiscation of the major possessions of the exploiting classes. The reaction amongst the people varied according to the social position of each.



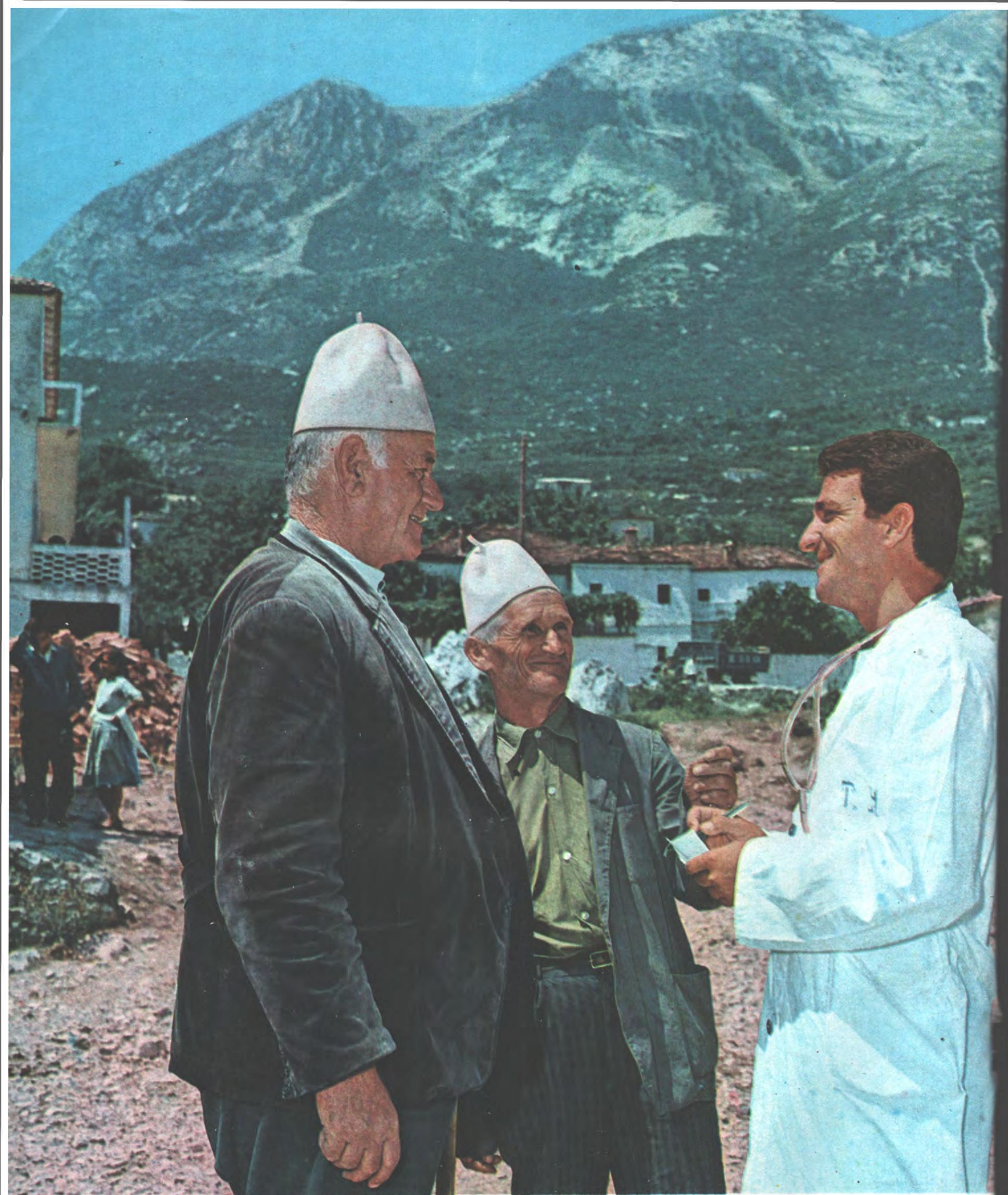
Painter Agim Shani, in his work «Always Prepared» treats the theme of the defence of the Homeland.



The poster «Freedom or Death» is the work of painter Franc Ashiku.



Painter Spiro Kristo has taken the theme for his work «The Steeple Jacks» from the deep oil processing plant at Ballsh in the Fier district that is under construction.



TO SERVE THE PEOPLE — THIS IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW ALBANIAN INTELLIGENTSIA. MANY DOCTORS, ASSISTANT-DOCTORS, AND OTHER HEALTH SPECIALISTS GO TO WORK AND LIVE PERMANENTLY IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: ONE OF THEM IS DR. PELIVAN HASANI WHO HAS RECENTLY GONE TO THE BRATAJ AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE VLORA DISTRICT. THERE HE IS ALWAYS TO BE FOUND AMONG THE PEASANTS.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE IN A REMOTE MOUNTAINOUS AREA



The town of Librazhd, with a population of 3 to 4 thousand inhabitants, is entirely new, with blocks of appartments, a hotel, a center of culture, a secondary school, shops, creches and kindergartens, and so on. As can be seen in the picture, a new hospital was opened there on June 1 this year.

Before writing about the health service in this town, the main center of a mountainous region with 52.000 inhabitants, we would like to acquaint our readers with the situation of the health service in the district before liberation. In the entire district, there was only one itinerant nurse and nothing else. One can easily imagine what could be done by one nurse at that time, for a population numbering tens of thousands of inhabitants dispersed through the mountains and gorges, who suffered not only from economic poverty but also from serious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, syphilis, and so on.

The first hospital, a small one with just

16 beds, housed in an old building roughly adapted for this purpose, was opened after liberation, in 1947. Ten years later, a twenty bed hospital was opened in the Qukës region. Later, another four hospitals were opened in various parts of the district.

The new hospital which was inaugurated on June 1, this year, has 140 beds with departments of pediatry, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, pathology, eye, nose, and throat, and infectious diseases. It has an adequate and enthusiastic staff and is equipped with up-to-date means and apparatus.

Proceeding from the principle that the health service must be as close as possible to the people, apart from the hospital in the center and four hospitals of the above mentioned areas, in the Librazhd district, there are also 15 health centers each with one doctor, one assistant-doctor, a midwife, a nurse, a dentist and a pharmacist. In the district, there are also five pharmacies and 6 pharmaceutic agencies,

63 consultation clinics in the villages and another 13 in work centers, where as a rule, there is one nurse and one midwife.

As the facts collected by our reporter from the Health section of the Executive Committee of the district People's Council show, the health service network is very dense and close to the people. The chief of the Health section told us that in the district there are more than 40 university trained doctors and dentists, 80 per cent of them from local families, and a large number of assistant-doctors, midwives, nurses, and so on, — all from the Librazhd district. These figures become more significant if we take into account that more than 90 per cent of the population was illiterate before liberation.

It would be superfluous to repeat that as everywhere in the People's Republic of Albania, all medical treatment, including house visits, is free of charge for all categories of the population.



This is the new hospital in Librazhd, opened on 1st June this year. It has 140 beds with pediatrics, surgical, obstetrics and gynecological, general, ear, eye, nose and throat and infective diseases wards. It has an adequate staff and is equipped with up-to-date means and apparatus. Similar hospitals have been built in all the districts of Albania.

Photos by S. Xhillari

THE VILLAGE INTELLECTUALS



JAK SMAÇI — Director of the «Frano Bardhi» 8-grade school.

Like the other villages of this region, Kallmet inherited nothing from the past in the field of education and culture. To get an idea of the awful situation in this direction, it is enough to mention that during the whole reign of King Zog's regime, only two Kallmet boys managed to complete elementary schooling in the village of Orosh in the Mirdita district. This and the bad economic situation made the conditions of life for the people of Kallmet very difficult.

In Kallmet today there are an 8-grade school and an elementary school. One in every three persons attends school. In this village alone, there are more teachers and students than there were in the whole Lezha district in 1938.

We teachers, make up part of the intelligentsia of the village. Our task is not only to give the pupils lessons within the four walls of the schoolroom. That is only part of our task. I can say there are no cultural, artistic, and political activities here in which we do not take part. Let me say a few words about us teachers. Every teacher is also a social activist. Every teacher has a production brigade under his care, that is, he looks after the progress of the children whose parents make up this brigade. With discussions and meetings he enlightens these parents on teaching problems, informs them every week on the main events, in our country and in world, and tries to increase the number of regular readers among them.

We have achieved good results also with the artistic groups. Nearly every teacher is a member of the artistic groups organised by the village house of culture, some in the folklore group, others in variety or theater groups. The fine traditions of this village in this field have been developed further. The artistic groups of our village have continually won prizes in the district contests, often enough first prizes. Many of our amateurs are members of the «Çiftelia» Ensemble of Lezha.



SHTJEFEN NDOCI — organiser of the cultural work in the house of culture.

I graduated from the secondary school of culture in Tirana and since 1970 I have been working here, in my native village.

The Ensemble of our house of culture was created many years ago. Today we have four groups, namely, the folklore, variety, theatrical and orchestral groups: All the members are amateurs. I want to add that a good part of these groups are made up of teachers, health workers, and others. Other intellectuals of the village help in writing sketches and plays and in organizing the activities of the house of culture. Thus, time after time we hold discussions about historical events and themes of an atheist and scientific character. It is mainly the village teachers who are engaged in developing these activities.

Good work is being done by the intellectuals of the village in publicising books. They prepare reviews of many publications and meet the children and adults to discuss them. The book has now become a close friend of people of all the ages in our village.



DILE MARKU — a midwife

I have been through the medical secondary school in Shkodra. Then, in 1967, I began working here in Kallmet. Someone who has known this village many years ago can best appreciate the changes that have been made in every part of the village and in every family. Illiteracy and poverty resulted in very bad living conditions for the people of Kallmet. To tell the truth, even later, when the economic and cultural situation had changed, in certain households the old way of life was still carried on. We public health workers, have had to do long, patient, and persistent work here. Today, I can say without exaggeration that the situation has changed radically; in every house one finds furniture like in the city. The electric reticulation of the countryside brought the radio and now TV, and many other necessary things.

I am the mother of two children but I have not confined my task simply to my duties in the village maternity home. Like the doctor, the assistant doctor, and all the health workers of Kallmet, I too have one of the nine sectors of the village under my care. In my free time I often visit the families of this sector. Amongst other things, we take continuous care of the health of young children, we concern ourselves with their cleanliness, increases in weight, and vaccinations. Today I am happy to say that the work of our health personnel has yielded good results, in this field, too, we have now succeeded in creating a new tradition.

Kallmet is a semi-mountainous village in the Lezha district. Just as in every other village, the people here live and work raising the productivity of their labor and improving their conditions and standard of living. Tens of intellectuals work in this village too. With their work they take an active part in all the spheres of life in the village. Our correspondent has recently met some of them. What are they engaged in? What is their contribution to the further development of our cooperative village? How do they interpret their tasks?

Photos by S. Xhillari



NIKOLLE GJINI — chief agronomist

I graduated from the Higher Institute of Agriculture in Tirana in 1971. I started work here right away. Kallmet is my native village. It makes my heart leap to see the place so busy and full of life. Over 70 per cent of the houses have been built in recent years.

In 1956, an agricultural cooperative was set up here. Since then radical transformations have come about in the economy of our village. Now land has been opened up, water reservoirs have been built, and mechanization has been introduced in many work processes. Threequarters of the arable land has been put under irrigation.

We, cadres, who deal with work in the fields, in collaboration with the peasants and taking advantage of their practical experience, conduct continual scientific experiments on the basis of which we determine the most suitable varieties for the climatic conditions and the nature of the soil of our economy.

At the same time, we take an active part in the production propaganda organized by the house of culture, we publicise throughout the village the brigades, individuals, and fields which have produced high yields so that all the others may follow their example.

These last four years, the yield per hectare of bread grain has increased nearly four-fold and the income per head has more than doubled. However, we are well aware that we still have a long way to go.

In addition to what I have already said, I take part in artistic activities. I am fond of music, I love the guitar. I devote part of my free time to the activities which the house of culture organizes.



GJYSTE NDOKAJ — accountant

Last year I graduated from the secondary school of economics and now I work here in the village where I was born and brought up.

In my capacity as an accountant, I can compare figures as regards both productivity and the peasants earnings per workday. The changes are very great.

Along with the other intellectuals of the village I, too, try to make my contribution in those fields in which I feel I am most able. I am vice-secretary of the village youth organization. Together with the other young people I have helped to clean up the village, have taken part in the campaign to harvest crops in the fields. At the same time, I have undertaken to keep the first field brigade informed about important national and international events.

I have also tried to be of help in the cultural and artistic activities of the house of culture. I am fond of music, too. I am a member of the choir. The Ensemble of our village has a good reputation throughout the whole Lezha district. We have given performances in other villages, too. Many members of our Ensemble won the hearts of art-lovers at the National Folklore Festival which was held in Gjirokastra in 1973.



VLASH TOMA — zootechnician

Last year I, too, graduated from the Higher Institute of Agriculture in Tirana. Now I work in my native village. I am 24 years of age. No one loves knowledge more than we youth and we try to put it into practice for the benefit of the village.

In livestock farming our cooperative specialises in raising cattle and turkeys. It is mainly the young people who work in this branch of our village economy. We are trying to put this work on a scientific basis. We have improved our entire herd of cattle through cross-breeding. The productivity of milk and meat is on the increase. Our cooperative has built very good housing for our livestock and equipped it with mechanized means for feeding and watering.

Compared with three years ago, our poultry flock has doubled.

I enjoy my profession and try to study as much as possible during my free time. I have tried to pass on my knowledge also to the middle and lower cadres of the sector in which I work.

Apart from this, I am a member of the village youth committee and a propagandist for the youth groups. This job requires time and effort to accomplish it well. The youth is the future of the village. I am very proud to see the Kallmet youth taking part in every mass action, ranging from gleaning the fields to the new railway lines which the Albanian youth are building. We will carry the torch of our parents still further forward in order to make our life in Kallmet more beautiful so that it becomes like that of the city in every direction. This will be our diploma of maturity in life. -

In history, the Indo-European languages began to appear about 2000 years before our era, from Hindustan in the east to the shores of the Atlantic in the west, and from Scandinavia in the north to the Mediterranean basin in the south. In our days these languages are spoken almost all over Europe, in a good part of Asia, in America, in Australia, and in parts of Africa. Albanian is one of these languages.

The first to prove scientifically that Albanian is a member of the family of Indo-European languages was the German scholar Franz Bopp. Other scholars before him like Xylander, Rasmus Rask, Schleicher and others had made separate observations regarding the relationship of Albanian to the other Indo-European languages, but Bopp dedicated a complete monograph, entitled, «On Albanian in connection with its affinities», published in 1854, to this problem. As far back as 1843 Bopp had delivered a dissertation at the Berlin Academy on the numerals and pronouns of the Albanian language claiming with certainty that it belonged

vrksh, Latin *lupus*, Greek *lykos*, Russian *volk*; Albanian *ditë*, Sanskrit *dinam*, Lithuanian *diens*, Latin *dies*, Russian *den*; Albanian *mi*, Sanskrit *muh*, Armenian *mukn*, Greek *mys*, Latin *mus*.

Bopp's assertion that the Albanian has no successional connection with the other sister languages of our continent remains correct. The connections it has with other languages are not filial links but of another character.

In his article, «The Place of Albanian within the Circle of Indo-German Languages» the well-known Albanologist, Gustav Meier, accurately defined the position of Albanian in this linguistic family. He places Albanian close to the eastern and northern Indo-European languages. When we say that the Albanian pertains to this or that group of languages, we have in mind that in certain features it has followed the same course of development with them in relation to the Indo-European structure. For instance, in the northern Indo-European languages the short Indo-European «o» has changed to «a» while in the southern ones it is kept as «o». On this point Albanian joins with the first group.

the conclusions reached and perceptible results have been achieved in defining the various laws that have acted in the evolution of the phonetic and morphological structure of the Albanian language in relation to the structure of the other Indo-European languages. Further studies have been conducted on its relations with the other Indo-European languages, on the problems connected with the pre-Balkan cradle of the Albanians, with the origin of the Albanian language, with the country of its formation, with the autochthony of the Albanians and so on.

In connection with the origin of the Albanian language, as is known, three different theses have long been advanced, on its Illyrian origin, its Thracian origin, or its Illyro-Thracian origin. The thesis on the Illyrian origin of the Albanian language is gaining ground, thanks to the studies of the Albanian linguistics coupled with the results of our archeology in the material field. More and more convincing proofs are being advanced in favor of this thesis. The fact that the present Albanians dwell where the Illyrian tribes used to dwell, and that the history of our people records no later immigrations into these regions, supports the thesis that the Albanians are the descendants of the Illyrians and that Albanian is the offspring of the Illyrian language. On the other hand, those few linguistic elements which modern science has at its disposal about the Illyrian language find their explanation through the Albanian. The Albanian historical toponomy is of special interest in throwing light on such an important problem of the history of our people. The comparison between the ancient forms of place names and the present forms show that the latter are the uninterrupted continuity of the former, in line with the historical phonetics of the Albanian language. This proves that the Albanians are natives of their present territories, at least since the Greco-Roman period. And when it is known with certainty that Illyrian tribes inhabited the Albanian territory, this shows that the Albanians are the offspring of the Illyrians and that Albanian is the continuity of the Illyrian language.

To support the thesis that Albanian is one of the most ancient languages of the Balkan Peninsula and that the Albanians are autochthonous on the present territories since the Greco-Roman period, the relations of borrowing by the Albanian language from the neighboring ones are not unimportant. Therefore, our linguists have devoted attention to this point too, pointing out not only the borrowings of the Albanian from them, as the foreign Albanologists have usually done, but also the elements of Albanian in these languages. Especially important in explaining the place of the formation of the Albanian language are the borrowings from ancient Greek and Latin. The existence of a number of borrowings from the ancient Greek can be accounted for only if it is accepted that the Albanians have long dwelt on the eastern shores of the Adriatic. At the same time the Latin borrowings, frequently of an archaic nature, show that their penetration into the Albanian language belongs to its ancient period.

Also of importance to the history of the Albanian language are its relations with the other languages of the Balkan Peninsula. The Albanian language has common elements especially with Rumanian, relating to both lexicography and grammatical structure, in treating both their Latin and their non-Latin elements. Therefore, our linguists have attached special importance to tracing the common elements and to explaining their source.

ALBANIAN- AN INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGE

SEIT MANÇAKU
Worker at the Institute of Linguistics and
Literature

to the family of Indo-European languages. But in 1854 he examined a broader range of material. He made a thorough, scientific analysis of the Albanian language and arrived at the conclusion that it belonged, incontestably, to the family of Indo-European languages.

As Prof. Eqrem Çabej has pointed out, when speaking of the Indo-European character of the Albanian language, one should bear in mind that not all its linguistic wealth comes from the ancient Indo-European heritage. With the passage of time, Albanian, like any other language, has lost a lot from its autochthonic heritage, due to its continuous contact with the languages of other peoples; on the other hand, it has been enriched with new words, expressions, and constructions from its own source and has given to and received from the other languages with which it has been in contact.

The Albanian words having corresponding forms in the other Indo-European languages are ordinary words of day to day use which serve as a basis on which others are built. Here are a few Albanian examples: *Ujk*, *ulk*, sanskrit

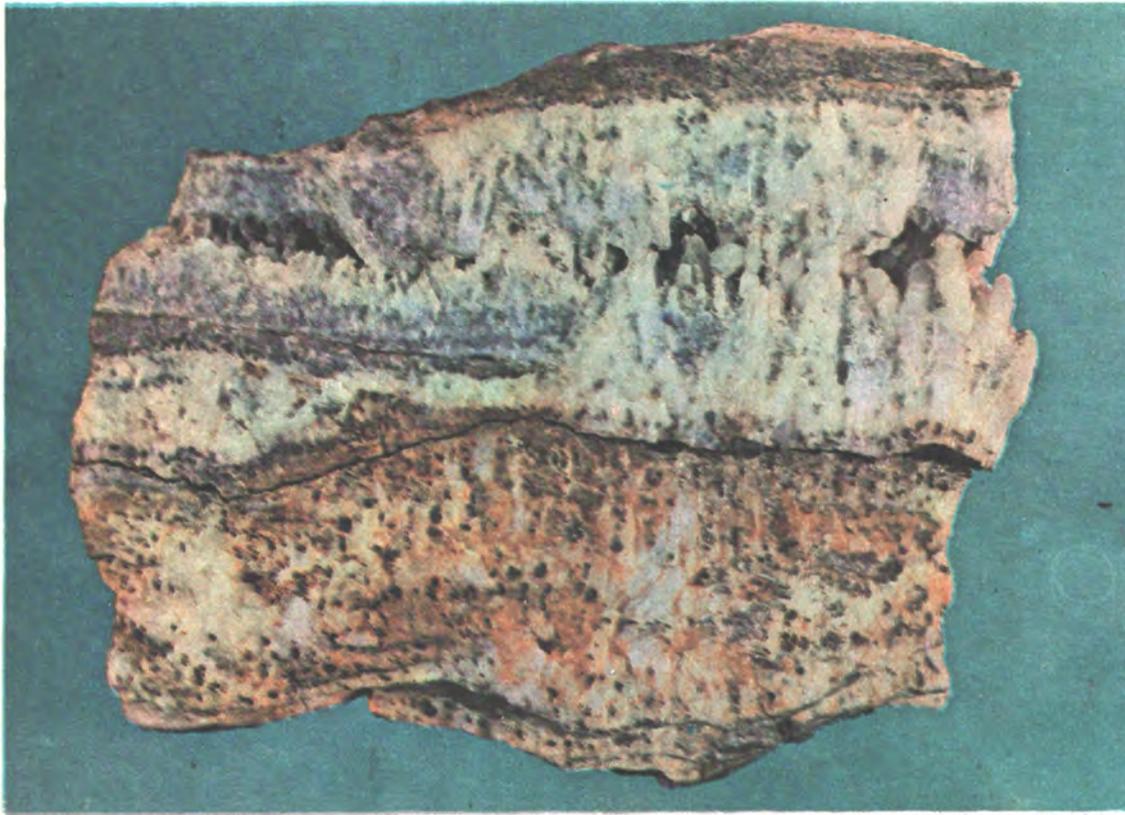
Thus we have Albanian *natë*, German *nacht*, Lithuanian *naktis*, while Latin *nox*, *noctis*. The relations of Albanian with these languages have been studied more concretely by other scholars among whom we should mention Holger Peterson and Nibert Jokl, who, with their fruitful studies have made a valuable contribution to Albanological science.

Following the triumph of the people's revolution, very favorable conditions were created in Albania for the development of the science of Albanian linguistics, so that Albania has become the epicenter of studies in this field. Today, tens of Albanian scholars are engaged in studying the problems of the history of the Albanian language. With many works illuminating various aspects of the historical development of the Albanian language, they are making a valuable contribution in this field. The studies by Prof. Eqrem Çabej deserve special mention.

Among other things, new facts and proofs have been brought forth on the Indo-European nature of the Albanian language. A more profound argumentation has been provided for



The press is distributed daily all over Albania including the most remote regions. The workers consider it as their spiritual nourishment. In the picture: The mailman arrives at the headquarters of the Thumana Agricultural Cooperative.



MINERALOGY

FLOWERS OF STONE

ALEKSANDËR ÇINA
Lector in mineralogy at the Mining
and Geological Department of
Tirana University

These sparkling stones resembling flowers are the fruit of geological research and the object of intensive study in mineralogy. It is only fifteen years ago that Albanian mineralogical studies began.

But, thanks to the high rate of progress made, mineralogy has rendered an important contribution to geological studies and research, to enriching the useful minerals, and processing them technologically.

Before liberation, Albania was studied very little geologically (not at all from the viewpoint of mineralogy). Without a simple expert of its own in this field, it turned out only three or four minerals in very small quantities, and these by foreign companies to the benefit of foreign states. Today, Albania prospects for, discovers, mines, and processes tens of minerals, in quantities tens and hundreds of times greater than before liberation. Albania, has now been studied geologically and mineralogically at a high technological and scientific level, and, what is of importance, by Albanian experts, and it uses these resources for its own benefit.

The Albanian geologists and mineralogists have contributed many new ideas, interesting from the scientific point of view and of great practical significance, on the problems of the conditions of occurrence and genesis especially of chromium, copper, iron-nickel, aluminium and other ores, while immensely increasing the mineral reserves of the mines under exploitation and discovering other deposits. These results have been achieved among other things, by discarding many views on these problems provided by foreign scholars of authority.

When mentioning the successes of geological and mineralogical studies in our country, we should point out that they are not due to the work of specialists in these fields only, but mainly to the work of the tens of thousands of workers in geology and mining for it is they who, through their daily efforts not only produce the material blessings but create possibilities for geological and mineral research work by raising problems which call for solutions.

At the mineral studies centres in our country, specialists make extensive use of many

very complicated types of apparatus to make many kinds of mineralogical analyses. This has made it possible for them to study all types of minerals.

The purpose of our mineralogical studies is to know the material content of our ores, for the practical evaluation of the deposits already discovered as well as to determine the peculiarities of the mineral bearing bodies and of individual ores, to define the methods of enriching and processing them technologically, and to interpret in a scientific way the laws of pre-genetic associations of chemical elements and minerals. In this way the problems of the genesis of the deposits of sulphur, copper and other minerals have been solved.

The geologists and mineralogists of our country are now engaged, among other things on an important comprehensive study on a national scale, on a metalogenic study which will be a scientific synthesis of the work done and which will open up new prospects for the discovery of new minerals in our country.

Our geological workers are prepared and determined to carry out this task too on a high scientific level, just as they have realized relying on their own resources the geological map of our country to the scale 1 : 200,000, the tectonic map to the scale 1 : 400,000 and the map of useful minerals to the scale 1 : 200,000.

1. Layers of quartz and quartz combined with chalcopyrite belonging to two stages of hydrothermal mineralization.
2. Spheres of lava replaced by pyrite and chalcopyrite.
3. Stratified layers of metamorphosed copper ore.
4. A belt of reaction of the contact between dunite and chromium ore.



ALBANIAN CARTOGRAPHY

With the rapid development of industry, agriculture, construction, communications, education, culture, and science, the need arose for setting up the principal geodetic and cartographic services in the most important branches of the Albanian economy. Before liberation no organized national geodetic and cartographic services ever existed in Albania, whereas now Albania is one of the countries best mapped in the world in all the series of scales of maps and topographic plans. All of these have been done by the Albanian institutions and cadres.

The Cartographic service at the «Hamit Shijaku» Establishment of School Appliances in Tirana today fulfils all the needs of the various schools and institutions for cartographic products. From one year to another this Establishment has been equipped with up-to-date apparatus and machines and modern technological methods in the sector of publications and map

making have been introduced. If, in the fifties, this establishment published one to two maps a year, during the sixties it began to publish tens of maps on various theses and tens of other school appliances of very advanced technology meeting not only the needs of the country but also those of exports. The geographic maps, atlases, and globes turned out by this establishment and especially the physical, economic, geological, forestry and other maps of Albania to the scale of 1 : 200,000, the atlas of Albania, the atlas of the National-liberation War, and others, have been highly prized not only by our educational, scientific and production institutions, but also by foreign institutions and specialists.

The present maps of our country on all kinds of themes, portray the great changes in nature and society in our country achieved during the last three decades.

AGIM SHEHU
Member of the Faculty of the Engineering
Department

Traditional doctor Cen Bulku at work.



OUR HERITAGE OF POPULAR MEDICINE

The valuable heritage of national traditions and cultural assets include the great wealth of popular medicine. It has served to protect the health of the people both in peacetime and in war.

Numerous documents from the past verify the antiquity of this tradition in the field of health.

Following the liberation of the country, parallel with the incomparable extension of modern public health institutions, careful study was devoted to the experience of popular medicine, to combine it with the modern methods of medical treatment.

The accumulation and study of the experience of popular medicine was taken up by a number of amateurs, including health service workers like the teachers of the faculty of medicine, doctors, pharmacists, and other medical personnel in many districts of the country. They introduced into clinical practice valuable methods in the treatment of burns, wounds, and warts, and applied the marvellous popular art in fractures, sprains etc.

The recent establishment of the Institute of Popular Medicine created appropriate conditions for more extensive and scientifically organized study, based on laboratory and clinical experiments. This Institute, in collaboration with the other central and regional public health institutions, organized the work for the accumulation on a mass scale of the methods of popular medicine, the historical documents of this experience and the terminology of popular medicine. This was done through activating the health service personnel, empiricists and amateurs of popular medicine, the workers in agriculture and collectors of medicinal herbs, school teachers and pupils who went on organized expeditions, and so on.

The methods of popular medicine were screened on the basis of theoretical studies, while their effectiveness and scientific basis continues to be determined through experimental laboratory analyses. The valuable methods in the form of processed preparations are being introduced into our medical service. Thus, our popular medicine is being integrated into modern medicine. -

PETRIT KOKALARI

ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOLK INSTRUMENTS

RAMADAN SOKOLI

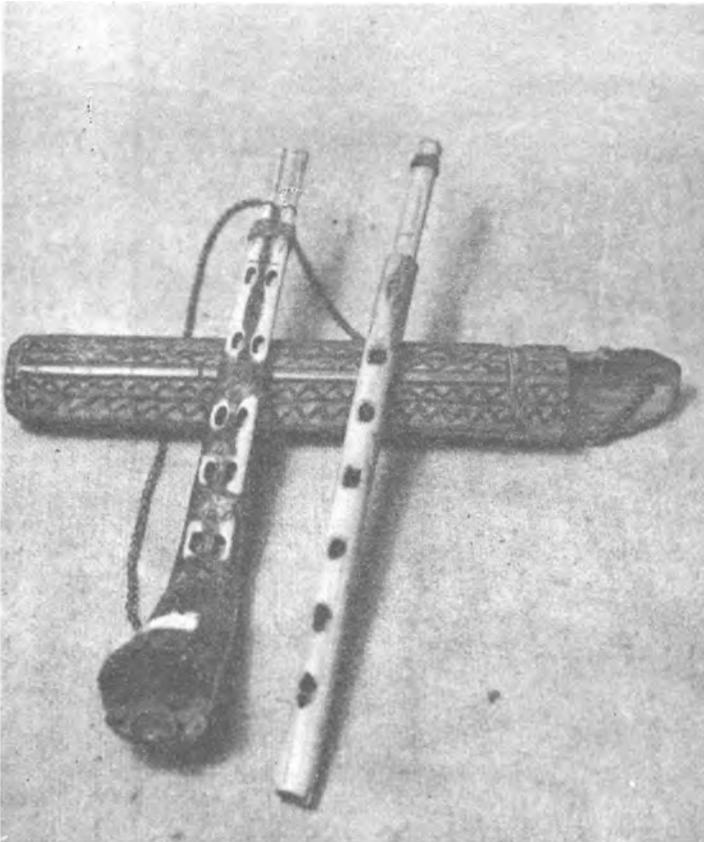
in the programs of concerts, in radio and TV broadcasts, and so on.

Knowledge and study of the musical instruments our people use, their dissemination among the broad masses of youth, their production and further development, their introduction into the teaching programs in schools of art, occupy the attention of enthusiasts for Albanian music. Prior to the liberation of the Homeland, no one in our country was engaged in musicological studies, and, as a consequence, we inherited no scientific literature on this subject, whereas, during these three decades of our People's State Power, ways and prospects have been opened in this field too, which the new Albanian culture found fallow and uncultivated. A significant indication of the development of Albanian science in this field are the musicological publications themselves.

With regard to the folk instruments, in the past, they were manufactured by different craftsmen in an individual way. The situation of the times and the way our peasants lived under the patriarchal conditions of the tribal order were not favourable to the production of advanced instruments. Nor did the circumstances in the cities of our country allow large workshops to prosper through production of musical

instruments of a more or less high standard. However, under the new conditions of the People's State Power, with the profound changes that have come about in the economic, social, and cultural life of the country, parallel with the allround progress, prospects have also been opened to the further development of folk instruments. It goes without saying that at a time when every thing is advancing rapidly, of course musical instruments don't lag behind in responding to the demands of the growing ideological tastes, but, without fail feel the effects of this progress. Now, the experienced craftsmen who work in the artistic products workshops equipped with the necessary means and machinery, have replaced the old methods of production with a more advanced standard. They have tried to improve tone by better construction of the musical instruments themselves, avoiding certain archaic qualities, and even improving their appearance without changing their typical features.

The isolated life led by the peasants in the past, as well as their social relations themselves, account for the fact that musical instruments were mainly used individually and, here and there, in very limited, groups. Whereas now, in the economies united in the agricultural co-



There is no gainsaying the fact that folklore is not stagnating but is changing in step with the life of society itself.

In our country, under the People's State Power this national heritage is constantly flourishing and is attaining a very high level of development, refuting the nihilist views of those who deny that folk art has any future. The policy of our Party and our socialist State supports folklore and defends it against concepts which denigrate it so that this spiritual treasury of the people will live and develop together with the people who create and preserve it, handing it down from one generation to the other. Our people have always felt the need for musical instruments. They have not used them only for pleasure, to accompany songs and dances but parallel with their role of entertainment, they have also had wider ethical and social functions. Among numerous facts, it is sufficient to recall the ancient Illyrian doctors who used instrumental music for the treatment of neuropathic diseases.

Every manifestation of life is conditioned by material factors. In line with this dialectic principle, the development of musical expression, too, is closely connected with material factors, among others with the qualities of musical instruments, through them instrumental music is imbued with its features of tone and characteristic coloration; through them many traditional melodies have been created, preserved, and handed down. Hence, the all round importance which the preservation and further development of folk instruments has for us.

All over Albania, in every village and suburb one hears the music of folk instruments without which no wedding or celebration could take place. They are heard in villages and towns, in industrial environments and so on; they occupy an important place in artistic performances,





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operatives, they are uniting their musical instruments into various groups, in order to express collective sentiments and thoughts, thus reflecting the transformations of our society. The grouping of instruments in cultural centers, reading rooms or clubs of centers of production, in schools, and elsewhere, did not come about accidentally but emerged as a need of the further economic and cultural development of our society, and as a consequence of the growing musical taste of our people. The ensembles which have been set up in many districts and regions such as, the characteristic orchestras of the cultural centers at Kukës, Lezha, Gramsh, Puka, Mat, Tropoja, Mirdita, Pogradec, or that of the Palace of Pioneers and those of the secondary schools of art and others, have grouped their musical instruments in several homotimbric (instruments of the one type) or heterotimbric (instruments of different types) ways. More and more folk instruments are being added to the orchestral formations.

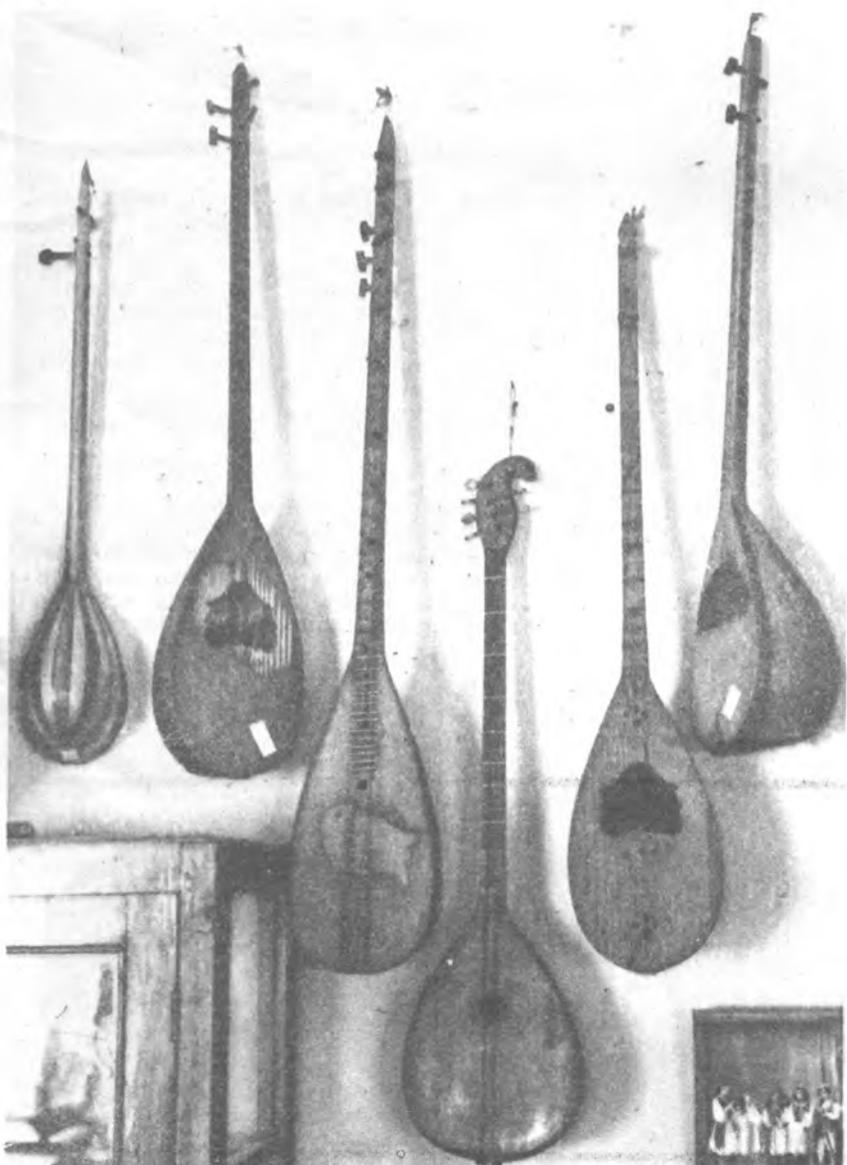
The setting up of all these instrumental complexes has brought about qualitative changes in their respective repertoires. The extension of musical forms and their development in many directions has stemmed from the grouping of the traditional motifs into bouquets, suites, pot-

pourris, etc. Nor have the folk soloists marked time, but day by day they have brought in something new enriching their repertoires with all kinds of elements and figures. Of course, these features of our soloists and the increase of formations alone would play no decisive role in the further development of folk music if the instruments were to remain as they were before. Attempts to improve and strengthen the tone of instruments through elaboration of their construction and morphology while preserving their peculiarities of form and timbre, and, at the same time, developing the technique of their use without changing their typical features, as well as the attempts to create complete families of instruments of the same genre to include more extensive registers and the ever more widespread use of instruments, give rise to enlivenment of the movement and elaboration of the repertoire, bringing about qualitative changes in musical folklore. All these factors which influence the increase of the possibilities of expression of folk instruments under the new social, economic, cultural, and political conditions, are connected with the allround development of life of our country.

As the creation of the masses, our folklore is keeping pace with the life of the country, reflecting our reality in an objective way.

1. The Gramsh Flute players.
2. The complex of the «Jordan Misja» Art Lyceum in Tirana.
3. The family of three-stringed instruments.
4. A class of the «Jordan Misja» Art Lyceum.

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THE PROCESS OF ILLYRIAN URBANIZATION IN THE LIGHT OF ALBANIAN RESEARCH WORK

Prof. SELIM ISLAMI



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Recent syntheses have refuted as groundless the idea which denied the existence of urban life in Illyria and presented the Illyrian population as passively and inertly conservative towards dwelling in cities.

Likewise the view that absolutised or overestimated external factors in the process in the development of cities in Illyria has given way to the rational idea that the real creators of urban life in Illyria were the Illyrians themselves, the masses of the Illyrian population, and not people from other countries or local or foreign rulers.

The development of cities in Illyria did not take place evenly and did not have the same extension through all the wide territory inhabited by the Illyrians. Urban life developed extensively in Southern Illyria especially in the territory occupied by the Illyrian State. The land of Albania, which made up the most important part of this territory, was the seat of such famous cities as Shkodra, Lis, Pelion, Dimale, Antipatria, Byllis, Amantia, and many others, the ruins of which are testimony to intensive urbanization of this region.

For about two decades Albanian archaeology has devoted special attention to the study of this problem, considering it the most important social-political phenomenon of the Illyrian history of the latter half of the last millenium before our era.

In the history of the Illyrian city we distinguish two principal stages.

The first stage includes the Vth and the first half of the IVth century before our era. This stage is connected with the rise and formation of the Illyrian city. Under the conditions of Illy-

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ria, this process is parallel and coincidental with that of the rise and formation of the Illyrian state, serving as its base.

Prior to the Vth century, the main type of Illyrian habitation was the village. Fortified places of habitation of the Gajtan type, which were tribal centers but not yet cities, were the most advanced form. Possibly the Illyrian «towns» of Sasaretti, Odria, and Japugia, which Hekate mentions during the VIth century, can be identified with them.

This dim information, unconfirmed archaeologically, was replaced during the Vth century by a series of data which allow us to see the problem from a somewhat wider viewpoint. In addition to the information of Pausanias about Thronion confirmed by the inscription of Olympia we have recent stratigraphic data from the excavations at Belsh (Elbasan) and Klos (Mallakastrë) as well as from separate findings at Amantia, which testify to the existence of urban life in the zone of the coastal lowlands between the Vjosa and Shkumbin rivers, dating back to the first half or about the middle of the Vth century before our era.

Documentary evidence of the existence of urban life in Illyria during the first half of the IVth century before our era is continually increasing. The information from Demosthenes and Diodorus about Illyrian cities occupied or fortified by Philip II during his Illyrian campaign is supplemented by Theopomp, who mentions by name the city of Oidantion, and by Arian and Rufus, who speak of Pelion as the capital city of the Illyrian Kingdom. Numismatic data, on the other hand, while confirming



1 The surrounding walls of the Illyrian city Albanopolis (the present Zgërdhesh in Central Albania)

2 The Statue of Artemis (Albanopolis)

3 Coins (a) of Shkodra, (b) Lis, (c) King Gent.

4 Gate and surrounding wall of Gajtan (the first period of the iron epoch).

5 A bronze plaque representing a scene from the war of the Illyrians against the Romans.

6 One of the gates of the Illyrian city of Lis.



Strabo's information about Damastion, show it as a city which minted coins as far back as the beginning of the IVth century before our era.

It is still too early to determine the architectonic physiognomy of these ancient cities. Klos (Bylis I) and Amantia, which belong to this period, are cities extending over an area of about from 15 to 20 hectares. They are characterized by their simple lay-out. Their surrounding walls are of the polygonal-trapezoidal type up to 3.5 meters thick. These walls still do not have turrets as elements of the system of fortification, but the role of turret is played by short sharp bends at definite distances. There are few portals.

As to their position, these urban centers occupy a well protected central place in a rich agricultural or mineral zone, which comprises, at the same time, a small geographic unit with clear natural boundaries. The city is the center of this geographic unit and the peasant po-

pulation is connected with it by economic interests.

The appearance of these cities brought with it an increase of trade relations with the advanced Greek world. The fact that a number of mineral resources and agricultural products attract the attention of the ancient writers of this period, shows that these were among the main Illyrian exports. The bitumen, from Atintania, so necessary for ship building, and the silver of Damastion which supplied the mints in the cities of the Adriatic and Chalkis, seem to have been the products most sought after. In exchange for them, luxury articles of Greek arts and crafts, the products of Durrah and Apollonia, as well as of Attica and Italian cities, penetrated deep into the interior of Illyria which they reached by trade routes between the Adriatic and Hegean coasts opened up in the VIth and Vth centuries before our era along the river valleys. In these transactions the Illy-

rian cities undoubtedly played a major role both as direct-producers and as intermediaries. The new element in these transactions are the coins of Durrah, Apollonia, and Damastion.

Thus, towards the middle of the IVth century before our era the Illyrian city appears already formed and with a role of major weight in the economic and social life of Southern Illyria. As such it serves as a base of the State political organization.

The second stage includes the period between the years 335 and 230 before our era. This is the time of further extension of urban life in Illyria, of the rapid development and prosperity of the Illyrian cities. It coincides with the consolidation of the Illyrian State. It is precisely in the central zone of this State, the coastal lowlands and hills behind Durrah and Apollonia, that the old cities are further developed, as in the case of Bylis and Amantia, and that a number of new cities spring up like Olympia, Dimal, Antipatria, cities at Margelliç, Irmaç, Zgërdhesh (Albanopolis) and others, not known before. Whereas in the eastern districts following the Macedonian occupation, there is restriction of urban life which finds favorable conditions

terraces, the special location of public buildings, the drainage from every dwelling building, and the system of surrounding walls, wells and cisterns, theaters and stadiums (in Bylis and Amantia) are some of the features which testify that the internal construction of Illyrian cities was subject to an idea of town planning. It is beyond doubt that such extensive construction activity was carried out by the internal forces. Its realization was the work of a thriving slave-owning society which had the organisational possibilities for such a thing. It seems that the Illyrian State itself plays an important role in this direction.

This new physiognomy of the city is in conformity with the economic role it plays as a center of production. In nearly all cities we find traces of metal workshops. Among them, Amantia stands out for its products of a high artistic level. Of course we have a great deal of evidence about ceramic workshops which turn out the massive production of urban artisanship. Today, thanks to their brands we know the names or trade marks of Illyrian proprietors of workshops for nearly every city. On the basis of special characteristics of the products, it has even been possible to follow the trade routes



of ceramics of individual cities. They often cross the boundaries of their own geographic zones in order to penetrate into the interior of the country. Also on the basis of the distribution of products or coins of Durrah, Apollonia, or imports, we can trace the trading zones and the routes to them, which usually followed the river valleys. It is an important fact that local products dominated the internal trade of the Illyrian cities, while imports were confined mainly to luxury goods. This made it necessary for Amantia, Bylis, Olympia, Lis, Skodra, and other cities to mint their own bronze coins, which appeared as far back as the first half of the IIIrd century before our era. In their struggle to gain trade, these cities, according to the occasion made use of symbols on their coins, similar or opposite to those of Durrah, Apollonia or Epirus.

Thus, during the first half of the IIIrd century before our era, and especially after the year 270, at a period when the Illyrian State was relatively peaceful in its relations with the outside world, the urban centers in Illyria reached their fullest development and individual features. Some of them have all the features of ancient cities as centers of handicraft production and trade on the basis of exchanges of goods for money, while others are smaller centers of the fortress type dependent on cities from the economic, military and administrative point of view.

north of the Mat river. The early urban centers like Lis, Skodra, Ulcin, Meteon, Rizon, and others, which sprang up in this zone only by the end of the IVth and the beginning of the IIIrd centuries before our era, extend the process of city development in Illyria towards the north.

A special characteristic of the cities north of the Mat river is that they face the sea. The places chosen for them are well protected spots on enclosed bays or the mouths of rivers.

As distinct from the centers of the earlier period, the cities now have a more definite architectural form. Their external appearance is defined by the surrounding walls which constitute a well planned system of fortifications responding to the requirements of city life and, at the same time, ensuring better defense. The walls are of a richer style making wide use of quadratic structures. Turrets are used more extensively to protect portals and the more gently sloping terrain, where they are placed close together and at regular intervals. A large number of gates (ten of them at Lis) allow the passage of the heavy traffic which is typical of cities.

As yet little is known about the internal structure of the Illyrian cities. The data at our disposal allow us to see the application of the same town planning principles as the contemporary cities of Greece and Macedonia. Apart from the major divisions of the acropolis and the lower city, we also find in these cities the public square with the market place. Archaeological excavations have also confirmed regular systems of streets which run through the different city quarters. The system of construction in

- 1 Eros (Amantia)
- 2 Aphrodite (Amantia)
- 3 Apollo (Amantia)
- 4 An earthenware plate (Lis)



Sketches by Naxhi Bakalli.



TIRANA'S «WATER RINGROAD»

Three irrigation canals which receive the waters of three rivers: the Erzen, Terkuze and Tirana rivers, form a «water ringroad» around Tirana.

The Skorani-Lana irrigation canal, which receives water from the Erzen river at Skorani gorge, is 57 kilometres long and has an irrigation capacity of upwards of 2,000 hectares of land. It starts at an altitude of 300 meters above sea level, that is, 200 meters higher than the center of Tirana and commands the

entire low lying and hilly area. It comprises a series of structures; six tunnels, of which, the Hekali tunnel is 300 meters long and the Gurra tunnel 520 meters long, seven siphons to overpass depressions, totaling a length of 1,200 meters as well as more than 20 reinforced concrete aqueducts, each 10 to 20 meters long. Two other irrigation canals, that of Zallherr with an irrigation capacity of 1,000 hectares and that of Brar are included in the «water ringroad» of Tirana. -



WINDS AND PRECIPITATION

Albania's relief exerts a great influence on the air masses. The western part of the country, being low lying comes more under the influence of the masses of air from the sea the influence of which is felt deep in the interior of the country too.

The commonest winds in Albania are northerlies or southerlies. The maximum wind velocity, recorded in Vlora, reached 45 meters per se-



cond. Rainfall in our country is concentrated mainly on the western and south-western slopes of the mountains and mountain ranges.

The heaviest rainfall occurs in November, December and January. The Albanian Alps receive the heaviest precipitation and the characteristic peak is Boga which on the average receives 404 mm in November and 432 mm in December. 420,4 mm of rain fell in 24 hours at Boga on December 15, 1965. This is regarded as the heaviest precipitation in 24 hours ever recorded in our country.

The annual total of rainy days in the territory of our country ranges from 90 to 136 days. -

«BURNING FOUNTAINS»

According to historical data, «the ever lasting fires» or «burning fountains» at the Selenica bitumen mine (southern Albania) were known as far back as the time of Aristotle, Strabon and Elian. Many authors of that time presented them as «miracles» and objects of worship.

This is what Aristotle wrote about the bitumen resources in Selenica: «In Apollonia, situated in the vicinity of the Illyrian region of the Atlantids (Atintans, Taulants), they say there is asphalt extracted from the soil and tar which erupts from it like water and does not differ at all from that of Macedonia, though it is blacker and thicker».

According to ancient data, tar was also used at that time to combat insects in the grape vines being exported to Greece, Italy, Egypt as well as being used to grease the wheels of the carts and later, to pain the ships' bottoms to protect them against rot.

In 1934 remnants of a circular timbering were found in Selenica, amongst which oil lamps and work implements of Roman times were found. The Turkish historian Inalcik and the Sultan's envoy to Albania, Evlija Çelebi, also wrote about the later exploitation of the mine.

Today, the bitumen mine in Selenica is an important miners' center.

«A FORESTRY ALMANAC»

The press has recently turned out «A Forestry Almanac» and «A Forest and Pasture Map» of four districts of Albania, namely, Dibra, Kukës, Lezha and Kruja. They are the work of the workers' collective of the sector of Forestry Planning attended to the Institute of Studies

of Agricultural Land.

«The Forestry Almanac» is the first publication of its kind in our country and fulfills one of the tasks for equipping the forestry personnel and the broad masses of workers with the maximum scientific knowledge about forestry. It presents synthesis of the work to be done in forestry and in the sector of hunting month by month.

In the same way, «The Forest and Pasture Map» of the four districts (the first of its kind in our country), is another valuable do-

document for the workers of this sector on cadastral details and on planning the work to protect, increase, improve and utilize the forests efficiently. It is drawn to the scale of 1:50,000.

These maps are valuable also, to the agricultural and animal husbandry workers, for taking them as a basis, they can plan accurately what area should be broken in as arable land for bread grain, vineyards and orchards, or work out the stock-carrying capacity of the pastures and how it can be raised.

THE BLACK PINE

Of all the varieties of pine trees that grow in Albania, the black pine, which forms entire forests, is the most important and widespread.

The black pine grows to a height of 40 to 50 meters with a diameter up to 2.5 to 3 meters. Its trunk is straight with horizontal branches and a pyramid or umbrella-like top. The leaves of this pine are needles 8 to 15 cm long and are dark green.

This variety of pine needs a mild

to warm mountain climate. In our country, it occurs at the altitude of 600 to 1,600 meters. It extends over volcanic, limestone, or poor sand soil, on which it forms extensive and beautiful forests.

The black pine grows in the districts of Puka, Korça, Kukës, Dibra, Kolonja, Mirdita, Mat, Skrapar, Tirana, Vlora, Lezha, Gramsh, and so on.



«THE MASTERS OF THE HOUSE»

On 30th of November, 1967, a heavy earthquake occurred in our country. Two districts, Dibra and Librazhd, suffered serious damage. The entire people rose to help the inhabitants of the hard-hit districts. Thousands of specialists went as volunteers to the stricken areas. The revolutionary spirit which the Party of Labour aroused among the masses and the aid which the people's state power gave, resulted in all the damage from the earthquake being eliminated within one month. Here in the fight against countless difficulties, emerged that great revolutionary initiative, which, in our country is called, «actions with concentrated blows» and which has become a very effective method of work in the socialist construction of the country.

This story is based on the events of those days in December, 1967. (Editor's Note).

When the first picks bit into the ground to open the foundations of the new house, Sabri Rrapishti couldn't contain himself. His heart beat furiously in his chest. He had a lump in his throat and his lips trembled. When had it been heard of for people from all over Albania, from Kukës, Berat, Shkodra, Tepelena, to leave their homes, in the middle of winter, and to come together to build a house for somebody in Dibra! whom they had never heard of or seen before! What misfortune and what damage this earthquake had brought at the start of winter. But, despite this, ... the Party²) knew how to turn a bad thing into a good thing. It seems as though this earthquake is linking us even more closely with one another, linking us even more strongly with the Party.

«All the best, Uncle Sabri, I wish you happiness in your new house, I hope you enjoy it with all your family and with all those who are dear to you!»

«Long live the Party», was all Sabri managed to get out.

The sixty year old man's eyes were brimming with tears. To cover his emotion he struck hard with his pick. Eighteen picks simultaneously attacked the frozen ground. It shattered like glass. Fragments of soil flew upward. And Sabri wielded the pick with all the power of his shoulder. He wielded the pick and in his souls, in his heart, he heard the clear echo of his own words, «Long Live the Party!»

It seemed to him that this echo was spreading wave after wave, from Maqellara, Peshkopia, to the cap of Martaneshi, to Korrab, to the mountain of Vogzi and rolling down through the valleys to Tirana and Myzeqe.

And Sabri wields his pick faster and faster. Quickly and ever harder work the volunteers. Dafina, the young volunteer from Vlora wields her pick with all her strength. The point barely penetrates the frozen soil. But Dafina strikes again. Sabri looks at her hands, red from the biting wind, at her flushed face, at the layer of frozen snow like a tiara of jewels on her chestnut hair.

... By the time the evening came, a great deal of work had been done on the foundations. A good supply of rock had been gathered too. If the plaster and cement arrived, the walls would begin to rise that very night. The order was issued for a break to eat supper. Fires were lit in front of the tents. The place was lit up like day. People began to gather around. The frost crackled underfoot. Sabri sat down on a tree trunk, wiped the frost off the corners of his moustache and lit a cigarette.

«Dafina, are you going to write me a letter when you go home?»

«I will never forget you Sanije, or Uncle Sabri, or any of your family».

«I will never forget you either, Dafina».

The two girls toasted their bread on the embers and then, hand in hand, walked back to the foundations. Sabri drew on his cigarette contentedly.

A voice was heard in the distance. Sabri rose to his feet and listened attentively. Down there by the mill, somebody was calling, «the truck has arrived».

«Come on Comrades, let's go!» The animals went first. Fifty odd men and women, with lamps and torches in hand, headed down through the darkness towards the mill. On the small saddle which led down to the stream, the cold wind cut like a knife. The ground was frozen hard. People slipped, clambered to their feet, slipped and rose again, time after time. Some one said, «Ouch!», but then, silence. Knees, elbows the palms of their hands were skinned and bruised, but nobody could be heard to complain.

The line of torches crossed the stream and began to ascend the other slope. Down below, in the bed of the stream, two lamps were burning. Then the lights of a vehicle sliced through the darkness. The truck was roaring on the gravel above the stream.

«Where are they going? A truck will never get through there!».

«Goodness only knows!»

A voice rings out from the riverbed.

«Down here, Down here!»

Down they went. The truck, like some weird beast, unknown to this stream, roared upwards, through the trees. A frightened hare cowered, unable to break out of the powerful beam of light.

«A hare, a hare!»

The animal twitched his ears, lunged aside and disappeared.

«Stop! That's far enough!»

Men and women stuck their torches in the ground, hung their lamps from the branches of the trees and began to clear a track. Shovels rang on the gravel. The driver got down from the cab, kicked each of the wheels in turn, then went over to the volunteers.

«Give me that shovel girlie».

Dafina lifted her head, saw the driver smiling at her and worked even faster.

«Give me that pick, Uncle!».

Sabri looked the driver in the face, straightened up, took his tobacco tin out of his pocket and handed it to him.

«Roll yourself a smoke! You're a guest here. What's your name?»

«Gjergj».

«Gjergj, eh. Light up first».

... The truck began to edge its way diagonally up the bank. The volunteers in front of the truck were like a swarm of bees. Some widened the track. Others cut bushes and trimmed branches. The truck moved ahead, stopped, moved on again. Inch by inch, it was moving ahead, climbing. This filled every one with encouragement.

«Keep at it Comrades! Just a little further, a little further!».

«Comrade driver, hold it a minute while we move this rock. Come on, come on... turn her to the left... that's right, that's right!».

The engine roared. The echo rolled out through the darkness over the cliffs and gorges, till it dissolved into the blackness of the night right over the other side of the border, where a deep silence reigned.

They reached the most difficult spot. It was a steep slope of about fifteen meters. Gjergj put his foot down hard on the accelerator. The truck crawled upwards, slower and slower. At last it stuck. Gjergj tried everything. The back wheels began to spin. The chains ripped up clods of soil, stones, chips of wood and branches. Gjergj tried to stop it, but the truck began to slide backwards.

«Look out, it's slipping. Get out of the way!... he yelled. Sabri felt a shiver go down his spine. What would happen now? The truck would slide and slide... and go over the edge. He watched as Gjergj worked frantically in the cab. But what to do? How to help him? Should we all put our shoulders to it — he thought for a moment, but immediately realised that the slightest movement of the truck would grind them all into the ground, like the stone at the mill.

At the critical moment, something unexpected happened. One of the peasants with a crow bar rolled a boulder up behind the back wheels of the truck. Like a flash of lightning one idea struck them all. Before you could open and close your eyes, a pile of stones had been built behind the back wheels. The truck continued to slide, it pushed back hard against the stones, but at last it stopped. Everybody began to breathe freely again.

— «We saved it... we saved it!»

— «Bravo driver, you did it».

— «Good work Gjergj».

The track was cleared and some gravel was spread. The engine roared. But, the truck just didn't want to move. Gjergj jumped down from the cab again, grabbed a pick and attacked the frozen ground in front of the wheels.

— «Come on Comrades, put your shoulders to it, until it gets started. We'll get over this bit».

— «Hoop, hoop, hoop!».

The motor roared furiously. Finally the truck obeyed, and moved forward, forward... Just a little more... another meter... it was across.

«Hooray... Hooray...!»

The heavily loaded truck came out on the flat. Before the headlights snow whirled in their crazy dance.

In the afternoon of the third day, the walls of the new house were nearing completion. The technician who came to check the work, praised them all.

«Sabri will be in his new house by the day after tomorrow», said several of the people.

The technician smiled and nodded.

«Yes, I reckon you are right. Here in Dibra, in these cold December days, the recognised standards have all gone by the board. Keep it up and I'll see you later. Tomorrow evening, we'll hand over the keys to Uncle Sabri».

Before darkness fell, all the necessary measures were taken. Work would go on all through the night, without, interruption, just like the other nights. The team was divided into two shifts. Four hours work, four hours rest. Then back to work again... But things didn't go according to plan that night.

The storm upset everything. The workers found it impossible to work for more than a quarter of an hour at a stretch. The tips of their ears, their fingers went blue from the cold, the mortar froze in their hands. Their eyebrows, hair, the collars of their jackets, were covered with frost.

«Tonight we won't sleep at all» — somebody said — «we'll work fifteen minutes on and fifteen minutes off».

Round about half past ten, the blizzard was in its full fury. The icy wind whipped the snow up off the clearing and slammed it furiously into the faces of the workers, drove it into their chests, up their sleeves and trouser legs. But the builders did not give up. Those who were frozen, went over to the fires and put their hands in warm water

and plastered their faces with lard. Others replaced them. The walls of the house rose. The blizzard beat against them, but up and up they went.

Two figures were seen coming through the snow towards the fires. They paused a moment in front of the rebuilt school and then came over to the builders.

«How are things going?»

«Fine, how are you?»

«Who are they, Uncle Sabri?», Pal asked.

«The Secretary of the Party Committee, Pal, and the other one looks like the doctor».

«Where are you, Sabri Rrapishti! Are you standing up to the storm like a sturdy oak?»

«And why shouldn't I, Comrade Secretary! Just look at all the roofs, Sabri Rrapishti has. They spread from Saranda to Shkodra, or am I wrong, Pali?»

«You're quite right», the mason said.

In the middle of this fierce storm, the new arrivals, had brought a great piece of news. Enver had arrived in the district of Dibra. Yes, yes, that's right, Enver Hoxha himself! He has begun visits to the villages, together with the Primeminister and other Comrades of the Party and the Government.

Sabri could hardly believe his ears.

«Who did you say has come here, Comrade Secretary?»

«Enver Hoxha, in person».

«Here... Enver Hoxha?!... In this weather... in all this mess.....»

«You see Comrades, we've scored another victory. The earthquake destroyed Sabri Rrapishti's old house, but hundreds of hands united and built him a fine new house. We hope we wish the owner of this house, his family and all his friends and comrades happiness... Uncle Sabri... take the keys! All the best in your new house!»

«I thank the Party and Enver Hoxha, I thank you, brothers and sisters, you boys and girls, I thank all Albania!»

He fell silent for an instant and then continued quietly, «In about a quarter of an hour, I want you all to come and have a coffee in my house brothers... Off you go Sanije!... he said to his daughter, go with your mother to light the fire in the new house and make the coffee ready. I won't be long.

He crossed the path, waded through the stream, and then, despite his years, began to run. He ran around the wood and came out in Dalip's garden.

«Mereme, Mereme!», Sabri shouted from the yard.

«What is it, Come on in, Sabri, What good wind brings you here at this hour? How are things going on in the new house?»

«The house is finished, but I've come to borrow that photograph, the one you've got of Comrade Enver».

«Comrade Enver's photograph?...»

«I'll bring it back again, I'll bring it back today, I just want it long enough to inaugurate my new house. I would like his photograph to be the first to enter the new house».

Mereme looked at him in some surprise but she nodded her head



Illustrations by Qamil Prizreni

This news seemed to electrify the people. They began to work with such a drive as had never been seen before. They wrenched the stones out of the ground with their picks and carried them to the building. The masons were having a great deal of difficulty, but they were working on the last remaining bit of wall.

«Pal, the mortar has frozen».

«Heat some water, mix the mortar with hot water, girls!»

«We need some salt for the mortar, Uncle Sabri».

«Faster Comrades, faster!».

The storm raged furiously. It howled around the walls, around the breasts of the workers, as if it were trying to tear them off the scaffolding. But the people remained steadfast... Dawn was approaching when the last roof beams were in place. In the semidarkness of that white dawn, Sabri Rrapishti stared at the contours of his new house, at the frame of the roof, as if he could hardly believe his eyes. It seemed, to him as if he was having an amazing dream, dreaming with his eyes open. The smoke-blackened lamps hanging from the beams swung in the wind. The people, with their heads wrapped in scarfs and woollen caps, seemed like beings from another world, from a world of legends. But, despite this Sabri knew they were the volunteers, he knew they were fellow villagers, the stone mason, Pal, from Shkodra, Dafina from Vlora, his daughter Sania. And wanting to break out of this state he shouted,

«Bravo, you've done a fine job».

«Hurrah for the Party» — was the reply from the peak of the roof, the tents, from the walls. And this was not like any ordinary cheer, but like a cheer from the depths of the earth itself, the earth which had been gravely hurt by the earthquake but which now felt as if its wounds were closing and healing.

By mid-day, the last tiles were laid on the roof. The windows were fitted. Then, all the builders gathered before the door. The school pupils came too. Destan came out in front of the crowd and pulled a key from his pocket.

and went quickly back inside. Carefully she took the frame off the wall, wiped it thoroughly, wrapped it in a cloth and handed it to Sabri.

«I wish you happiness in your new house, Sabri!»

Sabri, jumped the fence and disappeared.

When he emerged on the clearing, in front of the new house, he saw a big crowd. There was a car, too, one of the Comrades from the Committee must have come, he thought to himself and quickened his pace. He was breathing heavily, but he hurried on. With the wrapped frame under his arm, he pushed through the crowd. The door of the house was open. People had crowded inside and filled the corridor. In his heart he felt a stab of resentment. Why had't they waited another five minutes. Just till he had placed the photograph at the head of the room... and then they would have been most welcome to come in to have a coffee.

He entered the room, took two steps, and froze, rooted to the spot. There he was, sitting in a chair, near the hearth, where the fire was crackling. Yes, yes, Enver Hoxha himself... A fog seemed to come over Sabri Rrapishti's eyes and for a moment his great guest was lost to his vision. He shook his head, rubbed his eyes with his fist and, leaving the portrait in Dafina's hands, stepped forward.

«I wish you happiness in your house», said his guest. Sabri was quite unable to gather his wits. He stammered. But finally he managed to say what he felt in his heart.

«Welcome Comrade Enver! This is our house, it is everyone's house. We are all the owners of this house.»

1. Dibra is a district in the north-eastern part of Albania.
2. The Party of Labor of Albania.
3. The first secretary of the C. C. of the PLA.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



YE SUEI JU — the People's Republic of China.

... I am happy that Albania is flourishing and making progress. In «New Albania» magazine I have read about the rapid development of industry and agriculture achieved by the Albanian people during the period of socialist construction. Your successes are also our successes, your happiness is also our happiness...

BILMOKLITAR MILUA — Algeria

It is a very great pleasure and happiness for me to express my profound feelings towards you and your magazine «New Albania». I am satisfied with your magazine because I find in it material which interests me, and it is also beautiful in its layout. I have been reading your magazine regularly for one year. Through it I get to know the Albanian people who are dear to our Algerian people. It is a good means to inform the outside world about socialist construction in Albania.

JORGE FONSELA — Portugal

... We Portuguese are very interested to know how to strive to build genuine socialism which is the only way to complete emancipation. For this reason, would you please send me some publications so that I can distribute them to various popular associations?

I would likewise ask you to please send me, if possible, a photograph of comrade Enver Hoxha who is the defender of ordinary honest people and whom the Portuguese workers hold in high esteem both for his work as well as for the extraordinary achievements of the Albanian people, which serve as a brilliant example for all the peoples of the world...

FRANCOIS XAVIER — France

... For many years I have been receiving your interesting magazine «New Albania». Through it I have been able to deepen my knowledge about your socialist country which I hope to visit some time. So far I have been interested mainly in the political

and social aspects of life in the People's Republic of Albania. I have received several books (History of the Party of Labor of Albania, Friends Ask, comrade Enver Hoxha's Works) which have enabled me to learn many things which interest me.

Now I am taking up Albanian literature. In recent years a considerable number of translations of stories and novels have come to France and I have been able to discover Albanian literature. Recently I have read the collection of stories «Virgin Lands» and Dritëro Agolli's «Commissar Memo», an important work of socialist realism; I am reading Jakov Xoxe's novel «South Wind». A friend has given me the book published in France «Ismail Kadare and the New Albanian Poetry». This helped me to become acquainted with Albanian poetry of which I knew nothing. I am writing to you to ask for more detailed information on Albanian drama. As a matter of fact, through your magazine «New Albania», I know something on certain Albanian dramatic works which have been put on the stage in your country. In your magazine there are very interesting articles dedicated to your actors (for instance, the article on Nikolin Xhoja in № 3/1975) but I have never found translations of plays (even fragments) or articles on plays that are staged today. I am interested to know these plays, to know the trend of Albanian dramatic art of socialist realism of the present time. What are the forms in use, (drama, comedy, tragedy, opera and so on), are there plays in verse, are adaptations of foreign works put on the stage? Do the works of world classics appear often on the Albanian stage? (I know that plays by Shakespeare or Ibsen have been staged).

MALINGAGGI MARIA ROSARIA — Italy

I am a twenty-year-old Italian girl, a university student of the second year in jurisprudence.

For some years now I have been receiving your magazine and I am greatly interested in the experience and achievements you have attained in the economic, social, and cultural fields, since the end of the war to this day. I want to learn about your achievements and experience in problems regarding the organisation of work, social aid, agricultural development, and in preserving popular traditions.

I take the opportunity to congratulate you on the high level of your magazine, its content, its brilliant illustrations, its beautiful photographic presentation.

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FRONT COVER: For the 1975-76 school year, over 700,000 pupils and students filled the classrooms and auditoriums.

In the picture: Students of the secondary school for foreign languages in Tirana.

Photo by S. Xhillari

BACK COVER: The riviera of southern Albania, outstanding for its rare beauty and abundance of oranges and olives.

Photo by N. Kodheli



NATIONAL COSTUMES WITH APRONS

A. GJERGJI

This is a widespread type of national costume for women in our country. It is made up of a long dress, girt at the waist by a sash with an apron hanging from it. In warm weather, the woman wears a sleeveless waistcoat whereas in winter she wears a waistcoat with sleeves and a woolen mantle. And this costume is usually completed with beautiful headdresses of woven silken or cotton and heavily decorated, as well as with multico-

lored woollen socks and sandals. The peasant women also wore numerous metallic ornaments on the ears, the neck, the bosom and hands.

This type presents many variations as regards the form and the decorations of the dress, apron and mantle. Thus, the mantle could be made of white, black or dark blue wollen cloth. Fine wollen stuff and velveteens were used occasionally. Laces of various colors were used to decorate them.

Some of the most interesting variations of this type of dress are: the women's costumes in Mirdita, (in the northern part of Albania), in Shpat, (Central Albania), in Mokër, (southern Albania) where the mantles are white, and those of the Dibra, Korça, Saranda and other districts, with black mantles, the Myzeqeja dress with its gown diagonally crisscrossed with lace, and many others.

ABDURAHIM BUZA - "Lajret popullore", vaj
(EKSPOZITA KOMBETARE E ARTEVE FIGURATIVE, TIRANE 1974)

SHQIPËRIA 205lek

FATMIR HAKSHI - "Shkurtim e Rindërtim", vaj

SHQIPËRIA 225lek

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