



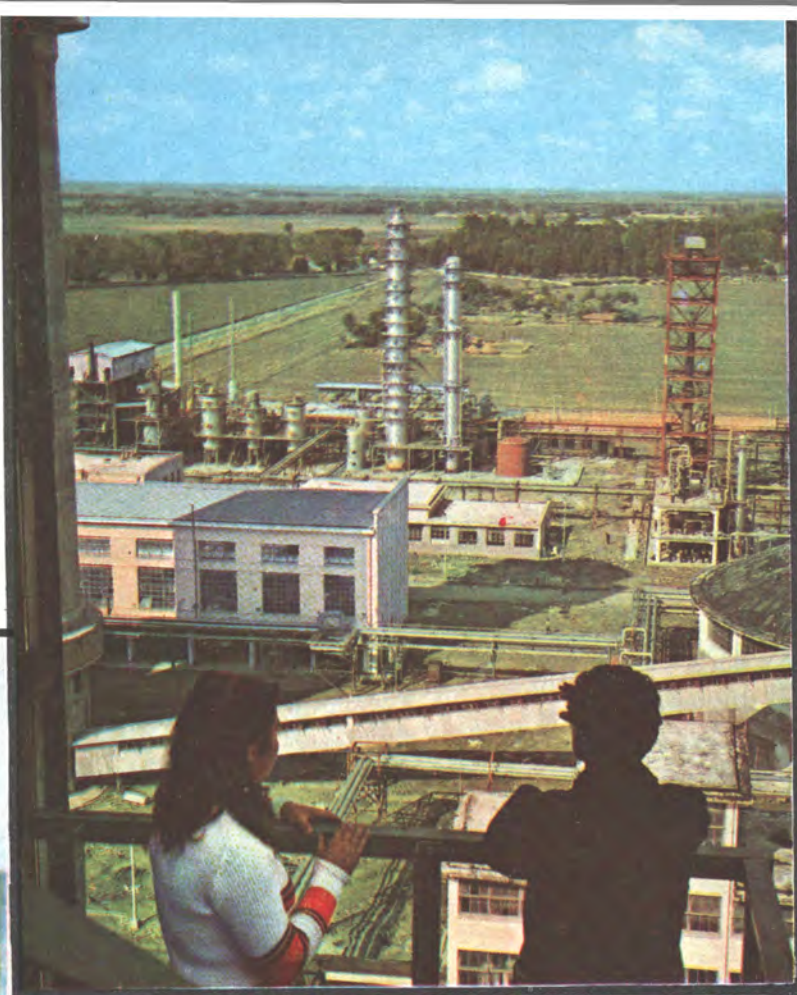
NEW ALBANIA

**1
1976**

THE FIERI DISTRICT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN INDUSTRIAL-AGRICULTURAL ZONE. THE BUILDING OF THE NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER PLANTS, THE DEEP OIL PROCESSING PLANT AT BALLSH, THE THERMOELECTRIC POWER PLANT, THE UREA PLANT AND OTHERS HAVE GIVEN THIS ZONE A NEW LOOK. THE CONTRIBUTION OF THIS DISTRICT TO THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY IS CONSTANTLY GROWING.

IN THE PAST, FIERI, WAS ONE OF THE MOST BACKWARD DISTRICTS OF ALBANIA. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A FEW PRIMITIVE WORKSHOPS THE CITY HAD NO INDUSTRY WHATSOEVER. THE LAND BELONGED TO THE FEUDAL LANDLORDS.

IN THE PICTURE: Industrial scene from the city of Fier



A DOCUMENT OF MAJOR POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL IMPORTANCE

On March 14, 1946, the Constituent Assembly, which emerged from the elections of December 2, 1945, having proclaimed Albania a People's Republic, also approved its Constitution.

Thirty years after this historic event, a special commission charged by the People's Assembly, issued the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania which is now under discussion by the broad masses of the people.

This 30-year period from the adoption of the first Constitution of the Albanian Socialist State to the publication of the new draft-Constitution is a glorious period in the history of the Albanian people, crowded with great events, with deep political, economic and cultural transformations which have entirely changed the appearance of Albania, which have raised it from centuries of misery and backwardness and have turned it into an advanced socialist country with a very high level of social relations and with a constantly growing economy.

The approval of the 1946 Constitution marked an important stage of the development of the socialist revolution in Albania. Albania had just emerged from the Anti-fascist National-liberation War which had ensured its liberation from the yoke of the fascist invaders and the exploiting classes and the establishment of the revolutionary people's State Power which represented in itself the dictatorship of the proletariat under the leadership of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania.

The first Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania reflected the early transformations of a democratic and socialist nature. The principal assets of the country, having been nationalized, were turned over to the people; the land reform was carried out and the land given those who tilled it. In expressing the reality of the time, the Constitution could not but recognize private property, but it put such restrictions on it as to deprive it of some of its fundamental characteristics, for instance, in agriculture it prohibited any form of alienation of the land, while its sphere of action in agriculture was reduced to the minimum.

The Constitution, enlarging on the Declaration on the rights of citizens approved in the time of the National-liberation War (October 22, 1944) by the second Meeting of the Anti-fascist National-liberation Council, sanctioned the democratic rights and freedoms of the citizens to an extent such as they never enjoyed before, either effectively or from the formal point of view. In this direction, the most important feature of the Constitution in force is that it was not confined to merely proclaiming those rights but, as the Constitution of a socialist State, it also created the real possibilities to exercise and guarantee them.

The first Constitution of socialist Albania was supplemented with the amendments made in July 1950, which, among other things, expressly defined the character of our Republic as a State of workers and working peasants, fixed the leading role of our Party of Labour in our society, and sanctioned the implementation of the socialist principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work".

Despite this, as the Vth Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania emphasized, the stage which this Constitution served has now been left behind. Profound revolutionary changes have been made in Albania. The economic base of socialism has long been fully established; a single socialist system of economy has replaced the multi-form economy, social ownership of the means of production has replaced private owner-

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ship and, on this basis, social relations of production, both in town and countryside, have been fully established.

Radical changes have been made in the class structure of our society. The old exploiting classes, and together with them exploitation of man by man, have been done away with. Now, Albanian society is made up of two allied classes, the working class and the cooperative peasantry, as well as the stratum of people's intelligentsia.

On the basis of these socio-economic transformations, the way of life of the whole people has changed, their material and cultural level has been greatly uplifted, the oppression of the Albanian woman has been done away and she has become an active fighter for the construction of socialism, backward customs and religious obscurantism having been uprooted.

Under the leadership of the Party of Labour, our State of the dictatorship of the proletariat has grown stronger and stronger by extending socialist democracy in struggle against manifestations of bureaucracy and liberalism.

These major transformations, which testify to the superiority of the socialist order and the correct line of the Party of Labour of Albania led by comrade Enver Hoxha, have been realised in stern and continuous battle against foreign enemies — imperialism and revisionist social imperialism — as well as against internal enemies, whose source is in the remnants of the former exploiting classes and pressure of bourgeois and revisionist ideology.

If all these changes that have been made in all spheres of the life of our country are taken into account, it is natural that the Constitution in force, approved 30 years ago, no longer responds, in many aspects, to the reality of present day Albania. For these reasons, in line with the task set by the Vth Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, the special Commission set up by the People's Assembly drew up and published the text of a new draft-Constitution.

The draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is the continuation of the Constitution in force. It has taken over all those great democratic and socialist principles sanctioned by the first Constitution and has developed them further in conformity with the present historical conditions.

At the same time, in summing up our revolutionary practice, guided by the correct Marxist-Leninist line of the Party of Labour of Albania, the draft-Constitution has defined a series of new fundamental principles which determined its content as a Constitution of a socialist state and the features which distinguish it from the constitutions of bourgeois and revisionist countries.

The draft-Constitution clearly defines the character of the Albanian State as the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat, a definition which is more than ever necessary in the conditions when the revisionists are proclaiming the teachings of Marx and Lenin on the dictatorship of the proletariat as the only road to the ultimate victory of

socialism and communism, to the transition to communist society, to be out dated. The sole leading force of this State of the dictatorship of the proletariat and of our whole society is, as article 3 of the draft-Constitution says, the Party of Labour of Albania, the vanguard of the working class.

Important principles which are the very foundation of the activity of our socialist State, formulated by our Party of Labour and comrade Enver Hoxha and which are embodied in our revolutionary practice, are the line of the masses, the control of the working class over everybody and everything, the uninterrupted development of the revolution by upholding the class struggle, the participation of officials directly in production and payment of them in fair proportion with the workers and cooperative members. These principles now become constitutional principles.

The draft-Constitution defines the general outlines of the foreign policy pursued by Socialist Albania, namely, friendship, collaboration and reciprocal aid with socialist States on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, support for the revolutionary movement of the working class and the struggle of the peoples for freedom, independence and social progress, peace and good neighbourliness, relations with all States on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs of one another, and mutual advantage.

Besides this, the Constitution raises opposition by the Albanian State to the imperialist policy of aggression, colonial exploitation, any national oppression and racial discrimination, to a constitutional principle.

Reflecting the determined policy of the Party and the Albanian Government in defence of our freedom and State sovereignty, the draft-Constitution proclaims the borders of our Republic inviolable, prohibits the establishment of foreign bases and military forces on its territory, and concedes to no one the right to sign or to accept the capitulation and the occupation of the country on behalf of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

In order to block the way to any kind of violation of national and economic independence, the draft-Constitution forbids the granting of concessions, as well as the setting up foreign companies and financial institutions or joint ones with foreign monopolies or capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist states, or receiving credits from them.

All these constitutional dispositions are founded on that revolutionary policy which the Party of Labour of Albania has pursued right from the time it was founded.

Contrary to the revisionist demagoguery about "the internationalist socialist division of labour" and "the economic integration of the various countries" behind which lies the exploitation of other countries by Soviet social imperialism, the draft-Constitution proclaims self reliance as an important principle of the construction of socialism.

Besides proclaiming and effectively guaranteeing the rights of citizens and many other norms which ensure the ever greater development of socialist democracy, these principles of the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania typify its difference in principle from the bourgeois and revisionist constitutions which express, in fact, the interests of exploiting minorities.

The draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, this document of major political and juridical significance, inspires the workers of our country to achieve further victories on the road of socialism.

ON THE DRAFT-CONSTITUTION OF THE P

THE STATE OF THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

In the second paragraph of the Draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania we read: «The People's Socialist Republic of Albania is the State of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat». This means that the great historical reality that the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is the State of the working class, the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat which was born from the barrel of the gun is sanctioned by law.

The new Draft-Constitution fixes in one of its articles that, so long as the friendly classes and the class struggle exist in our country, until communist society has been built on a world scale, our socialist State is and cannot be other than the dictatorship of a definite class, precisely, of our working class as the most organized and the most revolutionary class.

The sanctioning of the People's Socialist Republic in the Draft-Constitution as a State of the dictatorship of the proletariat confirms in theory and practice the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the entire road to socialism and communism runs through the political domination of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is a universal law without the implementation of which socialist and communist society cannot be built.

In its class essence, the present socialist State in our country is the same type of State which was set up in 1944, the State of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat. And such it will remain up to the complete construction of classless society, communist society. In the unchangeable proletarian nature of our socialist State the leading role of the working class finds its concrete expression, a role which is realized by means of the proletarian Party and the proletarian State and which is of importance not only for the present but also for the future. The leading role of the working class and of the Party will be preserved up to the complete and final construction of communist society on a national and international scale.

Parallel with the development and deepening of socialist revolution in our country there has been extended and deepened socialist democracy, the leading and supervising role and activity of the working class and the laboring masses in their capacity as builders of the new socialist and communist order, as real masters of the country. Experience has gone to prove in full the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat is the most democratic State history has recorded, that without the dictatorship of the proletariat there can be no real democracy for the workers. As a political weapon in the hands of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat, in addition to other functions, has carried out and

will continue to carry out the function of suppression both towards the overthrown classes and their remnants as well as towards elements from our ranks who degenerate and embark on an anti-socialist course. For the class enemies, for the enemies of socialism under the condition of the dictatorship of the proletariat there can be neither freedom nor democracy. At the same time, the dictatorship of the proletariat protects the historical victories from the danger of imperialist and revisionist sabotage and aggression.

The sanctioning of the proletarian class nature of our State in the draft-Constitution is of major value to the present and future of socialism and Communism in Albania. It strives to block the road, from the legal angle, to the usurpation of power by anti-socialist and anti-party bourgeois and revisionist elements, to prohibit the degeneration of the proletariat, to ensure the complete and final construction of socialism and communism in our country.

The Draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania confirms the Marxist-Leninist thesis that there can be no State without dictatorship or no dictatorship without a State, since the State is the organization of one class to suppress another class. It helps to give a better understanding of and to refute the distortions and falsifications of the present day revisionists. In fact, the present State Power in the Soviet Union, in Yugoslavia and in the other countries where the revisionists are in power, has been changed completely and ultimately into a State of the fascist type, into a weapon of the ruthless domination of the new bourgeois class. It is democracy for the new exploiters and absence of democracy, terror, prisons and concentration camps or «re-educating hospitals» for their opponents, oppression and exploitation for the working class and the masses of working people.

Article 2 of the new Draft-Constitution gives also the scientific Marxist-Leninist definition of the social basis of our State of the dictatorship of the proletariat at the present stage. «The People's Socialist Republic of Albania» it says, «is based on the unity of the people and has at its foundation the alliance of the working class with the cooperative peasantry under the leadership of the working class».

The Draft-Constitution repudiates the falsifications of the bourgeois and revisionist ideologists who, with a view to discrediting the idea of the dictatorship of the proletariat narrow it down and reduce it to violence alone. It confirms the Marxist-Leninist thesis that the dictatorship of the proletariat is not only violence, is not even mainly violence but a special form of the alliance of the working class with the

working peasantry and the other strata of working people under the leadership of the working class, in their struggle to build a classless society, communist society. In our country today the alliance of the working class with the peasantry, as the highest principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat, presents itself as an alliance between two socialist classes. This is the reality of Socialist Albania which reflects the profound social and class transformations of major historical importance.

The Party of Labor of Albania, guided by the Marxist-Leninist teachings of comrade Enver Hoxha, has arrived at the scientific conclusion that the problem of State Power, of the dictatorship of the proletariat, has been and will continue to be up to the triumph of communism, the key problem of the revolution. In whatever form the class struggle may be waged between the socialist and capitalist roads in the political or economic, ideological, cultural or military fields, it is, in the final analysis, a struggle over the problem of whether the dictatorship of the proletariat will be preserved and consolidated or whether it will degenerate and be overthrown as in the Soviet Union and certain other countries.

Our historical experience has confirmed that it is completely possible that once established, the dictatorship of the proletariat can be maintained pure, intact and unshaken in all its instances and directions while developing and becoming more and more perfected.

The description in Draft-Constitution of the struggle against bureaucracy and liberalism as a protracted class struggle which will continue as long as the socialist State, the dictatorship of the proletariat exists, as well as the finding of concrete practical ways to defend, consolidate and continue to perfect the dictatorship of the proletariat, are a fresh contribution with new ideas and theses which the Party of Labor of Albania and comrade Enver Hoxha make to the defence and development of Marxism-Leninism at the present time.

Of special importance are comrade Enver Hoxha's Marxist-Leninist ideas about the control of the working class over everybody and everything as the surest means through which the working class bears the dictatorship of the proletariat in its own hands and guarantees the consistent implementation of the line of the Party which expresses the vital interests of the working class and the working masses. What is new in this is that our Party has defined the ways for the best combination of the leading and supervising role of the working class from above, through the Party and the proletarian State, with its direct control from below. These important teachings which are reflected in the Draft-Constitution have great theoretical and practical importance. They confirm that under the conditions of a correct Marxist-Leninist leadership by the Party, the dictatorship of the proletariat can stand all tests and successfully carry out its historic mission within the country and its internationalist duty towards the proletariat and all the oppressed peoples of the world.

ON STATE SOVEREIGNTY

In the new draft-Constitution attention has been given to the problem of sovereignty. The main requirement here is that the problem should be dealt with not simply from the formal-juridical angle, but from the scientific standpoint of the Marxist-Leninist theory on the State and the law. The draft-Constitution has fully responded to this fundamental requirement by giving sovereignty a pronounced class political content. Not only has a correct solution been given to the problem of to whom this sovereignty belongs («it stems from the working

people and belongs to them») but this is supplemented with the basic element of the hegemony of the working class which is an essential premise for the realisation of the people's sovereignty in the conditions of an advanced socialist society.

An aspect of sovereignty of no less importance is that which deals with the position of the State in international relations, in its relationship to other States. In this regard the draft-Constitution faithfully reflects the rich experience of our Party and the teachings of comrade

Enver Hoxha which constitute the basis of the foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. Proceeding from the present situation in the world, when the hegemonistic policy of the two super-Powers has run up against the aspirations and the movements of the peoples to achieve effective independence, the draft-Constitution defines in clear terms the attitude of our Party and State, which is that of denunciation of and active struggle against every form of aggression, colonial exploitation, tutelage, dictate and hegemony. From this view point, the formulation of this stand in the draft-Constitution is of international importance, because it makes the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the spokesman of such an inevitable process in the world today as the emancipation of small nations from the clutches of the «mighty», — US imperialism and Soviet social imperialism. —

PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

A POLICY BASED ON PROLETARIAN PRINCIPLES

The publication of the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and the broad public discussion which is taking place at present mark an event of special importance in the life of new Albania. As Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: Our Constitution will portray, «the true features of socialism which distinguish it from all the distortions and perversions which modern revisionism has perpetrated against it».

The draft-Constitution sanctions the great principles regarding the dictatorship of the proletariat, the undivided leadership of the Party in the State and in society as a whole, the exercise of full national sovereignty, the rights and duties of the citizens, and so on. In particular, it lays down the **basic principles of the foreign policy of our Republic**. Among other things it proclaims that our State pursues a policy of friendship and mutual collaboration with the socialist States based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, of support for the revolutionary movement of the working class and the people's liberation struggle for freedom, independence, and social progress. The draft-Constitution emphasizes that our country is in favour of relations with all states, of peace and good neighbourliness with them on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs and reciprocal advantage. At the same time our new Constitution proclaims that Albania is opposed to any form of imperialist aggression, colonial exploitation, hegemony and dictate, any kind of national oppression and racial discrimination.

While bringing out clearly the principles and

main duties by which our State will be guided in its foreign policy and its international relations in general the draft-Constitution also expresses in clear terms that the internationalist stand of Albania and its principled struggle on the international arena against imperialist and modern revisionism will remain unalterable in the future just as it has been heretofore.

Another great principle expressed in the draft-Constitution which is also directly connected with our foreign policy is that dealing with the exercise of full national sovereignty.

The territory of our socialist State is proclaimed inalienable and its borders inviolable. The Constitution prohibits the establishment of foreign bases and armed forces within the territory of Albania. It prohibits the granting of concessions, as well as the setting up of foreign companies and other economic and financial institutions or joint ones with capitalist and revisionist monopolies and States, as well as receiving credits from them.

The draft-Constitution not only upholds the right of the Albanian people to exercise full national sovereignty, but it also recognises this right for other peoples when it says that our State «upholds the principle of self determination of peoples, of the exercise of full national sovereignty and the equality of all countries in international relations». In not allowing any interference in our internal affairs, our Party and State stand shoulder to shoulder with all those peoples who are fighting the arbitrariness and dictate of the imperialist Powers, shoulder to shoulder with those who are fighting for equality in international relations, against neo-colo-

nialism and the attempts of the super-Powers to achieve expansion and hegemony.

«The policy of the People's Republic of Albania is an open and sincere policy», said comrade Enver Hoxha in his speech to the electors on October 3, 1974. He pointed out that it defends the interests of our country in the international arena. Together with the other socialist and progressive democratic countries, our country upholds the struggle for freedom, for progress and for genuine democracy throughout the world, for the freedom of the people who work and think. «Our policy», comrade Enver Hoxha has pointed out, «conforms to the interests of the peoples and not to those of the cliques and ideologies which oppress these peoples. It seeks the friendship of these peoples and not of those who oppress them. It is not a programmatic policy but a policy of proletarian principles it does not stem from secret, behind the scenes, diplomacy or mysterious negotiations or putting the interests of one's own country or other countries up for auction».

Because the People's Republic of Albania has consistently pursued such a policy, its international position always remains strong and unshakeable, its authority and prestige in the world at large are increasing from day to day. Our country is known and honoured everywhere for the successes it has achieved in building socialism, but it is known and honoured also, for its struggle against imperialism and social imperialism for its internationalist solidarity and support for the struggle of the peoples for national liberation and social emancipation.

By putting into practice the principles of the new Constitution our people, guided by their Party of Labour, will certainly achieve new and greater successes in its foreign policy, a thing which will help consolidate the freedom and independence of our country, as well as the cause of socialism and the liberation of the peoples throughout the world.

THE DEFENCE OF OUR HOMELAND IS GUARANTEED BY THE ARMED PEOPLE

Article 91 of the draft-Constitution says that the defence of the homeland and of the victories of socialism are guaranteed by the armed people. Thus, the new draft-Constitution sanctions in clear terms as a major Marxist-Leninist principle, the thesis of our Party that the defence of our homeland and the victories of socialism is the concern of the whole people organized in the Armed Forces and with military training. This sums up a new historic experience which is a very important contribution of our Party to the Marxist-Leninist theory on the dictatorship of the proletariat, a creative application under our conditions of the teachings of the classics of Marxism-Leninism, on the necessity of transforming the army of a barracks regime into an army of the armed people where

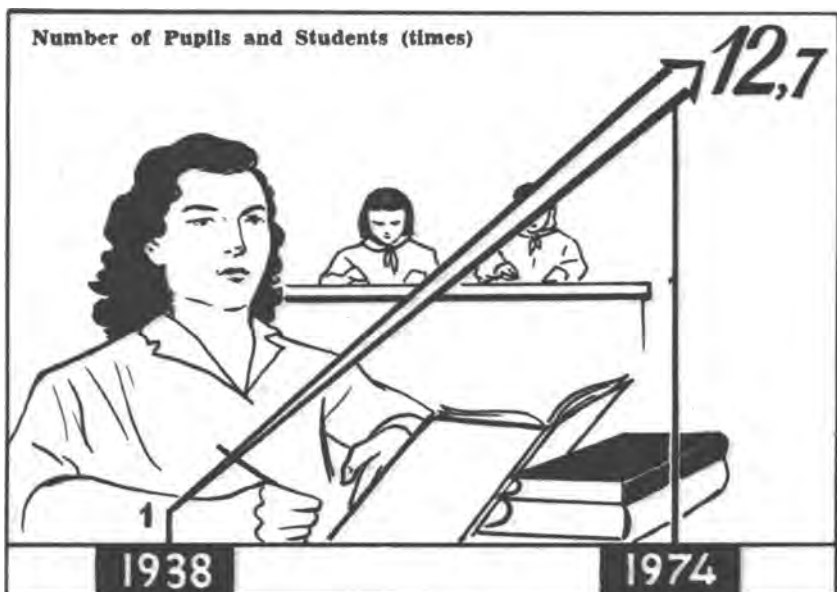
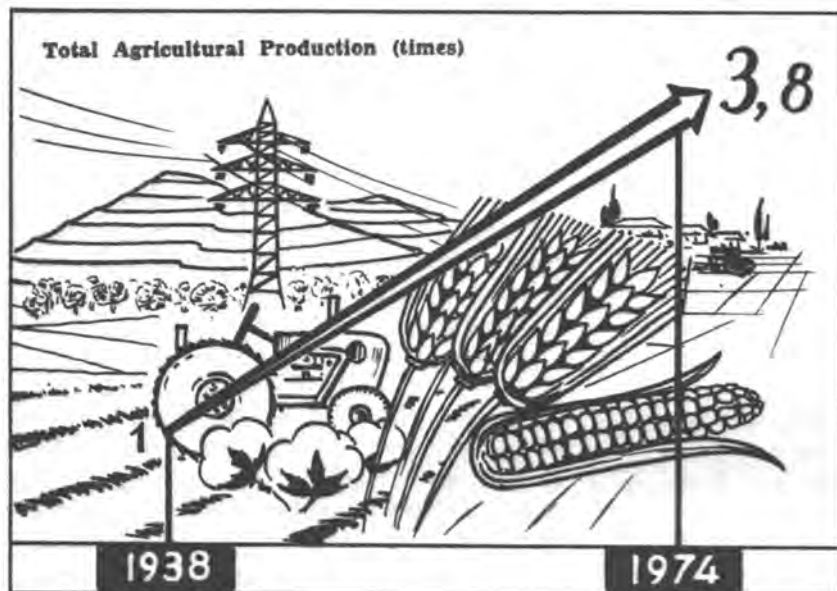
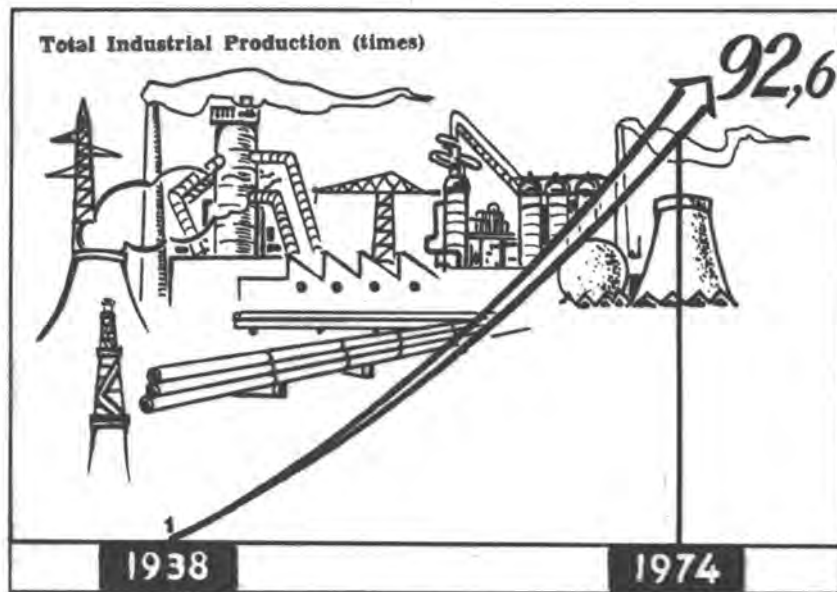
the people and the soldiers are one and indivisible.

Arming all the people is one of the manifestations of socialist democracy, a vivid expression of the application of the line of the masses, the most reliable guarantee of victory over any enemy or coalition of enemies. People's War means the participation in the war of all the people organized in the structures of defence. Without the people there can be no People's War. At the same time, the military organization must respond to the requirements of the People's War so that the whole people, men and women, boys and girls, can take an active part in fighting the enemy, so that all the people are armed, have military training and each is in fighting readiness for a people's war.

The People's War requires that the armed

people should organize their own people's army without military castes and privileges integrated with the people and in their service. Lenin teaches us that no force in the world can dare to encroach upon the freedom of the homeland «if the defenders of this freedom are the armed people themselves who have done away with the military caste, who have made all the soldiers citizens and all the citizens soldiers, capable of using weapons». Since the time of the National-liberation War, our Party, guided by the teachings of the great Lenin regarding the armed uprising and the creation of the people's revolutionary army made up of workers and peasants without military castes, has always kept the direction of the army in its hands, while strengthening and modernising it, making it a strong army, always ready to safeguard and defend the freedom gained with blood and sacrifice. Creatively implementing the requirements of military art on the People's War and armed with the ideology of our Party, our armed forces will become more and more powerful and invincible to any aggressor, they will honourably fulfil the duty with which they have been charged by the people, our Party and our new Constitution, for the defence of our socialist homeland.

THIRTY YEARS OF OUR PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



January 11, 1946, marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Proclamation of the People's Republic of Albania. Thirty years ago the Constituent Assembly which emerged from the first democratic elections, held one year after liberation, proclaimed Albania a People's Republic. Thus a correct class solution was given to the problem of the political form of the new People's State Power, to the problem of its political regime.

While celebrating the jubilee of the 30th anniversary of the Republic, we look back to where we started from. Albania was the most backward country in Europe, plagued with hunger, disease, illiteracy and unemployment. The anti-popular regimes used it as commodity to be bartered in their deals with the imperialist powers. The occupation by foreign fascists came on top of all this deplorable state of affairs. But our people, led by the Communist Party, (now the Party of Labor) headed by comrade Enver Hoxha, waged the National-liberation War. In the fire of the war for freedom and on the ruins of the old state power the new Albanian State of People's Democracy was born. On November 29, 1944, Albania gained its real freedom and the Albanian people took their destiny into their own hands. The People's Revolution triumphed and a new epoch, the epoch of socialism was opened. Keeping the pick in one hand and the rifle in the other, during these thirty years, from year to year, from one five-year period to another, the Albanians turned their country into a developed one with socialist industry and agriculture, with a revolutionary education system and culture. Our people, workers, peasants and people's intellectuals, are justly proud of the heights they have attained, of the colossal transformations achieved.

Let us make some comparisons:

Total industrial production in 1974 was 92.6 times greater than in 1938 and 3.7 times greater than in 1960. All the branches of industry have developed at a good pace. Thus, by the end of the fourth year of the recent five-year plan period, the chemical industry had increased its production 23.3 times, above that of 1960, the mechanical engineering industry—12 times, the copper industry—20.5 times, glass and ceramics—11 times, and so on.

Total agricultural production in 1974 was 3.8 times greater than in 1938 and 2.2 times greater than in 1960 at a time when the increase of population was 2.2 times and 40 per cent respectively. The production of bread grains in 1974 was 3.2 times greater than in 1960.

The motor power used in our agriculture today is over 900 times greater than before liberation and about 3.8 times greater than in 1960.

Our national income at the end of the fourth year of the five-year plan period which has just ended was 10.8 times greater than in 1938 and 2.7 times greater than in 1960.

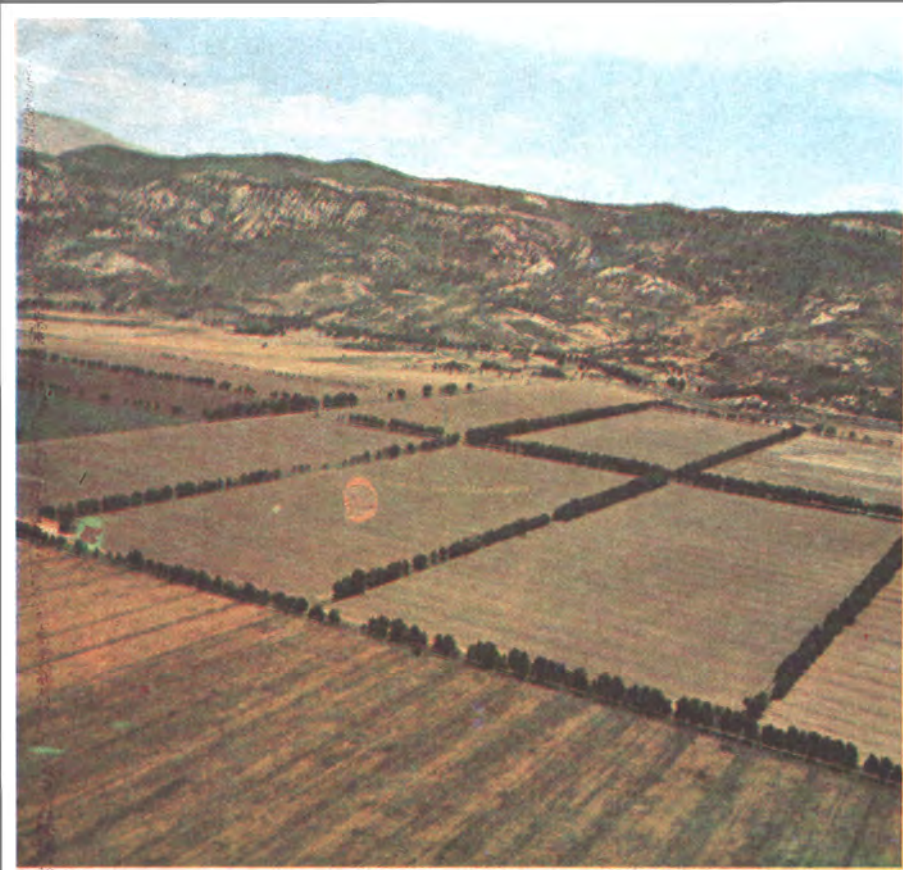
Capital investments in 1974 were 259 times greater than those of 1938. At the 1938 rate it would have taken the regime of King Zog centuries to equal the investments made during these three decades of our People's State Power.

The number of pupils and students during the last school year was over 12.7 higher than before liberation, while the number of cadres of higher training was 64 times greater, and that of the cadres of middle school training 28.8 times greater than before liberation.

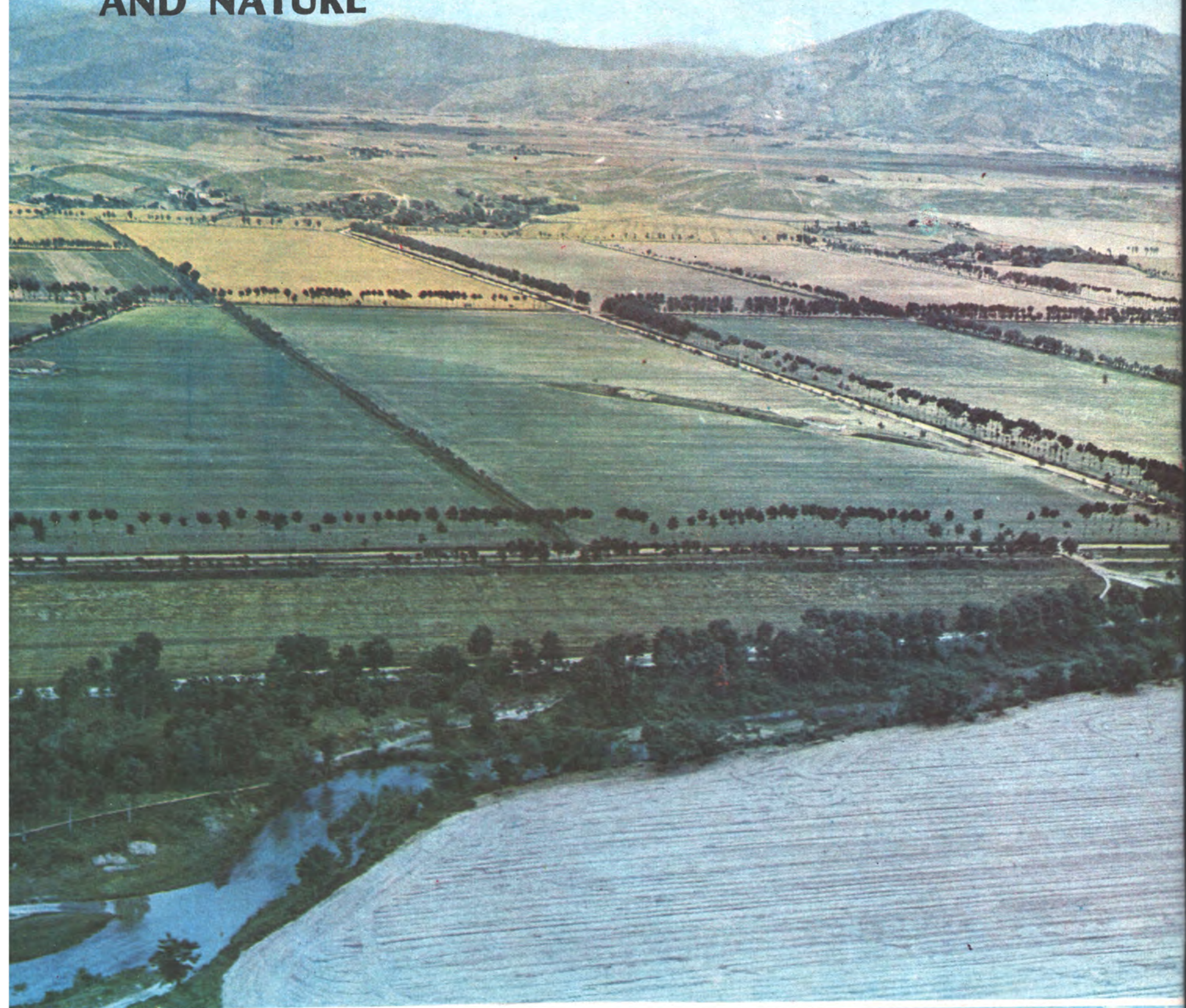
MAN AND NATURE

The links between man and nature have always existed, but their level and character have been conditioned by a series of factors. Following the establishment of our Peoples's State Power, when the ordinary people became masters of their own destiny, these links assumed wider proportions. The hand of man turned whole areas, formerly flooded, into wellordered, fertile lands. In these pictures you see plots of new land in the Lezha region and on the outskirts of Tirana.

Photo: V. Koçi



MAN AND NATURE



On the 14th of January, Comrade Enver Hoxha, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, Comrade Haxhi Lleshi, President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Mehmet Shehu, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other Party and State leaders went to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to express their condolences on the death of Comrade Chou-En-Lai.

Comrade Enver Hoxha placed a wreath in his own name under the portrait of Comrade Chou-En-Lai. Wreaths were placed also on behalf of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania.



THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE HONoured THE MEMORY OF COMRADE CHOU-EN-LAI

The Albanian people received the news of the death of the Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Chou-En-Lai, one of the most outstanding leaders of the Chinese Party and State and a close, beloved and respected friend of the Albanian people with deep sorrow.

In many enterprises and institutions of the country, memorial meetings were organised, at which the announcement on the death of Com-

rade Chou-En-Lai was read. At these meetings, many workers expressed their deep sorrow over the death of Comrade Chou-En-Lai, and expressed the conviction that the glorious Chinese people would turn this loss into a source of strength to achieve even greater victories on the road of socialist construction under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, with Chairman Mao-Tsetung at the head.

On the decision of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, the day of Comrade Chou-En-Lai's funeral, the 15th of

January, 1976, was proclaimed a day of national mourning.

On the 14th of January, working people of the work and production centers, cooperativists and other workers of agriculture, workers from central institutions, the people of art, culture, and science, representatives of mass organisations and the army, went to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the People's Republic of Albania where they expressed their condolences over the death of Comrade Chou-En-Lai.

TELEGRAM

TO COMRADE MAO-TSETUNG

Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

Peking

With profound sorrow we learnt of the death of the Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Chou-En-Lai, one of the most outstanding leaders of the Chinese Party and State, a very close, beloved, and respected friend of the Albanian people.

With the death of Comrade Chou-En-Lai, the Communist Party, the People's Republic of China and all the Chinese people lost a great revolutionary and one of the tested leaders of the Chinese Party and State, one of the closest co-fighters of Chairman Mao-Tsetung, who dedicated all his life, energy, knowledge and strength to the great cause of the triumph of the Chinese revolution, the construction of socialism in China, the allround progress and strengthening of the People's Republic of China.

Comrade Chou-En-Lai fought with devotion for the revolutionary line of Chairman Mao Tsetung, for the building and strengthening of the Communist Party and the Chinese socialist state. He made an invaluable and unforgettable contribution to the triumph to the great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and to the movement to criticise Lin Biao and Confucius as well as to the struggle against imperialism, social imperialism and modern revisionism.

The death of Comrade Chou-En-Lai has deeply moved the Albanian people, who have lost one of their most beloved and dearest friends, who worked wholeheartedly and tirelessly to strengthen the great and fraternal friendship and to develop the close and allround relations and cooperation which link our two parties, peoples and countries.

Young and old in our country will always remember his visits to Albania, his warm talks and meetings with our workers, his ardent feelings of respect, friendship and sincere love for the Albanian people. Comrade Chou En-Lai was a resolute supporter of our people in the joint struggle against imperialism, modern revisionism and other reactionaries.

Our people will never forget his constant interest, great attention and special care for the uninterrupted construction of socialism in Albania and for the allround progress of our country.

The Albanian people, the Party of Labor of Albania, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Government of the People's Republic of

Albania, respectfully honouring the brilliant memory of Comrade Chou En-Lai, send the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the People's National Assembly of China, the State Council of the People's Republic of China, the family and the relations of Comrade Chou En-Lai, their most sincere condolences.

We express the conviction that the fraternal Chinese people will transform this great loss into new strength to carry forward the cause for which Comrade Chou En-Lai fought and worked tirelessly until the last moments of his life. The revolutionary work of Comrade Chou En-Lai will always inspire the great Chinese people, wisely led by the glorious Communist Party of China with the great Marxist-Leninist Comrade Mao Tsetung at the head, to achieve ever more brilliant and magnificent victories in the revolution and the construction of socialism, in the smashing of the warmongering plans of imperialism and revisionism, in the struggle for the triumph of Marxism-Leninism and Communism in the world.

The figure of Comrade Chou-En-Lai as a dauntless revolutionary and consistent Marxist-Leninist will always remain a lofty example for all the revolutionaries and progressive and freedom loving peoples of the world.

Let the memory of Comrade Chou-En-Lai remain honoured and immortal!

ENVER HOXHA

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the
Party of Labor of Albania

HAXHI LLESHI

President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of
People's Republic of Albania

MEHMET SHEHU

Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's
Republic of Albania

Tirana, the 9th of January, 1976. —



BEFORE THE MAP

«KORCHA- THE OLD LADY AND THE YOUNG BRIDE»



In the South East of Albania, a fairly wide plateau is situated, surrounded by a range of mountains of different heights. From above, it looks like a huge carpet woven in the most varied colours by some careful housewife. This is the Plain of Korça situated about 850 meters above sea level. At the foot of Morava, one of the mountains around this plain, lies the city of Korça — the center of one of the most important districts of our country.





A few facts from the past

Taking a quick glance back at the past of this city, we discover that it is relatively young, in comparison with such cities as Durrës, Shkodra or Berat which have a history of thousands of years. However, the name of this city is encountered in the annals of the Ottoman Empire, in the fifteenth century. Korça began the main period of its development about the second half of the 17th Century. When referring to Korça, one cannot pass in silence over Voskopoja, which was a very important cultural center at the end of the seventeenth Century and the beginning of the 18th. It assumed such economic, social and cultural development that it became an important center in the Balkan

Peninsula. The artistic products of the guild craftsmen of Voskopoja made it a center renowned throughout the neighbouring countries. One of these schools rose to be an Academy. This cultural development made necessary the founding of a printing establishment, which, at that time, was the only one in the entire Ottoman Empire for the period that the printing establishment of the Patriarchate in Constantinople was not functioning.

This development was the continuation of the cultural-social traditions of that district from before the Turkish occupation of the 15th Century. This is proved by the cultural-artistic institutions which have managed to survive the tempests of wars which our people have waged in self defence. A former resident of these parts, David Selenica, has left us an entire gallery of monumental figures of a high artistic level. Besides filling different districts of Albania with hundreds of monumental scenes and figures, the 18th Century artists of the Korça district also took their artistic activity abroad to such countries as Greece, Yugoslavia and elsewhere.

These traditions could not fail to assert themselves in the later economic, social and cultural development of that district. Brilliant pages were written in the period of our National Renaissance. —

Linked with Korça is one of the most glorious and patriotic efforts of our people, — the struggle for the Albanian language, the Albanian school and Albanian writing. This was not simply a movement for education, but above all it had a marked political character. On this basis the entire national Albanian movement was developed.

The first spokesman for this movement was Naum Veqilharxhi from Vithkuqi in Korça. Another of the men of the national renaissance, Thimi Mitko (1820-1890), was one of the most outstanding ideologists and activists of our national movement and author of the great patriotic work, «The Albanian Bee». On March 7th, 1887, after a protracted and difficult struggle with the Sublime Porte, the Patriarchate of Istanbul, and also with the Greek chauvinists, the first Albanian school was opened—the first national secular school.

Cattle raising complex and the sugar refinery at Maliq. Photo: S. Xhillari



This school was opened in the city of Korcha. Every year, the 7th March is celebrated in Albania as «Teacher's Day».

On the 10th December 1916, the French Command (the French army occupied this district in October of that year), was forced, by the powerful organised patriotic movement which was led by the outstanding patriot, Themistokli Gërmenji, to sign a protocol, according to which Korcha and its surrounding districts formed the Autonomous District of Korcha. On the same day, the national flag was hoisted in Korcha.

This was where one of the renowned patriots and writers of that time, Mihal Grameno (1872-1913), was born and carried out his activity.

In the stormy years...

Through the streets of Korcha, one frequently comes across a monument, a statue or a commemorative plaque. Each is a witness to some stormy event.

In 1928, in this city, in the conditions of

savage terror, the first communist group in Albania was formed. From Korcha the first sparks of the communist ideas began to spread. It was in the streets of this city, that the big demonstration, which went down in history as the «demonstration for bread» was held. That morning of the 21st February, 1936, the streets of Korcha were transformed into arenas of battles between workers and the gerndarmes of the feudal-bourgeois regime of Ahmet Zog. For several years the beloved leader of our Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha carried on his revolutionary activity here.

In one of the main streets stands a marble column. Young people and school pupils often lay flowers there. One of the most powerful demonstrations against the Italian occupiers took place at this spot. It was the 8th of November, 1941-the day of the founding of the Albanian Communist Party, Korcha dedicated that unforgettable day for the fate of our whole country, with the blood of one of her finest sons, the communist worker, Koci Bako. He was Albania's first communist martyr. Korcha gave hundreds more of her sons and daughters for the cause of freedom; thousands of young men and women took up arms and went to the mountains, to the partisan units and brigades. In October, together with the entire Albanian people who had risen in struggle against the occupiers, they presented the city of their birth that most wonderful thing, real freedom.

The new appearance

The Day of Liberation found Korcha with a few work shops, the largest of which was the brewery. The Korcha district was mainly agricultural.

During these thirty-one years, this district has made strides greater than it had made in centuries.

Today, the district of Korcha occupies an area of 2181 square kilometres as against the 28,000 square kilometres of the entire area of Albania. From 188 villages, twenty six united agricultural cooperatives have been set up, of which fifteen are in mountainous areas, and four are higher type cooperatives. This district occupies first place in the Republic for its agricultural output, it provides the country with one tenth of its entire agricultural output. The cooperativists of this district are distinguished throughout the whole of Albania as tireless and careful tillers of the soil. Combining their rich experience with the application of scientific methods, the use

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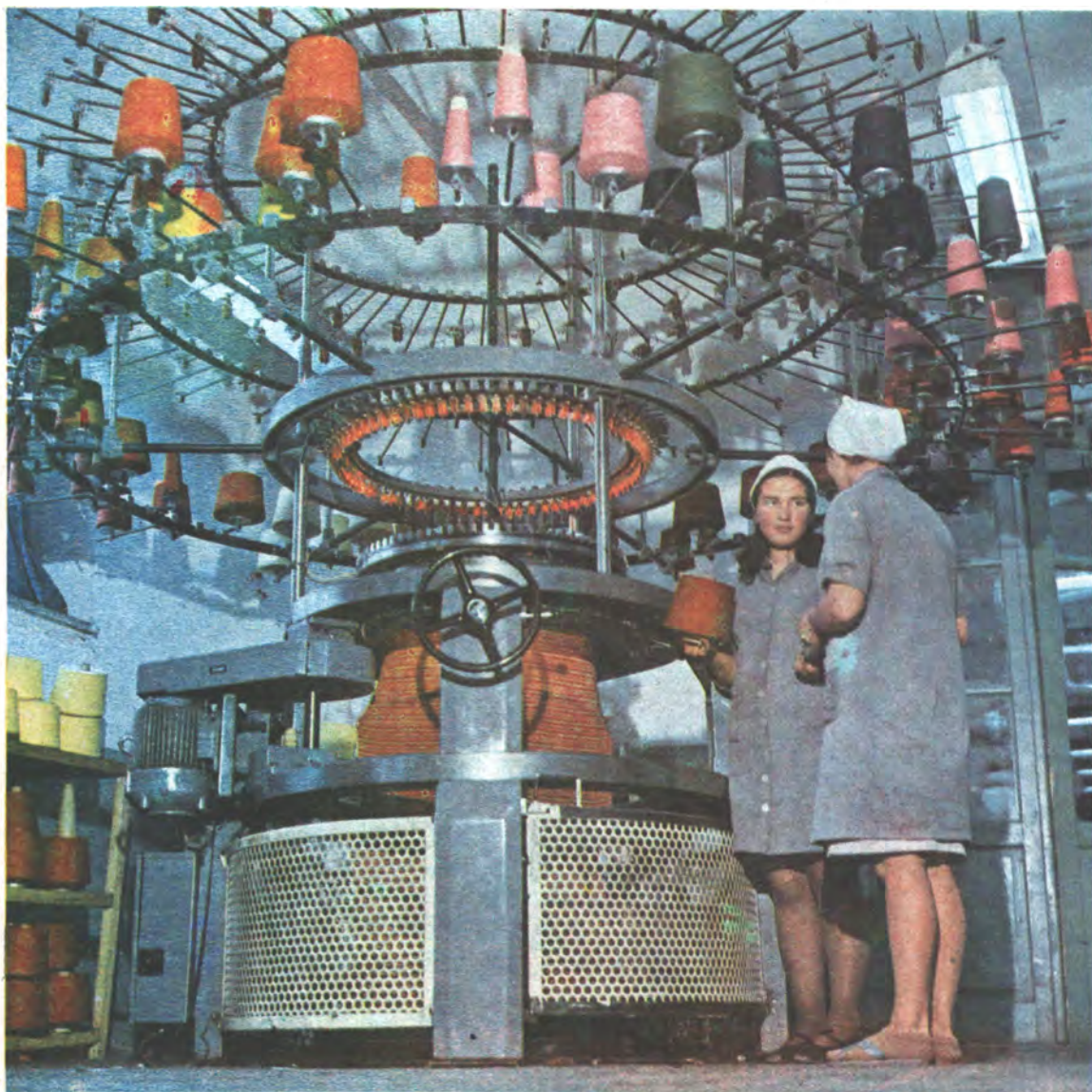


Korça in winter:



Korça is the only district in our country which produces sugar.

On what was once the great Maliqi swamp (5 kilometers from the center of the district) stretch broad fields planted to sugar beet. Nearby the sugar refinery has been built. It has doubled its productive capacity during the recent years.



From a small plant in 1950, the Knitwear Combine grew into a center which employs thousands of workers. Over 80 per cent of the workers are women; in their products they have maintained and developed the ancient traditions of this district in this field.

Workers Tefta Koruti and Roza Mihali at a knitting machine.

While Marjeta Zgura works in the yarn department.



Among the cultural institutions in the city of Korcha, an important place is occupied by the art gallery which has been established in the house where our outstanding landscape painter, Vangjush Mio, lived and worked.

The Korça district is a major producer of fruit. Large orchards have been planted with various fruit trees. One of these is Dvoran, the fruit-growing sector of the Maliq state farm. In our country the Dvorani apples are famous for their good taste and fragrance. They have begun to make a name for themselves in foreign markets.

(Cont. from page 12)

of machinery and fertilizer, they have achieved the highest production rates in the country. In several areas, yields of up to seventy-one quintals of wheat per hectare have been harvested.

Despite this, although the agricultural output has risen 4.2 times as against the pre-war years and 2.3 times as against 1960, the Korcha district is considered an industrial-agricultural region. If in 1938, 91% of the products of this district were agricultural, in 1960 this ratio had undergone a radical change: industrial production was 55% of the total output and in 1974 this figure rose to 58%. Today, this district holds fifth place in the Republic for industrial production.

The products of the «Hammer and Sickle» Knitwear Combine are known even on foreign markets. If we take the year 1955 as a basis, the output of this combine today is 25 times greater. Women comprise more than 80% of the labour force. Near this combine other industrial projects, too, have been set up. It is characteristic of Korcha that those branches of industry which have been developed are those which have long traditions in the area. For example the tannery and footwear factory, the carpet and rug factory, the foodstuffs industry etc. The products of these factories are in demand not only on the home market but also abroad. These products are constantly increasing both in quality and quantity. Thus, while the production of shoes has risen by about seven times, as against 1960, the output of rugs has risen so much that the entire output of 1960 is now produced in two days. The biggest factory for preserves in Albania is in Korcha. 60-70% of its products are exported.

At the top end of the city, at the foot of Morava Mountain, is the glassware factory. This was the first of its kind in the country. It occupies first place in the country for the production of bottles and jars. Some years ago the plant for the production of high precision instruments was built in this city, the only plant of its kind in the country. It is one of the most modern plants.

To the east of the city lies the biggest coal mine of the country, the Mborje-Drenova Mine.

Today, the district of Korcha has two other large towns, Bilisht, with more than five thousand inhabitants, and Maliq, with more than three thousand inhabitants. Maliq was built during the Fiftieths', following the draining of the big swamp there. It is also called «The Sugar City», because it is the site of the «8th November» sugar combine, the only one in the Republic. In comparison with the first year, it has doubled its sugar production.

Also in Maliq there is a big agricultural Combine. This consists of two enterprises, the state farm, the most profitable of all the state farms in the country, and the cattle raising enterprise which will supply the country with more than twenty thousand quintals of meat per year.

The Maliq state farm has ten sectors, each of them a farm in itself. The bulk of the land has been gained from the reclaiming of the swamp in the Fifties'. This was the first swamp to be reclaimed in our country. More than five thousand hectares of new land were gained and thousands more hectares were improved. The draining of this swamp was carried out amidst an extremely fierce class struggle: the external and internal enemies tried to sabotage this titanic deed of our working people. Many literary works and a feature film have been dedicated to the draining of this swamp. In place of malaria, now we have the most fertile fields here. The main crops of this enterprise are bread grain, sugar beet, milk and meat. One of its sectors, Dvorani, is well known throughout the country for its fruit. The apples from this sector are renowned even outside our country, for their excellent taste and fragrance. Each tree yields 70 to 80 kilograms of apples.

Confrontation

The life of the inhabitants of this district is radically different from the past. Today, there are 170,000 inhabitants living there, of whom less than one third are in the three towns.

Towards the end of the Korcha boulevard heading towards Bilisht there is a small clearing to which the people of Korça gave the name «The Field of Tears». It was so named because here the most bitter tears were shed. From lack of jobs, many citizens were forced to emigrate to secure a livelihood. Their farewell began from the center of the city and ended at this clearing. There were many who embraced their relatives for the last time in this clearing, because they died in exile.

Today this gloomy tableau of the past remains only in the memories of the elderly. Our generation knows this life only from their stories and from books. The new life has flowed into

of age. Everybody likes its repertoire consisting of old patriotic songs, lyrical songs of the city, etc.

As in the whole of Albania, in Korcha, too, important measures have been taken to improve living conditions. As a consequence, here, too, the average life span has risen from 38 years in 1938 to 70 years. A series of institutions have been opened which assist the life of every family. Thus, between 1965 and the present day, the number of children's creches in this district has increased five fold, while that of kindergartens almost four fold. Today, in the villages there are four times more hospitals than this whole district had in 1938. Today, the number of hospitals has doubled as against 1966. The people of Korcha have always thirsted for schooling, but only in the years of the People's State Power was their dream realised. Today, one out of every three people is attending one or other of the different categories of school. The total number of pupils attending elementary and eight year schools has risen almost twenty times as against 1938. Now, in the district of Korcha, there are more teachers than there were pupils in the pre-liberation period. The number



Engineer Stavri Frashëri of the bureau of die construction in consultation with one of the workers who is continuing his studies to become an engineer with a part-time course.

every home, every family.

The economic development of the district, and that of the whole country, has changed the level of wellbeing of every family here too. This strikes the eyes at the first glance. Korcha has been enriched with many new buildings. Today, about half of the population of the city are living in new beautiful buildings. New buildings predominate in every village too. As against 1965, construction work increased 80% in 1974.

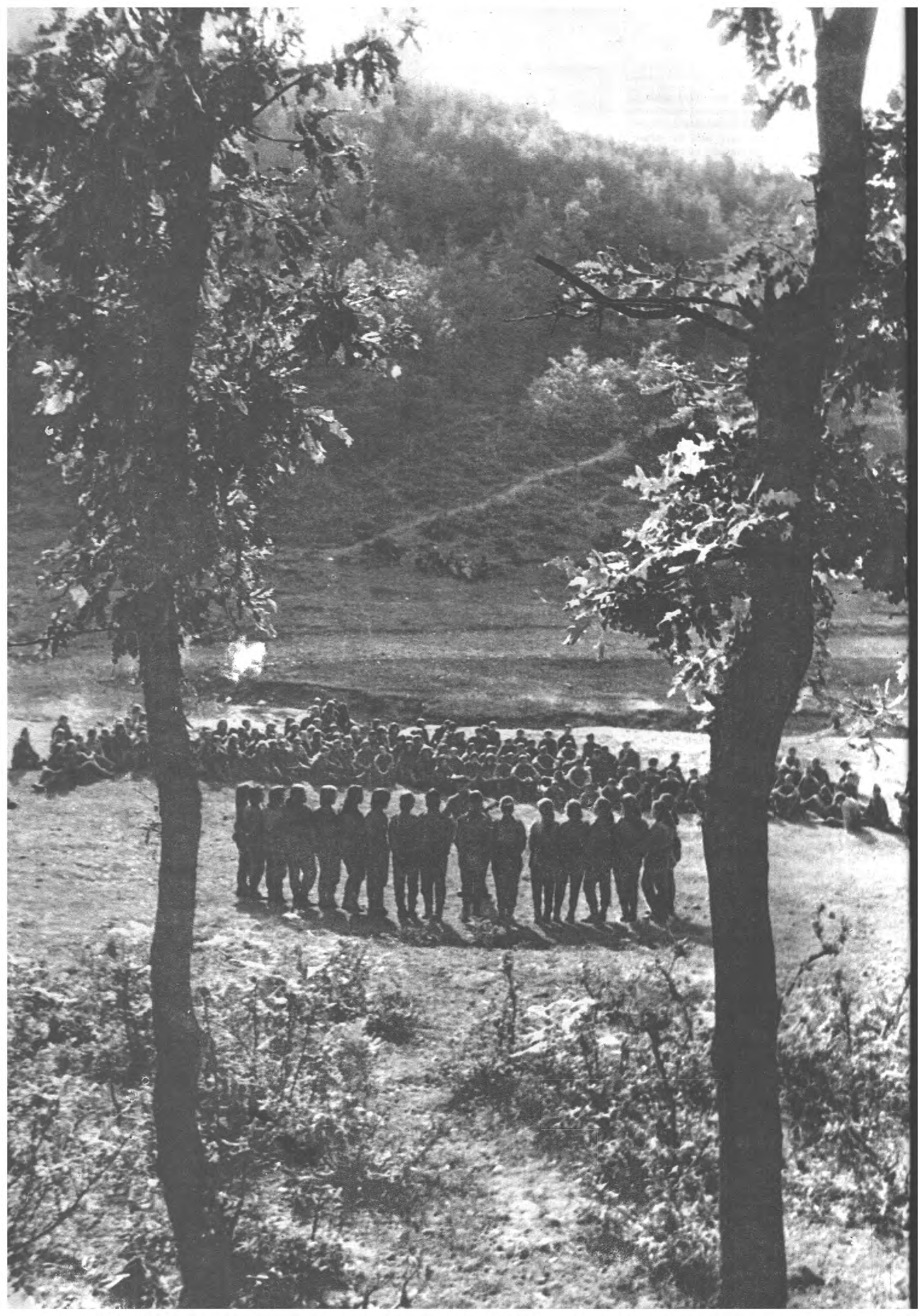
The people of Korcha are distinguished as people of good taste and lovers of art. Every village has its hearth of culture, and in the centers of the agricultural cooperatives there are Houses of Culture. In just one festival, organised in 1974, more than three thousand people took part. In this city of almost 50,000 inhabitants, there is one professional drawn theatre, a variety theatre, five museums, including an art gallery, and cinemas. There is also a Palace of Culture where many artistic groups function on an amateur basis. One of these groups is the «Old Man's Choir» Ensemble, a group unique to Korcha. It is made up of old men up to seventy five years

of middle schools has increased thirteen fold. An extramural affiliate of the University with four branches, engineering, economics, teaching and agronomy has been opened here, where hundreds of students pursue studies while continuing in their jobs.

This overall development of education has resulted in the raising of the number of higher cadres for the different branches of the economy. Within the last ten years they have increased more than three fold.

The district of Korcha has its own local radio station, the newspaper «Përpara» is printed. There is a daily distribution of more than 24,500 newspapers and magazines, a branch of the Writers and Artists League, a branch of the Journalists Union of Albania etc.

When the people of Korcha get together they cannot avoid comparing their life of the past and the present. When they speak of their city they say, «Korcha, the Old Lady, Korcha the Young Bride». These few words sum up the great transformation of the life of that city. Today Korcha is really blooming like a young bride even more beautiful than those who laid down their lives for its future ever dreamed of. —



DEFENCE OF OUR SOCIALIST HOMELAND- A DUTY ABOVE ALL DUTIES



Training to raise the level of military preparedness in order to defend the socialist homeland is an integral part of the active life of every citizen in the People's Republic of Albania. Article 61 of the new draft-Constitution says: «Defence of our socialist homeland is the highest duty and greatest honour for all the citizens». In the plains and the mountains, near the workshops, schools and everywhere, one sees such scenes which portray the constant and persistent efforts of our citizens to master weapons and the military skills.

Photo: N. Pici



SAMDE NORODOM SIHANOUK VISITS ALBANIA



First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha, greets Samde Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia.

On the invitation of the Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania Haxhi Lleshi, and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania Mehmet Shehu, the Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, Samde Norodom Sihanouk, and his wife, Princess Monica Sihanouk, paid a friendly visit to Albania, from December 8 to 11, 1975.

On this visit Samde Norodom Sihanouk was accompanied by the Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National United Front of Cambodia and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government of National Unity of Cambodia, Sarin Chak, and other personalities.

A warm and hearty welcome was extended to the esteemed Cambodian guests everywhere by the workers of the Capital and the leaders of the Party and State. On December 9, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha, received Samde Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian personalities at the premises of the Central Committee of the Party. Present at the reception were the Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Haxhi Lleshi, the Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Mehmet Shehu and other leaders of the Party and State.

A warm and friendly atmosphere prevailed at the reception.

In the evening on December 9, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers gave a reception in honour of the Cambodian guests which was attended by comrade Enver Hoxha and other leaders of the Party and the State. At the reception the Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania, Haxhi Lleshi, and the Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia Samde Norodom Sihanouk, exchanged speeches.

"It is a great pleasure for all of us and for our people," said Haxhi Lleshi among others, "to have among us again the eminent representatives of the fraternal Cambodian people, the Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, Samde Norodom Sihanouk and Madame Sihanouk as well as the esteemed personalities that accompany them,

who have come to our country on a friendly visit. This visit brings us great joy since it takes place at the time when the heroic Cambodian people have crowned their armed struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys with complete success and are now working and struggling self-sacrificingly to consolidate and safeguard the victories they have attained, for the reconstruction and prosperity of their country, to build a free, prosperous, powerful and independent Cambodia. The historic victory of the Cambodian people over U.S. imperialism was a brilliant demonstration of the triumph of the people's war over the aggressive strategy of imperialism, a great example which showed that when a people no matter how small in numbers, are guided by the lofty ideals of freedom and independence and absolutely resolute in their just cause and correct course, they can triumph over enemies much bigger and stronger than they. The myth of the invincibility of U.S. imperialism was buried in Cambodia..."

In his speech, Samde Norodom Sihanouk said, among others, "The Cambodian people, the National United Front of Cambodia, the People's Armed Forces of National Liberation of Cambodia, and the Royal Government of National Unity of Cambodia have sent me to you in order to convey our ardent greetings to the People's Republic of Albania and to dedicate to it our final victory which is the most glorious victory in all the two-thousand years of our national history, and which is, at the same time, your victory because from the very first day of our sacred struggle right, through to its final successful conclusion, People's Albania, its highly esteemed and beloved leader, his Excel-

lency Enver Hoxha, its people and its Government immediately gave us their unreserved support, their all-round aid and their exceptionally important militant solidarity, which were brilliantly manifested under all circumstances and throughout the international arena, especially, at UNO..."

Turning to comrade Enver Hoxha, Samde Norodom Sihanouk said, "The noble words in which you so generously appraise the great importance and the international and human worth of the struggle, the sacrifices and the unprecedented victory of the Cambodian people, who had to face up to the cruellest and most powerful imperialism of all time, will remain for ever engraved in the memory of all the patriots, the members of the National Resistance of Cambodia. Those who have charged me with the duty of presenting their most respectful, most admiring and most grateful salutations, will be greatly enthused."

Your Excellency is not only a great hero of Albania but also of all peoples who, like our two peoples, are fighting and will always fight for the ideals of freedom, justice, peace and progress."

On December 13, the Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia, Samde Norodom Sihanouk, returned to Albania for a rest. On December 15, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania Enver Hoxha, received the Cambodian guest at the premises of the Central Committee of the Party on the occasion of his departure from Albania.

During this cordial reception comrade Enver Hoxha and Samde Norodom Sihanouk had a warm and friendly conversation.

On the eve of the New Year an Exhibition was opened in the big hall of the Palace of Culture in Tirana of the products of Chinese arts and crafts with about 400 rare exhibits which are most impressive and arouse great admiration for the marvellous creative genius of the great Chinese people.

In all their works, in carving, ceramics, embroidery, weaving, works in horn, straw, feathers etc, the Chinese craftsmen have demonstrated a lofty revolutionary content and an art of rare finesse. Shining through all the works like a brilliant light is the class stand of the Chinese craftsman who has turned every ornamented object into a work which militates for the lofty ideals of socialist society, the revolution and progress, which speaks in clear and understandable terms to the masses. Having a correct concept of the great role applied arts play in the ideoaesthetic education of the working masses, as an extremely communicative art which penetrates everywhere, the Chinese craftsman has succeeded in instilling in them the new socialist content which is blended in a unity with the form, material, and the means he uses.

All the exhibits tell of the indescribable drive and enthusiasm which characterize the great Chinese people to put into application the historic decisions of the Xth Congress of the Communist Party of China and the proletarian revolutionary line of Chairman Mao Tsetung in the field of literature and art. All the works clearly indicate that the gifted Chinese master craftsmen have integrated themselves thoroughly with the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers, taking part concretely in the practical struggle, viewing life in all its aspects from a pronounced class angle. From the past they have taken everything good and valuable, and have put it in

THE MARVELS OF CHINESE ARTS AND CRAFTS

the service of bringing out the new socialist content, in this way producing works of art imbued with the party spirit, with socialist content, in total contrast with the formalist trends of bourgeois and revisionist art.

The work in ceramics «Comrades-in-arms:

Albanian fellow fighters on Hainan Island (Kwantung)» in this Exhibition realized with exquisite skill and special love stands out as a valuable symbol of the friendship between the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Albania. The Militant solidarity, joy, unbreakable fraternal friendship, optimism and confidence in victory, permeate this work, which portrays the friendship which links our two peoples in very clear and understandable terms. «This friendship,» comrade Enver Hoxha has said, «was born and consolidated in our common struggle for the cause of the revolution and socialism, tested in revolutionary storm, and heroic battles against our common enemies, imperialism and modern revisionism, for the defense and triumph of Marxism-Leninism...»

The Exhibition aroused great enthusiasm among our working people, our working class, cooperative peasantry, soldiers, artisans, artists and others.

They acquainted themselves once again with the great creative constructive work of the great Chinese people. That is why they welcomed the opening of this Exhibition with much interest. The many visitors and the impressions they recorded in the visitors' book testify to the high evaluation our people made of this Exhibition. A group from the «Migjeni» Enterprise of Arts and Crafts wrote, «We are overjoyed at these brilliant successes of the fraternal Chinese people and we consider them as our own. From this Exhibition our workers, craftsmen and artists have profited a great deal, finding in it great inspiration to advance our collaboration in the domain of arts and crafts, too, and to further consolidate our militant, unbreakable friendship forged by our two parties and by our great leaders, comrades Enver Hoxha and Mao Tsetung».





Selim Bilali: «Our Land».



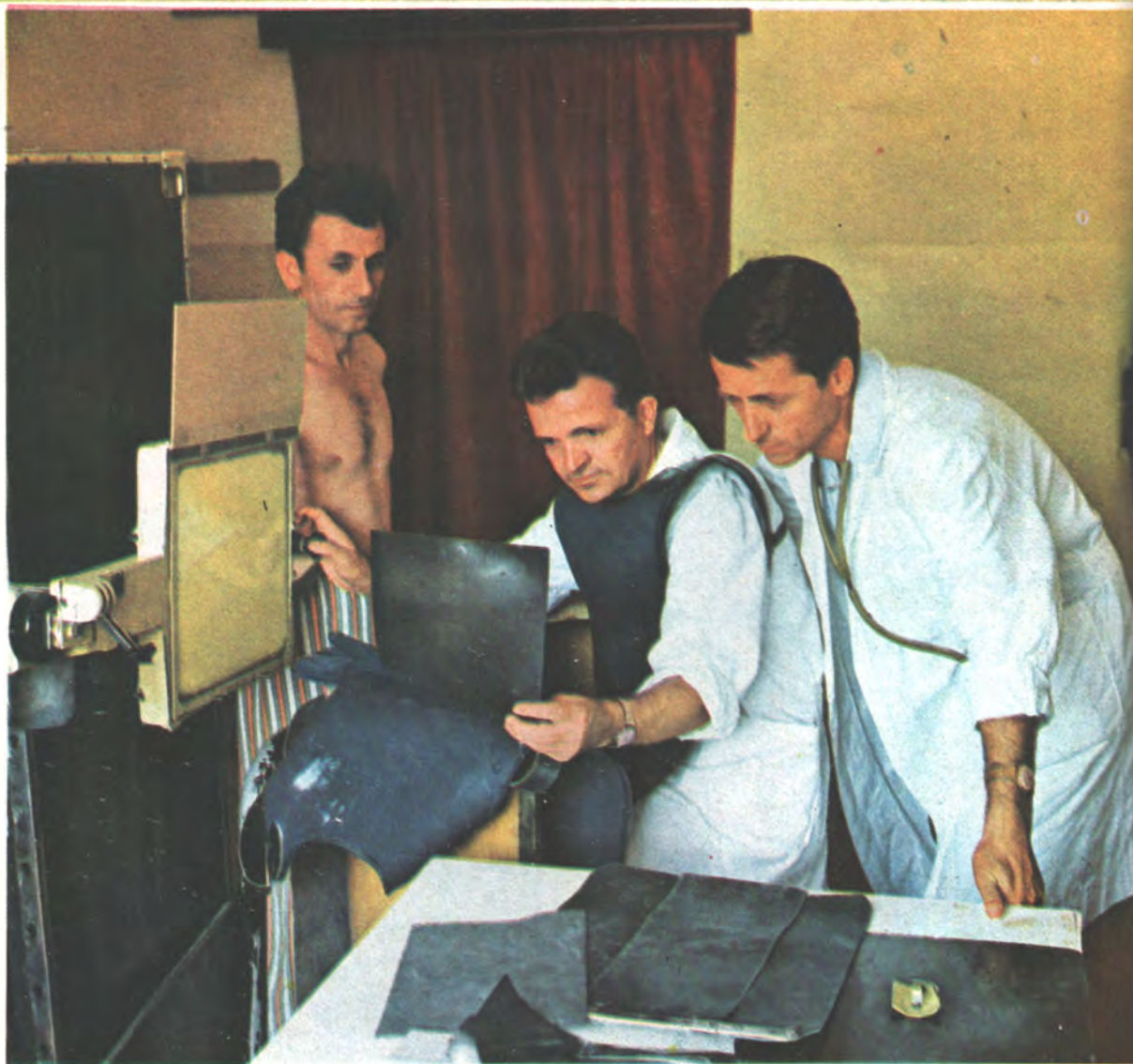
Hqmet Agolli: «Girl on an action».

Guljelm Kraja: «In the cooperative fields».





These girls have come to Rrëshen from different villages of Mirdita and have completed their studies to become nurses.



Radiographer Kol Dodaj (seated) and Dr. Mustafa Selenica at the hospital in Rrëshen, in consultation.

BACK TO LIFE...

Protecting Sanie's health.



Ten-year-old Sanie Lleshi from the village of Rremull in the Mati district met with a grave accident. They phoned at once to the hospital in Burrel. The ambulance drove posthaste to the village and took the girl to hospital. She had lost a lot of blood. The doctors at Burrel hospital took all precautions, staying night and day by her bedside. They gave her blood transfusions and treated her with costly drugs for 18 days on end. At last she went home.

But soon she began to complain of pain and feeling unwell again. They took her back to the hospital in Burrel where she was treated for several more days. Despite the treatment the patient was getting worse. In such a grave state they took her to the military hospital in Tirana where the doctors set to work to discover the cause of her illness, with every kind of laboratory and radiological examination. It turned out that during the accident her liver had been seriously injured and blood had begun to pass through the bile duct. This caused severe pain and jaundice.

The surgeons urgently read up all the medical literature about such an operation.

«Having summed up the materials under study» said surgeon Ismail Feta, «we arrived at the conclusion that the girl must be operated on. We took the appropriate measures, including provision of adequate supplies of fresh blood...»

Despite all their careful preparations, before the operation the surgeons were very worried. «We couldn't sleep at all that night» they said, «we were worried about how the operation would go. It was our first attempt at such a major operation on the liver.» When the surgeons went into the operating theatre, the whole collective of the hospital, together with the patients, relatives, waited anxiously to hear the result of the operation of the girl's liver. Following a strict scientific discipline, the surgeons forestalled any of the various complications that may develop after such operations. 10 litres of fresh blood and large amounts of antibiotics were used for the patient.

Now safely back home. In order to make up for the school time she lost, the teachers go and explain the lessons to her in her home.

For all this massive and costly treatment for their daughter, Sanie's parents had to pay not one cent!

TRIUMPH OVER DEATH

«It wasn't easy for us!», the physician sighed, but there is nothing which patience, courage, and persistence cannot do! All of us, from the doctors to the simplest cleaners, spent sleepless days and nights full of anxiety. In our country there is no limit to the sacrifices man makes for his fellow man.

...Night had fallen. The storm which had set in a few hours before was growing fiercer and fiercer. Daggers of lightning slashed the sky. The heavy rain, driven by high winds went on and on. On such occasions the doctors are always anxious— all sorts of emergencies can arise.

No sooner had the duty doctor lain on his bed to take a little rest than the nurse appeared at the door.

«The Laç-Bruçi cooperative in the Mirdita district is calling you on the phone», she says adding «Very urgent case! They think of bringing him to our hospital here at Rrëshen since it is easier than to Burrel.»

«Call the staff! he ordered the nurse. Have the serum ready! he said to another!» The battle against death would soon begin.

On the road winding through the oak forest, two powerful headlights cut through the

darkness. Patient Asim Klosi was being brought to hospital. Assistant-physician Shaban Shabani, the secretary of the Party regional Organization, Murat Cenmurataj, and Asim's 62 year old mother, Xhemile, were beside him. The assistant-physician kept his hand on the patient's pulse; it was beating but weak; from time to time it couldn't be felt at all. Beads of sweat stood out on Shaban's forehead.

Midnight was approaching. Doctors Kolë Doda, Mustafa Selenica, Paulin Shqalsi, and Aqif Gjokuta continued their careful examination. The diagnosis was clear: myocardiac infarct. But the ways and the weapons to combat it had to be found. The long journey to hospital had made the patient's condition even more grave. One mistake, no matter how slight, could cost the patient's life. Tense and anxious the doctors exchanged opinions. Kol Doda sat all night at the patient's bedside. A recent case gave them heart: It was a day in January. In Lura, where the snow was more than one and a half meters deep, a woman in child-birth was in desperate need of surgical intervention. To shift her to the hospital was impossible. «I'll go!» insisted Dr. Mark Lleshi, the young man

from Mërkurthi, the most remote village in, Mirdita. Carrying the necessary equipment, together with two nurses, he walked six hours through the deep snow. Their feet and hands were numb from cold. But they did not stop. The voice of conscience called, «A mother must be saved!» And she was saved not in a modern operating theatre, but in one of the tall, stone houses of the Highlands.

The doctors of Rrëshen can tell of many cases in which life has triumphed over death, both in hospital and outside it. Bringing Asim back to life would be another important triumph.

The struggle for his life was protracted.

After 35 days, the patient, assisted by a nurse, took his first walk in the hospital grounds. Asim has improved a great deal.

«We considered it our duty as citizens», nurse Maria Shqalsi declared, «to substitute for Asim's relatives. He needed words of friendly encouragement from us all.

The results of this care became evident after 66 days, when 35-year-old Asim left hospital. There was a celebration that night in Asim's home. -

PEOPLE WHO GO FAS

EAGER TO CON- TRIBUTE THE MAXIMUM TO SOCIETY

APOSTOL VANGJELI

Lathe worker

By the end of 1975, the workers of Albania successfully fulfilled the five-year plan, and from January 1976 began work on the 6th five-year plan. Already I have nearly completed my target for the 6th five-year plan and soon I shall start work on my targets for the 7th.

Our plant bears the name of the beloved leader of the Party and of the Albanian people, comrade Enver Hoxha. It is one of the earliest enterprises of our mechanical engineering industry, set up immediately following the establishment of our People's State Power. I feel proud to be working at this plant and try my utmost to honourably carry out the tasks assigned to me.

Now I am working on account of 1980, but I am not the only one to have achieved this sort of success. Many of my fellow workers are far ahead of schedule with their work. You may ask what prompts us to push ahead so fast? It is our desire to contribute the maximum to society. We see that the stronger our socialist State becomes, the greater the income of our State budget, the more it spends on us — on our children in the kindergartens and schools, on pensions, on the health services, on new housing, on the dining rooms and qualification courses here in our plant, on the holiday homes, public libraries and scientific work. What we produce comes back to us, not only in the form of wages but also in all these other forms I have just mentioned. Therefore each of us feels it his duty not only to contribute to the maximum but also to help his fellow workers to carry them all forward with him, so that the whole collective will advance and become a vanguard collective. When work becomes a spiritual need of man, when the fruits of our work lift the whole of society and the individual at the same time, that is real happiness.



IN FIVE YEARS - THREE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY TWO THOUSAND TON/KILO- METERS

KOZMA TANKU
driver

I drive a 13 ton truck of the Motor Transport Enterprise of the city of Fier. It was planned that during the five years 1971-75 the truck I drive would do 1.870.000 ton/kilometers. In fact it has done 3.862.000 ton/km already. In other words it has completed 2 five-year plans. Now I am working on account of 1982. My assistant and I do our best to keep our truck in the best of shape by servicing it ourselves and driving with great care. During this time, it has not suffered any defect. Serious enough to keep it off the road. This is also why we have been able to do 600.000 kilometers without a general overhaul, instead of the 180.000 laid down in the regulations. We have pledged to do another 300.000 kms, ie 900.000 all told, without a general overhaul. According to the manufacture's specifications, the expected working life of the truck I drive should have been 400.000 kilometers, whereas I expect to drive this truck not less than 1.000.000 kilometers.

I do long-distance trips with my truck and I see how every thing is being newly built from the foundations in Albania.

I have carried materials to the plants and hydroelectric stations that are going up. Everywhere, we see blocks of newlybuilt houses, hospitals, theatres and schools. Electric light has been taken to even the most remote villages of our country. All this fills me and my comrades with enthusiasm and we don't spare ourselves to do our job well, and make our modest contribution to building the new life in socialist Albania.



TER THAN TIME

WORK - THE BASIS OF WELL- BEING

GJYZE MARA

Milk maid

Our State farm was set up during the years of our People's State Power and covers most of the land around our capital city. Its main economic direction is fruit and vegetable production, and animal husbandry.

I have been working on this farm for a number of years and I have seen how it has grown, how its has developed and grown economically stronger year by year. Thousands of hectares of land have been planted in grapes, olives, fruit trees, which yield thousands of tons of produce every year. Modern hot houses have been built to grow vegetables and flowers during the winter months. They make up, so to speak the green belt of the capital. Modern stalls have also been built for the cows. The more our enterprise produces, the better is the market in Tirana supplied. And when I see the needs of the inhabitants of the capital for vegetables, fruit and milk ever better satisfied, I feel proud because the fruits of my own efforts are there too.

I work in the animal husbandry sector and have eleven pedigree cows under my care. Considering this as an important responsible task, I strive to complete each day's work on time and in the best conditions. During 1975, I have taken from my eleven cows about 57.200 litres of milk, that is 5.200 litres from each cow.

My comrades have proclaimed me an outstanding milkmaid while the administration has turned out figures which show that I have overfulfilled the plan of production to a considerable degree.

We women in Albania are paid the same as man for equal work. We can retire on the pension at the age of 55 and our children continue their studies through the University with the state meeting the cost. These rights have freed us from insecurity of the future. There is no greater joy than when one sees that one's efforts are highly appreciated and that work is the basis of the well-being of all of us.



I AM WORKING ON ACCOUNT OF 1994

RIZA BURJA

Tractor driver

I am the son of a shepherd from Shkodra. I learned to be a tractor driver in the years of the People's State Power. With the State paying the expenses, one of my brothers has completed his university studies in mathematics, one sister in mechanical engineering, while another is completing her course as a construction engineer. I myself qualified through a part-time school as a mechanic. All the schooling my father had, was 4 years of elementary school while my mother was illiterate. Thus, it can be seen that our People's State Power has not only made us ordinary working people free and our own masters, but it has also created all the conditions for us to gain an education. My father says: «When I was a youth we could not even dream of such a thing».

This is only part of the reality of life in socialist Albania. It would take a lot of writing to tell you all the benefits our People's State Power has provided for us. This is something I never forget and do my best to repay to the people by working as hard as I can. Since 1963, I have always overfulfilled my targets two to three times over. Our machinery should be cherished like the apple of our eye, because the more we save, the greater the increase of the State funds, which are used for the good of us all. Being aware of this, I strove to repair a derelict tractor. That is the tractor I drive now.

Last year my plan target was, to cultivate 400 hectares of land. In fact, I did 1.300 hectares. My objective is to reach the target for the year 2000 by October 1978, and I am well on the way to achieving this.



TALK WITH OUR READERS

YOUTH AND SPORT

In Albania all of the younger generation take part in sports activities. They begin at school where physical training is a separate teaching subject in the curriculum. Thousands of young men and women also take part in more extensive sports activities according to a wide-ranging calendar which constitutes the basis of the program of national and local sports activities. This program is worked out by every district, work center, institution, and agricultural cooperative and enterprise, in collaboration with the broad masses of youth. This ensures not only the variety of sports but also mass participation. This mass participation is clearly reflected in the Spartakiads. For instance in the great Spartakiad of 1974 in honour of the thirtieth anniversary of liberation of Albania hundreds of thousands of young men and women took part. Spartakiads and physical culture displays are held regularly in work centers, schools and various institutions.

The «Vojo Kushi» Higher Institute of Physical Culture has a special branch for skills in athletes, gymnastics and football.

The broad masses of youth are organized into sports clubs and collectives on a district, school, work center, agricultural cooperative, institutional and army detachment level. These clubs carry on their activity by taking part in various championships. For example they take part in the National Football Championships for the first, second and third categories, in the National Championships in basketball, volleyball, swimming, shooting, chess, table tennis, classical and free wrestling, cycling, and so on.

Before the liberation of Albania from the invaders and local traitors, the official sports calendar included only four types of event, football, athletics,

swimming and cycling. These contests were open only to males because the Albanian girl was heavily oppressed by the backward feudal customs prevailing at that time. These four simple official sport activities with that very limited number of teams and contests, were soon (even the very early post-liberation years) turned into mass activities with the participation of many clubs and thousands of competitors. Another significant fact which shows how quickly and in what a revolutionary way our women and girls rejected fanaticism and patriarchy, is the big stride they made as far back as 1945, that is, a few months following the liberation, when they came out to compete in athletics, volleyball, basketball and other sports activities.

Athletics has made great progress. Boys and girls start competing in athletics from the age of 12. The young pioneers of both sexes carry on their own activities in the form of championships or Spartakiads in basketball, volleyball and football. Today just in volleyball and basketball, about 90 teams of boys and girls and adults of both sexes take part in the national championship. We find the same division of ages and sexes also in gymnastics, swimming, and so on.

Another positive aspect of our national sports calendar is that it lasts all the year round. Thus, there is no «dead» season in sports. Our People's State Power has put considerable funds at the disposal of the younger generation. Today, there are stadiums and athletics fields everywhere; there are three palaces of sport and an additional two under construction, there are rifle ranges and gymnasiums everywhere, as well as swimming pools and asphalted roads, suitable for flat races and contests over mountain roads.

MUSIC AND FOLK- LORE

In Albania, musical folklore is very rich and variegated. These creations of the people have been doggedly preserved through the centuries, as have the language, customs and all that synthesis of features typical of the Albanian nation. This great heritage is being continually developed in step with the flowering of our new society.

Cultivated music, in its true sense, has made great progress during the years of our People's State Power. Recent decades witnessed the creation of Albanian vocal, instrumental, chamber and theatre music. Cantatas, oratorios, orchestral rhapsodies, symphonic poems, symphonies, operettas, operas and ballets by Albanian composers have emerged.

Inheriting the most progressive popular tradition, all this creativeness has as its most distinctive feature its truth to life, its vivid reflection of real life. In these works, the working class, the cooperative peasantry and all the broad masses of the people find the reflection of themselves, their efforts to build socialism, and the great theme of the defence of the homeland. They portray the positive hero who fights tooth and nail for the ideals of the people, the mass heroism which is a distinctive characteristic of our own days. This is also why these militant productions are dear to the working masses. They have nothing in common with the decadent trends which generally dominate the bourgeois and revisionist music today. Notes of depression, pessimism, liturgy and submission are alien to Albanian music.

The Albanian composers have always relied for the source of their basic tunes on our musical folklore which, as we stressed at the beginning, is out-

standing for its great richness, variegation and originality. In all the works of Albanian composers, from songs to the works of the major genres of all kinds of music, the tones of folk music artistically elaborated can be heard. But although these works have the source of their intonations in the inexhaustible heritage of folk music, the creative individuality, the style of each composer and the contribution each makes to the enrichment and shaping of the national physionomy of our new music is clearly distinguishable. If we detect the features of an epic intonation in the music of certain composers, like Çesk Zadeja, for example, in that of others like Tish Daia we find a lyricism full of light and optimism, whereas in Nikola Zoraci's music we notice an impulse of dynamic youth full of life and action. The same thing can be said also of other composers regarding the distinctive individual style of their works.

In the creative practice of the Albanian composers there can be no charge of imitation of folklore or of taking some typical element of folk music and treating it in an exotic way. On the contrary, in the works of our cultivated music we find melody, rhythm, harmony, polyphony, timbre, structure, the architecture of the work, etc. blended in a natural manner, which in an inseparable unity embodies the content, the substance which reflects the reality of our life itself. Viewing the question in this angle, our music has nothing in common with the plagiarism and stereotypism which prevail today among the works of modernist composers.

RECORDED ALBANIAN FOLKSONGS



The folk music sector is the most interesting sector of Albanian gramophone record production. With its wealth of folklore Albania offers convincing proof that the variety and richness of folklore tradition are not proportional to the number of the population and the size of the country.

The production of gramophone records of characteristic songs interpreted by our best singers is welcomed by all those interested in Albanian folk music.¹⁾

Folksongs are in full bloom in socialist Albania. During the three decades of our People's State Power, our folklore has undergone extensive and all-round development,

occupying a conspicuous place in the repertoires of professional artists as well as among the groups of amateurs set up in work centers and clubs, houses and centres of culture. In 1957, The State Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances with a vocal, instrumental and choreographic complex was established in Tirana. This Ensemble, which has won a number of top prizes, has presented the beauty of our folklore beyond the borders of Albania.

1) The catalogue of records of Albanian music can be ordered from «Artimpex», Tirana, A L B A N I A.

AN ISSUE TO COMMEMORATE THE 5th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETE ELECTRIC RETICULATION OF ALBANIA

A series of 4 stamps 35x55 mm.: 0.15 leks blue, 0.25 leks violet; 0.80 leks green and 0.85 leks ochre. The cost of the whole series 2.05 leks; perforation 12 1/2.



PHILATELY

A NEW SET OF AIR MAIL STAMPS

The Postal administration of the People's Republic of Albania has recently issued a series of air mail stamps of seven denominations, namely, 0.20, 0.40, 0.60, 0.90, 1.20, 2.40, and 4.05 leks, totalling 9.75 leks for the whole series.

Horizontal from: 43x26 mm., multicoloured perforations 12x12 1/2.

All seven denominations portray Albanian scenery with a passenger aircraft flying above.



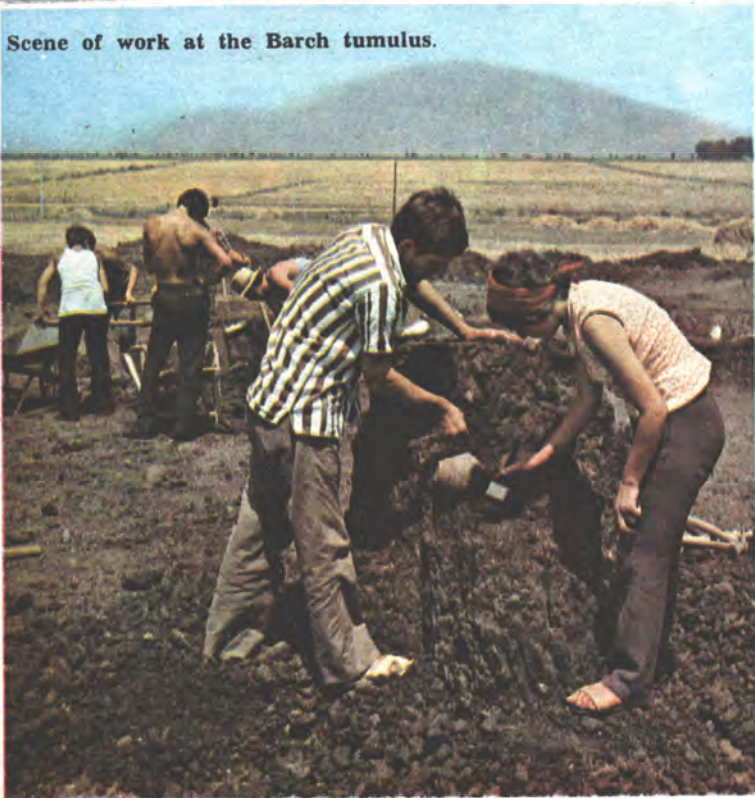
THE 1975 ARCHEOLOGICAL SEASON

SKENDER ANAMALI



New discoveries at Barch in Korça.

Scene of work at the Barch tumulus.



Albanian archeology, developed in close connection with historical studies, has devoted its field research to the basic problems of the history and culture of the people. 16 different expeditions carried on their research work during the 1975 «archeological season».

The 1975 archeological season began with the work of a complex expedition in the Kukës district, in the region which will be flooded by the lake of the hydro-electric plant which is under construction. At Fierza on the Drin River, our archeologists worked at three points: on the ruins of a prehistoric place of habitation in the village of Kolsh, on the big tumular burial ground at Çinamak, and at the village of Brut on the ruins of a house of the IIIrd-IV-th century a.d. These three points

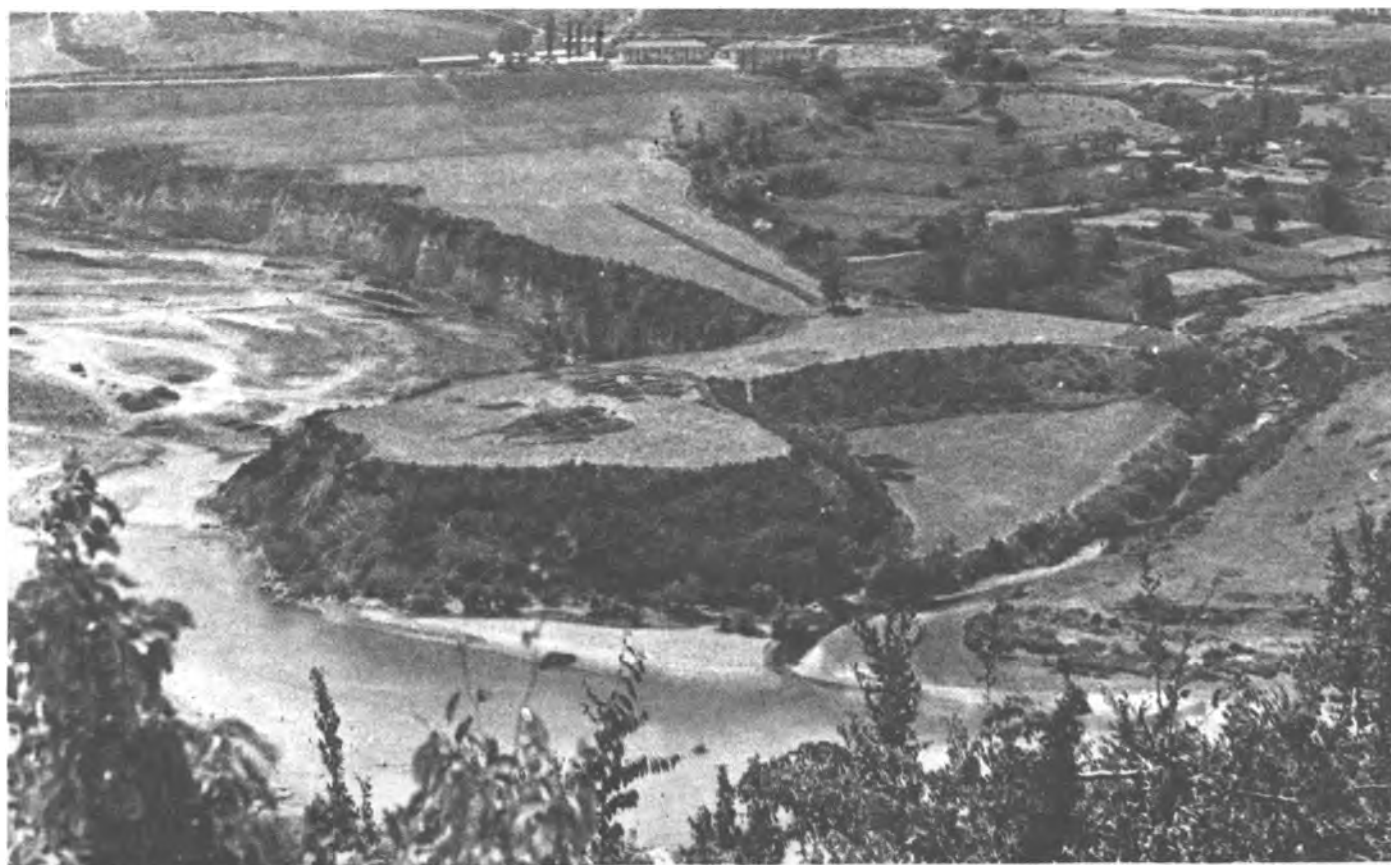
are on different terraces of the Drin valley. The excavations brought to light new data pertaining to the material culture of the early inhabitants of the Kukës district. The archeological material unearthed at the village of Kolsh showed the presence of a place of habitation of the neolithic epoch (the beginning of the IVth millenium before our era) linking its material culture with that of Kosova (Jugoslavia) in the east and with that of Cakrani (in the Fier region) in the southwest. From the Illyrian tumulus at Çinamak, the 1975 excavations brought to light a very rich archeological inventory belonging to the IV-IIIrd century before our era, which testifies to the extension to this remote mountain zone of the region inhabited by the Illyrian Labëats, of the Illyrian urban culture.

The few findings at Brut are linked with the Labeats and most probably also with the travellers' stopping place at Kreven. It is important to note that these findings and others indicate that in the latter part of antiquity the Labean region was densely populated, implying an ethnical-cultural continuity.

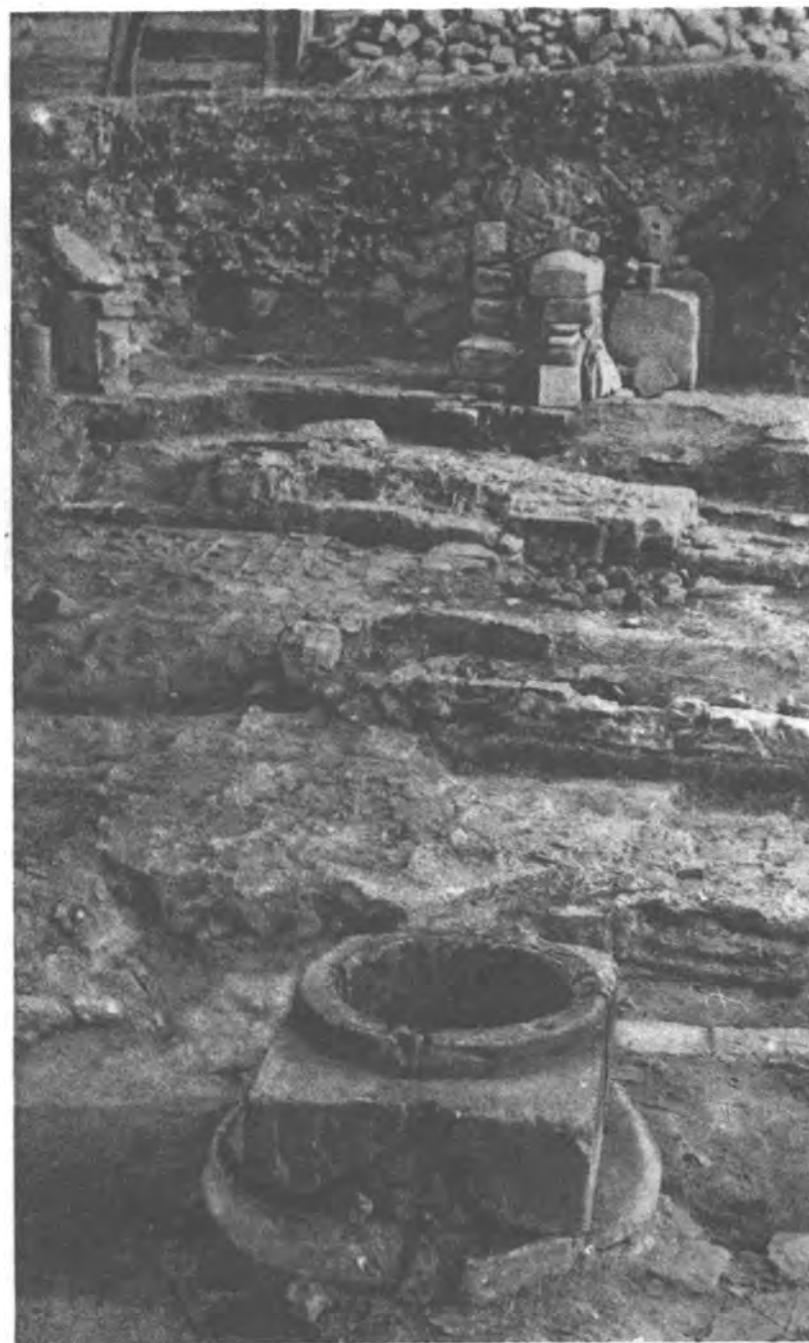
Very fruitful for the further study of the Illyrian culture of the early Iron Age—the first half of the 1st millennium before our era—have been the excavations made at the tumular graves at Barchi in the vicinity of Korça (in the southeastern part of Albania) and in the valley of the Mat river. In both these burial places archaeological material was found which further strengthened the conclusions of our archeology regarding the different stages of the development of the early culture of the Illyrians and its clear local characteristics.

New success was scored also, in the study of Illyrian antiquities during the 1975 archaeological campaign. Notable here are the excavations to unearth the theatre on the hill of Apollonia, in the Fier district. The aim of the 1975 campaign for our archeologists was to bring to light the parts of the stage. Even though the excavations are in the initial phase and the monument seems to be badly damaged, the work so far shows a monumental structure richly furnished with architectonic and artistic elements of the IVth century before our era. A monumental theatre in the ruins of Illyrian Apollonia is fully justified by the great fame this ancient city enjoyed in the Eastern Mediterranean. The ruins of a theatre of smaller dimensions and slightly later origin were unearthed also on the hill of the Klos village in Mallakstra—also in the district of Fier—in the ruins of an Illyrian city. This discovery as well as the other discoveries made in the ruins of many Illyrian cities, have made Albania a country of special significance for the study and solving of many problems of the culture and history of Illyria during the IV-I centuries before our era. Interesting results were attained also from the excavations made north of the city of Vlora, in a place called Treport, where there it is very possible that the ruins of Illyrian Aulona, a seaport which became important after the IInd century of our era are lying.

A major task for our archaeologists during 1975 has been that of tracing and making further study of the continuity of urban life from antiquity to the Middle Ages. Since these researches are directly connected with the major problem of the Illyrian origin of the Albanians, and since chauvinist theories based on «scientific» speculation, have been raised denying the autochthony of the Albanians on their native land, the new archaeological findings assume first rate importance. The excavations



A bird's-eye-view of the excavations at Kolsh in Kukës northeast Albania. Photo: M. Kerkuti



Part of the cathedral at Ballsh.

Photo: S. Anamali

made in the citadels of Berat, Kanina and Symiza—all three in southern Albania—uncovered new rich material which is clear evidence of the continuity of urban life and of Illyrian-Albanian ethnical-cultural continuity. An early mediaeval place of habitation, a continuation of the Illyrian city of Bylis, is being unearthed at Ballsh in Mallakstra. Although mediaeval Ballsh had a monumental cathedral and monastery, here too, as far as the buildings and archaeological materials show, we have to do with an ancient Albanian place of habitation which, although is passed into the hands of various occupiers, maintained its links with the native population of the region.

A special feature of the 1975 archaeological season has been the participation in the excavations of a number of collaborators from the scientific circles of the different cities of our country. Various collaborators carried out the excavations at the tumulus in Mati, at the fortified Illyrian town of Prishtë (Skrapar, southeastern Albania), at Treport and Qeparo in the Vlora district, at Paleokaster of Gjirokastra, at Gështenjas in Pogradec. The materials discovered have enriched the museums of the respective districts and are being studied by those who discovered them. The ever growing participation of collaborators from the district scientific circles is the major contribution they are making to our archeology in the successful solving of the problems facing it especially after the First Convention of Illyrian Studies.

The results attained during the 1975 archaeological campaign confirm this.

OUR ARCHITECTS AND

At the Zootechnical Cabinet of the village of Gure.

The countryside in Albania inherited a pronounced state of backwardness due to repeated foreign invasions and age-old feudal oppression. This situation underwent total transformation following the triumph of our people's revolution. After collectivization, and thanks to the all-round aid by the state, among other things the Albanian countryside has achieved complete electric reticulation, motor highways run through centers of habitation, telephone communications have been established with even the most remote village and the large number of shops, schools, hospitals, and other institutions built have turned the villages into small towns. Steps have been taken year after year to narrow the differences between town and countryside.

Designers make their contribution in this direction. Our town planning and architectural designers have taken up the study and planning of rural buildings, of new types of buildings for housing, social, cultural and economic purposes. Because of the fragmented individual properties, the Albanian village in general was made up of scattered houses far apart from one another, and often without a centre and entirely without any systemised services. However, our new socialist village with its collective economy and common interests cannot be properly developed without appropriate town planning.

At the present time rules and regulations are being drawn up to impose some discipline on the future buildings in the countryside, various rules and standards have been approved and are being carried out in designing and building such structures. These plans are based on the most advanced principles of modern town planning, taking into account the concrete conditions of our countryside and studying and planning the functional layouts of our villages in a scientific manner. In them one can distinguish the residential, economic and social and cultural zones, in this way ensuring a correct coordination of the three fundamental factors: work, dwelling, and recreation.

According to these designs, the residential zones are being grouped. This does not only save land but it also makes the construction of roads, of drains and water-supply easier. The houses are of one or two storeys in groups of two, four, or more on plots 250 square meters. Thus, the old fortress-like houses without light and air are being replaced with new convenient houses with electric light, toilet facilities and running water. During the last five-year period the peasants alone built about 40,000 new houses and 16,000 additions.

At the same time many buildings for social purposes such as schools, houses and palaces

THE COUNTRYSIDE

Ing. ALI MEHMETI
MAKSIM MITROJORGJI



OUR SOCIALIST VILLAGE HAS A NEW APPEARANCE. INSTEAD OF THE POOR COTTAGES INHERITED FROM THE PAST NOW THERE ARE NEW HOUSES EQUIPPED WITH ALL THE NECESSARY FACILITIES. THIS IS ONE OF THE INDICATIONS OF THE RISE IN THE WELLBEING OF OUR COOPERATIVE PEASANTRY. NOW BUILDING IN THE VILLAGES IS DONE ON THE BASIS OF A WELL STUDIED PLAN. IN THESE PICTURES YOU SEE DWELLING HOUSES IN A NUMBER OF VILLAGES IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF ALBANIA.

of culture, hospitals, kindergartens, creches, buildings for commercial and communal services have been built with investments made by the agricultural cooperatives themselves or by the state.

A clearer view of the future of the Albanian village is given by the centres of the state farms where the resemblance to the city is greater. Predominant there are blocks of apartments, rising three or four storeys, paved streets, parks and flower gardens and all kinds of social and cultural buildings.

The economic zones are built at an optimal distance from the dwelling houses, and grouped together, for instance livestock housing, processing centers for agricultural and dairy products, stores and service departments. We can mention a number of new villages of this type in the regions of Kukës, Vlora, Tepelena, Dibra and elsewhere.

Special importance is attached to planning regional buildings studying and determining the criteria of the development of the different regions of the country so as to make a correct distribution, for example of bulk stores for agricultural products, centres for the network of schools, public health centers; the specialisation of work and other questions, in close coordination with the needs and problems of the cities. -



THE ARBERESHI"

Prof. VEHBI BALA

So far as we know, Albanian migration to Italy began in restricted groups prior to the death of George Kastriot, Scanderbeg, the outstanding leader of the wars of our people against the Turkish invasion in the XVth century. Mention is made of their having settled in southern Italy during the years 1448 and 1461. But this emigration became more intense after the Hero's death, when, in order to protect their honour and very existence threatened by the foreign invaders, a good number of Albanians left their mother soil, their homes, and everything they had built and defended with so much blood and sweat and migrated to establish themselves in Italy. Mention is made especially of their settling within the period, from 1468 to 1478. The King of Naples to whose aid Skanderbeg had once come, distributed the newcomers among the poor regions of the south, Basilicata, Molise, Kapinate Apulia and more of them, to Calabria, where the Albanians founded new villages. Some smaller groups settled in Sicily. A number of Arbëresh from Greece established themselves in the years 1532-33, especially in the regions of Corona and Morea. The last Albanian migration, this time from Piqeras of Himara, took place in 1744.

They settled in Villa Badesa. According to Barbarich (see "Albania", Rome, 1905, pp. 331-333), there were about 200,000 Arbëreshi and about 80 villages of Albanian origin during the XIX century. The immigrants brought with them their language and customs and defended them doggedly against alien influences. In the undeveloped regions in which they settled, in the conditions of feudal ownership and relations, avoiding assimilation the Arbëreshi developed their own popular traditions, not without intense efforts. They built friendly relations with the common people of the regions which had given them shelter. They turned the land they had found fallow into fertile fields and built new institutions. In the XVIIIth century they set up two colleges of their own: one in 1732 at Bennedetto Ullana (later removed to San Demetrio Corona) and the other in 1734 at Palermo, Sicily. These colleges became centers of a literature, naturally, of a religious and educational character, but of linguistic and historical-literary significance. Luka Matrango's work (1592) was published only 37 years later than the first monuments of Albanian literature. Kleuti's manuscripts belong to 1737. Jul Variboba's long poem was published in 1762. In these early writings we can see the motifs of yearning for the native land of their forefathers and glorification of their past history.

In fact, this tradition should not be taken separated from the cultural contribution of the Albanian element on Italian soil. Thus, for instance, Gjon Gazulli, who studied in Padova (1430) became famous as a mathematician and astronomer. In the second half of the XVth and the beginning of the XVIth centuries there were personalities outstanding in the field of historical thought, as humanists and chroniclers, such as Leonik Tomeu and Mikel Maruli, Maksim Artioti and Marin Beçikemi, Dhimitër Frangu and Andrra Engjëlli, Gjon Muzaka and, especially, Marin Barleti, author of the famous work in Latin on the life and deeds of Skanderbeg.

The Arbëreshi population of Italy maintained a conspicuously progressive attitude towards the historically important events of the Italian people. The Arbëreshi took part in the war against the Bourbons and feudal absolutism for the establishment of the Partenopeic Republic in 1799. Pasquale Baffa (1749-1799) fell a martyr for that cause. During the first half of the XIX century, the struggle of the Italian people for

national liberation, the Carbonar and Garibaldi movements, include many prominent Arbëreshi figures, such as Domeniko Mauro, J. De Rada in the uprising of Naples which compelled Ferdinand II to proclaim the constitution, Angezilao Milano who fired shots at the King, and F.A. Santori and Zef Serembe who hailed the uprisings at Naples and Venice respectively, Gavril Dara Jr. and Pjetër Kiara who took part in the Palermo uprising (1848) and in that of the peasants in Sicily (1861), Vincenc Stratigo who headed the Redshirts, all of them displaying such admirable courage and loyalty that Giuseppe Garibaldi was impelled to say, "The Albanians are heroes who have distinguished themselves in all the battles with the enemy". Let us mention the fact that the Albanian Pashko Vasa, from Shkodra, took an active part in the uprising of Venice against the Austrian invaders. But when the ideals for which they fought were not realized, the progressive Arbëreshi writers also expressed a note of disillusionment. The patriotic and democratic uprisings were extolled not only in the Arbëresh literature but also in that of the Italian Renaissance through works in Italian by D. Mauro, G. Dara jr., P. Kiara, V. Stratigo, J. De Rada, F. A. Santori, and others.

At the same time, the most outstanding representatives of the Arbëreshi population took part also in the patriotic cultural movement of the Albanian people called the National Renaissance. Patriots from Albania and from Albanian colonies abroad, contributed to the publication "Fiamuri Arbrit". The first Albanian Language Congress was held in Calabria in 1895 with J. De Rada presiding. The second Congress which was held in 1897 created possibilities for the publication of two press organs, namely, "The Albanian Nation" and "New Albania". Finally, the third Congress was held in 1903, in Naples. Among other things, these conventions also gave an impetus to the development of Arbëresh literature to the benefit of the national patriotic movement of the Albanian people.

Undoubtedly there were different attitudes towards the Albanian national movement and the Italian progressive movement within the Arbëreshi forces, both in the political-social field as well as in the cultural-literary field. But even after the occupation of Albania, fascism was quite unable to deceive the bulk of Arbëreshi and launch them against the vital interests of the Albanian people. The antifascist national-liberation war, the revolution and the socialist construction of our country, under the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania headed by comrade Enver Hoxha, won friends throughout the world. The Arbëreshi in Italy rejoice at the achievements attained by the people of the land of their ancestors. This sympathy finds expression in the Arbëreshi literature which is developing to this day in certain regions, where the worthy inheritors of the patriotic, democratic, and progressive traditions of their forebears live.

The Albanian people consider the progressive literature of the Arbëreshi as an integral part of their national culture. Therefore, our scientific research work to discover, collect, study and spread this literature on as broad a scale as possible among the workers of the People's Republic of Albania constitutes an object of continuous work of the specialized institutions of our country. We like it for its patriotic and democratic character, its creative reliance on folklegend, its active romanticisation in evoking the historical past and its powerful realism in reflecting social environments, its passionate and rich elaboration of the language and folklore, and value it both for our generation and the generations to come.

Now we can say that the center of studies of written and unwritten Albanian literature is in Albania, and this because of the favorable conditions created by our People's State Power. The Institutions concerned — the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania, the Tirana University and others support major initiatives and objectives for a more thorough appreciation of the wealth of national literature including that of the Arbëreshi in Italy inherited from the past.

In continuation of the earlier work done by scholars sent for research in the territory where the Arbëreshi live in Italy, the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania sent a team in September 1975 to conduct further studies there in the field of folklore and the work of Arbëreshi writers. The author of this article was a member of this team. Investigations in the field of musical and literary folklore were made at Hora of the Arbëreshi (Pianina degli Albanesi) and at Messina in Sicily, at San Demetrio Corona, Frascati, St. Sophia, San Bennedetto Ullano, Chivita, Calabria, Puglia, Camomarina, Villa Badesa, Ururi, Montecilfone of Abruzzi. There were recorded about 260 songs, stories, tales, proverbs, sayings, about 150 photographs were taken of singers, costumes etc. and several short films were made. Over 50 other songs were recorded on tape from an Ethnomusicological collection at the state record library in Rome. The harmonic and polyphonic originality of these various songs which express an ancient Albanian culture are of striking value. More thorough study of this matchless moral heritage in its distinctive features and in the comparative and historic planes is still to be done. At Cozenca we found some unknown works by De Rada and Santor in their manuscript form. By De Rada we note: the sixth variant of his poem "Milosot", a variant of "Skanderbeg pa fat", a poem in Italian, which seems to be the "Odyssey", the text in his handicrafting of a lecture drawn up with the cooperation of the Albanian patriots in Egypt delivered by the poet in defence of the rights of the Albanians within the framework of the Prizreni League, a list of Arbëreshi and Albanian contributors to "Fiamuri Arbrit", letters by Thimi Mitko, Spiro Dine, N. Naço, Dora D'Istria, H. Schuchardt and others, the manuscript of Pasko Vasa's poem "Oh my Albania!" which the author had sent to the distinguished Arbëreshi poet. At the National Library in Florence we came across 35 letters De Rada had written to Nicolo Tomasse and 45 letters he had sent to Angelo De Gubernatis. A rich collection of manuscripts by F. A. Santor is found at the City Library of Cozenca. Here we found a collection of romances in verse, the works "The Political Prisoner", and "The Arbëreshi Singer", republished by the Arbëreshi scholar Francesco Solano, fragment of two original novels in Italian based on Arbëreshi themes, and so on. In addition to these, we discovered at the city Library of Palermo in Sicily Gavril Dara Jr.'s work "Some Poems" written in 1848 and in the district archives, an official act awarding a medal to him for his participation in the 1861 uprising. All this great wealth of material obliges us to make deeper studies on the life, activity and works by the above mentioned writers in order to further clarify many problems of our literary historiography, in general, and of that of the Arbëreshi, in particular, in the light of the documents now known to us. And we believe that further research will enable us to find materials so far undiscovered which preserve the great spiritual world of the Arbëreshi through the years. —

1/ — The Albanian Settlers Abroad.

THE XIVth SONG FESTIVAL IN RADIO- TELEVISION

It has become a tradition in our country to hold a song festival in radio-television at the end of each year. The XIVth festival with twenty four new songs was held on the eve of 1976. The songs were followed with interest and met with general appraisal both for their subject matter, their power of expression, their optimistic and mobilizing spirit as well as their pure diction and national character. What prevailed at this festival were the lyric themes of songs which reflected our rich and inspiring actuality, the achievements attained in all spheres of life, our attachment to our homeland, to our Party and to the leader of all our people, comrade Enver Hoxha, the heroic spirit of our new man who places the interests of the homeland and socialism above everything else, and the glorious epoch of our National-liberation War.

The general tone of these songs was marked by their subtle national accent due, first of all, to the tasks and requirements the poets, composers and interpreters have assigned to themselves. This trend which becomes more and more pronounced with each passing day is expressed both in their

subject matter as well as their means of resonance. Herein lies the well deserved success of this festival, the songs of which developed according to the best tradition of the songs of socialist realism based on the great heritage of our musical folklore.

Another distinctive feature of this festival was also the variety of songs. This very positive trend of our new songs makes them not only very actual but also deeply penetrative, massive and within reach of our working people.

This festival went to show that the art of orchestration has been brought up to date by our professional as well as amateur composers. They are earnestly concerned in and attach due importance to orchestration being well aware that orchestration is not a mere outer element but a real ideo-artistic achievement.

In the field of interpretation there dominated the tendency to conceive the song within the Albanian environment pure and frank both in substance and in form.

This year's festival brought to the fore a number of young singers who made their debut before a good-sized public audience.

Young singer Violeta Zefi, singing at the 14th Radio-T.V. Song Festival which was held at the end of last year.



THE ALBANIAN ALPS

Prof. PANDI GEÇO



roofs to shed the heavy winter snow, have been established in the wider stretches of the valleys. Their inhabitants, whose occupation before liberation was almost entirely pasturing flocks, are now devoting more and more attention to agriculture thanks to the opening of virgin land, especially in the form of terraces. In the past, communication between the valleys of the Albanian Alps was over high passes which could be crossed on foot only in summer, whereas in winter they were impassable due to snow and these valleys remained isolated. During the years of our People's State Power communication has been established between these valleys, while motor roads link them with the other parts of the territory.

Before the establishment of our People's State Power, this beautiful district remained isolated and unknown, because it had been left almost entirely in its natural state. The true appreciation, transformation and development of it were made possible only after liberation thanks to the opening of motor roads for communication between the inhabited regions and the utilization of its forests, to the opening up of agricultural land, to the use of its running waters to the advantage of economy, to the renewal of the villages with new houses, schools, and various cultural and health institutions, cafes and restaurants, to the opening of summer camps in the most attractive spots for workers' holidays and the organisation of mountaineering excursions, and so on.

Scene from the Albanian Alps

Characteristic costumes of the inhabitants of this region.

Alpine peaks under perpetual snow.

Albania is predominantly a mountainous country. About three quarters of its area is more than 200 meters above sea level. Its average altitude is nearly double that of Europe as a whole. Among the most mountainous regions is the region of the Albanian Alps in the northernmost part of our country. It is not only their great height which constitutes the distinctive features of the Albanian Alps but also their morphology, geology, climate and so on. The first thing that strikes one's eye about this region is its form which is that of a mountain massive shaped like a dome. The center of this dome is made up of a group of mountains 1400 to 1700 meters high, dominated by Mt. Jezerça which is the second highest in Albania. From this group of mountains a series of valleys radiate out in all directions. Between these valleys rise mountain ridges which usually fall away in altitude toward the periphery. Both the central mountains, as well as the ridges radiating from them, have a characteristic extremely steep form. They rise like

pyramids above the valleys giving the impression that they are higher than they actually are. Above a height of about 2000 meters, the mountain tops are bare and in places covered with snow all the year round. The faces are forest clad only below this altitude. The forests are predominantly of beech and conifers between which there are many green meadows thickly carpeted with grass, which are splendid summer pastures for the flocks. In places valleys are narrow and in other places they broaden out. Through them flow rivers with waters that are cold and crystal clear all the year round. They are fed by streams that tumble down the mountainsides often as foaming waterfalls of particular beauty. In the past, the turbulent waters of this district were left in their natural state while in our days they are harnessed to supply irrigation and produce electric energy: now there are tens of village hydro electric power-plants set up during the years of our People's State Power. The beautiful alpine villages, with their steep





CINEMATOGRAPHY

A BEAUTIFUL FILM FOR CHILDREN

LUAN DIBRA

The recent film «Beni Walks All By Himself» produced by the gifted producer Xhanfise Keko, has met with a warm reception not only from the youthful audience to whom it was directed, but also from adults. The critics and film experts consider this as undoubtedly best production of the artist and of Albanian cinematography with a theme about children. Along with many documentary films, this is the fourth feature film made under the direction and artistic guidance of Xh. Keko. The world of children, their dreams, life, games, growth and especially the delicate and complicated problem of their education and formation, have continually been the concern of the producer who has devoted almost her whole activity to this theme. And «Beni Walks All By Himself», based on the scenario, by writer Kijo Blushi, deals with the absolute neces-

sity for the younger generation, from the earliest years, to be tempered physically and morally, to become healthy, active, courageous, to face the vicissitudes of nature and become well acquainted with them, to love work and assimilate the habits of work and so on. The authors of the film reject as very harmful the excessive concern of certain parents who, out of fears for their health and lives, keep their children away from nature, society, games, life, rearing them into sulky, sissy, and timid human beings.

The film has been produced in truly poetic language. The producer's grasp of the nature and psychology of children makes all the events, environment and spiritual evolution completely credible and very moving. The interpretation of the actors and, especially, of young Beni, (interpreted by seven year old Herjan Spiro) is really admirable.



«THE DOCTOR'S

Burhan Kukeli

From the open window of my room, I stood looking out at the sea. The sun had set and the burning heat of the day had moderated. From the east came a gentle, fresh breeze and a pair of ferns glided by in single file. A bunch of children were shouting and splashing about at the water's edge. That evening, despite my long and tiring journey, the desire to rest had left me, perhaps because the impressions of the day would not leave my mind and heart at ease, I was deep in thought when somebody knocked on the door. In came my old friend, Loni Bardhi, a retired doctor. He was very drawn in the face with big kindly blue eyes. Under his white shirt his chest looked painfully thin. Smiling as usual he held out his hand and it seemed as if his long, slender fingers would snap in the grip of my great paw. He sat down, stretching out his legs to make himself comfortable. His smile and gaze seemed to be saying: «Please excuse me, this is just the way I am».

I studied his long, pale face and asked myself, «what sort of a man is he?». I don't know why, but I have always felt a surprising feeling of respect for this man. But never, at any time, have I expressed this to him. In all my years as a driver I have had occasion to get to know many people, to listen to their problems and worries, to hear many stories, but with Loni it was different. Before him, I seemed tongue-tied like an unprepared pupil before his teacher. He asked after my health and about my work. I said that I was fine and that my work was going well, ending up: «Tomorrow I shall go to Vurgu». He looked down at the floor and sat for some moments unmoving. His forehead was creased in three fine wrinkles, which from time to time smoothed and disappeared. He rose from the chair and approached the window. I was profoundly curious to know what he was thinking. Through the window came the noise of the road and my friend gazed thoughtfully out at the people and the sea. Dusk was falling. After a while he turned to face me and suddenly asked:

— «Have you ever loved and hated at the same time?»

This question caught me unawared and, surprised, I merely shrugged my shoulders without knowing what to say.

«Tomorrow you will go to Vurgu. You will load up. Then you will meet people, you will be captivated by the beauty of that plain, and will be filled with such a feeling of joy, as if a woman's two tender hands are caressing you, and you will say: — How beautiful! Oh, how beautiful! You'll see, your very soul will sing. How easy it all seems today, after so many years. Ah, then, it was nowhere like it is today. We still hadn't taken off our partisan uniforms. We arrived there with one medical bag and the rifle barrel still hot. It seemed as though the war was over and life had once more assumed its quiet flow. But the struggle wasn't over yet. One night, after a Party meeting, our Commissar asked me to stay behind. There was something he wanted to tell me. We were old friends and almost of the same age. We talked together almost till daybreak.

— 'The State has given land to the peasants' — he said to me. 'Now we are rich, too'. Our Commissar laughed. Then he frowned. I can remember how his intelligent eyes blazed.

— 'What do you think, doctor? The bey and the priest oppressed the peasant. A sick life. What do you say, shall we be able to make it better' — he asked, not expecting any answer, but just in passing.

But I understood immediately what lay behind. Work, fatigue, sleepless nights. Then the Commissar stood up and, deep in thought, hands behind his back, began to pace up and down the office. «What a man!», I thought to myself, in amazement... From that stocky body and those penetrating eyes, seemed to emanate a power that brooked no opposition. We ate together maize bread and beans. Never in all that time had we felt so close to each other as that night. I embraced that man, as we did at the time in partisan life.

— «Come on Commissar! We shall make life better», I said.

Within my being I felt an indescribable strength. I travelled in the old wrecks of vehicles the war had left us, and sometimes on foot. I pressed on. One thought was constantly in my mind — to get there as quickly as possible. Sometimes those old wrecks broke down and I would have to continue on foot. Night found me around the shepherds' fires, or with the road maintenance workers. After three days I reached Vurgu. Why should I hide it, the very soles of my feet were aching. It was autumn. In the sky, black clouds raced towards the west. From the Pass of the Six I looked out over the plain drowned by the swamps. The hills were covered with a sort of weed through which the feet of man and beast had opened winding paths. And above all, this gloomy tableau was completed by the branches of the weeping willow drooping sadly over the water. Several weeks later I saw things which would wring your very soul. One day the Bistrica swollen with heavy rain, burst its banks. It flooded those cottages, leaving every thing encrusted with mouldy slime, the winding roads, knee deep in filthy mud. The only building which escaped was the church built on a hill. The sombre tones of the bells, their wild clanging, made you think of the end of the world. Despite this, if you looked a little deeper, you could see that everywhere, it was apparent at every step you took. Now the majesty of the work was laid out in front of me. New foundations everywhere. Piles of stones, boards, wheelbarrows. The newspapers were speaking about the volunteers on the first railway lines. But above everything, everything else, was the joy of the new man reborn, the man of whom we had dreamt so many times during the nights of our partisan life.

No, no, I wasn't just a doctor. The duty to save the lives of people was just a part of the battle. You had to go into this battle heart and soul and not just for the look of the thing. When I saw the sorrowful faces of the children, with their eyes looking huge from the fevers of malaria, it seemed to tear at my heart. In those moments two opposing feelings clashed deep within my being — love and hatred. I couldn't sleep at night. The events of the day kept rising before my eyes. I kept seeing the children with their bloated bellies, skinny legs, dirty and barefooted. Hatred kept my eyes from closing. My love for the people had driven sleep away.

«Ah, Loni Bardhi», I would scold myself, «how little you do!» The Party had taught me something which went beyond the bounds of the usual, the ordinary. My clinic was set up in the former house of the Bey. One day, they sent for me saying that a girl was ill. I set out following the peasant. He was a tall spare man, stooped almost double. We walked in silence. From time to time he would cough and mutter under his breath. Twilight was spreading over the plain, and saw how from moment to moment light

and shade were changing places. After walking a while, we reached the peasant's house. The people there received me in silence, but in their faces there was a flicker of hope. I approached the patient. I placed my hand on her burning forehead. Her mother and father were sitting beside her. Her little heart was beating furiously and she pressed her hands to her chest. How many desperate days I went through then. I was faced with a 14 years old girl, a child burning and wasted from fever. In the weak light of the lamp I looked at the people's feet. I saw feet wrapped in rags, stained with pus and blood. Deformed feet, diseased, swollen, torn and ruined by the swamp. All their gestures and movements they made in patient silence. I shook and trembled, seized with hatred for those who until yesterday had caused these people such suffering. It made my blood boil. Sometimes even the fighter has the soul of a child. He needs a pat of encouragement, like a baby. This is how it was with me. I was filled with satisfaction, joy, burst into laughter and song when I see how that yellow haired fresh bud with sky blue eyes improved day by day. At night I would sit on a stool near the door of the house and sink into thought. On earth, the moon bathed everything in a flood of light. The leaves on the trees rustled softly. During those nights I was happy. I loved the people to whom the People's State Power had given land, I loved the children, their life. I had become a friend of those modest cottages and cobbled yards. Nothing else counted with me except their happiness. The friends who passed by greeted me. I exchanged cigarettes with them and was swept up in conversation with them. And the sweet breeze blew.

Loni Bardhi fell silent for a few moments. We had forgotten to turn the light on and the two red tips of our cigarettes glowed in the darkness. The night breeze wafted in, fresh and light as a whisper. I sat near him incapable of speaking. I followed his story not daring to interrupt, hardly daring to breathe. Saranda blazed with neon lighting, work was in full swing at the port and the sea splashed in the farside. I tried to imagine the Vurgu of those early years and a strange force seemed to be constantly drawing. Present day Vurgu with its free people, houses of culture and schools, and I thought about Loni Bardhi and his comrades about their great toil and mighty spirit. I told my friend all this I was thinking. He smiled at me, and said in a low voice:

— Everybody makes his own life. And is responsible to others and his conscience. Time does its work. A man is born, gets married, dies and leaves a generation behind him. This is how the matter stands; the more passion the artist pours out in work the more he rejoices when that work emerges from his hands, perfect. The children of that time are now scattered all over the country. Isn't that a master piece, too? Last night I saw a children's concert on television, and my eyes filled with tears. An inner fire blazed me. I began to join in their songs, even though I was out of tune. I have never had an ear for music or a good voice, but despite that... I remember how I nearly drowned myself in the swamp over a child, I will never forget it. It was a dark night with a stormy sky. The frogs were chorusing and the mud and clumps of cane were almost impassable. Although the people in the house where I had examined the child, had begged me to stay, and one of them even offered to accompany me, I lost my way that night.

«No», I said to them, «there is no need, I don't have all that far to go». And I set out. The sky was black, the surrounding

STORY»

hills shrouded in mist and a hot wind made one sleepy. I had forgotten the way and unwittingly got into the swamp. I carried on in this way for a while, wading through knee deep mud. I wasn't aware that the swamp was constantly sucking me down. It seemed as if some invisible hands were clutching at my clothes. I looked around about me: I could hear nothing but the loud chorus of frogs. The swamp was teeming with mosquitos to suck my blood and inject malaria. That night, I felt their savage bites on my face, their long stings burned into my flesh like fiery needles. I realized that the leeches had attacked me, too. Before me was what seemed an endless stretch of dark water. I did not want to loose control of myself. I began to scold myself, joking about my predicament, then I started to sing. The water was up to my waist. Two things worried me that night, my Party membership card and the medical bag filled with medicine. I was afraid they would get wet. I lifted them both and put them on my head. My skin felt strangely cold. Before me stretched a wide and endless dark space. That night I imagined all sorts of things. I went on dreaming. A hospital with a proper staff. A big reclamation project, the inauguration ribbon, red flags and cheerings. I, Lon Bardhi, amidst some children, people who gave me smiles and kindness, and the sun. A great, warm, shining sun, which opened its arms to gather all of us in. I imagined new smiling villages, which looked like little white boxes and I did not feel lonely. In those moments I preserved these dreams like a priceless treasure, I don't know why my mind flew to my old mother, who was far away. She had waited for me to return from the war, to marry me off and to fill the house with the laughter of grandsons and daughters.

«Wait a little, mother» — I said to her. «As soon as we finish the work we have in hand, then...» Her furrowed brow relaxed and her face released a special glow, her old eyes twinkled, her worn hands dropped from my head and I kissed those hands with longing and endless love. I was not so far from the bank, but I was lost. A chill had seeped into my flesh, my fingers and feet seemed swollen and flabby. Somewhere I saw lights. I started to count. One, two, three, four. They were increasing and almost running towards me. Then I heard human voices.

«Doctor, doctor, where are you?!» The prolonged call seemed to echo in my ears.

— «I'm here, heeere» I called.

After a little, three or four lights came towards me. The strong hands of men heaved me up and pulled me into the boat. I was exhausted, my face burning from mosquito bites.

«But, doctor, what happened to you, man!»

The next day the clouds had dispersed. In the perfectly blue sky, one could barely distinguish here and there a small white cloud, that was almost immobile and slowly fading. From the damp earth and the swamp rose a faint vapour, which seemed to quiver in the rays of the sun and the steely coloured Bistrica wound its way to the sea. My soul sang, and, I don't know why I remembered our Commissar, when he asked me. «What do you think doctor, shall we be able to make this life better?» I married a girl from those parts and I remained a permanent inhabitant of Vurgu, said my friend finishing his story. We sat in silence for a few moments. I rose and turned on the light. He wished me goodnight and departed, leaving me with an impression which will be hard to forget.



Drawings by Zef Shoshi



THE YOUNG WOMAN FITTER FROM MALLAKASTRA

On the front cover of this issue is the picture of the young woman fitter, Kastriota Rama, who works at the construction site of the modern oil refinery at Ballsh in the Fier district. She is twenty years old. Two years ago she joined the ranks of builders together with a hundred young women from her mountain district of Mallakastra.

She hails from the village of Lapálec, the daughter of a former poor peasant who fought for the liberation of the country and the triumph of the people's revolution in the ranks of the XIVth shock brigade.

Every day sees Kastriota high up on the installations of the new plant. She works conscientiously and passionately at her job in order to complete the plant as soon as possible. This is the aim close to her heart. In the future she wants to remain at the plant as a technologist of oil production. This girl's wish is being fulfilled, as are those of her companions. They are studying at the part-time secondary technical school.

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NEW ALBANIA

A political, social and cultural review. It appears bimonthly in Albanian, English, Chinese, French, Russian, Arabic, Italian, Spanish and German.

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Back Cover: Make the hills as productive as the plains.



and symmetry, dividing the area in correct proportions they achieve a very attractive harmonious whole.

In addition to geometrical figures there is no lack of stylised flower designs together with the silhouettes of birds, animals, and so on. The way in which these figures are stylised is conditioned by the technique of weaving the threads on the loom. Behind certain motifs like the sun, the eagle, a house and others, there often lies some symbolism. The motifs stand out clearly through their colours — an important factor in the attractiveness of the carpet. In general the prevailing colors are in warm tones, especially arrangements of red and then grey, white and

CHARACTERISTIC CARPETS AND COVERINGS

R. SOKOLI



Carpets and coverings woven on looms by the deft hand of our women are typical in Albanian homes. They are turned out in a variety of types, sizes and techniques, differing more or less according to districts, to the basic materials such as wool, linen, and cotton, and of ways they are woven.

Traditionally, they reflect the material conditions and ways of life of the residents of the respective districts. The people value them not only as household necessities but also as decorations. The simplest ones consist of several strips of one or more colours, frequently they are decorated with geometrical patterns: of crisscrossed lines, squares, or parallelograms in straight lines, crossed, doubled and zigzag, indented concentric rhomboids and so on. Individually these repeated or interwoven figures have so special attraction, but when they are combined with rhythm



black and so on. Along with the motifs inherited from one generation to another, the fantasy of the weavers now and then also introduces new elements, thus, while always preserving the old tradition, they enrich it at the same time. Many interesting observations can be made about these characteristic household things which reflect the skill of housewives, their inclination and tastes, together with the environment of our land and the exchanges with other peoples and so on and so forth. Up to the eve of liberation of our homeland, our housewives all over the country used to weave these typical carpets and coverings on looms in their homes. After the establishment of our People's State Power, their production was organized in workshops and cooperatives of the socialist system in order to meet the growing needs of the home and foreign markets.

