

NEW ALBANIA

**3
1977**



The Presidium of the 8th Congress of the Albanian Trade Unions.

THE 8th CONGRESS OF THE

From the 20th to the 23rd of June this year, in the city of Korcha, the 8th Congress of the Albanian Trade Unions held its proceedings. It analysed the work done since the 7th Congress of the Trade Unions and basing itself on the decisions of the 7th Congress of the PLA, defined the very important tasks for the future.

The working class and all the working people of Albania, were represented at the Congress by hundreds of model militants of the War and in the work for the cause of the revolution and socialism, elected by the masses of the working people.

The following delegations came to Albania to take part in the 8th Congress of the Albanian Trade Unions: The delegation of the Trade Union Federation of Vietnam, the delegation of the Trade Union Federation of Laos, the delegation of the Organization of African Unity, the delegation of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Italy, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Germany, the delegation of the Pan-African Congress of Azania, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Britain, the delegation of the Workers' Trade Union Opposition of Spain, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Portugal, the delegation of the Federation of Trade Unions of Palestine, the delegation of General Union of Algerian Workers, the delegation of National Union of the Working People of Tanganyika, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Japan, the delegation of the Trade Union Congress of Zambia, the delegation of the General Federation of the Trade Unions of Irak, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants from Norway, the delegation of the Simpimto Trade Union Centre of Madagascar, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union militants of Finland, the delegation of the Revolutionary Trade Union Militants of Chile, the delegation of African National Union of Zimbabwe.

The Report "On the Activity of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions and the tasks of the Trade Unions for the implementation of the decisions of the 7th Congress of the PLA", was submitted to the Congress by Comrade Rita Marko, President of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions.

The member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party, Pali Miska, read the greeting of the Central Committee of the PLA, signed by the beloved leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, directed to the 8th Congress of the Albanian Trade Unions. The greeting reads in part:

"You comrades, bring to the Congress the great drive and enthusiasm of our heroic workers, our revolutionary youth, our courageous women, our people's intelligentsia, the working people of the towns and the patriotic peasantry, bring the total mobilization and commitment with which they are working to put into practice the historic decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party.

Loyally adhering to the teaching of the Great Lenin, that the Trade Unions are schools of communism, the Party has always stressed that their main task has been and still is, the communist education of the working people. The Trade Unions have made and are making a most valuable contribution to the general, ideological, political, cultural and professional uplift of our working people. This contribution and this untiring work is expressed in the high level of consciousness which characterizes the working class and all the working people of our country, in their courage and determination to constantly march forward under the leadership of the Party. The Trade Unions have great tasks for the education of the working class, to ensure that it always remains unwavering up to its historic mission. The leading role of the working class is a major question of principle, a decisive condition for the maintenance and strengthening of the dictatorship of the proletariat and a guarantee for the successful construction of the socialist society. Today, there is

no important problem of the Party and State on which the working class does not have its say with complete confidence and certainty. This reality has been sanctioned in the new Constitution of the PSRA, which guarantees the working class all its rights and recognises its leading role in our society.

The Trade Unions have an important role in the field of production. It is required of them that they work tirelessly and with a high level of political and ideological consciousness to ensure that everywhere, in the enterprise, in the department or the brigade, the vigorous, creative thought of the workers will be seething, the militant spirit will be kept high and the socialist emulation will be developed more and more powerfully. They must struggle to ensure the utilization of all internal reserves and possibilities, to secure supplementary resources for the economy, more income for the state and more goods for the people.

Our people are building socialism encircled by savage and perfidious imperialist and revisionist enemies, who are exerting continuous political, ideological, economic and military pressure on our country. They are trying to hinder the development of our economy, to destroy the dictatorship of the proletariat and strangle the revolution in Albania.

Our working class, all the working people of town and countryside, led by their Marxist-Leninist Party, are responding to these furious efforts by further strengthening their unity around the Party, by further increasing the fiery patriotism which characterizes our people, by raising higher their mobilization at work, the spirit of courage, self denial and determination, by carrying out their military training and preparation for the defence of the Homeland at the highest level. They are replying to it by implementing the great revolutionary principle of self reliance, both in the field of production and in that of defence.

Educated by the Party in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, our working class and all our working people are following closely and with great sympathy the struggle



Views from the hall.

ALBANIAN TRADE UNIONS

which the international proletariat is waging against capitalist exploitation, against the crisis and the danger of fascism, against the arms race and the preparations of the super-powers for war. They rejoice at the successes which the peoples of the world are achieving in their efforts to gain and defend their freedom and independence, to drive out neo-colonialism and to establish their own complete sovereignty over their national assets.»

In the Report submitted by the President of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions, Comrade Rita Marko, in the section on the international workers' movement it is said among other things:

«In their revolutionary and liberation struggle, the world proletariat, the freedom loving peoples, the progressive forces are clashing with fierce and dangerous enemies, with their ideologies and their forms of organization. In the first place, they have to battle with the two superpowers; U.S. imperialism and Soviet social imperialism, which are the biggest and most dangerous aggressive powers history has ever known. Separately or jointly, they represent the chief enemies of the freedom and independence of the peoples.

Today, there are various concepts, theses and theories circulating in the world, such as those of the «interdependent world», the «poor and rich world», the «non aligned world», the «South and North World», «the First, Second and Third Worlds» and so on. These theories are both harmful and dangerous, for they cover up the fundamental contradictions of our time, divert the proletariat and the peoples from the revolution, divert the exploited and oppressed masses from the struggle against imperialism and the bourgeoisie, and offer them incorrect strategies and tactics for the struggle.

In our time, the revolution constitutes the fundamental historic task facing the proletariat and the peoples of the world. At the centre of the world revolutionary processes today stands the working class, and no other

social force can perform the hegemonic role of the proletariat, or fulfil its historic mission. From the time of its birth to this day, the working class has been and will continue to be the motive force that carries revolution ahead and drives the wheel of history forward.

A bitter struggle is being waged on a world scale today in the field of ideology, too. In order to divert the proletariat from its revolutionary class struggle and to obscure its perspectives, the bourgeois, revisionist and reformist ideologists are trying to present the capitalist system as «renewed», and are making a great fuss about the alleged de-proletarianization of the capitalist society, about the working class turning into a bourgeois class and intergrating itself into capitalism.

But the new phenomena which have taken place in capitalist society and on which they are speculating have changed nothing at all in the class relationships. They have not wiped out exploitation, have not softened the antagonism between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, nor altered the historic necessity for the overthrow of the exploiting order, the historic necessity for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialist society. Putting into practice the teachings of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Albanian Trade Unions have devoted special attention to the question of the development, extension and consolidation of their ties of friendship and cooperation with progressive and revolutionary trade union organizations on an anti-imperialist class basis, on the basis of fighting solidarity. The fact that at present the Albanian Trade Unions have relations with a large number of national and regional trade union centres, with trade union federations and with many revolutionary progressive tradeunionists in nearly 90 countries of the world shows that the working class, the working people of our country and the Albanian Trade Unions have numerous friends and allies all over the world.

The working class and the working people

of our country will work consistently to strengthen, as always, on the Marxist-Leninist road, its fraternal friendship with the great Chinese people and the heroic working class of China.

The working class and all the people of our country have actively supported the anti-imperialist national liberation struggles of the working people of Asia, Africa, Latin America and their progressive trade unions. We wholeheartedly welcomed the great victory of the peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and we firmly support the liberation struggle of the peoples of Azania, Zimbabwe, Namibia etc, against the racist regimes, as well as the struggle of the Palestinian people for their undeniable rights, and that of all the Arab peoples for the liberation of their territories occupied by the Israeli zionists.

The working class of our country and the Albanian Trade Unions, guided by the glorious Party of Labour of Albania with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, will, as always, firmly and actively support and stand on the side of the proletariat, the revolutionaries, the working people and the peoples of the whole world, in their struggle for the triumph of the cause of the revolution and socialism, the cause of the peoples' freedom and independence, thus fulfilling their internationalist duty.»

At the Congress dozens of delegates from all over the country delivered their contributions. They approved the report delivered and promised that, as always, they will fight ceaselessly for the triumph of the political and ideological line of the Party and will work tirelessly for the socialist construction of Albania. With their mature thoughts they helped the further strengthening of the Trade Unions Organization.

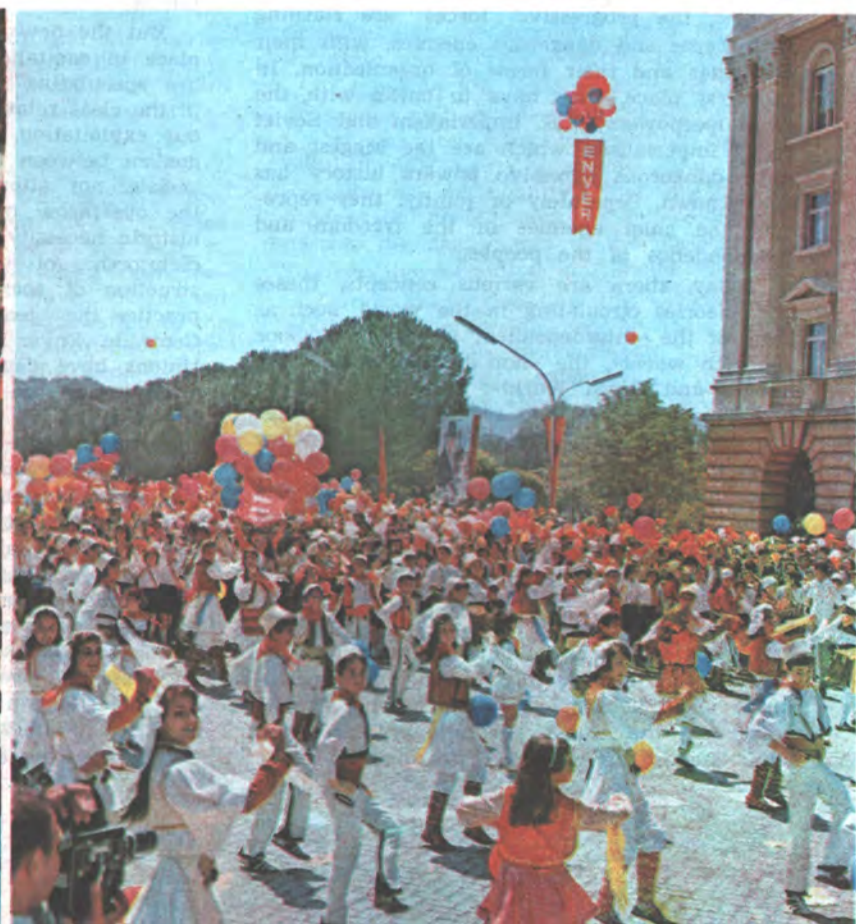
The Congress took the respective decisions and elected the Central Organs of the Albanian Trade Unions.

Comrade Rita Marko was elected President of the Central Council of the Albanian Trade Unions.



Views of the May Day Parade in the «Martyrs of the Nation» Boulevard.

MAY DAY 1977





THIS YEAR, MAY DAY, THE DAY OF WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WAS CELEBRATED, AS IT IS EVERY YEAR, WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM BY THE WORKING CLASS AND ALL THE WORKING PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY. MAY DAY 1977, FOUND OUR COUNTRY AT AN EVEN MORE ADVANCED STAGE ON THE WAY TO THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

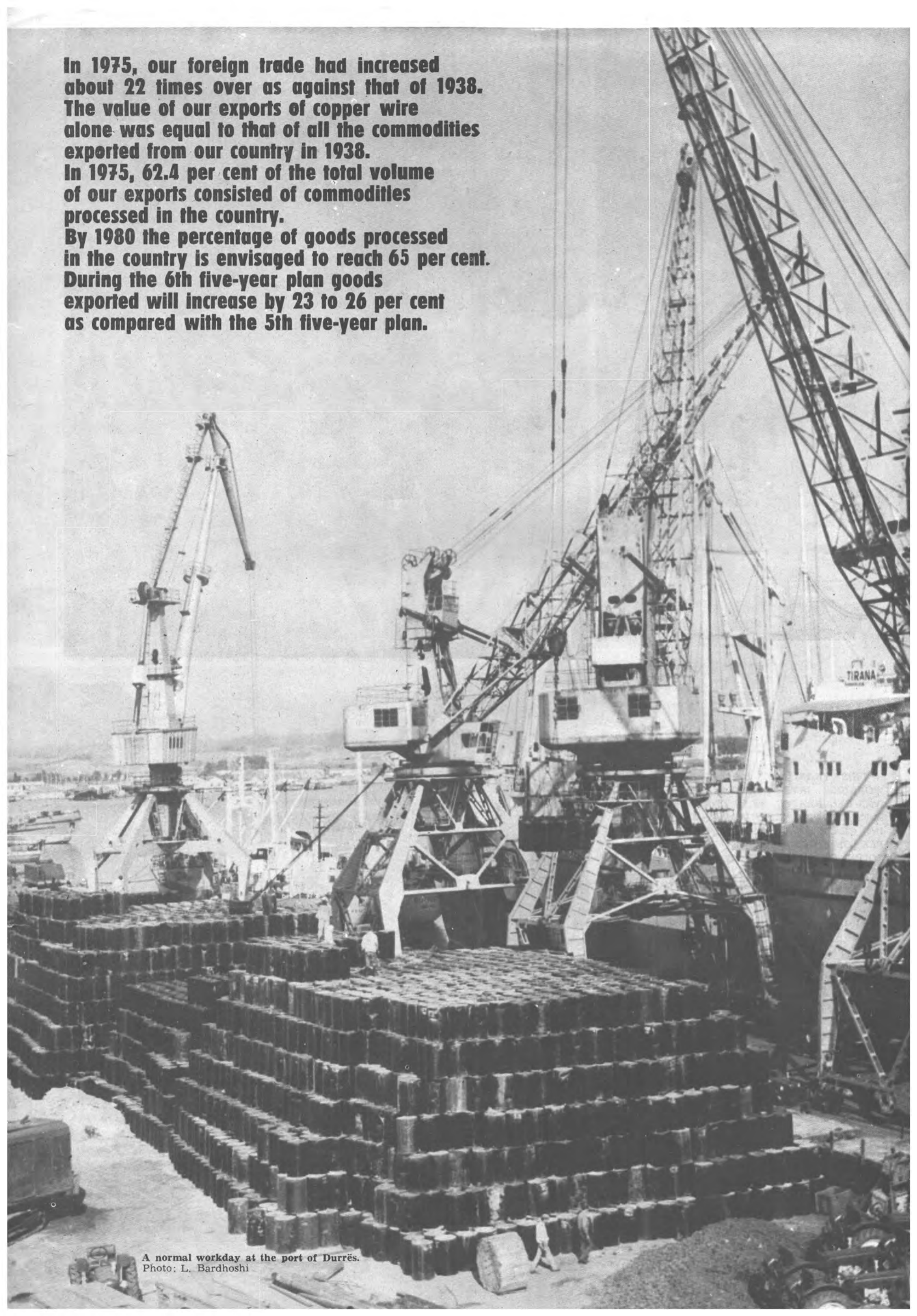
MAY DAY FOUND OUR COUNTRY WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION APPROVED AND ALREADY PUT INTO OPERATION. THIS MAY FINDS ALBANIA TURNED INTO A PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC. THE WORKERS OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, AND OF ALL OTHER SECTORS, HAVE SCORED FURTHER SUCCESSES IN BUILDING THE GREAT PROJECTS OF SOCIALISM. CONSISTENTLY APPLYING THE SOCIALIST PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE, OUR WORKING PEOPLE PRODUCED THE FIRST ALBANIAN IRON AND STEEL, AND THE TOTAL QUANTITY OF BREAD GRAIN REQUIRED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY FOR THE WHOLE YEAR. ARMED WITH THE IDEAS AND DECISIONS OF THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA, THEY ARE STRIVING TO FIND NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS AND METHODS IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THE TASKS SET BY THE 6TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN SUCCESSFULLY.



In 1975, our foreign trade had increased about 22 times over as against that of 1938. The value of our exports of copper wire alone was equal to that of all the commodities exported from our country in 1938.

In 1975, 62.4 per cent of the total volume of our exports consisted of commodities processed in the country.

By 1980 the percentage of goods processed in the country is envisaged to reach 65 per cent. During the 6th five-year plan goods exported will increase by 23 to 26 per cent as compared with the 5th five-year plan.



A normal workday at the port of Durrës.
Photo: L. Bardhoshi



OUR FOREIGN TRADE KEEPS GROWING AND DEVELOPING

NEDIN HOXHA
Minister of Commerce

Our foreign trade is growing and developing from one five-year period to another, in harmony with all the branches of our economy. In comparison with 1938, it had increased 7 fold in 1960, about 13 fold in 1970, about 22 fold in 1975. A significant fact is that this year the value of exports of copper wire alone was equal to the value of all the goods exported from our country in 1938.

Together with the increase of the volume of goods, the improvement of quality, and the extension of their range, the structure of the goods for export has also been constantly improved. In 1975, 62.4 per cent of the total volume of our exports was made up of goods processed within the country, as against 46 per cent in 1960. By 1980, the percentage of processed goods is envisaged to reach 65 per cent. In the past, our country exported mainly unprocessed agricultural and livestock products like tobacco, skins and hides, wool, and so on and, at the same time, it imported nearly everything, from needles to fabrics and paper.

This development is a striking proof of the vitality of our socialist economic-social order, of the all-round superiority of the planned people's economy, a significant indication of the correct Marxist-Leninist policy which the Party of Labour of Albania has pursued and continues to pursue in the development of foreign trade. Every success in foreign trade, as in all other fields, has been scored in struggle against the imperialist-revisionist encirclement and their ruthless blockade.

In particular this great leap forward of our foreign trade is due to the socialist industrialization of our country, to the rapid development of our industry, and to the intensification and modernization of agriculture. Total industrial production today is more than 97 times greater than in 1938; industry accounts for nearly 60

per cent of total industrial and agricultural production as against 8 percent before liberation. In per capita production of minerals Albania ranks among the top 40 States of the world, while for certain individual products, like chromium it holds fourth place, and for per capita production of bitumen and tobacco it ranks among the first countries. For some years now our country has been exporting electric power.

The increase of industrial and agricultural production has made it possible to fulfil the growing needs of our economy and the home market for various commodities, better and better. Our industry meets over 85 per cent of the needs of the people for products of every day use, while agricultural production has increased nearly four fold as compared with the pre-liberation period, and nearly two and a half times over, as compared with 1960.

As a result of the increase of commodities in quantity, the improvement of their quality and the extension of their range, the list of our export goods has been continually supplemented with new articles, along with those which have already become traditional. Mineral products occupy an important place in the list of export commodities. With the building of factories and plants to enrich and process minerals, some mineral products now go through the complete processing cycle. Thus, while in the past Albania exported only copper now it exports copper electric wires and cables. The local processing of iron-nickel ore has begun, too, and starting in 1976 we turned out Albanian iron and steel, so that iron in the L.U and I profiles has been added to the list of our exports. A number of other minerals also are processed in the country and in the foreseeable future, as the 7th Party Congress emphasized, this will be the case with all our minerals.

The list of our export commodities has also



The range of Albanian commodities for foreign markets continues to increase from year to year. Compared with the pre-liberation period, our foreign trade has increased 22-fold.

been increased with a number of new products of the chemical, electro-technical, glass and ceramics, building materials and the timber processing industries, whereas before nearly all these commodities were imported.

Exports of processed agricultural products have been increasing from year to year, also. For some years now cotton textiles and knitwear and ready made garments of local textiles have also been added to the list of our exports and they find a ready market abroad on account of their good quality. With the measures which have been taken to set up a number of factories for the food processing industry it has become possible to continually increase the production of preserved and dried fruit and vegetables. In 1976 the workers of our agriculture produced all the bread grain our country needed and they are continually increasing the production of fresh vegetables and fruit for export all the year round.

New prospects have been opened to the development of our planned socialist economy with the approval of the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980). This plan envisages a further big development of our industry, which is the principal factor in strengthening our socialist economy. Special attention will be attached to the extension of the mining industry, to the extraction and processing of minerals, to geological research work for discovering and making use of the great underground riches of our country,





to the development of the petroleum, gas and coal industry, the electric power industry, the black and nonferrous metallurgical industries, to ensuring spare parts, to the production of high quality mass consumption goods, and so on. Agriculture, in its capacity as the basic branch of our economy, will rise to a new higher level in order to meet all the needs of the country for bread grain, in order to ensure the raw materials for industry, to supply the population, and to increase products for export.

During this five-year plan, our industry will be greatly strengthened, especially since the Metallurgical Complex in Elbasan will begin production on a large scale, turning out not only high quality iron and steel but also nickel and cobalt which have very high value on the world market. When the oil refinery at Balsh comes into operation it will turn out high quality fuel and lubricants. The new copper and chromium smelting plants, the new plants of the chemical industry, etc., will open new prospects for increasing industrial production with very important products for the needs of our economy and for export.

The basis of our export has been and continues to be the high quality of our goods, so that they meet world standards. In our country the state guarantees standards by law and a number of laboratories and scientific centres have been set up which supervise and help to ensure strict observation of the technological

processes and compliance with planned standards. Many of our products are in demand on foreign markets on account of their quality and originality. But the work in this direction, as the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania instructs, will be continually deepened.

In our trade relations with the outside world we always adhere to the principle of equality, of mutual advantage, of noninterference in internal affairs and correct behaviour with other countries. Our organs of foreign trade will strive to carry out the tasks set by the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania. Among other things, they will see to it that our side is correct in its trade relations with other countries, but naturally, demanding that the others are correct towards us.

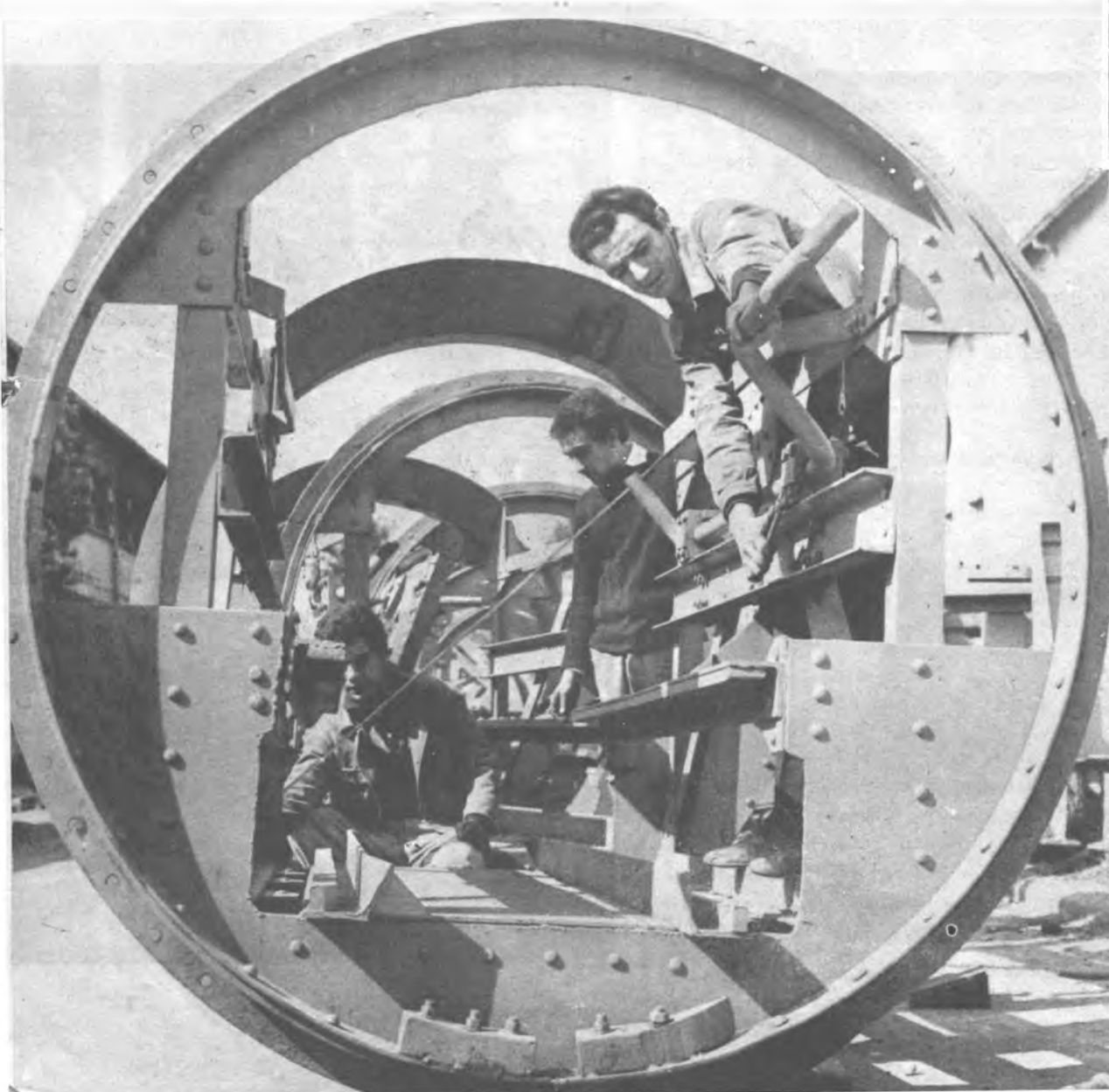
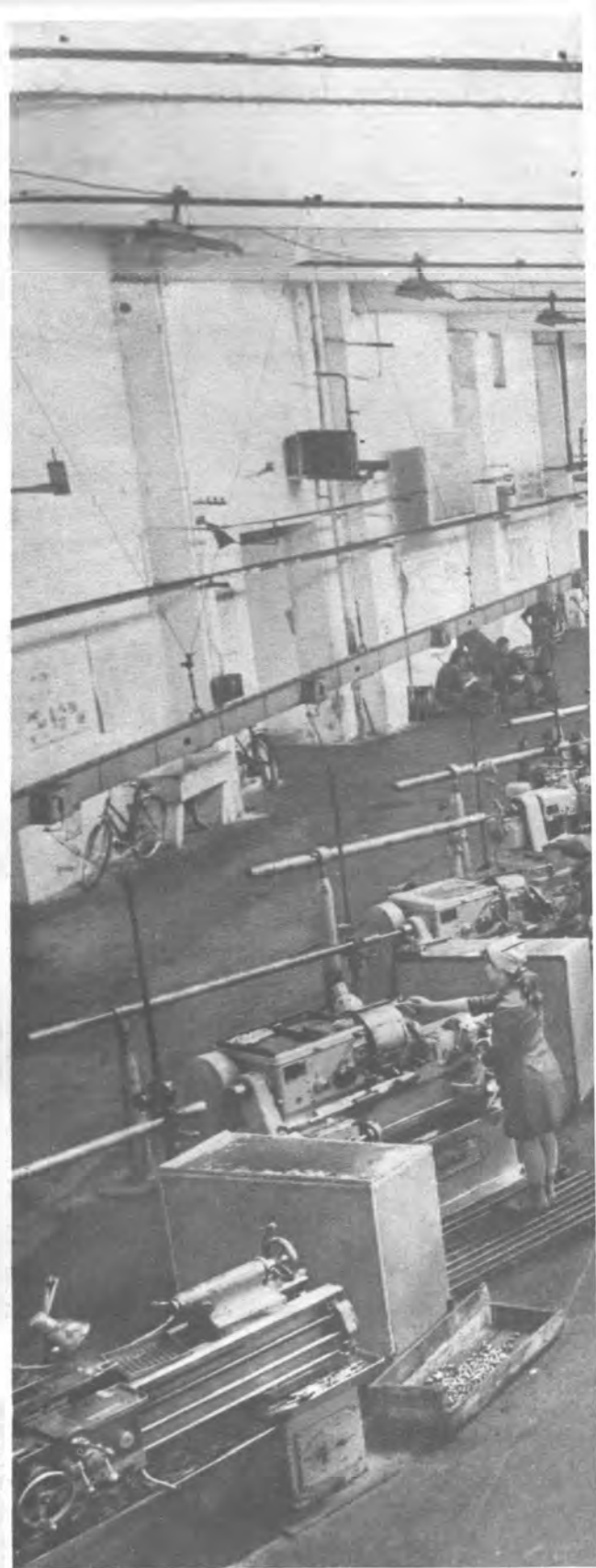
The 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania set the task of increasing exports of our commodities by 23 to 25 percent during the 6th five-year plan. The planned development of our socialist economy, the implementation of the very important tasks set by the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania to further strengthen our economy, will exert a great influence in developing our foreign trade as an important sector of our economy and a factor in developing trade relations with the other countries of the world, for ever wider extension to new markets and putting on these markets more and more new products which our socialist industry and agriculture are continually producing.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS OF OUR ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

DHIMITER THANATI
Director of the Engineering Department of the Ministry of Industry and Mining
KOSTA MIRÇE — Engineer

The engineering industry is one of the branches of the economy of our country which has made great strides forward. Whereas in 1960 it turned out a few simple spare parts for motor vehicles and industrial parts, for geology, the mines and the textile industry, now it can produce 82 percent of all the spare parts needed, complete machines like drilling rigs or agricultural machinery up to complete ore-enrichment factories. The main characteristic of the engineering industry of Albania is its development at rates higher than many advanced states of Europe have attained. New prospects are opened to this branch of our economy during the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980). Some of the existing plants will be expanded and new plants will be built. As compared with 1975 the production of spare parts in 1980 will increase by 63 per cent and about 95 per cent of the spare parts our economy needs will be produced in the country.



The engineering industry is the «heart» of the great industrial organism and serves as a powerful base for the development of our whole economy and for increasing its self-sufficiency. This branch of industry has reached such a level of technical development that today, as well as producing 82 percent of the spare parts the country needs, it is able to extend its production of machinery and equipment for the mechanization of work processes and to turn out complete sets of equipment for new industrial projects.

The course followed by our engineering industry reflects the whole progress of our country during the years since the triumph of our People's State Power.

We can say without hesitation, that the engineering industry of Albania is entirely new, built in the years since the liberation, in 1944. Prior to that year, industry (if we can call it such) was very weak and altogether backward, with a low level of mechanization, represented by a few small cigarette factories, flour mills, oil presses; and here and there some small workshop, kept going with spare parts all imported from abroad.

Assembling mining machinery
at the «Dinamo»
plant in Tirana Photo P. Sheqeri



The «Traktori» plant in the capital produces about 90 per cent of the spare parts a tractor may require.

In the principal cities, like Tirana and Durrës, there were some very small engineering shops to carry out simple repairs on those few motor vehicles which the country possessed. The total equipment of these workshops consisted of some very primitive lathes and drilling machines.

This was all the engineering industry inherited from the pre-liberation period.

The industrialization of the country was the basic objective of our People's State Power. As the years rolled on, combines, plants and factories of the various branches of industry were set up all over Albania. The dream of industrialization was becoming a reality and the landscape of Albania was enriched, year by year, with new chimneys on the horizon.

The rapid industrialization called for the setting up and strengthening of the engineering industry, in order to enable it to meet the growing needs of the branches of economy for spare parts and to produce machinery and equipment to raise the level of mechanization and guarantee all kinds of repairs.

For this reason, the Enver Plant which is the pioneer of the engineering industry in Albania, was established in Tirana. The machines from the existing machine shops, as well as some from war reparations, which were generally old and stripped of many principal accessories, were brought together here. It goes with-

out saying that at first this machinshop was short of qualified workers, not to mention technicians and, even more so, engineers. The main task of this establishment was to keep the new vehicles and machines our economy had at that time in running order.

With the major transformations brought about in our countryside, the hedges were pulled out and life dictated the mechanization of agriculture. In place of the wooden plough the tractor and other agricultural machinery began to work on the collectivized land. This was a major revolution which was carried out in the Albanian countryside.

Under these circumstances, the Agricultural Machinery Plant, the first of its kind in the history of the country, was set up at the coastal city of Durrës. The engineering plant at Stalin-city to assist the oil industry, and engineering plants in Shkodra, Korça and elsewhere were set up. They were equipped with up-to-date machinery, with an extensive range of metal-cutting machines. Vocational schools and specialisation courses were opened in order to train cadres.

Thus, with the further development of the other sectors of the economy, with the increase of the level of mechanization in agriculture and transport, in the extraction and processing of copper, chromium, and iron-nickel ores and oil, the engineering industry became stronger. From

year to year it extended the range of spare parts it produced for the upkeep and repair of machines and mechanisms of the various sectors of the economy. From 1951 to 1955 production increased by 118 percent, while from 1956 to 1960 — 119 percent. This period of development was characterized mainly by the production of spare parts as well as by the beginning of the production of simple items of equipment.

In 1960 a new stage began for the engineering industry. With the establishment of the imperialist-revisionist blockade, the workers of this branch, responding to the call for self-reliance, set to work to overcome the difficulties created. As a result, the production of machines and equipment in 1965 increased 11-fold, while the production of spare parts increased 241 percent. These and the other results achieved later showed that the blockade against our country had failed. The engineering industry was turned into an important base of our economy, many new industrial plants and tens of new engineering shops were built and many other engineering sectors were expanded and strengthened. Among the most important plants which were built was the «Traktori» Plant in Tirana, the first in the country for the production of spare parts for tractors.

From the end of 1967, a general re-organization of this branch was carried out in the direction of concentration, specialization and



coordination. With a view to placing the production of this branch of our industry on a scientific basis, to raising the technological level, to introducing new advancements in science, four years later the Institute of Mechanical Studies and Design was set up in Tirana. This Institute has carried out a series of studies on specialization, on designing new production lines and departments, has standardized instruments and equipment, and so on.

Today our engineering industry has made great progress. Whereas in 1960 it turned out some simple spare parts for motor vehicles and industrial parts for geology, the mines and textile plants, now it produces gears for almost all vehicles and tractors, cylinder blocks for motors and complete machines, such as drilling rigs, agricultural machinery, electric mine haulage locomotives and complete ore enrichment factories. Today our country exports cutting and measuring instruments, some steel products, and so on. In 1973, the production of spare parts increased 63 per cent as compared with that of 1970, and 310 per cent as compared with that of 1965. Whereas, in comparison with 1965 and 1970, the fulfilment of the country's needs for spare parts increased from 37 and 52 per cent to 62 per cent, spare parts from abroad have been reduced from 63 and 48 per cent to 38 per cent. In 1976, less than 20 days were required to produce a volume of production equal to that of the whole year in 1960. The «Traktori» Plant alone employs today nearly as many cadres of higher training as there were in the engineering industry of the whole country in 1960. These cadres are trained in the faculties and affiliated branches of our own university.

Hence greater prospects are opened to this branch during the 6th Five-year Plan (1976-1980). It will play an important rôle in further strengthening the technical basis of all sectors of our economy. Through the expansion of certain existing plants and the construction of new ones, production in 1980, as compared with 1975, will increase by 63 per cent, meeting about 95 percent of the needs of our people's economy for spare parts. The workers of the engineering industry are concentrating their efforts fulfilling the target for production of spare parts set for 1980, in 1979.

One of the outstanding typical features of the production of spare parts for 1976, as well as for the plan of 1977, is the study, experimentation and mastery of large scale production of new items which used to be imported. To this end, in 1976 and early 1977, the Institute of Mechanical Studies set up groups according to the various branches of the economy, which examined all the various kinds of spare parts which were on the lists of imports. Last year alone, our engineering plants and shops turned out for the first time over 5,500 new items which used to be imported. During the current year they will produce an additional 6,000 items which used to be imported, while in 1978, according to preliminary studies, they will turn out 3,500 others.

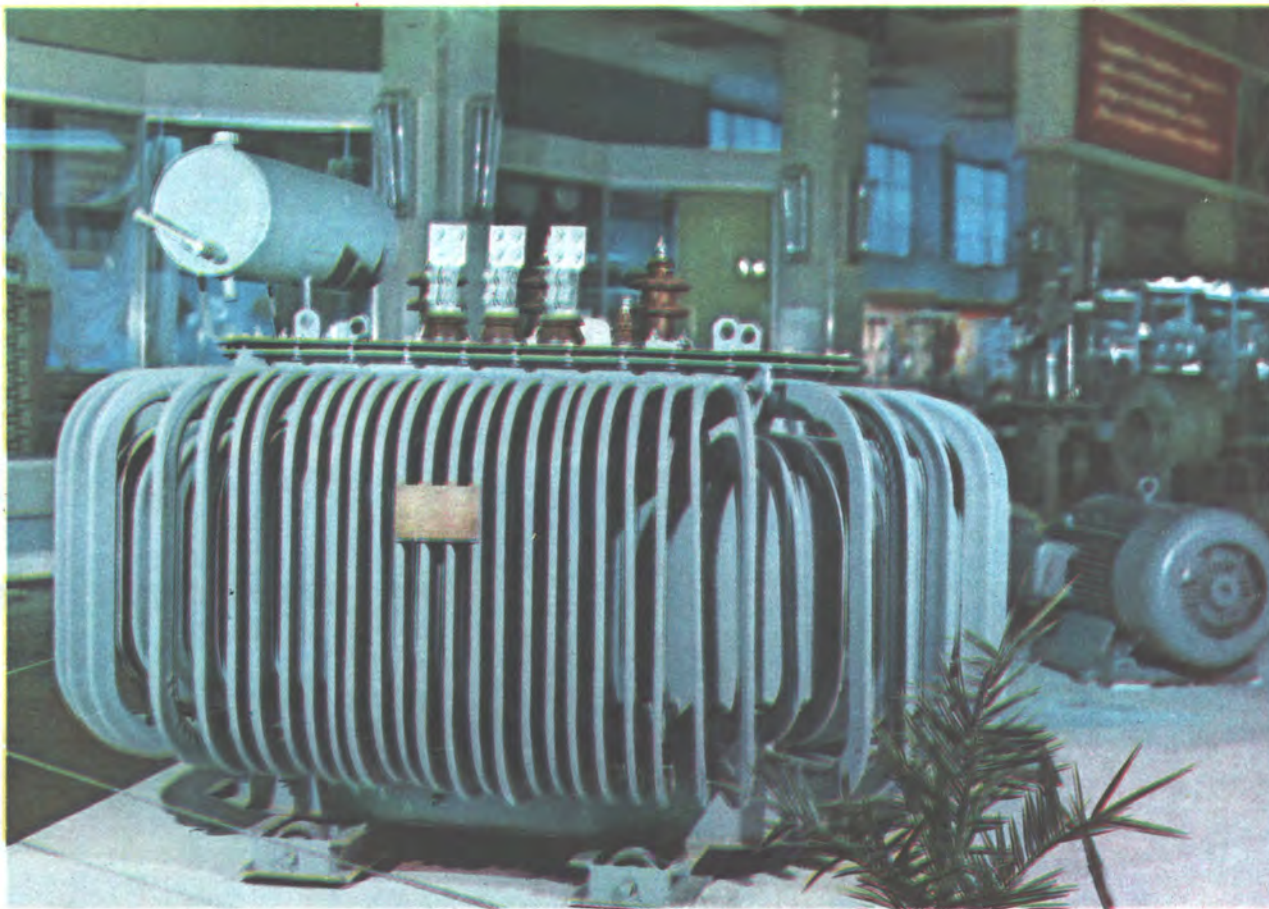
At the foundry of the «Traktori» plant in Tirana.

1800 KW transformer produced at the Electro-Mechanical Plant in Tirana.

The Geological Plant in Tirana produces geological drilling-rigs.

Spare parts produced in our engineering plants.

Spare parts for tractors produced in the «Traktori» plant.





The new panorama of the village of Moglica

REBIRTH OF

View of the meeting on the occasion of the completion of work of building the new village.





Comrade Mehmet Shehu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PSR of Albania taking part in the joy of the peasants of Moglica

A VILLAGE

The young Moglicans expressed their joy in their dances. Photo: P. Cici



On February 15th this year, at the village of Moglica in the Korça district in southeastern Albania, the first signs of a landslide appeared. It engulfed and destroyed forty-four houses and economic and social-cultural buildings. There were no casualties, but the whole village had to be abandoned.

During those days of natural catastrophe, the villagers of Moglica felt the great and immediate care of the Party and of the People's State Power. Steps were at once taken to eliminate the consequences of the landslide.

On March 4, by special decree, the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, while expressing to the inhabitants its deep regret at the damage caused by the landslide, informed them that in order to provide them with immediate assistance, it had decided that the houses and economic and social-cultural buildings should be built in the vicinity of the centre of the Moglica locality and the work would be completed within the month of April. The decree emphasized that all the costs would be met by the State.

As a token of socialist fraternal solidarity, army men, cooperative members and workers from the enterprises in Korça and the neighbour-districts of Gramsh and Skrapar came to the assistance of those affected by the landslide. Over a thousand volunteers, various specialists from twenty agricultural economies of the Korça district, went to take part in building the new village. Thus, on May Day, the new village of Moglica with 94 apartments, the secondary school, and other economic and social-cultural buildings was completed and the inhabitants moved into their new homes. A pipeline over two kilometers long was built, too, and every apartment has running water laid on. On this occasion the inhabitants of the new village, those of the surrounding villages and the volunteer builders held a celebration meeting. The member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, comrade Mehmet Shehu, had also come to inaugurate the new village and take part in the joy of the villagers who were moving into their new homes. Speaking on this occasion, comrade Mehmet Shehu said that the construction of the new village of Moglica is an expression of the implementation of the correct line of the Party of Labour of Albania, of the unity of the people round the Party, and a victory of our socialist order in which the principle of "one for all and all for one" is applied.



Our people hold the martyrs of the nation, those who fell in the bloody battles against the fascist invaders and local traitors for the liberation of the country and the establishment of our People's State Power, in profound love and respect. And this is expressed in a special way on May 5th each year, which is dedicated to the martyrs of the National-liberation War.

May 5th is connected with an heroic event from the days of the war. On May 5th, 1942, the Italian fascists, who were in feverish pursuit of the revolutionary activity of the Albanian communists operating underground, fell on the tracks of one of the most distinguished militants, the member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Albania and Political Secretary of the Communist Youth of Albania, Qemal Stafa. Surrounded by the evil forces of fascism, the twenty-one year old communist fought with exemplary heroism until he gave his life for the cause of the freedom of the Homeland and the ideals of the Party. Qemal's sacrifice became a fiery call which inspired seventy thousand partisans to take up arms and hurl themselves into the fight. Twenty-eight thousand martyrs laid down their lives for freedom.

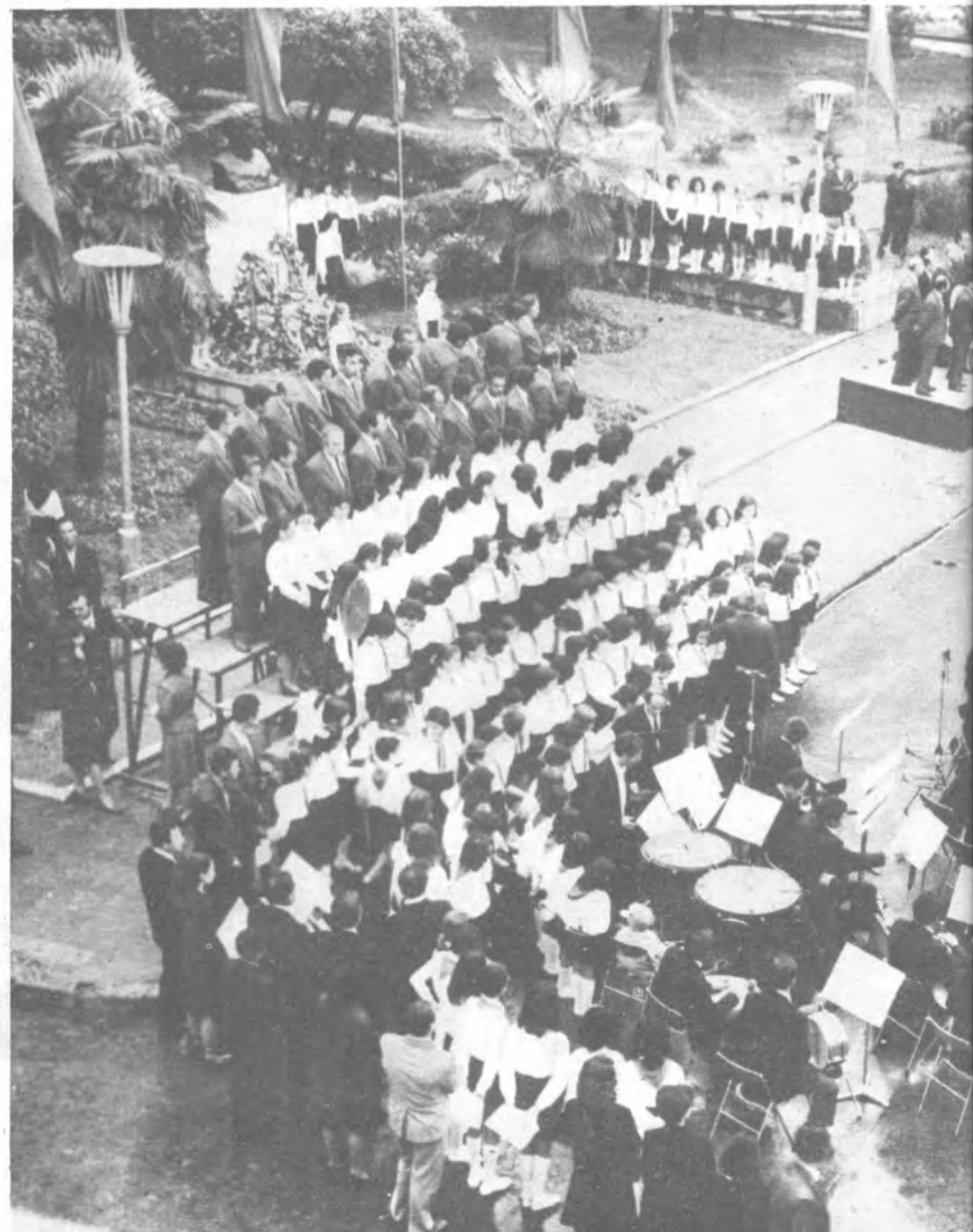
On May 5th this year, the country awoke with a profound sense of the immortality of those who fell, of those about whom the words of a popular song say: "Their mothers bore them to build a New World".

With solemn steps and with pride and grief in their hearts, thousands of people go to the cemeteries where they lie, to the statues, memorials, and commemorative plaques erected to those 'who fell for freedom. There they lay fresh flowers. They stand in silence, bowed in veneration to the immortal deed of the martyrs. Grey headed veterans honour their comrades-in-arms, their commissars, and rank and file partisans who fell heroically, leaving as

FOREVER A

On May 5, 1977, homage was paid and wreaths were placed on the martyrs' graves. Photo M. Progonati

The most beautiful bouquets for those who fell for the liberation of the Homeland



their final behest words which sprang from their hearts: «Long Live The Party», «Long Live Free Albania», «Long Live Communism!» Heroic mothers bow their heads in silence for the sons and daughters whom they nurtured with love for this land, who they rocked in their cradles to songs of valour, kindling in their hearts hatred for the enemy who came to put our homes to the torch, to murder our children and to enslave us.

Solemn and thoughtful on this May 5th, are the worker building the powerful Fierza Hydro-electric plant on the Drini river, the steel-worker at the smelting furnace at Elbasan, the young pioneer sitting at his desk with the red scarf around his neck, the cooperative peasant in the wheat fields and the soldier standing ready to defend our socialist victories. All of them, Albania itself, honour the great memory of its sons and daughters who laid not flowers, but their lives, their blood and their noble dreams on the foundations of our Republic. Mother Albania lays wreaths for them and says: «Through the centuries we shall remember the martyrs».

«The Martyrs of Albania how splendid they were, gave their lives for freedom» is a song the people sing. The years roll on, but we feel them near, close to our hearts, as though they were alive among the living. We greet them from the monuments we have raised for them. The streets we walk on, our factories and schools bear their names; they are amongst us three-hundred-sixty-five days of the year; their ideals are our ideals; the flag we uphold is dyed with their blood. That blood is precious. From it grow the flowers of the joy of our people, their blood became light. The voice of this long suffering land, the voice of the poverty-stricken people, the call of the Party aroused them. They sprang to their feet, took up arms, and said to the nazi-fascist enemies and the traitors «Halt!» Bare-foot and

hungry, in frost and snow, but warmed by the great fire of the ideal of the Party and the love of the people, they defied death, and wrote a glorious epic inscribed with unprecedented heroism which inspires the generations. And each time May 5th comes round we recall with new vigour the truth, the lesson of history, that it was bloodshed, the gun, which brought our freedom, and that freedom is defended with bloodshed through the barrel of the gun. This is resounding more powerfully than ever in our days when the wild imperialist-revisionist waves are crashing against our socialist stronghold in order to extinguish the light of our lives, our beacon light, and when the two super-powers are threatening and preparing to set the world ablaze. But we stand with our eye on the target and our finger on the trigger, guarding the revolution. Never for a moment do we relax our vigilance, for we do not want a repetition of our bitter past, we do not want to insult the memory of our martyrs. As the guarantee of all guarantees we have the Party headed by our beloved leader, comrade Enver Hoxha, which gives us strength and life, which guides us and makes us feel invincible. The people on their feet! the Party in the lead! We are a partisan detachment under siege. The course and deeds of those who fell make us more courageous, loyal, and vigilant, clear our minds and give us fresh inspiration.

Our free people, with the Party in the forefront made the solemn pledge, gave their word of honour at the grave-side of the martyrs, that they would build Albania as the twenty-eight thousand torch-bearers, the immortal sons and daughters of people's heroism dreamed of it. And so it happened. «Martyrs raise your heads and see the blessings», say the people in one of their dramatic songs. You should see Albania, beautiful and strong, unafraid amidst the storm, with its freedom and independence which it guards like the apple of its eye, with its

factories and electric lights, with its own bread and steel, with its schools and songs, with its rates of development. The Party has made it flower, has brought it out of darkness into light. With their Party in the lead our people healed the wounds of the war, of the age-long misery, crushed the attempts at subversion and drained the swamps, are building and guarding socialism relying on their own inexhaustible efforts, thoughts and energies. We are forging ahead and it seems to us that the shining eyes of those who fell are watching us from the distant trenches of the war. We have enriched their dreams and launched them in a thousand beautiful colours and brought them to life. New names of martyrs and heroes, of the martyrs and heroes of labour, of the sons and daughters of the Party and the revolution, have been added to theirs. The youth are brought up and nurtured with their great heroism. The epic and majesty of our Anti-fascist National-liberation War, the heroism of our own times when we are clashing with savage and cunning enemies, are great schools of education for all.

While honouring the memory of its own sons and daughters, internationalist Albania bows with deep respect and honour in memory of those who have fallen for freedom and socialism everywhere on all continents. While placing wreaths of flowers where the bones of the fallen are resting, whose names and deeds live on like a great, undying fire in the hearts of the people, while visiting the homes of their mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, in our minds we hear the echo of these words of comrade Enver Hoxha: «Brave comrades! We do not weep today; our hearts are as stout as yours were to the last, but all the Albanian people, with you in their hearts and always guided by the memory of you and your sacrifices, your heroism, your self abnegation, will march forward to fulfil to the end the objectives for which you never spared your lives».

This is our pledge.

MONGST US

Commemorative meeting before the bust of the Hero of the People, Qemal Stafa, in Tirana. Photo: N. Xhufka



The creation of a new culture, the spreading of it among the broad masses, the revolutionary ideological formation of the working people, is one of the most fundamental tasks of the construction of socialism and, at the same time, one of the greatest achievements following the people's revolution.

More than three decades have passed since the day when our people, led by the Party of Labour of Albania, embarked on the road of the cultural revolution — sufficient time to draw up some conclusions and to discover some of its distinctive characteristics.

The first characteristic of our cultural revolution, that which immediately strikes the eye from analysis of the factors which have conditioned its success, is that it began and developed as a consequence of the socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat led by the Communist Party.

Second, a characteristic of the cultural revolution, one brilliant result of it, is **the free participation, in ever growing proportions of the broad masses of the people in the frontal progress of technology, science, art and culture in general.** The creative capacities, the talents of the people, once hampered and stifled, are now able to express themselves and develop freely. Through their efforts and talent, the masses have become the decisive factor of the cultural revolution which is taking place in our country.

The ultimate reason for the unprecedented extension of the decisive role of the masses in the development of culture too, should be sought in the elimination of oppression and the exploitation of man by man, as well as in the place the masses occupy in the system of socialist material production, where they are not only the decisive productive force but also the decisive responsible, organizing and directing force as well. Socialism stripped work of its drudgery once and for all and restored to it all its intrinsic moral and intellectual values. The creative activity in the most varied fields of art, in song, dance, theatre, variety, in which thousands of workers and peasants, young men and young women take part, most of them without training in art schools is evidence of the great art latent in the bosom of the people, of the marvellous artistic talents of our people which were waiting for the moment when they could burst free and pour out in a torrent.

At all times our people have been creative and they continue to create today, but in the conditions of the socialist construction, their creative works are radically different from those of the past. Freed from oppression and exploitation, today, our people enjoy ever increasing well-being, have more free time at their disposal, and this allows them to concern themselves more and more with the problems of culture. The principle that before you can philosophize you must have food and drink, is of special importance in this field. Besides this, the participation of the masses in cultural work enjoys the aid, support and organization of many specialized institutions and of the whole society in general. And finally, our culture is no longer created by masses who had never been inside a school but by masses who have an ever higher educational and cultural level. This brings about that, with **the transition to socialism, the decisive creative role of the masses in the field of culture increases and manifests itself in broad proportions. This means that in socialism the people's culture is raised to new, high levels never seen before.**

Third, another characteristic of the cultural revolution, another of its brilliant results, is **the elimination of the cultural monopoly of the feudal-bourgeoisie, the changing of culture from the monopoly of a select minority, a limited elite, into the property of the broad masses.** It is a fact that in antagonistic society the working masses have developed themselves intellectually mainly through their work and productive activity, while they have received just as much schooling, theory and science as the exploiting ruling classes have needed to exploit them more thoroughly. The socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat put an end to this situation once and for all. Education, theory and science have been returned to the working masses, to those who, with their efforts and talents, keep socialist society alive and carry it forward in all directions.

The years of our People's State Power have been years of a real offensive by an entire people, young and old, men and women to master technology, to conquer the bastions of knowledge, of arts and science, to turn our whole life into culture. The stages of the ceaseless march towards culture, expressions of its successes are the total elimination of illiteracy, the compulsory eight-year schooling, the abolition of religious teaching, the creation of higher education, the flowering of art in all its variety, song and dance, painting and sculpture, comedy and drama. The educational and cultural reality of our society is expressed by the following significant figures: whereas in 1938, the total number of pupils and students attending school was 56,000, today that number has risen to 700,000 which means that one-third of the population attend school.

Fourth, the cultural revolution does not aim at the educational and intellectual development or at the rejuvenation and progress of the life of only a minority of the population, of only one social stratum, to the detriment of the broad masses, or of only the cities to the detriment of

THE SOCIALIST CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CULTURE

Prof. ZIJA XHOLI

the countryside. Its task is to ensure that education becomes the property of all, that the cultured life is taken up by everybody and enters every household, not only in the cities but also in the countryside, without creating special positions and privileges for any individual or stratum, a task which it is accomplishing better and better every day.

But the most fundamental characteristic of our cultural revolution, that which sets the tone for our education and culture and which marks a real revolution in them is their socialist content, their frankly Marxist-Leninist socialist tendentiousness.

Our socialist culture, like every other culture closely linked with classes and in the service of their struggle, cannot stand aloof from ideology and not be inspired by ideology. There is not, and never can be, any culture standing aloof from or above ideology. Culture for culture's sake, pure culture, is simply a fraud which the bourgeoisie and the revisionists perpetrate in order to create that culture which best serves their selfish class interests. Therefore, the whole problem is not that culture should be divorced from ideology, for this is impossible, but that it must be based on the revolutionary ideology of the proletariat in opposition to the reactionary ideology of the bourgeoisie.

The Party of Labour of Albania strives to have no culture which is divorced from the mission of developing and perfecting the revolutionary ideological outlook of the working people and, on the other hand, to have no revolutionary ideological formation which is not based on the broadest and most accurate knowledge. **This makes the cultural revolution part and parcel of the ideological revolution, makes them two sides of a single process, the process of the revolutionary education and re-education of the working people, the process of the formation of the new man of socialist society.**

Naturally, the creation of the new socialist culture, the revolutionary ideological formation, immediately raised the problem of what to do about classical culture, the world culture heritage and, first and foremost, the culture of our own people, with their customs and traditions.

In the cultural revolution, the Party of Labour of Albania has faithfully followed the teachings of Lenin, who stressed that one can emerge from darkness only by utilizing the whole treasury of world culture, all the valuable achievements which mankind has created under the yoke of capitalist society, of the society of landlords and of bureaucrats. From its very first steps, our culture has striven consistently to take from world culture whatever is revolutionary and scientifically sound, whatever responds best to the requirements of the stage of development of our country. Consistently adhering to this orientation, our culture

has maintained and continues to maintain a critical, stand towards world culture, taking from it only its scientific, materialist, democratic and popular ideas, and discarding its clerical, mystical idealist ideas, and any others which implant lack of confidence in life and man, which look down upon work and the working masses, which justify oppression, exploitation and obscurantism.

No matter how valuable the world cultural heritage may be, it is insufficient for the education and formation of the man of our society. In this, the first place is, and should be, occupied by the cultural heritage and traditions of our own people. In culture, too, the communists combine the most consistent internationalism (they prize the progressive culture created by every people) with the purest of patriotism (they are the most ardent champions of the culture and traditions of their own people).

In place of the nihilist policy of denigration towards the culture and tradition of our people pursued by the reactionary ruling classes of the old, overthrown feudal-bourgeois order, the working class and its Marxist-Leninist Party have worked out a new policy, the policy of defending, preserving, and further enriching the popular culture and the first traditions of our people. At the foundation of this policy and the rich experience of our people in this field, are the Marxist-Leninist ideas of comrade Enver Hoxha, that our people have created a culture and art of a clear national character which constitutes a priceless heritage which must be kept pure and developed further; that the new socialist culture is linked with a thousand threads with the culture of the people; that the revolutionary content of the new socialist culture has not dropped like manna from heaven, nor has it been brought in a suitcase from abroad, but it has been inherited from our forefathers, its foundations are deep in the people; that the study of the cultural traditions of our people is not done simply for the purpose of knowing the past of our people but also for the purpose of learning from the experience of our forefathers in conformity with the new conditions and requirements of our socialist society; and finally, that a critical class attitude should be maintained towards the culture and traditions of our people from the past, on the basis of the idea that every creative work of every epoch has been tendentious, is inspired by the ideas of the time, bears the brand of the class struggle and of the ideology of its own time, therefore, it cannot be taken as a whole and inserted into the new life and culture just as it is.

Socialist culture is not something in itself, created apart from the people and handed to them from outside, but a culture indissolubly linked with them, which responds to their requirements, their spirit, and their traditions. There is no socialist culture in general, no culture created by someone which can be served up ready to any nation which is building socialism, but a socialist culture of a given nation which gives it its richness and this does not consist simply of its form, but enters deep into the content of this culture. **Socialist culture, taken in its broadest sense, has emerged and developed in close collaboration with the culture of the people. In its essence it is a socialist and a national culture.**

Guided by the teachings of comrade Enver Hoxha, our socialist culture is proving in practice that **proletarian partisanship**, which requires that every cultural manifestation must be viewed from the angle of the interests of the working class and analyzed from the standpoint of Marxist-Leninist ideology, and the **national tradition**, which requires that everything good and valuable, everything close to the aspirations of the workers, created by the people in the past, must be preserved, far from opposing each other, are, on the contrary complementary and dialectically linked with each other. Our socialist culture is enriched by the great artistic, ideo-philosophic values which our people have brought to culture, while through the socialist culture, the rational tradition is cleansed of negative elements which may have penetrated it under the influence of negative economic and social factors of the past, and is further enriched with the new experience which has emerged under socialism.

Our concern to discover, uphold and evaluate the best traditions of one's own people's culture also stems from a political demand, from the demand to ensure the free development of the people, which is the first premise of any genuine socialist construction. The attempts, which the two super-powers are making today in one way or another, to impose their own language, as allegedly the best language, their own culture, as allegedly the richest culture, their pretensions that culture today is moving towards its «internationalization», towards the disappearance of specific cultures, implying the Americanization or Russification of the cultures of the other peoples, are in essence, expressions of the national egotism and great state chauvinism of the two super-powers, their favorite means for the conquest of the peoples and establishing their hegemony. Therefore, under these circumstances, faced with the imperialist designs of the two superpowers, the revolutionary Leninist principle must be stressed and applied that for the life and existence of each nation, political vigilance and ensuring its defence from any armed aggression and the preservation of its cultural identity and mother tongue are equally important. If a people loses its cultural physiognomy, if it

does not hold on to its traditions, if it allows its mother tongue to be forgotten, it has ceased to be a nation in itself.

If we oppose the ideological and cultural aggression of the bourgeois-revisionist world, we do this in the name of freedom and independence, in the name of the correct and rapid development of our socialist culture, but by no means in the name of national exclusiveness. National narrowness and xenophobia are alien to our revolutionary ideology and our new culture. Our socialist culture has utilized and continues to utilize the progressive culture of all peoples, but not by sacrificing our mother tongue, the best traditions, and the cultural heritage of our own people, but while emphasizing and prizing them. With this heritage our people will take their place in world culture. Any other assimilation of the culture of one people by another, made to the detriment of the national language and finest national traditions, under whatever name it is called, is, in reality, a chauvinist design to impose the domination and hegemony of one nation over other nations, whether they live within a multi-national state or are separated by national boundaries.

What does the traditional culture of the people, with which the new socialist culture is linked, represent? What has our nation contributed in the field of culture?

Our people came to power and to real freedom with a rich material, social and spiritual cultural heritage. In it are expressed the people's capacity to live on, indomitable in any circumstances, no matter how difficult, their talent and unextinguishable desire for a free and independent life without oppression and exploitation. But the extremely difficult historical circumstances under which they had to fight for their very existence, the anti-national and anti-popular ideological pressure and influence of the invaders and the reactionary classes, on the background of the great backwardness and poverty, are also expressed in it. These circumstances make the culture we have inherited from the past a mixture of progressive and reactionary elements, with light and darkness. However, the progressive values exceed the non-progressive ones in force and breadth, the elements of light greatly predominate over those of darkness. It is the progressive values which give the culture of our people its characteristic tone. This distinctive characteristic of the culture of our people has its own explanation which is, as comrade Enver Hoxha stresses, «through the centuries, the people of our small country have always been guided by the progressive ideas of liberty and the defence of liberty, by the ideas of just wars against oppressors, against the rapacious imperialist ideologies of foreigners».

Our people have been obliged to lead an intensive life in their struggle for existence and self-defense, have had to face up all sorts of events. Naturally they have had to act and think, to create a definite concept about many phenomena of nature and life, about griefs and joys. For well-known reasons they have not done this in writing, have not fixed it in books or treatises, but have formulated it by word of mouth, transmitting and enriching it from one district to another, from one generation to another for centuries on end. This has made up our wealth of folklore, which is our unwritten encyclopedia, a living testimony of the talent and wisdom of our people. The historian and philosopher, the anonymous writer and artist, speak collectively through hundreds of legends and songs of heroes, through thousands of aphorisms and proverbs, through thousands upon thousands of songs of valour and love, of work and exile, of weddings and deaths. This remains an immortal monument of the culture of our people, a source of learning and inspiration for the artist and the writer, for the philosopher and thinker of our own days, for the new socialist culture as a whole.

At the present time, when anti-communist ideology has swamped the book market and audiences in the bourgeois-revisionist world, when hideous fashions and decadent trends in art and literature are assailing the tastes of the youth and the masses from all sides, the reality of the new culture of our people assumes a special value and significance. By its existence and flowering it is showing that the present decadent and degenerate culture is not an inevitable evil from which no one can escape. Meanwhile, in its practice, our culture shows how the bourgeois revisionist ideological aggression can be coped with, how a culture in the service of the liberation of the working people from oppression and exploitation, a culture which will preserve the real values of the people and raise them to a higher level and oppose everything which degrades man morally, aesthetically and philosophically, can be created.

The national features, the national background of socialist culture, the appreciation of the cultural heritage created by our people, are that force which in culture facilitates and accelerates the cultural revolution, while in politics it helps the people get a better appreciation of their own value and strength, to cope better with any aggression from whatever direction it may come. Indeed, this is the most important function and the most profound meaning of every genuine culture — **to help the people to recognise their own worth, to multiply their efforts in their struggle for a better and more just life, in their struggle for socialism and communism.**



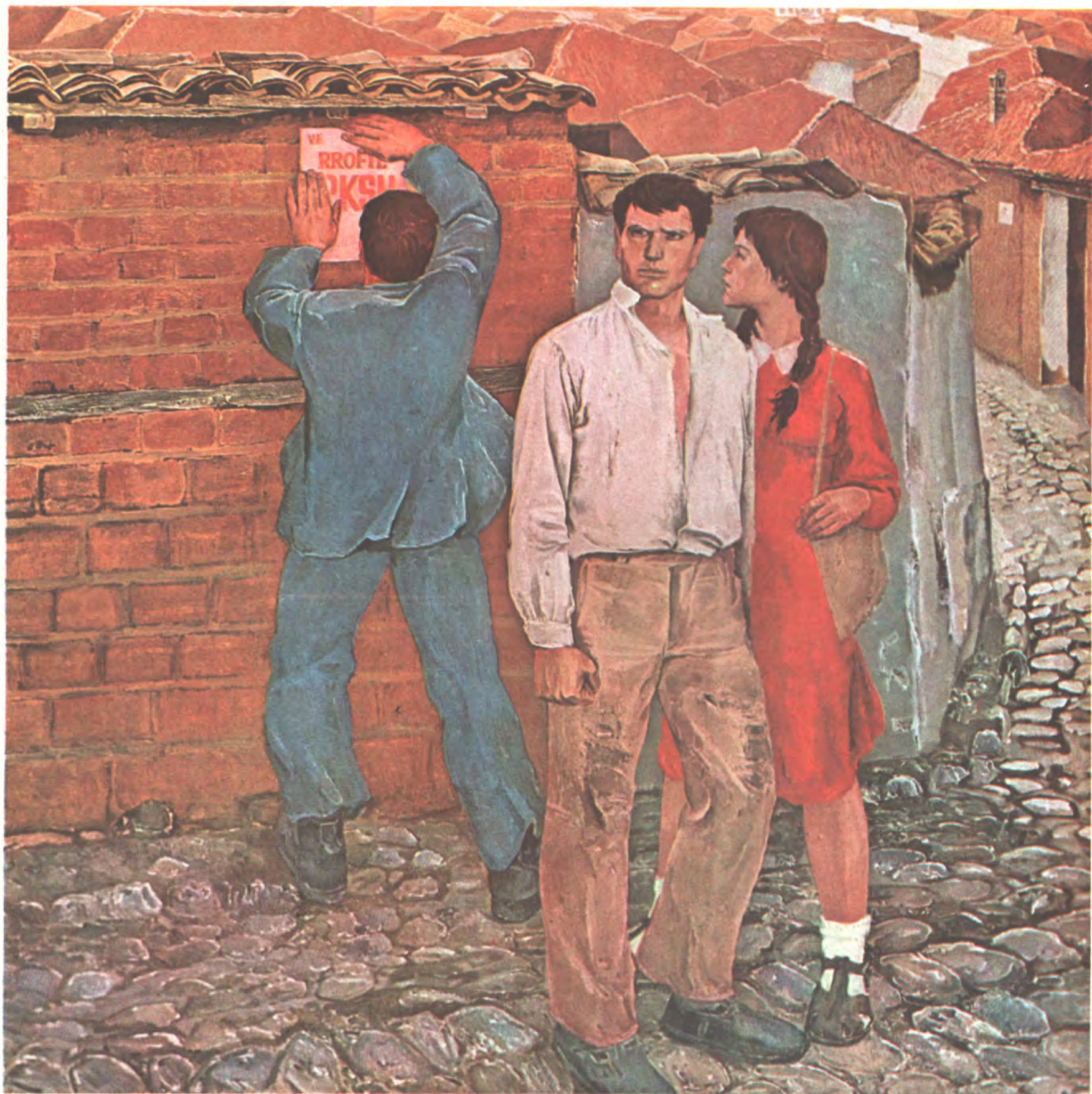
Abdurrahim Buza: «The Barricades of Tirana» (80.8 x 55.5 cm.) — oil



Hasan Nallbani:
«Patriot Lace Backa's Çeta»
(107 x 125 cm) — oil.
Lace Backa was the leader
of the çeta of the Skrapari
district in southern Albania
which fought against
the Ottoman occupiers
during the period
from 1900 to 1912
and later against
other foreign invaders.

AT THE GALLERY OF FIGURATIVE ARTS

Shaban Hysa: «The leaflet» (152 x 160 cm) — oil.





A FRENCH WOMAN WRITES ABOUT THE ALBANIAN WOMEN

The book «Albanian Women» (Des Albanaises) by Annick Miské, a French journalist, Director of Studies at the Institute of Social Problems and a friend of our country, has been published in France.

During her visits in Albania Annick Miské has gained first-hand knowledge of the work and life of the Albanian people, and of the successes they have scored in all fields of the socialist construction of the country. «The things I saw in Albania» she writes in her book, «are not theory, but the living reality of a people, men, women and children, who are building socialism».

As a progressive woman who is acquainted with the exploitation of women in the capitalist countries of Europe and in Africa where she lived for some years, Annick Miské is deeply impressed by the successes achieved in Albania, especially in the field of the emancipation of women. She has viewed the Albanian reality objectively, pointing out in her book some of the directions which led our women to a high level of emancipation and opened brilliant prospects to them.

In the Albanian experience the authoress sees the concretization of the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the true emancipation of women can be realized only if the oppression and exploitation which are based on private property are done away with, and that it is guaranteed by their large-scale participation in the productive social work and in political life.

Annick Miské stresses the fact that the creation of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania was the main factor in the struggle for the emancipation of women. The Party has not only preserved the ancient tradition of the struggles of the Albanian people and the Albanian women for freedom and independence, but enriched it with a new socialist content.

While describing the practice of our revolutionary life in all the stages which the socialist construction in Albania has traversed, in admiring terms, the writer points out that the emancipation of women was not achieved easily, that it was achieved in struggle with the difficulties of growth, as a constituent part of the revolution and the overall struggle which the Party wages for the creation of the new man, «not only in ideology, but also in his conduct and everyday attitude... Socialist Albania did not wait for the emancipation of women to become 'fashionable', before it concerned itself with this problem: the emancipation of women was considered as an integral part of the socialist revolution» she writes. In her book she emphasizes the special concern which the leader of our people and Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha, has shown for the problem of the emancipation of women and quotes excerpts from the broad exchange of letters which took place between the people and the Party after February 6, 1967. She writes also about the role which the Women's Union of Albania, along with other organizations of the masses, plays as a lever of the Party in successfully advancing the struggle for the emancipation of women and of our society as a whole.

Viewing the emancipation of women as a constituent part of the revolution, Annick Miské also presents a tableau of the organization of our socialist society where all live and work in the spirit of love and respect for one another, where everybody, including the pensioner and the child has his own place in the struggle for the construction of socialism, where a people who feel that they are masters of the country, live and work.

In her book, Annick Miské gives a truthful description of the Albanian experience which has confirmed that the «struggle for the emancipation of women is a constituent part of the struggle for the liberation of society as a whole». She concludes her book saying: «If they wish to have an idea as to what they are able to do and what they can contribute to the world once they break all the shackles, women will find it worthwhile to follow up the Albanian experience... The example of the Albanian women who have made a breach in the old, unjust, patriarchal order, should make us think about our own position, comparing it with that of these women who, in 1944, were the most oppressed women in Europe».



A poster published in Athens about the Albanian Film Week

ALBANIAN FILM WEEK IN GREECE

Albanian film week in Athens lasted from May 16 to May 22 this year.

The first program included the films «Four Songs for the Party», «In Defence of Health», «Our Art Through the Centuries» and «In Kelmendi».

In his address on the occasion of the opening of Albanian Film Week producer K. Unevergos, after outlining the development of Albanian cinematography during the thirty years of its activity, emphasized that Albania, guided by its distinguished leader, comrade Enver Hoxha, stands in the forefront of the struggle against the two super-powers and is a worthy example to the other peoples.

During the week the films were seen by about 6,000 persons of various walks of life — workers, students, people of art and culture, journalists and others. At all the performances the films were very well received on account of the fine content and artistic realization. There were repeated bursts of applause.

In the book of impressions many of those who saw the films expressed their satisfaction at the achievements attained by our people. Many others expressed their desire to have these and other similar films shown in all the cinemas of their country, and so on.

A number of Greek newspapers wrote about Albanian Film Week.

On May 22nd, Albanian Film Week in one of the biggest cinemas of Athens, came to an end.

Because of the great interest shown by the public, screenings of the films «Four Songs For the Party» and «The Final Winter» continued even after the close of the Albanian Film Week.

PUBLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN

SHPRESA VRETO
Editor-in-Chief of the «FATOSI»
magazine

Publications for children are occupying an ever increasing place in our bookshops and libraries. This is connected with the rapid development of our literature for children, which, in itself, is one of the important victories on the front of our socialist culture. This literature has now become an inseparable part of the spiritual life of the children.

Since 1973, apart from translations from foreign authors, hundreds of different books for children have been published in our country. They include poems, stories and fables, novels and romances. During these recent years about twenty novels, romances and poems for children have been published. Since a number of authors have now produced a wide range of works of a high ideological and artistic level, publication of a series of selected works for children has begun.

In addition, during these years almost all the classical works of world literature in this field have been translated.

Our publications for children are divided according to age-groups: for the pre-school up to 6 years, for those attending the lower cycle of the 8-year school, up to 10 years, and for the young pioneers (the higher cycle of the 8-year school) up to 14 years. Of course, this is connected not only with the mental capacity of the children, but also with the forms and various stages of the educational work done by the school and the pioneers' organization. For the children of these age groups illustrated periodicals are published, too. «Yllkat» (the starlets) is published for kindergarten children, under the auspices of the Institute of Pedagogical Studies. The fortnightly «Fatosi» and «Pionieri», are published by the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union of Albania for the six to ten year olds and young pioneers. The two former publications are mainly of a literary-artistic character while the latter, «Pionieri» is of a political-social literary-artistic and technological-scientific character. «Skena e Fëmijëve» (the Children's Stage) is also published by the Central House of Popular Creativeness with plays, sketches and so on.

The first paper for children, «Pionieri», was published illegally in 1943. During the year following the liberation of the country it was still a small paper brought out mainly by young writers, former pioneers who had just laid down the rifle. The publication of «Fatosi», «Skena e Fëmijëve» and the magazine



Young friends of books Photo: B. Fusha

«Yllkat», began some years later.

Thus the creation of the new literature for children began during the years of the anti-fascist war, as a reflection of the new aspirations and ideals which the people's revolution brought to the life of the people and of the younger generation in particular. It played a major role in inculcating feelings of patriotism, and hatred for the enemy, and in inspiring optimism about the aims of freedom and a happier life. This literature has followed the socialist development of the country step by step, echoing the major problems of the times. With the constant objective of enriching its content and raising its artistic quality, it has dealt with the theme of love for the Homeland and social-

ism, and has exerted an influence on the inculcation of lofty moral virtues, respect for tradition, devotion to work, to knowledge and so on.

The publication of books is inseparable from the distribution and use of them. In the library of every district centre there is a children's section, and there are similar children's sections in the libraries of the houses and centres of culture in the villages, as well as the libraries in houses and palaces of the pioneers. Every school has its library which is financed by the state. A great deal of work is done in the schools and young pioneers' organizations to educate children with love for books. The Central Committee of the Labour Youth

Union of Albania, in collaboration with the libraries, organizes the movement, «The Young Book-lover», literary-artistic compositions for young writers, and so on.

To respond to the ever growing demands of young readers, the publication of books adapted from adult literature has been organized recently. Such novels as «The Castle», «They Were Not Alone», «The Bronze Bust», «The Epic of the Balli Kombëtar», «Again On His Feet», and others, are in the course of preparation.

With a view to enriching and further developing the literature for children, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the League of Writers and Artists have repeatedly organized national competitions.

TRAINING CHILDREN W

BEDRIE TARE
Director of the Institute for Deaf Mute Children



Free conversation
in the hearing room.



Learning to develop
the power of speech.



Now even this
blind girl can read.



Blind students
in the metal work room.

Our school is a special one where deaf mutes and blind children are trained. This Institute takes such children from all over the country. Its objective is to develop the capacities of the deaf-mutes and blind children and train them to be active members of our socialist society. The State has provided all the necessary facilities to carry out this great humanitarian task. A specially equipped boarding school has been built. A large staff of capable people, one for every four children, is employed for their training. All the expenses including clothing, books and other school accessories are paid by the State.

The staff members play the role of both parent and teacher. The children come to our school at the age of 7 and since they lack the sense of hearing or of sight they feel very shy and there are cases when they want to return to their families. But these difficulties are soon overcome because they are surrounded with warmth and affection from the teachers and the older children. Thus, with the passing of time, they become accustomed to the classrooms, laboratories, the library, dormitories, the diningroom, the social hall and so on.

Great work, based on scientific criteria, is done at the school in order to enable the children to communicate as quickly as possible with their teachers and with one another. This is achieved through very specialized work and means using the most advanced teaching methods of the times. Because of its special nature our school differs in a number of respects from the other 8-grade schools of the country. Deaf mute children receive incomplete 8-grade schooling while blind children acquire complete 8-grade schooling knowledge.

As to its tasks our school has the same tasks as all other schools of the 8-year system of the country. Thus, the aim of our school is not just to make these children communicate with life. The mission of our school is very broad: first and foremost, to train, educate and form these school children as consistent young revolutionaries so that they may go forward in life and society along with all their mates. In order to achieve this, like all the Albanian youth, they are educated through classroom teaching, participation in work and in physical training. In these three ways they acquire the culture of 8-year schooling and receive rudimentary training for the vocations to which they are attached.

The school has a very good material basis to enable it to carry out its syllabus of lessons and educational work. The classrooms are equipped with semi-circular tables and with a number of special teaching accessories. The pupils use special textbooks which constitute the basis of the normal development of the teaching and educational process. In order to form and develop speaking among deaf children we combine the work of pronunciation with that of enriching the vocabulary. At the beginning we use collective mimicry to replace oral speaking and writing. Speech in writing during the preparatory year is combined with dactylic speech. During the following years we resort to the work of developing verbal speech with writing. The two aspects of speech; the pronunciation of phrases and the understanding of what is said by those surrounding them constitute the substance of the special work with these students.

The work of carrying out the program of enunciation is built up on the basis of the

WITH PHYSICAL DEFECTS



The hearing room is equipped with modern apparatus.

special psychological features of the pupils, of the characteristics of their breathing, articulation and voice. For the organization of the methodical work, in certain cases, the teacher also uses auxiliary means. For students with some remnants of hearing, after determining the level of hearing, the work is organized in the hearing laboratory equipped with the necessary apparatus.

So that the blind pupils may assimilate the knowledge of the program of studies they are provided with textbooks printed on the Braille system as well as a rich base of teaching material.

In our school the lessons are aimed at the closest possible linking of theory with practice. For instance, subjects like biology, chemistry and physics have their classrooms and laboratories with a wealth of teaching material and equipment adapted to the conditions of our school where the pupils make observations in order to get a better understanding of the laws of the science which they are learning in theory. The special classroom for biology, geography and physics for the blind is equipped with means in relief. We attach special importance to the vocational training of the pupils in conformity with their age and general development. In order to carry out this objective the school has workshops equipped with the necessary tools, instruments and mechanisms, especially for woodwork, tailoring, metalwork etc. The pupils themselves make useful products. The blind pupils are taught to assemble simple electrical and mechanical equipment and to do other jobs. Some of them work in the telephone exchange. For those who are inclined to music, attention is given to teaching them

how to play musical instruments like the piano, the accordion, the chifteli etc.

At school the children are taught all the most necessary things they will need in life. They are taught to cook meals and make cakes and to keep their surroundings clean and tidy.

The pupils themselves, with the help of their teachers, have set up an artistic group. Their performances of songs, dances, recitations and theatrical pieces create a happy atmosphere in the school. They participate with enthusiasm in other social activities as well. In addition to the active games they themselves organize, they follow the programs on TV, the cinema, theatrical performances, go on excursions regularly, frequent the libraries and so on.

After graduation from the school, they are guaranteed employment. Their appointment to jobs is done in an organized way just as for all students who graduate from the various schools of the country, taking into account their wishes and capacities and the situation and needs of their families. Some of them are working in the «Migjeni» artistic products enterprise, in the carpet weaving enterprise, the telephone exchange, the cultural institutions and so on. We are always informed about their work and learn that they are doing well and have found a warm social environment. Most of these students have created their own families and are living happily. They invite their former teachers and school mates to their family celebrations and often come to see us and ask our advice.

Our school now has some experience and we feel that our difficult job is becoming easier and the results better and better.



In the world of sounds



Students learn sewing, too.



One of the dormitories at the hostel.



Most of the students of this school take part in artistic groups

WITH THE ARBERESHI OF CALABRIA DURING THE FIRST WEEK DEDICATED TO ALBANIAN CULTURE

Prof. EQREM ÇABEJ &
JORGO BULO

At the invitation of the editorial board of the magazine «Zjarri», which is published at San Demetrio Corona, we accompanied a group of folk singers and instrumentalists and went to take part in the first «Week of Albanian Culture», organized by the cultural circle of the Arbëreshi in Calabria which like their magazine, bears the symbolic name «Zjarri» (Fire).

Our plane soon left the coast of our Homeland behind and flew towards the shores across the Adriatic, towards those shores to which thousands of Albanians emigrated to escape the yoke of the Ottoman invaders, leaving behind their cherished Homeland but taking with them their unyielding love and yearning for it, the memory of the legendary battles waged under Skanderbeg, their language, traditions and customs, the material and spiritual culture inherited from their ancestors. The aircraft landed on the runway of the Bari aerodrome where the first word of welcome sounds dear and familiar to us in our own language: «Mirë se vini vëllezër!» (Welcome brothers!) It is the director of the magazine «Zjarri» Giuseppe Farako, who met us and accompanied us during our entire stay in the Arbëreshi villages of Calabria, creating the warm atmosphere of their traditional Arbëreshi hospitality for us everywhere. Wherever we went we found this same warm welcome from all the common people with whom we are linked by our Albanian language, traditions and blood.

The road from Bari to San Demetrio where we were expected that same day, was some hundreds of kilometres, mostly along the Ionian coast. As soon as we arrived at the little seaside town of Vila Piana, where we were to be based during our stay, we felt immediately that we were among the Arbëreshi. The town itself is not inhabited by the Arbëreshi but the surrounding villages are Arbëreshi villages and many of their inhabitants came at once to meet us. In the dining room where we were to take our lunch the first thing we heard was a selection of Arbëreshi songs broadcast by the «Skanderbeg» radio station, which interrupted its program to welcome the arrival of the group of singers and scholars from Albania, while in San Demetrio the people had gathered and had been waiting for us for some hours.

The people of San Demetrio and the Arbëreshi from the surrounding villages had filled the main street of San Demetrio, named after «Jerolim De Rada», the central square, and the hall where the first Week of Albanian Culture was to be held. Their first words were, «Welcome Albanian Brothers!» «Long Live Albania!» We heard these words everywhere — words coming from hearts in which through the centuries their love and yearning for the land of their forefathers has been gathering. This yearning has been expressed, better than by anyone else, by the Arbëreshi poets of the Renaissance and is kept alive in the folksongs transmitted from one generation to another, by the common people, who ask, «How is Albania?» like someone asking about his mother. This strong attachment to their original Homeland, their pride in Albania, whose name the new epoch of the Party of Labour has raised to unprecedented heights, their pride in the national traditions of the Albanian people, in the language, customs and virtues

inherited from their ancestors, have always inspired the resistance of the Arbëreshi to ethnic and linguistic assimilation into the surrounding environment.

This was assisted by the organization of the Week of Albanian Culture, the first cultural and scientific manifestation of this kind, the objective of which was to make an evaluation of the traditions of culture, customs, language and costumes of the Arbëreshi settlements in Italy. The program of this week, rich in cultural, folklore and scientific activities, included performances of Arbëreshi songs and dances, of the present day Arbëreshi poetry, the exhibition of Arbëreshi costumes with photographs dressed dolls, papers on the history of the Albanian language, literature and culture, on the history of the Arbëreshi settlers and their role in the struggle for independence, and so on. At one of these scientific sessions dedicated to the history of Albanian literature and the history of the Albanian language, reserved in the program for the reports of the scholars of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, we read our papers, which were followed by a wide audience made up of the representatives of present day Arbëreshi culture, intellectuals, teachers, students, journalists and professors, including Prof. F. Bolano, head of the department of the Albanian language at the University of Cosenza, Prof. G. Farako, Prof. V. Selvagi, Prof. M. Familietti and many others, both men and women, who showed a lively interest in the results of the new Albanian science.

The same interest in Albania, in the development of the new Albanian culture and literature, was shown also, by nearly sixty students of the department of the Albanian language at the University of Calabria at Cosenza, where we also delivered a paper which was followed by a lively discussion about the present processes of artistic and scientific development in Albania.

Of course, the welcome our folklore group received, the extraordinary interest with which its performances were followed, the efforts of the popular groups of the Arbëreshi villages to learn some of the songs of the group from Tirana (some of which had already been learnt by the Arbëreshi), the broad participation in the performances of our group, which were attended by persons of all ages, was also an expression of the interest in our culture, and in our folklore in particular. In each village where our group performed, it was not just the residents of that village who came to see the program, but those of the surrounding Arbëreshi villages. There were many Arbëreshi who attended those performances night after night, following our group from one village to another.

The Arbëreshi public was profoundly moved whenever our artists performed the marvellous songs and melodies of our people, testifying to the high level of our art of socialist realism which develops the finest traditions of our art. And these performances turned to manifestations in which their love of the land of the eagle, their boundless admiration and respect for the Party of Labour and comrade Enver Hoxha were expressed.

To our question as to what part of the po-

pulation of St. Benedict was present at the performance on this square, one of the villagers replied: «All those who are here are here; the others are in emigration (Of course many Arbëreshi emigrate with the hope of coming home again).

The First Week of Albanian Culture crowned with success the effort to make a scientific assessment of the traditions, language and culture of the Arbëreshi in close connection with those of the mother nation and with the traditions they brought from Albania in ancient times. This week was a manifestation of the culture and consciousness of the Arbëreshi, of the traditions inherited from their forefathers, and created the possibilities for them to be refreshed and expressed within the context of a whole movement which is developing among the Arbëreshi to assert, preserve and develop their culture and their ethnic and linguistic individuality.

Another expression of this movement is to be found in the publication of a number of Arbëreshi magazines like «Zjarri» in San Demetrio Corona, «Our Village» in Civita, «The Voice of the Arbëreshi» in Frasnit, and others, or in the invigoration of literary life with the emergence of such writers as Dushko Vetmo, Luka Perrone, Vorea Ujko, Asgostin Giordano and Carmen Kandreva who has recently published a collection of poems under the significant title «The Spirit of the Arbëreshi is Alive». Some of those write prose and some poetry, while other write both.

The present intellectual movement in the world of the Arbëreshi has its roots in the undeniable reality of the preservation of consciousness and pride in the Albanian origin and Albanian traditions among the masses of the Arbëreshi. This is not an artificial creation of a group of intellectuals but the embodiment of the living aspirations of the Arbëreshi not to lose, today, those traditions and characteristic features which they have preserved with such fanaticism during the past five centuries. How alive those traditions are to this very day was shown by the folklore performance organized in San Demetrio on April 17 in which groups from a number of Arbëreshi villages like Makia, Strigari, St. Basil and others participated. These groups, all of which carry a red flag with a double-headed eagle, are made up of men and women in folk costumes, the best carriers of the popular tradition.

At the same time, all the folklore performances we saw at Makia or at Buza, at Frasnit or St. Benedict, showed that the younger generation has inherited and is preserving those traditions, takes pride in them and in the name Arbëresh.

For the Arbëreshi the most pressing problem today is that of their mother tongue. First comes the problem of ensuring by law the right to introduce the teaching of Albanian in schools. For the coming school year this right has been accorded the villages of San Demetrio, San Sophia, and Makia. The winning of this right for all the Arbëreshi villages will crown the long and continuous struggle of the Arbëreshi to preserve and cultivate the language of their forefathers through teaching it in schools.

Immediately after the recognition of this right the question will be raised as to what form of Albanian will be taught in the schools, the present literary form or the Arbëreshi dialect. Discussions on this problem have already begun. Those who uphold the idea of the Arbëreshi dialect proceed, apparently, from the difficulties of a psychological and didactic character which could arise for children who have just started school. The others view the problem from a wider angle. As Prof. G. Farako pointed out in his article written for the magazine «Zjarri», they think that the present Arbëreshi culture can not develop isolated from the culture and language of the mother country. The magazine «Vija» directed by Prof. F. Solano also advocates this program. In its first issue we read «...We want to link our culture with that of the mother country because we are convinced that otherwise it will die out and disappear for ever and we shall be the losers. Therefore the present literary language should be the only language to be used in our paper. We believe there is no other way to enrich and improve the Arbëreshi language and culture except through as close connection as possible with the language and culture of our Mother-

land. The break up of the language is the break up of the nation and the break up of the nation necessary leads to its extinction».

* * *

With its wealth of traditions and outstanding personages of the patriotic and intellectual movement, the Arbëreshi world, which really flowered during the last century, manifests at every step something which takes one to that century which is linked with the immortal names of De Rada, Dorsa, Dara, Serembe, Santor, and numerous other prominent writers, thinkers and patriots.

At San Demetrio, visiting the St Adrian College where De Rada taught for so many years, where Serembe composed his first poems, where all those outstanding exponents of our culture were schooled one's thoughts turn to those days when the Arbëreshi world was swept by the ideas of our National Renaissance and the movement for the liberation of Italy, to which it made an outstanding contribution, over which the Arbëreshi today are rightfully proud.

At Makia, two of the local people, well on in years welcomed our group with a song improvised there and then. The song began with the line «Welcome to our kith and kin!» In this village, the birthplace of the great Arbëresh, De Rada, in his home with windows facing the Flokati or his balcony overlooking the blue sea, at his humble desk where his immortal works first saw the light of day, one gets a better grasp of what great spiritual force has inspired the poet who, in that great poverty, never for a moment ceased his work for the cause to which he had dedicated himself.

Other interesting things awaited us at Mouzat: the house of Variboba, De Rada's niece, Isabella, Rodrigue's daughter at Stringar, the house of the unfortunate poet Serembe and De Rada's grandson, Girolamo de Rada, Zef's son. He is now 96 years old and bed-ridden. When he learned where we had come from he said: «I want to kiss them» and having kissed us he added: «Now let me die!» He has kept many manuscripts by his father and grandfather. Manuscripts have been preserved also by other relatives of the writers of the last century, as well as by contemporary Arbëreshi scholars who have done a great deal of work to collect and publish them, such as F. Solano, G. Skiroi, V. Selvaggi, G. Ferrari, G. Farako and others. Valuable work is being done today also by a group of young scholars at Cosenza in publishing a number of manuscripts which throw new light on Santor as a writer interested in the life of the common people. F. Solano is publishing the full text of Santor's «Emira».

In our contact with the enthusiastic Arbëreshi scholars we got a better knowledge of these manuscripts; it fell to our lot to discover some unknown letters which Serembe sent to De Rada, as well as some letters by outstanding personages of the Arbëreshi world of that time, and not only of the Arbëreshi but also of Europa, like G. Mayer and others, sent to De Rada, photo copies of which we took away with us.

* * *

It is hard to describe in a few lines the impressions gathered during our stay with the Arbëreshi and least of all those gathered at such a manifestation as that of the first Week of Albanian Culture. But of all these impressions one remains indelible — the pride of the Arbëreshi in their mother tongue and traditions, their love for Albania, towards which they look as a man «looks to the sun», as the poet puts it.

SCIENCE

THE ORTHOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY OF THE ALBANIAN LANGUAGE

DEAN ANASTAS DODI

The Orthographic Dictionary of the Albanian Language, published by the Institute of Linguistics and Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, has been put into circulation recently. It contains 32,000 entries and it has been compiled by an editorial commission composed of Prof. A. Kostallari, Prof. M. Domi, E. Lafë and N. Cikuli.

The publication of the Orthographic Dictionary of the Albanian Language is a marked success for Albanian linguistics, because it will make a valuable contribution to further establishment and assimilation of the norms of the national literary language.

Our national literary language, unified and standardized in all its aspects, constitutes a major victory of our people, in the field of socialist culture. Our workers in science, culture and art have found among the people the inexhaustible source, the pure, vivid words, full of vitality. Therefore, the Albanian literary language has remained and will always remain close to the language of the people; it will be enriched from it and will be mastered very readily by the broad masses of the people.

In drawing up and discussing this dictionary valuable assistance has been given also by other workers of linguistics and certain other sciences. While applying the rules of orthography to the most widely used words of the present day Albanian literary language, this dictionary at the same time further elaborates and supplements these rules. It gives ready solution to the problems of the present literary standard, not only as regards spelling but, in many cases, as regard meaning and history.

This dictionary, together with the other linguistic works published in recent times, will help to raise the written and spoken language of our working masses, students, teachers, publishing houses etc., to a higher cultural level. The words in this dictionary are not given only in their primary form but also in other forms of conjugation and declension which present difficult problems in spelling. The accented syllables are also

marked, which assists correct pronunciation in cases where variations have been observed. Each word is accompanied by certain grammatical notes and its morphological indicators are given.

In compiling this dictionary the editorial commission has done good work in the selection of the words, in maintaining a stand towards the variations of spelling, morphology and derivatives of many words and forms of them that have been standardized. This work, based on correct scientific criteria, has been made possible thanks to the accumulation and indexing of the material in the files of the Lexicon of Albanian, as well as to the studies conducted in the various fields of linguistics.

In general, the solutions accepted in this dictionary are based on the same principles which have been adopted in the book «The Orthography of the Albanian Language». In special cases, the spelling of a certain word or group of words has been modified.

«The Orthographic Dictionary of the Albanian Language» contains a relatively extensive vocabulary. It contains not only words of daily use, words of the sphere of culture and art, but also many words of the sphere of terminology which are more frequently used by the workers of the various professions and fields of science and technology.

This greatly broadens the sphere of the use of this dictionary. It is useful not only to the schools, cultural, scientific and artistic institutions, but also to the workers of production in all fields who are interested in speaking and writing correctly, in conformity with the norms of the literary language. But in using this dictionary it is necessary to keep in mind that it is primarily an orthographic dictionary, that is, it is a guide to how to write words.

Only a few years have elapsed since the publication of the book «The Orthography of the Albanian Language» (1973) which was a clear indication of the crystallization of the national Albanian literary language. It marked the end of a long historical stage when the Albanian language was written in two literary variants. For the history of the unified national literary language this constitutes a short period. However if we draw up a balance of the results achieved today we can observe that the successes are great and obvious. The literary language is being mastered rapidly by the broad masses of the people all over the country. Under the favourable conditions of the construction of socialism in our country where schools, science, culture, art and technique are the property of the working masses, the literary language is being spread with unprecedented speed and intensity. This rapid dissemination of the literary language, the interest which the broad masses of the people show in mastering it, increases the responsibility of our workers in linguistics and charges them with further tasks to assist in the most fruitful way, to make the practical assimilation of the standard written word easier. Our society as a whole and especially our schools, teachers and the other workers of the fields of culture, science and art, stand in need of more assistance through publications which analyse and explain problems of the language and its norms, the problems of style, of the purity of the language, protection of it from the influences of alien languages, in a practical way, differentiated according to the age and level of qualification of the readers.

«The Orthographic Dictionary of the Albanian Language» will be a book which will be of great assistance to mastering the norms of literary language and raising written culture to a higher level.



Young Nuri Begataraj, member of the 8th Production Brigade at the Jonufër sector of the «Rinia» State Farm in Vlora



A GREEN AMPHITHEATRE

Some kilometres south of the city of Vlora by the seashore there is a mosaic portrait of a girl. Her head is wrapped in a white kerchief and there is a scarf around her neck. These are typical symbols of our young volunteers whom one sees everywhere today taking part in various mass actions. Beside the mosaic stands a marble slab with the inscription that during the period from 1969 to 1971, eighteen thousand young volunteers of both sexes from all over the country, worked here, on these hills of Jonufër.

Six years have elapsed since then. They came here bringing the drive and enthusiasm of youth and set to work on these scrubcovered hills. Within two years that wild verdure had turned into a gigantic amphitheatre beside the blue Adriatic. The youth from plants and factories, from the fields of agricultural cooperatives and the lecture rooms of the higher

schools, shifted thousands of cubic meters of earth to build hundreds of terraces. Hundreds of hectares were added to the fund of land under cultivation.

Today, about 50,000 citrus-trees, 45,000 olive trees and other fruit trees beautify these terraces and have begun to yield their fruit.

This great terraced block is the fruit of the collective labour of these thousands of young volunteers, a symbol of their patriotism. For them the building of these terraces became a school of the collective spirit, of new acquaintances and friendships. These thriving trees which fill the amphitheatre of Jonufër are fruit of the friendship of our younger generation.

Today, Jonufër is one of the principal sectors of the «Rinia» State Farm of Vlora and one with the brightest prospects. Now it employs permanent workers who, carrying on





the work of the young volunteers, are continuing to change the face of this land. This agricultural enterprise took the name «Rinia» (Youth), because it was created mainly by the youth: eighty per cent of its workers today are below twenty five years of age. It was created in 1961 for the purpose of utilizing these hills of massive plantations of orange, lemon and olive trees. In comparison with the first year of its establishment, its arable land has been increased more than 35 times over, the number of citrus trees more than 47 times. In addition to citrus trees, tens of thousands of olive and other fruit trees and vineyards have been planted here. During the last two years the production of vegetables and livestock farming have made marked progress.

Today, the work here is done mainly by young people who live in the city of Vlora or the nearby village of Radhima.

We were introduced to some of them. Isuf Jaso is the leader of the 8th Brigade. He completed his higher training in agronomy on a State bursary. For thirteen years he has been working with the land and the people. He has 82 people under his charge. His parents have always been engaged in agriculture at Radhima and Isuf decided to carry on this tradition. Work with the plants is his passion. A scientific nucleus has been set up in his brigade, too, and he is in charge of it. Comprised of five persons, it watches the development of the olive and citrus trees and follows up the service carried out on them. Isuf is also a member of the scientific council of the sector. This council sums up and disseminates the positive experience of the different brigades.

With Isuf we met the young man Idai Gjondeda, his fellow villager. Three years ago, he graduated as a middle technician. Now he is engaged in pruning and watering the citrus trees. Idai's parents who are now pensioners, had also been farmers.

Their love for agricultural work has prompted these young people to attend the qualification courses run by their brigades. Most of those who have completed their 8-year schooling are now continuing with their secondary schooling. Today, one out of every six workers is attending secondary school, nearly three-fourths of them the agricultural secondary school. From the sector of Jonufër alone, three hundred young men and women are attending school, 170 of them the part-time agricultural secondary school. However there are also those continuing part-time higher education. Ludmilla Zhibaj is one of them. She is doing the first year of the Faculty of Economics. She works with the seventh Brigade, growing vegetables.

When you leave Vlora, the Jonufër sector begins the long series of green amphitheatres which extends many kilometers to the south until it meets the great blocks of fruit trees of the most southerly coastal region, that of Saranda. The number of lemon, orange, mandarin, olive and other fruit trees has been multiplied many times over in the coastal region of the Vlora district, during the years of our People's State Power. In 1974 alone, fruit trees increased 22 per cent, citrus trees — 31.2 per cent, olive trees — 11 percent as compared with 1960. Citrus production in 1975 was 84.9 percent higher than in 1971 and that of olives — 16 percent.

During the 6th five-year plan the increase in the number of citrus trees will be greater than the total number the whole district of Vlora had before liberation. As compared with the 5th five-year plan the production of other fruit will be 60 percent higher, that of olives — 51 percent, and citrus production 62 to 63 percent higher.

These products are renowned, not only in our home market but also abroad.

▲ There is always activity on the terraces of Jonufer.
Photos by S. Xhillari

▲ Scene of work at Jonufer. Today about 50,000 citrus trees, 45,000 olive trees and thousands of other thriving fruit trees are just coming into production.

THE MARITIME BORDERS OF ALBANIA

M. ANGONI

By decree of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the extent of the territorial waters of our country is set at fifteen nautical miles.

The extension of the territorial waters of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania to fifteen miles does not affect international navigation nor does it encroach upon the interests of the neighbouring countries. Bearing these interests in mind, it is envisaged that the extent of territorial waters at their junction with those of the neighbouring countries will be defined on the basis of bilateral agreements or the median line, principles recognized in international maritime law.

In this decision the economic and defence interests of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania have also been taken into consideration. In line with their policy of world domination and hegemony, the two imperialist superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, are constantly intensifying their aggressive, warmongering activities; their warships are prowling the seas and oceans threatening liberty and independence of the freedom loving peoples and nations. These two imperialist superpowers are the biggest plunderers of resources of the seas and the sea bed which belong to all countries of the world or to individual nations.

Various States of the world have set different limits of their territorial waters in conformity with the specific conditions of each country. These limits have been set at 3, 12, 30, 100, 120, 130, 150 up to 200 miles. This is a right of the coastal countries themselves. This shows that this problem has found no solution in international maritime law and that there is no rule acceptable

to all the States in defining the extent of their territorial waters.

Defining the extent of territorial waters has become one of the main problems in the discussions on international maritime law. These discussions are taking place within the context of the third Conference of the United Nations on the law of the sea which has been proceeding in various sessions since 1973. At this Conference, the views of the two super-powers and of some other imperialist states have clashed with those of the majority of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. At the second session of this Conference, in July 1974, the Albanian delegation upheld the view that «each seaboard country has the right to set the limits of its territorial waters in a reasonable way without encroaching upon the interests of neighbouring countries and international navigation, in conformity with the concrete geographical, biological and other conditions and taking into account, first and foremost, the requirements of its national security.» The Albanian delegation stated, also, that the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania reserved the right to revise the extent of its territorial waters beyond the 12-mile limit, which it was at that time. At the various sessions of this Conference the Albanian delegation denounced the pressure, blackmail and machinations used by the imperialist powers to impose their will on sovereign peoples and countries on maritime law.

In line with its principled policy the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, vigilantly and resolutely will defend its national integrity, including its territorial waters and, at the same time, will continue to defend the sovereign rights of other peoples.

«HOW MUCH DOES A FAMILY PAY FOR THE RENT?»

L. ARBERI

To concretize the answer to this question, we went to one of the enterprises of the Tirana district — the «Misto Mame» Timber Processing Combine, where we met the worker Haki Lila. He works in the sector of the engineering workshop which makes small spare parts. He is 57 years old. At the beginning of this year, he moved into a new first floor flat comprising two rooms and a kitchen, 4 metres by 4 metres, plus the other facilities. It is a five-storeyed building in the city quarter No 9, «Naim Frashëri» street, which is not far from the centre of the capital.

Haki's family consists of four persons: himself, his wife and two sons. His wife, Zenepe, works in the No 2 Spinning Factory of the «Stalin» Textile Combine, his elder son, Bajram, is a turner of the second category, in the «Hamid Shijaku» School and Sports Equipment Enterprise. His second son, Xhevdet, is a pupil in the third year of the se-

condary school «50th Anniversary of Independence».

We asked Haki what monthly rent he pays, how much he spends for electric power and water, and what percentage this is of his wages and the total income of the family.

He made a simple calculation: it resulted that to pay the monthly rent of his flat costs him an amount equal to a day and a half's pay. If we add together the rent, the cost of electric power and water, he pays a little more than his wages for two days. We should point out that Haki's income and that of his whole family, are below the average level for a worker and a family in our country. In Haki Lila's family, the rent of the flat, the cost of power and water comes to less than 1/27th of their total family income.

All those who live in apartments with the same floor space pay the same amount as Haki, because rents are unified in our country.

WHAT RIGHTS HAS A WOMAN WORKER?

N. CANGO

The Albanian woman enjoys equal rights with man in work, pay, holidays, social insurance, education, in all social-political activity, as well as in the family.

According to the dispositions of the law, the state guarantees the necessary medical services and medical treatment in the health centres of the country, free of charge to women, as to all other citizens.

The law on state social insurance of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, on the basis of the Constitution, recognizes and guarantees the right of working women to the material means of livelihood in case of loss of ability to work and in old age.

The benefits a woman may draw from the state social insurance are: insurance payment in case of temporary loss of ability to work because of illness, quarantine, accident and maternity leave; aid for protection of her health in sanatoria and in prophylactic centres, for treatment in health resorts and spas, for food supplied in dietary canteens, for holidays in the rest homes for herself and her children, cash payments for rehabilitation for work, and at the birth of a child, pensions in old age, in case of invalidity, for reasons of special family difficulties, long service at work, and for special merits.

According to the dispositions of the law on the state social insurance, the woman worker or employee on maternity leave receives 80% of the average wage she has received during the last three months of work before her pregnancy began. Maternity leave is 12 weeks and is given 35 days prior to and 49 days after the birth.

For women working directly in production and in difficult sectors, maternity leave is 14-15 weeks and is given 45 days prior to and 53 days after the birth.

Besides the insurance payments she receives during her maternity leave on the birth of her child, a woman receives an immediate cash payment.

On the basis of the law on pensions and insurance for the members of agriculture cooperatives, the cooperativist woman also enjoys these rights with some minor differences.

The working woman or employee has the right to stay at home to look after a sick child up to seven years of age, for ten days, out of each three months. In these cases she receives 60% of the average wage received during her last month of work. When the sick child is less than two years of age, the mother has the right to stay with it during the whole period the child is a patient in a health institution, if this is deemed necessary by the doctor. During this time, too, the mother receives 60% of her average pay.

The Labour Code guarantees the woman worker or employee who is breast-feeding a baby, a break of not less than half an hour every 3-4 hours to feed her child until it is

9 months of age. For that time she receives her full pay.

Article 17 of the law gives the woman worker or employee the right to the old age pension when she reaches the necessary age and years of employment. These depend on the kind of work she has done. The minimum age for women to receive the full pension is 45 years in certain categories of work, and 55 years in the others. Thus women are entitled to the pension five years earlier than men in the same category of work.

The woman worker or employee who has given birth to six or more children and raised them to 8 years of age receives the old age pension under very favourable condi-

tions, regardless of what category of work she has done.

The old age pension for women is paid at a rate of 70% of the monthly average pay.

Under the law, women also enjoy pensions for long service at work in special cases, regardless of their age.

A very important principle of the system of the social insurance in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is that the worker or the employee does not have anything deducted from his wage in order to qualify for the above rights. The funds to meet this expenditure are provided by the state enterprises, institutions and social organizations, as well as by the state budget.

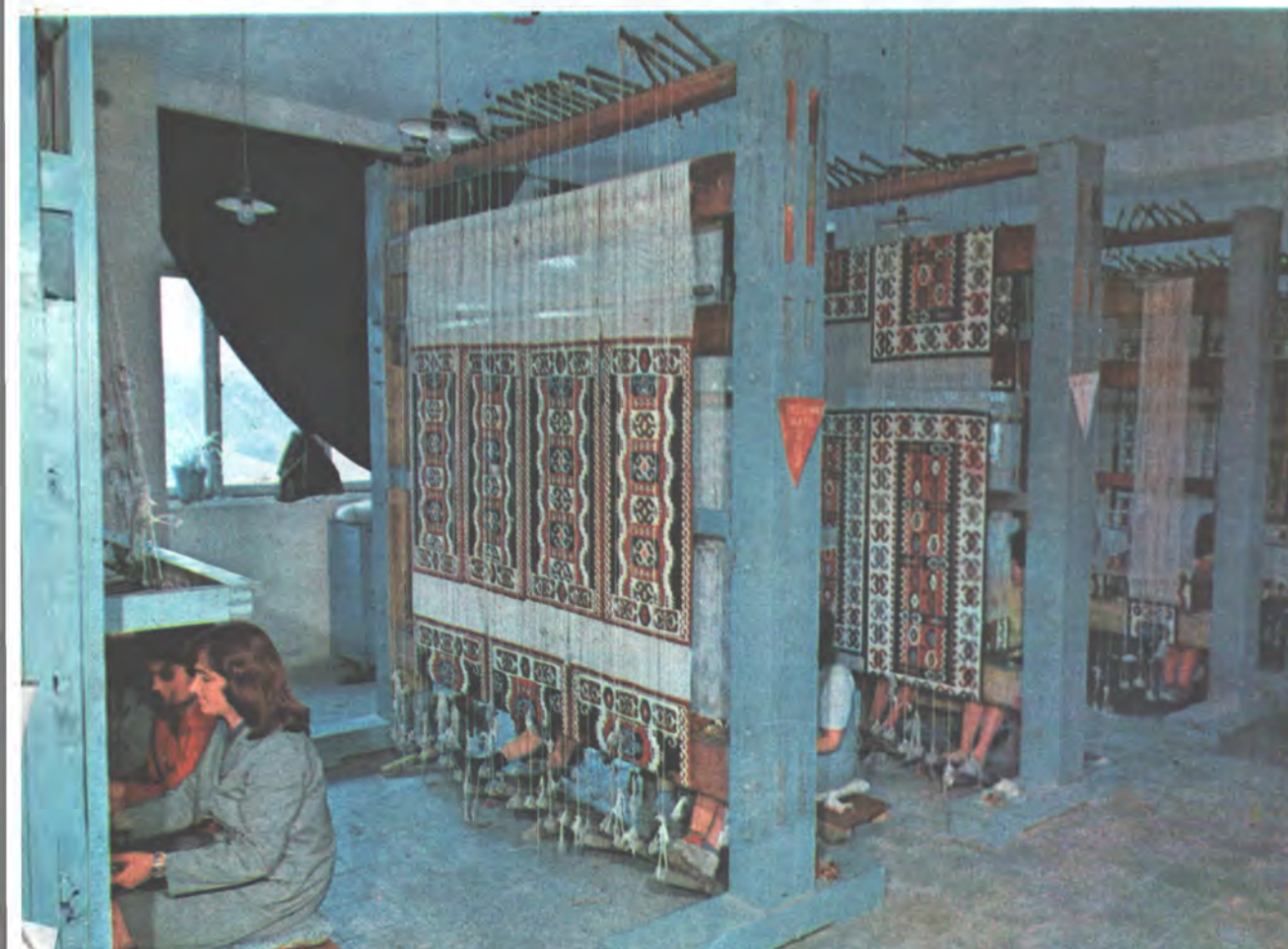
The textile workers after work.





The number of patterns and formats of rugs and carpets at the Kavaja artistic carpet enterprise has greatly increased in comparison with ten years ago. Today 15 patterns, in one hundred formats are produced here. Photo: L. Bardhoshi

One of the departments of the Kavaja artistic carpet enterprises. Splendid conditions have been provided here for the workers: spacious work rooms full of light equipped with modern work facilities showers, changing rooms etc. are included.



The town of Kavaja, in central Albania, enjoys a fine reputation for the production of artistic carpets. It is difficult to say when this tradition began. In any case, it is in full flower today. «Kavaja» type carpets occupy an honoured place in the series of Albanian carpets. Today, «Kavaja» type carpets are produced in other enterprises of this kind to, such as that in the city of Vlora and that in Kruja.

Some time ago, the enterprise was established in a new four storeyed building, built for the purpose near the centre of the town. Women and girls of various ages and experience sit at the scores of looms. Here is one of them. She is Kostandina Çausi. We start with her because she was one of the first workers of this enterprise. She came here in 1947. It was precisely at that time when the first designs of carpets were created. Now, after so many years, that small workshop has become a big state enterprise, where the workers are nearly all women and girls. Kostandina is one of those workers who has taught her skill and showed her experience with scores of new workers.

We also met the master carpet weaver Dima Kokoneshi. She is the mother of two children, is attending the final year of the secondary school and is also a social activist. After working at the loom for seven years, her friend Drita Pujo earned the top category for that job, was promoted to controller and is now the vice-director of the enterprise.

In department Nr. 3 we met Kostandina Tengu, who also started a worker and is now head of the department and the secretary of the Party Bureau of the enterprise. She too, is a mother, and has graduated as an economist through part-time studying.

The overwhelming majority of the women and girls of this enterprise are attending schools of various categories and qualification courses. A two year vocational school providing evening courses which the workers attend while continuing in the jobs has been set up at the enterprise. It's not difficult to attend schools and qualification courses. In order to help mothers there are kindergartens and creches where their children are carefully looked after. About half the women of this enterprise have their children in these pre-school institutions.

The creation of good conditions (work places are well lit, changing rooms with lockers and showers are provided, and the medical service functions there) has made work a source of joy for them.

Whereas 10 years ago only four kinds of carpets were produced here, now this enterprise produces 15 kinds of carpets. This increase is the fruit of the creative imagination of these workers. Their hands weave the multitude of threads, producing hundreds and hundreds of carpets of various forms and models, with a rich variety of vivid, strong colours, pleasantly combined, in a wealth of harmoniously interwoven motifs. A characteristic of the weaving of «Kavaja» carpets is the use of contrast and varied motifs especially from the flora of our country based on the tradition of this Albanian handicraft. This tradition has been enriched with new elements and the demand for these carpets on the foreign market is increasing from year to year. It should be stressed that the enterprise has never had a carpet rejected by foreign buyers on account of faulty workmanship, although almost all its products are sold abroad. The labour force and production has increased with the increase of the demand from the market. The number of girls who have started work in this enterprise this year is twenty times greater than the total number employed in the plan's first year.

The working collective has set up a very good artistic group. All the members of the group are amateurs but with their performances, they have won popularity all over the Durrës district. The group has won awards in various competitions for amateur artists. The sports activities are just as lively. Here, out of every five persons, one is a member of the amateur artistic group or a sports team of the enterprise.

WOVEN WORKS OF ART

Great attention is paid to the quality of the carpets. No complaint about the products of this enterprise has ever been received from foreign buyers, for whom they are destined.



By attending schools and qualification courses the workers of this enterprise have become masters of carpet weaving. Photos: S. Xhillari



Women are both workers and managers at the Artistic Carpet Enterprise at Kavaja: From four patterns of carpets which they produced ten years ago, they now produce fifteen patterns in a hundred formats. No complaint has ever come from foreign markets about any of these products. Today, this enterprise employs seventy times more workers than it did during the first year of its establishment. The number of workers who started work here this year is twenty times greater than the total staff during the first year. Out of every two workers one is attending a qualification course, one-third of them are attending schools, one out of every five persons is a participant in the amateur artistic groups or sports teams of the enterprise.



Artist of the People Sandër Prosi, in the Albanian feature film «The Stars of Long Nights»

NOTES ON ARTIST OF THE PEOPLE SANDER PROSI

Sandër Prosi is one of the most beloved and popular actors of Albania. His artistic career begins with a group of amateurs, in 1943, when Schiller's «William Tell» was put on the stage. No public performance was given however, because the censors banned it. The characters of the drama, and Tell himself, were dressed in Albanian costumes and the music was Albanian... Tell sounded like a protest, like a symbol of the struggle against the occupiers.

Sandër Prosi's real career as an artist began in the «People's Theatre» which was opened immediately after the liberation of the country. The actor began, developed, and day by day the stage felt greater need for him. He played Othello, and Horatio in «Hamlet», in Chekhov's «Uncle Vasia», in the dramas of Brecht and other authors renowned throughout the world. But he won the greatest admiration of the audiences in a number of roles in the Albanian national drama both on the stage and on the screen. His decoration with the title of «Artist of the People» was well earned.

It may seem surprising to a foreign reader but our actor receives no fabulous fees for the roles he plays on stage or screen. He gets something else which is more human and more important — the great respect and trust of the people. Sandër Prosi's monthly salary is about the same as that of a qualified worker. But like every other worker in our country, he is freed from the yoke of material insecurity, from fear for the morrow, from the worry that tomorrow he may be discarded like a «squeezed lemon». The liberation from material worries, the full equality with every man of our society, the respect and love of all have not only broadened the horizon of the artist but have made his performances closer to the people, given them greater realism, confidence and partisanship.

The figure of the actor Sandër Prosi is linked with the new psychology of our whole society. «For us, actors» he says, «it is clear that life and our art are two aspects which should be in permanent collaboration, that like all members of society, we should actively follow the transformations of society, the revolutionary drive of the masses, so that the roles we interpret on the stage or screen are as convincing, as real and true to life as possible. In order to interpret a role well, I

think the artist should not base himself on the dialogue of the drama alone but, also on the generalizations which he himself makes of the types and characters which he meets in life, blending this knowledge into the stage or screen play.»

Not long ago Prosi was engaged in a film called «The Man With A Gun». The film was shot at a village near Përmet in southern Albania. When the shooting of his scenes was over, Sandër told the producer he would set out on foot for the town of Përmet. The producer begged him to wait so that they could return together as a group, but Sandër wanted to go alone and he set off. It was quite a long way to Përmet, but along came a tractor and trailer from an agricultural cooperative. The driver stopped and invited him into his cab. The trailer was crammed with peasants. There wasn't much room in the cab for Sandër's big frame but plenty of room for warmth and hospitality. The driver began to talk about the roles he had seen Sandër in. He was an amateur artist and delighted, not only to meet Sandër Prosi, but also to have him riding on his tractor. The conversation flowed and, as usual when someone from the city meets a cooperative peasant, turned to questions and answers about the planting and the harvest. The driver told him that the previous season had been a very good one and that their well-being was rising from year to year. Take his own case, for instance; in the past, for all their efforts they could never be sure of food for more than a few months of each year, while now there is no longer any need to worry about the next day's food for the family. He had bought a bicycle and a TV set, had a transistor radio with him in the cab, and as an amateur artist, in the past few days, had bought a piano accordion... He sends his children to the nursery and school. Telling me about this, Sandër said that to portray the psychology of the man of our society accurately, the actor must be able to grasp and bring out the characteristic qualities of the ordinary man, because this is what ensures that the performance of the actor, his embodiment of any role, will bear the brand of the people and the national character, «We perform an art for the people, a realist art, based firmly on the national background», Sandër says. And this is not only a desire of the artist but also a condition for his success. In all his plays, in a hundred or so roles on the stage and nearly twenty roles in films, his principal quality is his true to life performance, his realism and naturalness. And not only this, in the roles he plays one feels that special quality, that ideo-emotional stand which distinguishes the Albanian character, temperament and world outlook. The actor, like any other artist and person does not maintain a stand superior to classes, indifferent and passive towards the good or evil which exists in life. This is not just an artistic concern or idea which is manifested only in days when he is performing in a film or on the stage, but it is a persistent daily concern to find not only the details but also the characters of living people, directly in life.

In the film «At the Beginning of Summer» Sandër Prosi plays the role of a peasant from Labëria (a mountainous district in southern Albania) who had come to the city looking for a job. The event takes place during the days of the fascist occupation. Sandër was like a student faced with a difficult equation. Since he himself was not from Labëria, it was a difficult for him to work out the proper style, language and external appearance for the role, as well as the whole complex of the character he had to play. Having found the most suitable make up and costume for the role, he decided that before he faced the camera, he would carry out a test before the eyes of people. Dressed and made up for the role, he walked out of the hotel, entered the principal cafe of the city of Vlora where he ordered a coffee «express». The waitress looked at him with surprise: What! an express for you, too, Uncle?/ Sandër had passed the first test with success. The waitress had not recognized him. She had taken him for a peasant from Labëria and was surprised when he ordered that sort of coffee. But the actor was still not satisfied. He left the cafe and went to the marketplace. There, amidst the crowd he bumped into people, sometimes accidentally, sometimes deliberately, and each time someone complained, «Look out Uncle, you're not in the village here». He became more convinced that he had successfully solved the problem of representing the peasant from Labëria. Only after having tested himself before the eyes of the public did the Artist of the People stand before the camera, and the image of Jaho Labi came out convincing and beautiful on the screen.

«An actor's profession is the craft of all crafts,» says Sandër Prosi. Therefore, an actor, too, should train his eye turning it into a lens to record everything connected with life. «I have had to become the miller, the sailor, the professor, the doctor, the peasant, the lawyer... In his one hundred and twenty or so roles he has had to play all sorts of professions. At my age I have had to learn to ride a horse for a TV film. «Unless you know the profession of the character you are playing, it is hard to be convincing.»

Our people love and respect the artist. But their love for the artist is not connected only with the images he creates on the stage or on the screen. For our people, first of all the artist must be a good person in his daily life, an active and honest participant in our society and not an egotist running after personal glory and the cult of the artist Sandër Prosi, is, first and foremost, just such a good and honest man of our society, a modest pupil of the people, and then a gifted, beloved, and respected actor.



In the theatre Sandër Prosi has successfully interpreted the role of Othello



In the feature film «At The Beginning of Summer» he played the role of the peasant from the Labëria district

In the film «The Early Years»



TWO DISCOVERIES OF INTEREST TO ARCHAEOLOGY AND ART

Kanina castle is in the vicinity of ancient Aulona (present Vlora) lying to the southeast of it. It is built on a high hill and has a commanding position. The Centre of Archaeological Research of the Academy of Sciences has recently made systematic excavations there. These excavations brought to light a number of monuments and various findings of archaeological value. Together with many discoveries of ceramic and metal objects, several things made of bone have been found, too. Worth of mention among these is a knife handle 9 cm long, carved in the stylized form of woman. This object belongs to the late period of antiquity.

Another interesting discovery is an object found in the village of Tërbaç also in Vlora district. It is a bronze statuette 7 cm high, the effigy of a naked warrior with outstretched hands and legs apart. On the left shoulder appears the fragment of a sheath used to hold arrow heads. On his head is a helmet with a high crest.

Similar bronze figures have been found in abundance during the research work on the ruins of Amantia. These are simple products of the early centuries of our era. The Tërbaçi specimen must also have come from the capital of the Amantia, from the ancient city of Amantia.

Both these figures, which come from the two centres of the Amantians (Amantia and Kanina) are evidence of the skill of Illyrian craftsmen.

DAMIAN KOMATA

◀ A bronze figurine found at the village of Tërbaç in the Vlora district.

▶ A knife handle made of bone found at Kanina castle, a few kilometres from the city of Vlora

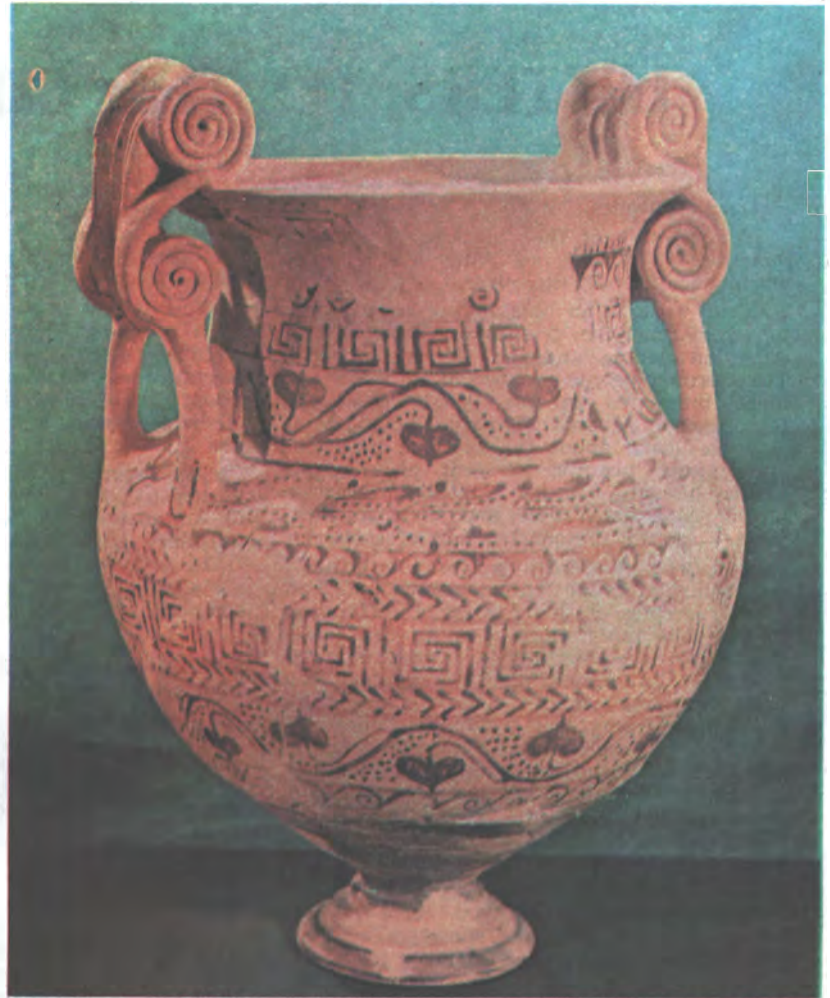


THE PAINTER AMONG THE FARMERS

An artist in our socialist society is not a person who shuts himself away in his own studio or amongst a narrow circle of intellectuals, a dreamer of empty dreams engaged in formal aesthetic speculations. He takes an active part in social life, in building socialism, because his art, too, serves socialism, the working class, and the people, and expresses communist ideals. Therefore, favourable conditions have



ARCHAEOLOGY



Objects decorated in red with floral and geometrical patterns and figures. These two together with more than seventy others, were found in the grave of an Illyrian warrior discovered by chance at the ancient inhabited centre of Belshi in the Elbasan district. They belong to the second half of the 4th century before our era. Photo: N. Baba

been created for the creative work of our artists. Many writers, composers, and painters are entirely free to practice their profession, that is, their material needs are guaranteed, so that they are able to devote all their efforts to turning out works in the field of literature and art. The merited painter, Sali Shijaku, is one of them. In order to know the life there at first hand, he has gone to the Divjaka Agricultural Cooperative in the Lushnja district, where he lives, together with the cooperative farmers. In his works, noted for their fresh, vivid colours with subtle tonings and skilful draftsmanship, he portrays the transformed socialist countryside, the new life which has begun there, and the peasant with new socialist characteristics.

From the material he has gathered, on which the cooperative peasants themselves have given their assessment, he has opened a personal exhibition, in this way making a valuable contribution to the art of socialist realism.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Comrades,

The meeting of the delegates of the Association of Friends of Albania sends you warm and friendly greetings.

Your work is an outstanding contribution to promoting the friendship between the Albanian people and the German people. The German people are becoming more and more interested in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. Through your magazine we learn about the cultural traditions and natural beauties of your country, the heroic history, courage and determination of the Albanian people and their magnificent work for the construction of socialism.

Last year, too, with joy and enthusiasm we followed your announcements of new great successes, the narrowing of differences in pay, the rapid elimination of the consequences of the earthquake in Saranda, the National Conference of Ethnographic Studies, supplying all the country's needs for breadgrain from local production, the construction of new industrial projects, such as the Fierza Hydropower Station and the Metallurgical Combine at Elbasan, the 7th Congress of the PLA, the New Constitution, which was drafted by the Albanian people themselves and which guarantees and sanctions, their right freedoms and successes.

Through your work you have allowed us to take part in these successes achieved by the Albanian people under the leadership of the PLA, and you have been of great help to us. We want to wholeheartedly thank you for this. We are sure that more and more people want to hear and read your interesting reports and we promise you that we shall increase our efforts to inform ever broader circles of the population about the reality of Albania, to clear up all the mistaken views about Albania, to combat the lies and to win friends for your country and your people.

Long live the friendship between the German and the Albanian People!

The delegates of the Association of the Friends of Albania, March 26-27, 1977, in Frankfurt on Main.

ANTONIO VARRASSO — Italy

I have read several issues of your magazine and through them, I have learned a great deal about the achievements of the socialist revolution in Albania in all fields of life. I want to express to you my sincere congratulations and good wishes over your progress, especially during the past 20 years. This is a living example for all the countries which want to build socialism.

You can take pride in your history and in your building of socialism, which saves the poor, encourages the oppressed, and means freedom for the people.

You should know that you are honoured as a glorious, industrious people, who are building their socialist Homeland, immortal torchbearers of communism. You can be confident that the genuine communists of other countries will stand beside you, will rise against fascism and defeat capitalism.

My warmest and most fraternal good wishes to the leader of the Party of Labour of Albania, Enver Hoxha, on account of his militancy for the cause of socialism.

In order to increase my knowledge of socialism, I should like to take part in any competition organized by your magazine.

SALAH AHMED SALAH AL-GBULAB — PDR of Yemen

I take this opportunity to express my admiration and respect for the Albanian people and the Party of Labour, with the great leader, Comrade Enver Hoxha, at the head.

I often listen to Radio Tirana and attentively follow the struggle you are waging for the construction of socialism and defence of the victories achieved. I have read about your country in other sources, especially in the newspaper of the workers of my country. Your resolute struggle against the blockades of old and new imperialism enhances the confidence of other peoples and encourages them in the solution of the problems which are worrying them.

I want to learn more about your country so that I can gain a better understanding of how a people who are building socialism rely on their own forces in the first place, while also having the support of sincere friends. Would you please send me a picture of Comrade Enver Hoxha.

MARIA AND ANTONIO ANTUNER — Portugal

We are two young people of Portugal and readers of the magazine «New Albania». We want to become better acquainted with the life and progress of the Albanian people, led by PLA with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.

The successes of the Albanian people are a source of encouragement for our struggle here in Portugal, against fascism, capitalism, revisionism, imperialism and social imperialism.

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FRONT COVER: The «Martyrs of the Nation» Boulevard in Tirana, of May Day, 1977

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One of the peaks of the Alps: In the background the picturesque
Theth valley a favourite spot for vacationists.



IN THE ALBANIAN ALPS

At the beginning of spring this year the Albanian alpinists began their usual climb of the highest peaks of the Albanian Alps. They camped there for fifteen days and did their training under the conditions of snow, ice and difficult terrain.

Photo by V Stambulli





Producer Piro Milkani and cameraman Saim Kokona shooting a film on location in the Kël-mendi district on Northern Highlands of Albania. The subject of the film is taken from the novel «The Fall of Idols» by the Albanian writer, Skën-der Drini, which speaks of the struggle waged by a patriotic teacher, together with the Highlanders against the oppressive and obscurantist activities of the regime of King Zog and the reactionary Catholic clergy.

