

NEW ALBANIA

**6
1976**

We, the Albanian communists, assure our brothers of the same ideals and comrades-in-arms that we shall continue to fight with determination against our common enemies for the triumph of the revolution and Marxism-Leninism as we have done up till now.

The international working class and the Marxist-Leninist parties, all those peoples who are fighting against the super-Powers, against the bourgeoisie and reaction, have found and will always find in the Party of Labour of Albania, in the Albanian working class and people, a loyal ally and reliable support and backing. We consider this our basic internationalist duty which we shall carry out resolutely and conscientiously.

ENVER HOXHA

The beloved leader of our Party and People, comrade ENVER HOXHA on the rostrum of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.



THE 7th CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

The 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania was held from November 1-7, 1976. The Congress heard, discussed and unanimously approved the Report «On the Activity of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania» submitted by the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, comrade Enver Hoxha, and the Report «On the Directives of the 6th Five-year Plan for the Development of the Economy and Culture of the People's Republic of Albania for the years 1976-1980», submitted by comrade Mehmet Shehu, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania. The Congress also heard and approved the Report of the Central Control and Auditing Commission of the Party of Labour of Albania.

The Congress preceded in a fiery revolutionary atmosphere. The communists and the people as a whole followed it with great attention proud of the road traversed and the victories achieved under the leadership of the Party, and with unwavering confidence and optimism in the prospects being opened to our country.

The proceedings of the 7th Congress were characterized by boundless loyalty towards Marxism-Leninism and the revolutionary teachings of our Party, by communist devotion to principle, by steellike Marxist-Leninist unity around the correct line of the Party, by thorough analysis and serious discussion of problems, by the high sense of responsibility and indomitable spirit of proletarian internationalism. The Congress was a vivid reflection of those revolutionary communist features which have always distinguished the Party of Labour of Albania.

The documents of the Congress and, especially, the Report of the Central Committee, submitted by comrade Enver Hoxha, constitute a majestic program of revolutionary tasks for the future development of the country in all fields of the socialist revolution and the construction of socialism. They are a further development and deepening of the general line of the Party for the complete construction of socialist society, an enrichment and ascent to a new and higher level of the Marxist-Leninist theoretical thinking of our Party. In the Report submitted by comrade Enver Hoxha we read:

«Our people and Parti come to this Congress full of vitality and dynamism, proud of the success achieved and with unwavering confidence in the future. Life has proved again that the Marxist-Leninist course of the Party is completely correct, that the road on which it is leading our people is the reliable path to the construction of socialism, the world of the further strengthening of the freedom and independence of our home-

land. Our internal situation is healthy and stable in all fields and on all fronts. The Marxist-Leninist line of our Party, the magnificent achievements attained, the development of the class struggle in the correct way, have brought about the further strengthening of the moral and political unity of the people and their unbreakable ties with the Party, and the creation of a vigorous revolutionary atmosphere. Under the leadership of the Party, the working class, the cooperative peasantry and the people's intelligentsia, have, on the whole, successfully carried out the fundamental tasks of the development of the economy and culture laid down by the 6th Congress».

Further on comrade Enver Hoxha said: «The 7th Congress is taking place during the days of an important jubilee, the 35th anniversary of the founding of our glorious Party of Labour. This great day, on which our People's hope of the salvation and assurance and victory was born, is a joyous celebration for us all, a day which reminds us of the heroic road traversed and encourages and mobilises us for new battles and victories. For our people the founding of the Party of the Albanian communists marked a decisive turning point in their centuries-old history, and laid the steel-like foundations on which the new socialist Albania is being built».

«The thirty-five years of revolutionary activity of the Party are thirty-five years of heroic efforts and battles at the head of the working class and the Albanian people for the liberation of the homeland and the triumph of the revolution, to free Albania from poverty and raise it from its ruins, and to build this life so rich in content, so just and happy, which we enjoy today. This is a period of victorious battles against numerous enemies, both internal and external, against the U.S. imperialists and the modern revisionists headed by the Soviet revisionists; a period of struggle to defend our right to live always free and independent, to defend the road of true socialism and communism. The strong international position of socialist Albania, the high prestige it enjoys in the world, the support and solidarity it has among revolutionary peoples and numerous friends, are a result of the correct line of the Party in its foreign policy, of the consistent and principled struggle, which our Party and people have waged unceasingly against imperialism and revisionism. We can affirm with full conviction that the Albanian communists have always honourably done their duty towards their own working class and people, just as they have always done their internationalist duty toward international communism and the people, to the letter».

«Our Party has succeeded in attaining these brilliant victories because it has always stood loyal to the interests of the working class and its own people, because it has always stood loyal to the immortal teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin; because it has never separated its words from its deeds. At every moment and at every stage, it has maintained the closest links with the masses, has stood in the front ranks of the struggle, and through its correct line, has united all the people around itself and has guided them with a sure hand».

The Congress approved the fundamental guidelines of the structure of the new Constitution of our State of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as a Constitution of the stage of the complete construction of socialist society. The new Constitution synthesizes the 30 years of revolutionary experience of our country and the teachings of our Party on how to carry the revolution and the construction of socialism and communism ceaselessly forward, up to the achievement of complete and final victory, how to block the way to the danger of revisionism, the peaceful counter-revolution, and turning back to capitalism.

In line with our actual conditions, the Congress defined the basic directions of the struggle for the further revolutionarization of the Party and the strengthening of the role of leadership in every phase of our life, for the preservation and constant consolidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat in our country, for strengthening the defence of our country, by arming the whole people giving them military training for increasing the leading role of the working class and the revolutionary education of the working people through the correct development of the class struggle.

The Congress approved the directives for drawing up the 6th five-year plan for the development of the socialist economy and culture relying firmly on our resources. The implementation of this program will mark an important step forward towards transforming Albania into an industrial-agricultural country and will further increase the ability of our socialist economy to march confidently on its own feet, and to cope successfully with the hostile imperialist and revisionist encirclement and blockade.

Firmly based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and from a clearcut proletarian class position, the Congress made a thorough and all-round analysis of the major problems of the international situation, of present-day world developments and of the revolutionary movement, and defined the line and stand of our Party and State in the field of foreign policy for the coming period, which are permeated through and

through by proletarian internationalism. Comrade Enver Hoxha said: «Consistent in their Marxist-Leninist line, the Party of Labour of Albania and the Albanian people have been and are against the two super-powers, against predatory imperialist wars, against the monopoly bourgeoisie and international reaction. Therefore, in the future too, they will spare no effort and will fight, together with all the other anti-imperialist and anti-social-imperialist peoples, with all the Marxist-Leninist parties, with all the revolutionaries and the world proletariat, with all progressive people, to foil the plans and manouvres of the enemies and ensure the triumph of the cause of freedom and security of the peoples.

At every moment our country will be found standing beside all those peoples, whose freedom and independence are threatened, whose rights are violated».

The 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania was a vivid manifestation of the solidarity and proletarian internationalism which links the Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations all over the world. The Congress received a telegram of greetings from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The follow-

ing delegations from fraternal parties participated in and delivered messages of greetings to 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania: the Delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Workers' Party of Vietnam, the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos, the Communist Party of Australia (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Italy (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Brazil, the Communist Party of Germany (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist of Argentina; the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Ceylon, the Marxist-Leninist communists of France, the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Ecuador, the Communist Party of Indonesia, the Communist Party of Bolivia (Marxist-Leninist), the Workers' Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Norway, the Communist Party of Columbia (Marxist-Leninist), the Communist Party of Sweden, the Peruvian Communist Party, the Communist Party of Japan (Left), the Portugese Communist Party (reconstituted), the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile, the Marxist-Leninist Party of Australia, The Paraguayan Communist Party, the Marxist-

Leninist Party of Holland, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Uruguay, the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Belgium, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the Communist Party of Switzerland (Marxist-Leninist), the Marxist-Leninist Communist League of Denmark, the Marxist-Leninist Groups of Finland, the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Organization «Bandera Proletaria», of the Dominican Republic. A number of Marxist-Leninist Communist Parties sent telegrams of greetings.

The Congress elected the leading organs of the Party, 77 members and 38 alternate members were elected to the Central Committee. Comrades Enver Hoxha, Adil Çarçani, Haki Toska, Hekuran Isai, Hysni Kapo, Kadri Hasbiu, Manush Myftiu, Mehmet Shehu, Pali Miska, Ramiz Alia, Rita Marko and Spiro Koleka were elected to the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania. Comrades Lenka Cuka, Llambi Gegprifti, Pilo Peristeri, Qiriako Mihali and Simon Stefani were elected alternative members of the Political Bureau.

Comrade Enver Hoxha was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.





In the hall where the
7th Congress of the PLA was in progress.





Comrade Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu greeting the people of Tirana during the mass rally commemorating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania and the conclusion of the proceedings of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

View of «Skanderbeg» Square in Tirana on 8th November, 1976. Photo by N. Shabani



On the occasion of the conclusion of the proceedings of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania and the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party a mass rally was organized in Tirana, in which over 100,000 persons took part.

Thousands carried slogans hailing the great celebration of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party, Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. They held aloft portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, the beloved leader of our Party and people, comrade Enver Hoxha, and the other leaders of our Party and State.

Loud and sustained cheers burst forth out of the chests of the participants when comrade Enver Hoxha mounted the rostrum.

Amidst applause and cheering by all present at the rally a speech was delivered by the Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, comrade Mehmet Shehu.

The meeting was greeted by the leader of the Delegation of Workers' Party of Korea, So Chel. On behalf of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Parties of Europe which took part in the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, the meeting was greeted by the leader of the Delegation of the Communist Party of Sweden, Roland Petersen. Next to speak was the head of the Delegation of the Communist Party (M.L.) of Argentine, Gabriel Valdes, who greeted the rally on behalf of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Parties of Latin America, which took part in the 7th Congress of the P.L.A. On behalf of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Parties of Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Ceylon, which took part in the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania the meeting was greeted by the leader of the Delegation of the Communist Party of Ceylon, H. Sanmugathasan. The meeting was also greeted by the leader of the delegation of the Communist Party of Australia (M.L.), Edward Hill.

THE PEOPLE OF TIRANA OF THE PLA AND THE PPSH



TIRANA CELEBRATED THE 35th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PPSH AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF ITS 7th CONGRESS.

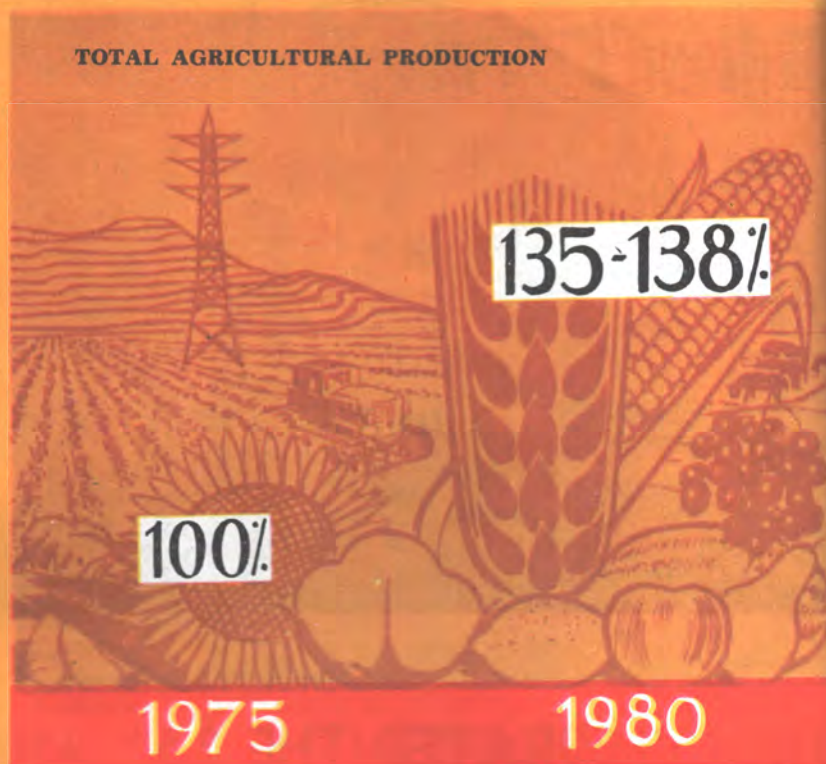
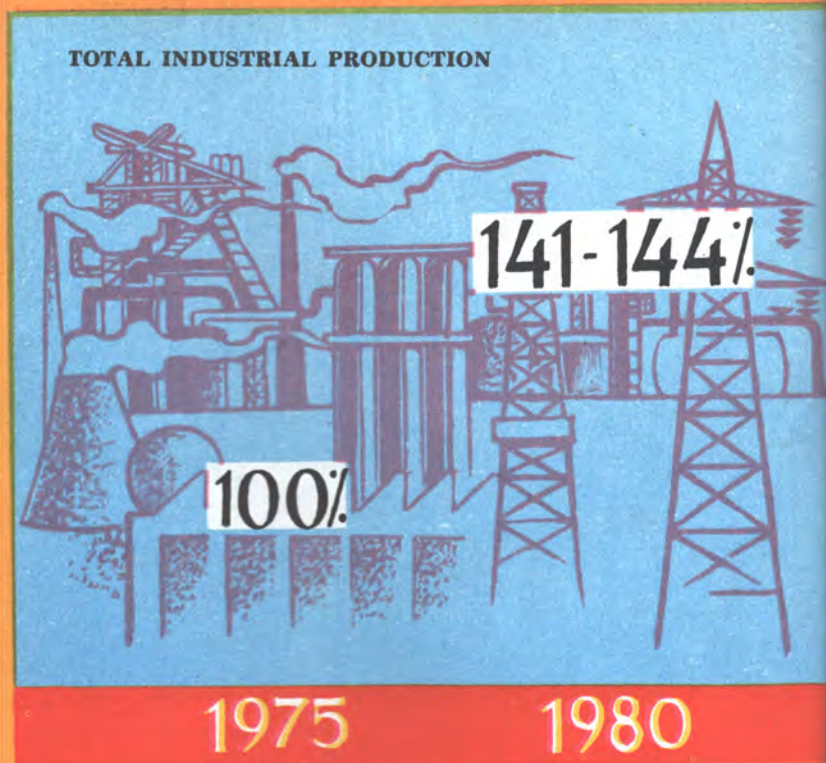


Socialist Albania is developing its economy at a higher rate than the countries where the revisionists have come to power and other capitalist states. In Albania there is stability in prices of mass consumption goods, there is no inflation, no unemployment, and the standard of living of the working people is steadily rising.

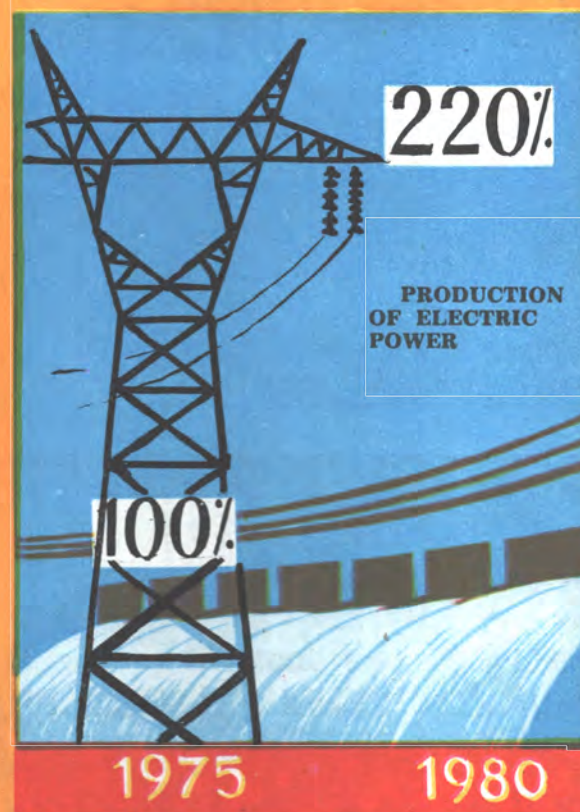
On the basis of official figures for the period from 1965 to 1975 on the rate of increase of industrial production (at fixed prices), our country had the greatest increase if compared with a number of other European countries.

COUNTRIES	Average yearly increase for the 1965-1975 period
The People's Republic of Albania	10,8 per cent
The German Democratic Republic	6,4 »
Czechoslovakia	6,7 »
Hungary	6,2 »
Yugoslavia	7,- »
Greece	9,3 »
The Soviet Union	7,9 »
The Federal German Republic	3,4 »
Italy	4,2 »
France	5,- »

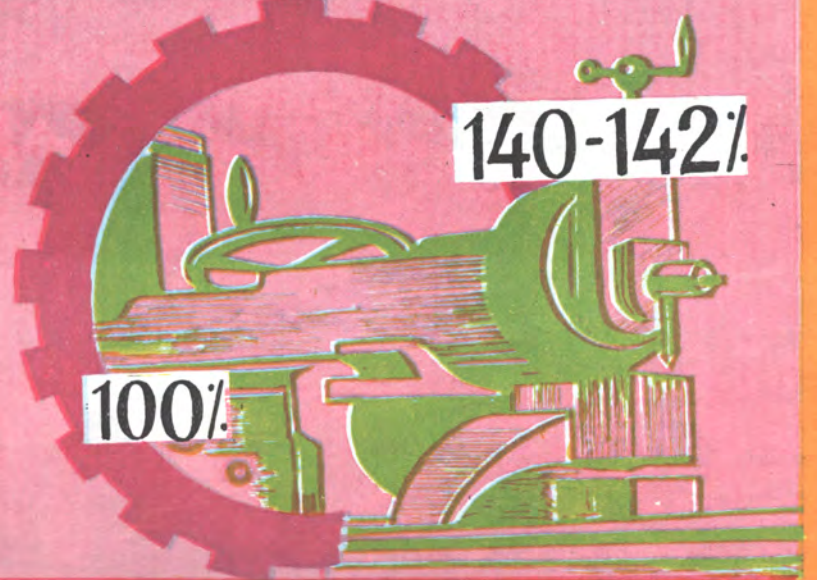
SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL TARGETS OF THE 6th FIVE-YEAR PLAN PERIOD



The volume of investments during the 6th five-year plan (1976-80) will be nearly equal to the total volume of investments during the 20 years from 1951 to 1970 taken together.



About 95% of the needs of our economy for spare parts to be produced in the country (by 1980).



140-142%

1975

1980

CHROMIUM



COPPER



COAL

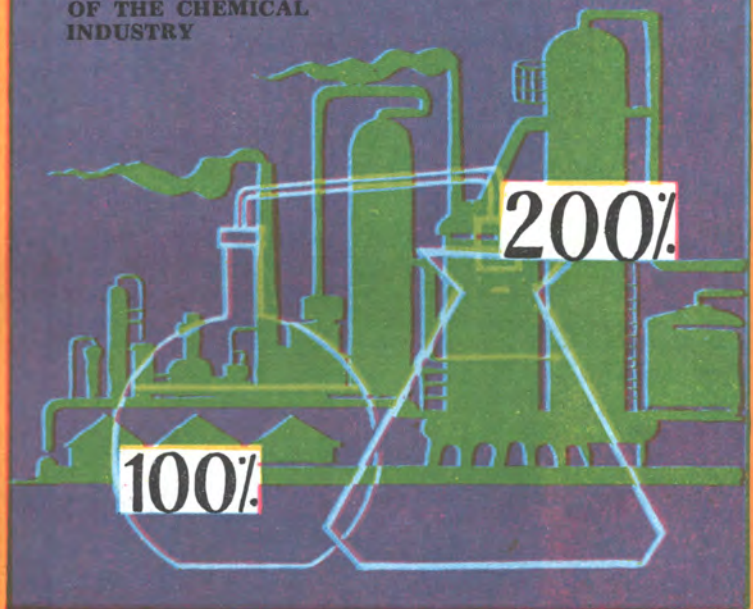


IRON-NICKEL

Extraction of chromium, coal, copper and iron-nickel ore (1980 compared with 1975)

AS COMPARED WITH 1960, TOTAL INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN 1975 INCREASED 3,9 TIMES, OF WHICH THE PRODUCTION OF THE PETROLEUM AND CHROMIUM INDUSTRIES – 3,1 TIMES, OF THE COPPER INDUSTRY – 21 TIMES; OF THE ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY – 7,1 TIMES, OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY – 24,8 TIMES AND OF THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY – 14,4 TIMES.

PRODUCTION OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

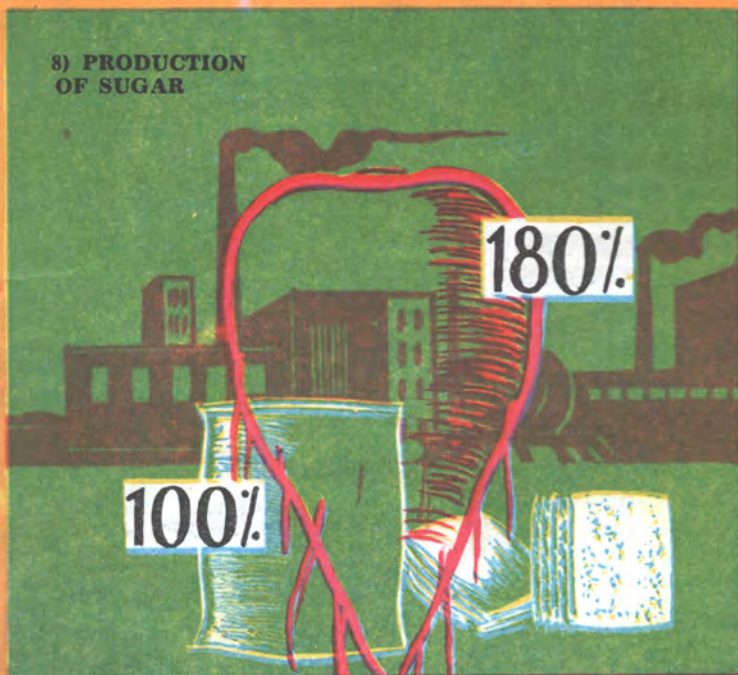


100%

1975

1980

8) PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

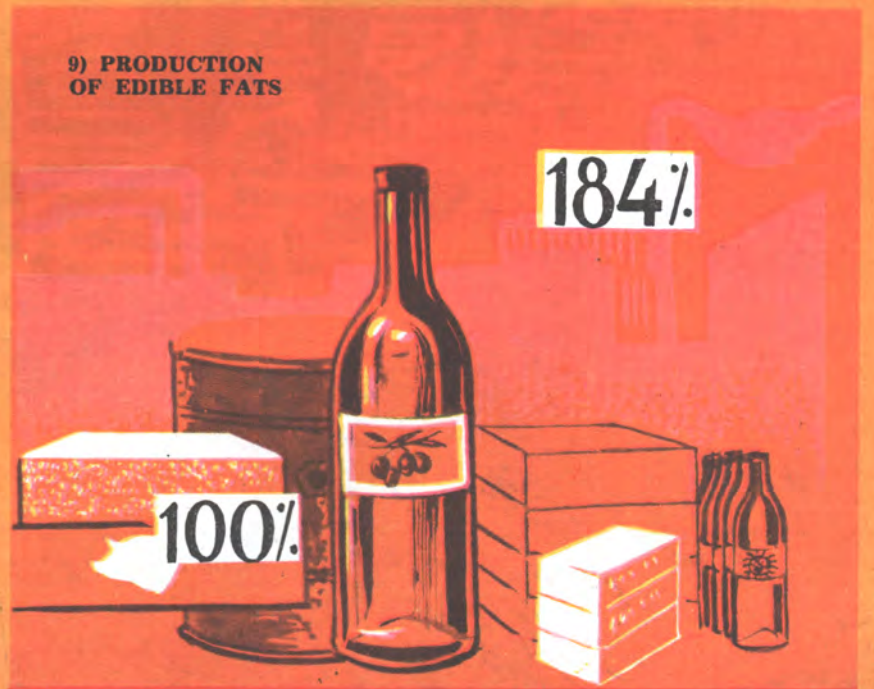


100%

1975

1980

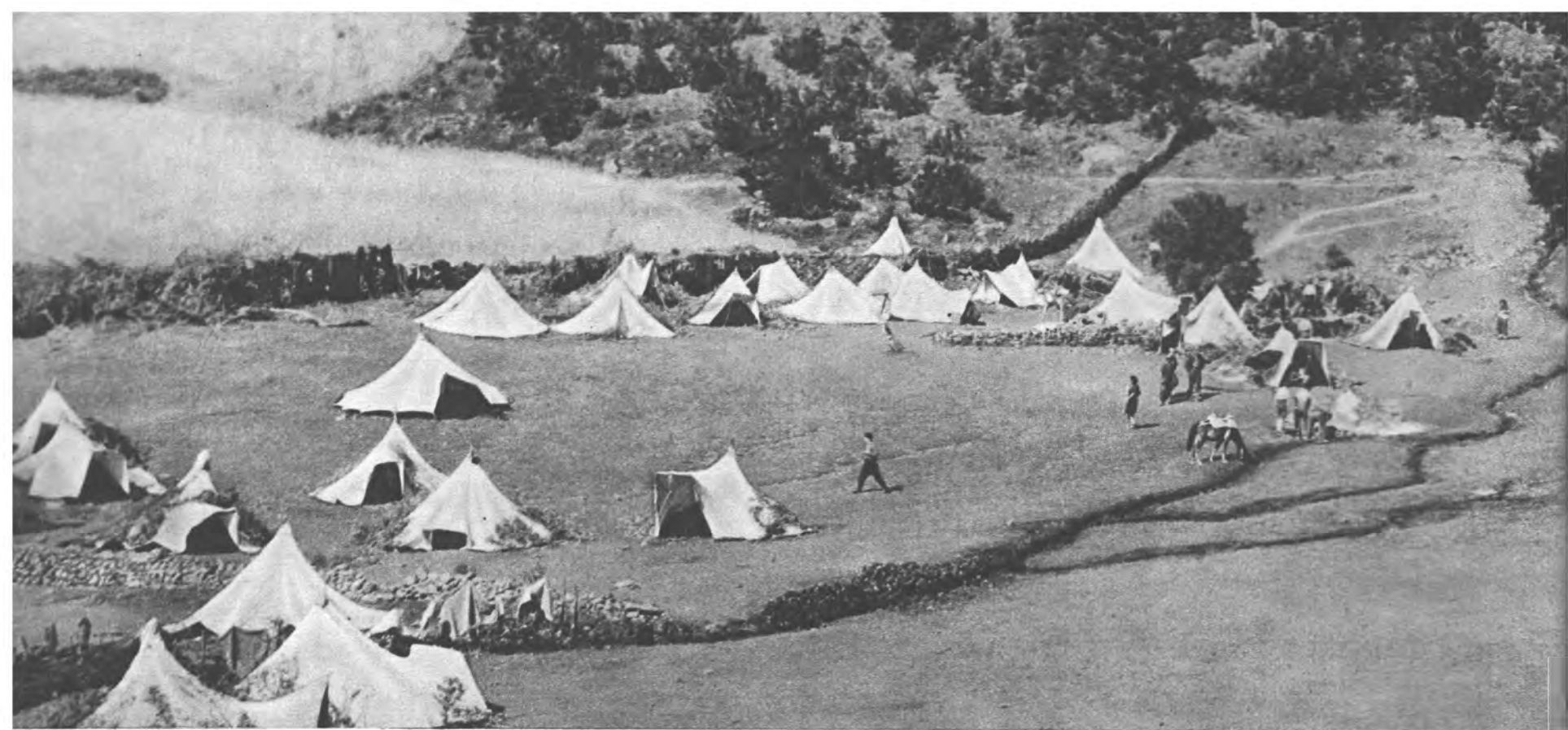
9) PRODUCTION OF EDIBLE FATS



100%

1975

1980



During the fiery days of the National-liberation War, in August 1942, the Albanian Anti-fascist Youth Union held its first Congress at the village of Helmas in Central Albania.

All the railways of Albania are the work of our youth.



THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF NEW ALBANIA

Thirty five years ago, on November 23, 1941, two weeks after the founding of the Albanian Communist Party (now the Party of Labor of Albania), there was created the organization of the Albanian Communist Youth (now the Labor Youth Union of Albania) which united the broad masses of youth into an organized and compact detachment round the Party and under its leadership in the struggle to free the Homeland and build new Albania.



LUMTURI REXHA
First Secretary of the Central
Committee of the Labour Youth Union
of Albania.

November 23, 1976 completed thirty-five years since the founding of the organization of the Communist Youth, now the Labour Youth Union of Albania. It was founded only two weeks after the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania under the personal care of the beloved leader of our Party and people, comrade Enver Hoxha. With the creation of the Albanian Communist Youth, the Party gained, a solid support, a militant reserve and faithful assistant on the very difficult but glorious course of the revolution for the national liberation and social liberation and the building of a free, democratic life, with the people the masters of the country.

In the program and the line of the Party, the communist youth and all the anti-fascist, progressive youth of Albania saw the embodiment of their dreams, aspirations, and ideals for the future, their reliable leadership, which knew how to mobilize their forces and energies and set them in motion for the good of the people. The communist youth and, following their example, the anti-fascist youth, responded at once and with enthusiasm to the call of the Party for open war against the invaders. They filled the ranks of the National-liberation Army and made a contribution of first rate importance to the struggle for the liberation of Albania from the fascist invaders and the triumph of the people's revolution. They wrote whole pages of heroism, courage, and self-sacrifice, never shaken for a moment by the torture persecution and killings, nor by the demagogy of the fascist and local traitors.

In the heat of battle the Albanian youth were tempered and endowed with revolutionary ideals, trained their own political and military cadres. There they learned to read and write and raised to a higher level their patriotism and boundless love for country, their spirit of sacrifice and solidarity, comradesly love, endurance and manliness. The Communist Youth and all the anti-fascist youth, including the young pioneers, fought with such heroism because they had complete trust in the leadership of the Party and what it told them. During this war, Qemal Stafa, political secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Communist youth, Misto Mame, Banush Allamani, Margarita Tutulani, Shyqri Ishmi, Vojo Kushi, Perlat Rexhepi and hundreds and thousands of other cadres and heroes gave their lives on the battlefield. With their courageous work they became a source of inspiration for all the youth in the great anti-fascist war, in

The youth of the work centers of the capital, dressed in national costumes, have come to «Skanderbeg» Square to greet the opening of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.





the construction of socialism and defence of the homeland. Today the work of these young people has been enshrined in song and serves as a lofty example of self-sacrifice on behalf of the homeland and the people.

Following the liberation of the country on November 29, 1944, the younger generation responded at once and with great enthusiasm to the call of the Party for the reconstruction of the country devastated by the war and the construction of socialism. They were well aware that the victories had to be defended and further strengthened, in struggle with countless difficulties and with the internal and external enemies who wanted to sabotage the building of socialism. Therefore, together with the pick and the book, our youth kept the rifle on their shoulders. With hearts ablaze they built bridges and set up towns, harnessed rivers, and built hydropower stations, built schools and railways, clashed with saboteurs and assassins, struggled against the illiteracy from which 80% of the population suffered and opened the way to culture and enlightenment.

At the present time the youth of new Albania are fighting on all the fronts of construction and defence, waging the class struggle consistently, thoroughly absorbing the teachings of the Party and keeping the works of comrade Enver Hoxha always close at hand and enthusiastically studying the Marxist-Leninist theory. Wherever productivity is highest there is the hand of the youth, toiling in factory and field. It is the pure spirit of the youth which inspires the new poetry that sings to our new epoch. Their ideals are the ideals of the Party, they trample underfoot the petty bourgeois world outlook, they scorn and reject alien bourgeois and revisionist influences. They are well acquainted with the decayed world of the past, when their ideals and aspirations withered and were lost in the darkness; they are well acquainted with the false lustre of the present day capitalist and revisionist world, where the youth are oppressed, thrown out on the street, with the doors to school and life barred to them.

In the struggle for the construction of socialism and the communist education of the younger generation, a special chapter is occupied by the voluntary actions of the youth to build new railways, to open virgin land and plant fruit trees, to create new villages and towns.

In these mass actions the younger generation are not only building projects of major economic importance but, above all are educating themselves as revolutionaries, tempering the feeling of solidarity and love for one's comrade, acquiring skills as organizers, mobilizers and directors, being educated to overcome difficulties.

In all their work of construction, and education, our youth have never for a moment neglected their physical and military training. The rifle, the book and pick, have become symbols beloved weapons, from which our youth will never be parted.

Our youth has always based their educational work on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism of our Party and comrade Enver Hoxha, studying them not for academic honours and culture but linking them closely with life, with the daily problems, with the class struggle on all fronts. Following the example of and learning from the working class, our Labour Youth Union of Albania, guided by the Party, creates clear convictions about the real danger which the bourgeois and revisionist influence on our country represents. Thus it has waged a consistent daily struggle against the imperialist and revisionist encirclement and the misleading liberal-anarchist propaganda of the bourgeoisie and revisionists. The bourgeois-revisionist theories which aim at turning the youth away from the course and ideals of the revolution have been and are

alien to our younger generation. Under the guidance of our Party, the Labour Youth Union of Albania has resolutely combatted and angrily rejected all the efforts of the internal and external enemies to alienate our youth from the Party, to turn the Labour Youth Union of Albania into a sports and cultural organization. Our youth are linked with our Party like flesh to bone and march resolutely on the course which the Party and comrade Enver Hoxha show them.

Comrade Enver has emphasized: «The militant and revolutionary spirit of our youth, their determination to march unwaveringly on the Marxist-Leninist road as they have done up till now, their readiness to place themselves unhesitatingly at the service of the people on all fronts to which the Party summons them, is one of our greatest victories, is one of the guarantees of the brilliant future of our country.»

Our younger generation are forever grateful to the Party of Labour of Albania for the marvellous material, spiritual and cultural conditions which it has created for them. Our youth are truly happy, joyful, and confident of the even more brilliant future which awaits them. All doors have been opened to them for education and culture, for all-round development of their personality. Today one in every three persons in our country is attending school. Our higher schools train cadres for nearly sixty special profiles. There are no taxes to burden the youth. More than one-third of the population in our country has been born and brought up during the years of our People's State Power. Every young man and young woman is guaranteed the right to work, effectively enjoys all the constitutional rights, and has at his and her disposal all the means and guarantees for cultural and vocational development, for vacations and so on. Those who attend part-time schooling are guaranteed the right of paid leave during the period of examinations as well as reduced hours of work with full pay during the period of school attendance.

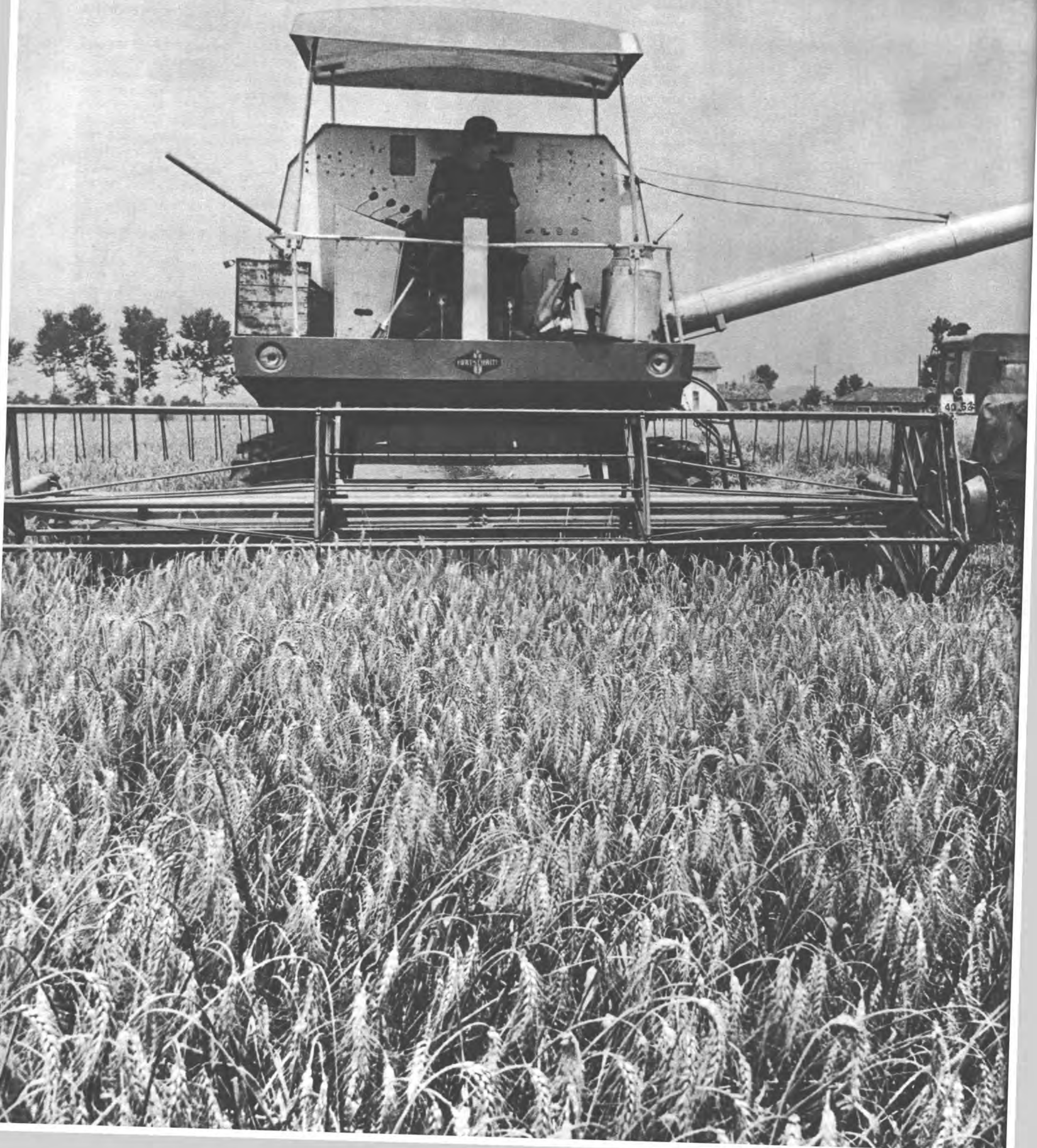
Our generation has never viewed these rights simply as rights but as a stimulus to undertake the duty of working and living where the higher interests of socialism, the interests of the people, require. The ideals of our younger generation are the ideals of the Party and the people, the readiness to serve the people to the point of self sacrifice, to put the general interest above personal interests, to carry forward the torch of the revolution, to always hold aloft the Marxist-Leninist banner of the Party.

The Labour Youth Union of Albania, guided by the Party, with its feelings of proletarian internationalism, has never separated its struggle for the construction and defence of socialism from the powerful support and backing which it has given the revolutionary, progressive and democratic youth of the world.

The 7th Congress of the Party which was held in November 1976 has increased the optimism and revolutionary readiness of our entire younger generation. During the 35th anniversary of the founding of their organization, the youth were handed the Message which the Party of Labour of Albania addressed to the youth as well as comrade Enver Hoxha's reminiscences «On the Founding of the Albanian Communist Youth Organization», which are a great help to all the work and activity of our Labour Youth Organization. Now the Labour Youth Union Organization is guided in all its activity by the teachings of the 7th Congress and is linking them with the concrete problems and tasks, with the class struggle, with the imperialist-revisionist encirclement, in order to always keep albanese in the hearts and minds of our youth the communist ideals of the Party the sound revolutionary spirit which have always characterized them.

ALBANIA ACHIEVES SELF-SUFFICIENT CY

Harvesting wheat at the
State Farm at Kamza, near Tirana.



IN BREAD GRAIN



The year 1976, the first year of the 6th five-year plan (1976-1980) closed with a great victory of the cooperativist peasantry and the workers of the agricultural state farms. For the first time Albania ensured all the bread grain required locally.

This success is due to the all-round development of the economy and all the life in our socialist country, and especially to the successful fulfilment of the fifth five-year plan. «Under the leadership of the Party, the working class, the cooperativist peasantry and the people's intelligentsia», said comrade Enver at the 7th Congress of the Party, «successfully fulfilled the tasks set by the 6th Congress for the development of the economy and culture». «During the 1971-1975 five year plan the productive forces in every branch of the economy were developed, the technical-material base was strengthened and the socialist relations in production were further improved. In 1975, as against 1970, social production increased by 37% and the national income rose by 38 per cent, at an average rate 3 times as high as the increase in the population.

A real revolution has been carried out in all directions in Albania's agriculture. It now represents a developed and complex economy, made up of collective agricultural economies, multi branched, economies of the expanded socialist production. It continues to develop at high rates and is being improved organizationally. To develop and advance it the state has made colossal investments. All the swamps and marshes have been drained, the lowland areas have in general been put under irrigation, hundreds of reservoirs and thousands of irrigation canals in the hilly and mountainous areas have been built. More than 50 per cent of the arable land is put under irrigation. A powerful material-technical base which keeps strengthening further more, has been created. During the fifth five-year plan (1971-75) the number of tractors reckoned in 15 horse power rose to 54 per cent and the park of agricultural motor vehicles was further completed and equipped. In the year 1975, more chemical fertilizers than in the year 1970 were utilized. Selected seeds of high productivity have been used on a large scale and 90 thousand hectares of new land have been put under cultivation. The energetic measures taken for the modernization of agriculture brought about as a result a considerable growth in productivity. Thus, for example, the agricultural production during the fifth 5-year plan increased 33 per cent with an average annual rate of growth of 5,9 per cent. In comparison with the year 1970, in the year 1975, there were taken in more: field crops 30 per cent from which bread grain 35 per cent, sugar beets 76 per cent, beans 47 per cent, livestock products 35 per cent. Important results were attained also in the development of fruit and olive growing.

In the first year of the six five year plan still greater results were attained. Thus, for example, the yield of bread grain in the year 1976, as against the year 1975, was 30 per cent higher. Maize production alone was 5 per cent higher than all the maize and wheat production of the year 1970. Albania is a small country with a rugged mountainous terrain and a limited area of land in the region of plains. At present, almost half the rural population of the country lives in these regions and about 45 per cent of the area of arable land is located there. Therefore, *the line of the Party has been and is that agriculture must be developed rapidly in the hilly and mountainous areas, too.*

Of course the highlands have their own peculiarities, but there, too, the possibilities and reserves for increasing production and improving living conditions are great. To help in the development of the hilly and mountainous regions the Central Committee of the Party and the Government have adopted a series of important measures, such as those to increase productive investments, to raise the prices at which the state buys a number of agricultural and livestock products and to reduce the price at which it sells nitrogenous fertilizers, for the state to pay for work do-

A good maize crop in the Shkodra region. Photo by N. Kodheli



ne to break in new land build irrigation projects and plant trees, and so on. The Party has never viewed the measures it has taken and will take for the development of the highlands from the angle of profits, but always with the aim that the peasantry of these regions should live at the best possible level and the mountainous areas should always be kept populated, the same as the plains. This is very important, both for the construction of socialism and for the defence of the country.

Guided by the correct line of the Party, and enjoying the powerful support of the socialist state, the peasantry, of the mountainous regions, through its own toil and sweat, has taken important steps forward. The results achieved by some cooperatives of the mountainous districts are very encouraging. Yields of 25-30 quintals of wheat and 40-50 quintals of maize per hectare are now taken in many cooperatives of these zones. The districts of Skrapar, Tepelena, Përmet, and Kolonja, which once could not produce enough grain to last them half the year, now meet all their own needs hand over their surpluses to the state though their population has increased. The agricultural cooperatives in these districts share out almost as many leks per work day put in, as those in the lowland districts.

The people's power, during the 5th five year plan, by following constantly the policy of narrowing the essential differences between the town and countryside, has implemented a series of measures to the advantage of the cooperativist peasantry, especially for the hilly and mountainous areas. The centralized and unified system of pensions and social insurance was established for the mother and child, in the countryside, the price at which the state sells the agricultural cooperatives some means of production, was reduced, the price at which the state buys a number of agricultural and livestock products was raised; the state undertook to meet part of investments on the land, the cultivation and advance of fruit and vegetable growing.

These important measures, not only from the economic but also from the political-social point of view, have helped to further narrow the essential differences between the town and countryside and to increase the yield of agricultural products.

These results achieved in agriculture, often also in bad weather, testify to the correctness of the policy of the Party of Labour of Albania for the countryside, they speak of the superiority the socialist order has created and is still creating in the countryside.

During the 5th five year plan many economically strong cooperatives of the lowland areas, by their own free will, were transformed into higher type cooperatives. Today they occupy 23 per cent of the arable land and produce 25 per cent of grain, 40 per cent of sunflower and more than half the rice and cotton produced by the cooperativist sector.

The state assisted these cooperatives with investments and gave them powerful support by supplying them with material and technical means.

New measures have been applied to strengthen their management and for the transition to payment of their members with guaranteed wages related to production.

Despite the short time since their inception, they have demonstrated their superiority in a number of ways reflected in the high yield rates of agricultural and livestock products and a series of other economic organizational factors.

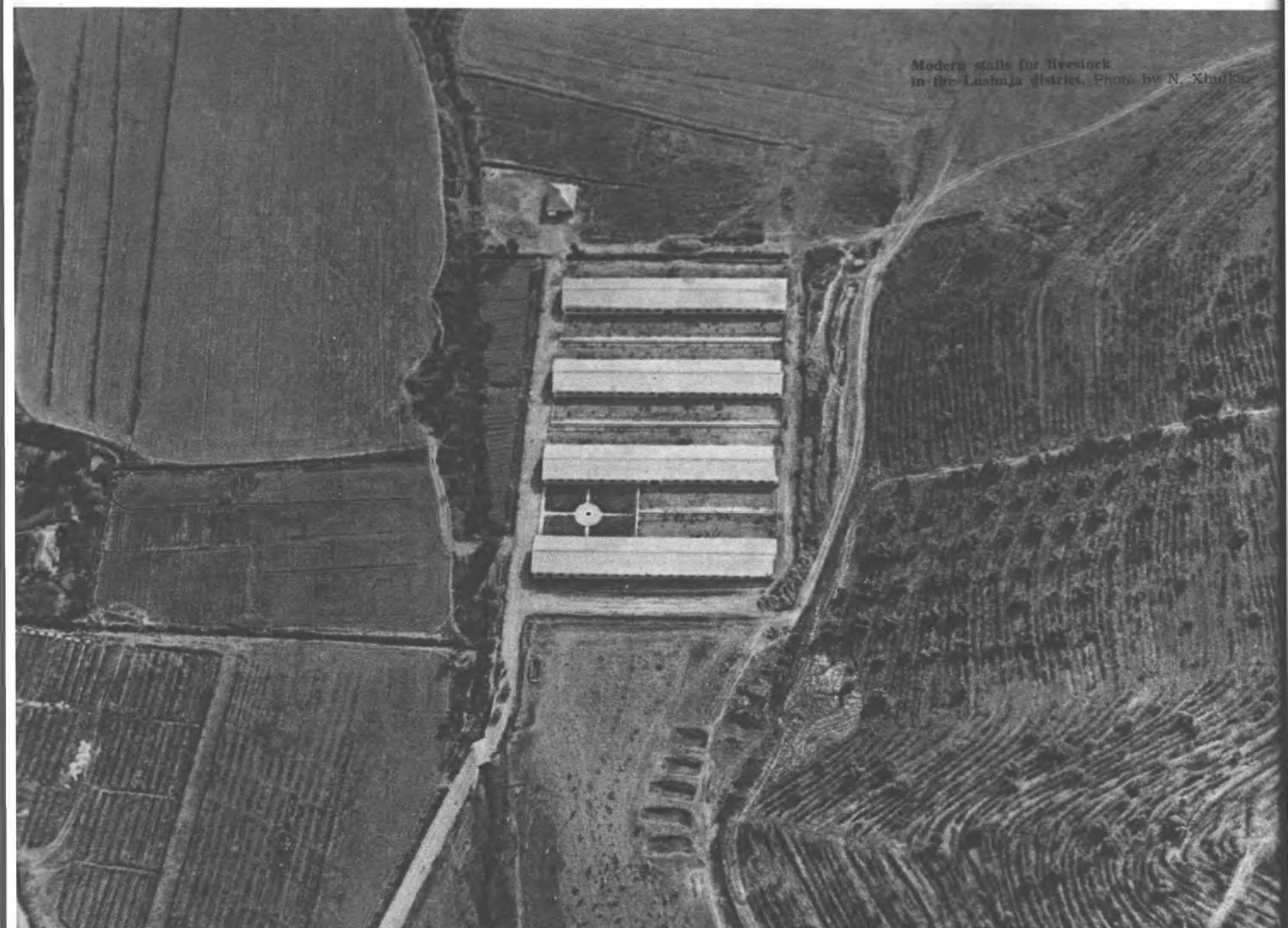
Great prospects are opened for the development of agriculture by the 6th five year plan (1976-1980), the directives of which were approved by the 7th Congress of the Party in November 1976. The fundamental task of the agriculture for this five year plan is: to achieve full self-sufficiency in bread grain, to increase the reserves in bread grains, to fulfil the needs of the people for food stuffs, to ensure raw materials for the industry and to expand the export of agricultural products in the sixth five year plan will be increased 33 to 41 per cent, and within this context, the production of field crops will be increased 45 to 48 per cent. The production of bread grain in 1980 is expected to be 56-60 per cent higher than in 1975. More than 80 per cent of the increase of the production of bread grain will be ensured by the increase of the productivity. It is envisaged that the average yield per hectare to reach to 34 kw.

The production of sugar beets will be increased 64-66 per cent; sunflower 22-24 per cent, the cotton 32-35 per cent, the tobacco 18-20 per cent; that of milk and eggs 35-37 per cent, of wool 34-35 per cent, of year plan taken together will be increased 50 per cent as against the previous five year plan. The production of meat will be increased 40-41 per cent; that of milk and eggs 35-37 per cent, of wool 34-35 per cent, of fruits 68-70 per cent; the vine yards 60-65 per cent and the production of grapes 64-68 per cent.

In the sixth five year plan, the number of tractors in 15 hp, will be increased about 20 per cent; the chemical fertilizers active materials per cent; that of milk and eggs 35-37 per cent, of wool 34-35 per cent, of and tens of thousands, ha, in low land areas will be improved. Within the year 1977, not less than 85 per cent of the maize seeds will be of the hybrid of the first generation, whereas not less than 60-65 per cent wheat seed will be of the first and the second generation.

These perspectives of the sixth five year plan are real and mobilizing. They are based on the energies and mental and physical abilities of the people, in the possibilities and the reserves of the economy and the internal socialist accumulation. The victories achieved up to now in agriculture, the material technical base created, the great experience gained, the enthusiasm, the readiness and the ardent patriotism of the working peasantry and the entire people are a sure guarantee that the tasks set by the sixth five-year plan, will not only be fulfilled but also overfulfilled.

Modern stalls for livestock in the Lushnja district. Photo by N. Xhufka



During the 5th five-year plan the material-technological basis of agriculture was further strengthened. The area of land under cultivation increased by 11 per cent. In 1975, 50 per cent of the arable land had been brought under irrigation. The number of tractors calculated in 15 h.p. units increased by 54 per cent. In 1975, agriculture received 41 per cent more artificial fertilizers than in 1960. All these measures and, first and foremost, the hard work of the cooperative and other agricultural workers made it possible for about 73 per cent of the increase of field crops to come from the increase of yield rates.

◀ A few years ago this land in the Lushnja district was swamp.

Modern means are being more and more widely used in irrigation. In this picture artificial rain irrigation in the Durrës district. Photo by N. Kodheli.

As compared with 1970 total agricultural production in 1975 increased 33 per cent with an average yearly increase of 5,9 per cent. A number of the main agricultural and livestock products increased even more: bread grain 35 percent, sugar beet 76 percent, milk 47 percent, eggs 68 percent

Even in the cold days of winter vegetables are raised in hot-houses. In the picture: View of hot-houses recently built in the Elbasan district.





The first Albanian brand steel.

THE FIRST ALBANIAN STEEL

On the eve of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania and its 7th Congress a number of important economic, social, and cultural projects were inaugurated in Albania.

At the Metallurgical Complex under construction in Elbasan, in Central Albania, the steel plant was inaugurated. For the first time in history, Albania produced steel of its own brand from the ore from its mountains.

The work of building the Metallurgical Complex has now entered an important stage and is being pushed ahead rapidly. With its completion a wide range of high quality rolled steels of various marks, assortments and sizes, steel wires and tubes, pig iron, nickel cobalt, refractory bricks, electrodes etc. will be produced. Some months ago the pig iron and coke plant was brought into operation.

ANOTHER PLANT IS ADDED TO OUR CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

At Fier, another plant of our chemical industry, the urea plant, has been brought into production. Today Albania has its own chemical fertilizer industry, which is constantly being strengthened. Consequently, the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture keeps increasing. Thus,

in 1975, 94,4 kilograms of active substance per hectare of land were used as against 2,6 kilograms in 1950. With the production from this new plant, the quantity of active substance per hectare will be further increased. This will help to increase the yield rate of agricultural crops.

NEW PROJECTS ARE INAUGURATED

In order to enrich the coal which will be used at the Metallurgical Complex in Elbasan, one of the most up-to-date and largest coal enrichment plants in the country has been opened in Tirana. It will treat coal from the new mine at Valias (Tirana) and the other coal mines of the country.

A new printing establishment has been opened in Tirana. Its coming into operation greatly increases the volume of publications and raises their quality to a high level. Today, the printing industry of Albania turns out in one day as much as all the printing presses of the country turned out during a whole year prior to the triumph of the people's revolution. Publications for the masses, excluding school text books, amount to 18 times as many as in 1938.

A new hydro-electric power-plant has been inaugurated in the district of Vlora. Up to now tens of small and large hydropower-plants have been built in Albania. The biggest so far is the Vau i Dejës Station on the Drini river. Further up the same river the Fierza Hydro power station which will turn out 1,7 billion kilowatt hours of electric power a year is under construction. In 1975, the production of electric power was 177 times greater than in 1938 or 8,5 times greater than in 1960.

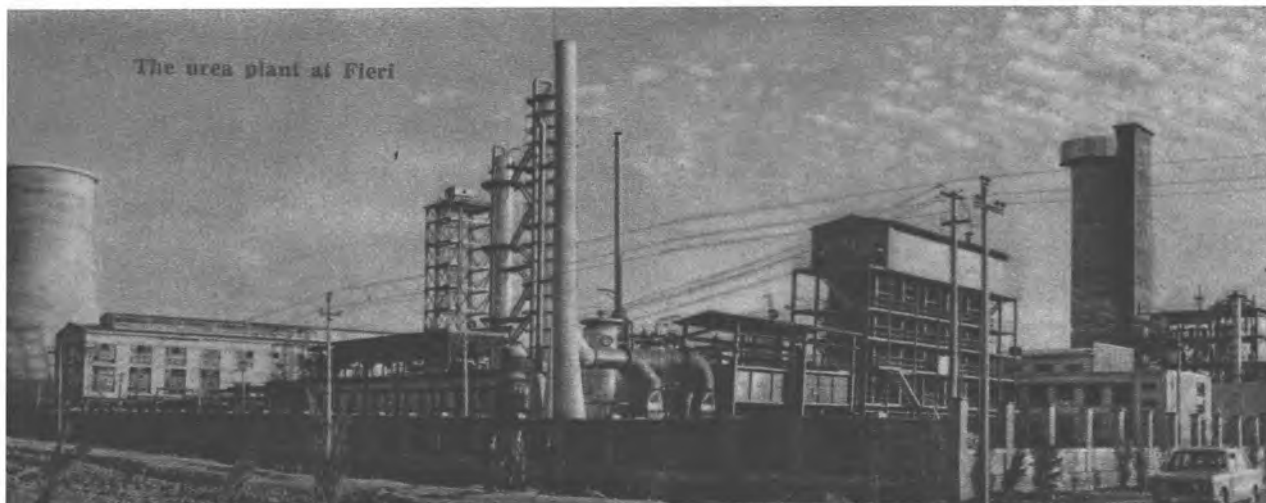
The plant for spare parts for our textile industry has been brought into operation in Berat. In Albania, the textile industry is entirely new. The Textile combines at Tirana and Berat, the Knitwear Combine at Korça, many other knitwear factories in other districts of our country, the plant for light woolen fabrics in Tirana etc., have been built during the years of People's Power. This plant will meet most of the needs of our textile industry for spare parts.

In the Saranda district work has been completed on draining the lower part of the Vrina plain, from which an additional 900 hectares of land has been gained or improved.

Before the triumph of the people's revolution, the Saranda plains were flooded by swamp waters from overflowing rivers. Now they have all been drained and systematized.

A new sports palace has been inaugurated in the city of Korça with the necessary facilities for work and recreation, and with 2,500 seats for spectators; while in Durrës a new secondary school for physical culture etc. has been opened,

The urea plant at Fieri



-The Metallurgist- — the work of sculptors, Kristaq Itama and Hektor Dule.



A REFLECTION OF THE PROGRESS OF OUR FIGURATIVE ARTS

MUNTAZ DHRAMI
Merited artist

The Exhibition of Figurative Arts dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania has been opened in the halls of the National Gallery of Arts in Tirana. This is one of the biggest displays of our national arts. Over 445 works by 378 artists represent the highest ideo-aesthetic and professional levels in our painting, sculpture, graphics and applied arts. This is a beautiful collection of colours, form and line, which embodies the great ideas of our people's revolution.

In these works our art-lover finds the important historical theme, especially, glorious pages from our National-liberation War, from the heroism of our fighters and workers, the portraits of heroes and of ordinary people, those who are changing the face of Albania today.

In the Exhibition the self-sacrificing toil at the work-sites of the construction of socialism, the beautiful landscapes of our transformed homeland, the figures of partisans, of the metallurgists smelting the first Albanian steel, are strikingly reflected. The life and work in our socialist countryside is beautifully and poetically portrayed in the Exhibition.

The works on display in this exhibition have all been produced within the past two years. Among them we find many powerful compositions with great emotional force, a wide range of individual talents, an artistic language which is simple and understandable to the people, and works with an innovatory flavour. They are far removed from any hint of cosmopolitanism or dictate imposed by other countries.

In the best works one can see the broad contact which the artist has had with the vivid life of the working people. They are the fruit of the great inspiration which has gripped every artist who has gone among the people and really got to know their heroic life at first hand.

A good part of the works have been subjected to open discussion with the ordinary people. The studios of our artists are always open to the public, and broad creative discussions are often conducted in them. Our art has a thoroughly democratic spirit, which stems from its proletarian partisanship. A number of artists have set up their studios for years on end at building sites. Others compose their works cheek by jowl with workers and cooperative members, where they open their own exhibitions with motifs

from the work of workers and cooperative members. Later these works are brought to the Central Exhibition. Regional Exhibitions of Figurative Arts have been opened in all districts, like those of Shkodra, Vlora, Korça, Lushnja, Saranda, Gjirokastra, Burrel, Durrës and so on, at which the broad masses of workers give their opinions on the works which will be exhibited at the Central Jubilee Exhibition.

The art-loving masses who are concerned that our new art should flourish and progress, have become not only the inspirers of our artistic production but also the principal suppliers of new talents.

In addition to older artists, more and more young talents are militating in our ranks. Likewise more and more amateurs are working alongside our professional artists. Thus, in this Exhibition alone, over 130 young artists, among whom nearly 30 amateurs exhibited for the first time. Alongside the young artist who has graduated from the secondary school of art or from the Higher Institute of Arts, in this Exhibition we find works by the folk artist or the relief carved in stone by the 70-year old Hinghlander, Llesh Vorfi.

By following this course, our art has gained



Frano Ashiku: «November 8, 1941-1976» — a poster dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania.



Sali Shijaku: «Mio Sokoli». This tableau portrays a real event: The Patriot peasant Mio Sokoli in the northern highlands of Albania blocked the barrel of the gun of foreign invaders with his body.

Liliana Çefa: «The Party Will be Our Mother».



maturity and the warmth of our soil, the strength of youth which our socialist system imparts. Works of art, which have become close to the people and belong to the people, aid them in their day to day life.

Our art is forging ahead, full of vitality and originality; far removed from any formalist and modernist absurdity. It has become an integral part of the spiritual life of our working people, whose interest is continually mounting. Thus we artists are made more deeply aware of our responsibility as creators and our confidence to turn out better and more beautiful works, is increased.

The Exhibition of our Figurative Arts marks a new level in the upsurge and maturity of our arts, opening new opportunities for further progress.



Sabaudin Khafer: «This Land Has A Master» (oil painting).



Some of the communists at the copper plant at Rubik (northern Albania).

THE COMMUNIST

How did this word, communist, first come here near the converters, which for many years, night and day, have been smelting the red copper? When was this word heard for the first time? Perhaps in that distant day of autumn, 1938, when the copper miners at Rubik got their baptism of fire in the long class struggle and went out on strike. Who knows. Whenever it was, in these parts, no other single word has ever caused such concern, fright and terror amongst the owning class and the state and spiritual rulers as this word communist. Everywhere in the world, the state and spiritual rulers of the feudal-bourgeois order have tried to terrify people with the «spectre» of communism. Using every possible means of propaganda and a whole army of rumour mongers, whether dressed in ordinary civil clothes, whether in the Catholic priest's robe or the Muslim priest's cloak, or whether even disguised in overalls. Thus, not even a forgotten place amongst the mountains, such as Mirdita was, with its small mine and copper plant, could escape this heavy and allround pressure. You should know, dear readers, that in complete contrast with the beautiful meaning of its name, Mirdita, with its

great natural beauty and the many treasures hidden in the depths of its mountains, was the most poverty stricken, suffering and backward district in the whole of my Homeland, which at one time, was all poverty and suffering.

There was an old woman, called Mother Mara, who lived near this mine until quite recently. She had two sons, both of them workers in the plant. One day during those dark years of the occupation by the Italian fascists, her younger son took to the mountains and joined the partisans. Mother Mara asked, «What does this new word «partisan» mean? And they told her, «Apparently your son has become a communist». Then she began to wail and mourn her son as though he were dead. In her whole-life-time she had never learned a single letter of the alphabet, but from the mouth of the priest she had learned that to become a communist means to sell yourself, body and soul, to the devil. Mother Mara wept bitter tears. «How can you remain without a grave, my son! No-one in the village will come out to bury you». The gravest punishment for a highlander is to be left unburied.

The months went by, and round about the rifle

shots became more frequent. It was said that the partisans were fighting for freedom. One day, near the village, of Vig, a great and immortal epic was written: Five communists: fought like lions against hundreds of mercenaries of the feudal chief and the fascist occupiers. With their young bodies, these five brave men erected a glorious fortress. Over this fortress of young bodies they raised the banner of their forefathers. The echos of their rifle shots resounded throughout the whole Mirdita. But their heroism resounded even more. It echoed throughout the whole of Albania shrouded in powder smoke. All Mirdita sang to the five partisan heroes as it had done for the brave down through the centuries.

Mother Mara's heart pounded. Is this what communists are? And she thought of her partisan son. For the first time in her life, she doubted the words of the priest.

Thus, through this heroism, into the life of poverty stricken Mirdita came the word «communist» which was tempered in the flames of the converters, that night and day smelt the red copper, and it shone like a beacon in the huts and cottages of the highlanders.



OF THE PLANT

IBRAHIM ÇAVOLLI

Three decades have gone by since then and Mirdita has a new appearance. Its finest sons and daughters are writing other epics which are part of the glorious history of the socialist construction.

A young journalist wanted to write something about the communists of the copper smelting plant at Rubik, about the role they play and the example they set. He began to talk to a veteran non-party smelter.

«What can you tell me about the communists of this plant, Uncle», he asked him.

The metallurgist looked at him for a moment without hastening to reply. This is a characteristic of elderly workers. They usually weigh their words well.

«About the communists of our plant? Right, come and I will show you», replied the old highlander, and taking the young journalist by the arm, led him to the foundry. From the converter streamed the molten metal, spreading thousands of sparks of red copper like fireworks. Smoke was rising from the hot moulds. The wagons were full. Away up above the roof, fire and smoke was pouring from the gas collector. «You see

up there», said the old smelter to the journalist.

Amidst the dense angry red pall of smoke and flames, away up there, one could just make out figure of a man. Clinging there like a bird, the man had opened the vent in the gas collector because the outlet had become blocked from soot. Thus, all the smoke and fiery sparks were pouring with great pressure from the open vent as from the mouth of a fire-breathing dragon. From time to time, the burst of fire were so furious that it seemed at any moment that the courageous man, like some fabled hero, in battle with a terrible mythical monster, must be hurled to the ground. But he worked away there calmly. Down below, scores of eyes were watching his every moment. «You see that fellow up there?», repeated the old smelter, «he's a communist, Ndue Perdeda, they call him, the Government has proclaimed him a «Hero of Socialist Labour». We ourselves proposed him for this title. He is one of the communists of our plant, whom you will find the first on the most difficult front, always in the lead. That's all I've got to tell you about our communists.»

This is what the old smelter said with a knowing smile.

We are standing in the big yard of the plant. Two tall chimneys rise like gigantic pillars above the roof of the foundry. One of them is quiet. This is in order, because it belongs to the past. The other ceaselessly pours out smoke and, as you might say, represents the present, reflects the increased breathing of the plant. Now production has increased threefold and productivity per worker nearly four fold. The road of this plant is a steep ascent like the rocks of the highlands. And to open it, a great deal of sweat has been poured out and many difficulties of various kinds have been overcome. In all this, the communists have been in the forefront.

The years after the liberation of the Homeland, brought many new things. Above all it brought the fact that the workers became the masters of the plant and they set to work wholeheartedly. One of these workers is Kristo Nika. He came here when he was still a young communist. In fact, like many young fellows he had dreamed of becoming a pilot, but at that time, the newly liberated Homeland had greater need

for builders, miners, and metallurgists than for pilots. So he became a metallurgist. He left the beautiful valleys of the south and came to Rubik. Round about bands of criminals and traitors, collaborators of the enemy invaders who had just been driven out, were still on the prowl. Sometimes the workers of the plant had to leave the flames of the furnace which smelted copper and hurl themselves into the fire of the fight to destroy reaction. In the final analysis it was the same struggle. More protracted than this was the internal struggle in oneself with the blemishes which the centuries had implanted in one's consciousness.

«Can you remember some of the first meetings of the Party cell in the plant, Comrade Kristo?» His brow wrinkled in thought for a moment as he brought to mind those long past years. They are many years but not forgotten, they are years full of battles.

«I remember one time we met on the eve of Easter». It seemed he noticed our look of surprise and smiled. «Yes, yes, on the eve of Easter», he continued, «because the remnants of religion hindered our copper smelting even more than the remnants of the criminals and traitors. Religion prohibited work on the days of Easter and everybody left work to go home. But you know what it means to cool down the furnace and stop the smelting of copper. I don't remember too clearly, I think we were five or six communists who met at that time, and we decided that come what may, we wouldn't shut down the furnace. We talked to them all, but most of the workers went home for Easter. As we had decided, we communists stayed on. And there were some workers, the keenest ones, who stayed with us. We worked all day and night came. The hours flew by without our noticing, except sometimes it was light and sometimes dark. For twenty four hours we never left the department, in other words three shifts. The first shift for the second day started; we grabbed a bite to eat as we were working or perhaps sat down for a minute or two in a corner of the department. We began the second shift when a few workers coming back from the celebrations turned up. When they saw us they could scarcely believe their eyes. We were almost worn out, but we had never stopped production. The decision of the cell was carried out. After thirty-six hours some of us were able to knock off. The others carried on the work until everyone returned from the village. The victory of a just cause eliminates fatigue. We were so pleased with our triumph that we felt as if we could have gone on working for a whole week without leaving the department.

Nothing else was talked about in the plant, for days after this «They did very well, they're real men these communists», people said. This was a victory which strengthened us. Some time later when we had a break down, when the wall of the furnace burned out, it was easier. Water got into the furnace and at any moment there was a danger of the whole thing blocking up. It was night time, the alarm was given. Everybody came running, not only those whose job it was. No-body was missing, and regardless of the danger, everybody stayed until the break down was fixed up.

It seems to me sometimes that in the never-dying fire that smelts the red copper, we've burned out those blemishes which we inherited from the past and have become stronger, cleaner, and better.

Kristo Nika has now been thirty years in the Party and thirty years a smelter. This has been a great school, a great march, during which he has experienced many joys and many things have made him proud. But more than anything he has been aware of the responsibility which a man assumes with this great title, communist. Now that first party cell has been renewed and has grown. Some have retired on the pension, some continue to work on the front of agriculture, and some have been raised in responsibility. Young members have constantly come in and the first young members are now about to go on the pension. For instance, Preng Simoni. Eight years he worked underground as a miner and for fourteen years, he's continued to work as a metallurgist. For twenty years he has honourably upheld the title of member of the Party. No-one can remember a day when he hasn't been at work. His

comrades say that he has never ever been seen to sit down during his eight hour shift. He is simple, modest, wise, of few words but a great deal of work. This is what everybody thinks of Preng Simoni.

«When I joined the Party he said, I knew that it wasn't going to open any doors to personal ease, but to work».

In the small town, the workers are asleep. The plant is working. A cold, frosty winter's night. Despite that, there is someone in the street. He must have some great problem, otherwise no one would come out in the streets so late leaving the warmth and comfort of his home. What could have occurred? There he approaches the smelting plant, greets the gate keeper and goes inside. He lowers the collar of his overcoat.

«How are things going, Comrades?»

«Fine, but what brought you back?»

«Nothing, I just wanted to see how things were going.»

During the day there had been a breakdown. Later, everything had been put in order again, but the communist couldn't get to sleep: he was worried about the situation and there we see him late at night in the department. Who is this? Is it Ndue, Prenga, Kristo, Gjoka, Llesh or Petrit? His name doesn't matter, what is important is that he is a communist. The life of the communists is linked with the plant, the copper, like flesh to bone. But in comparison with the number of the collective they are not many. What can they do on their own? Nothing. Their merit is not just that they work and act as good communists themselves, but that they lead the overwhelming majority of the workers to work as good communists, with proletarian consciousness, with a feeling of responsibility as masters of the plant.

Of course the communists of the plant have different names and are of different ages. Similarly their characters differ as does the external appearance of each of them. But how many things in common, that red Party card, which they carry in their bosom like a second heart gives them! The first in sacrifice, the last to make claims, irreconcilable with arrogance or servility, favouritism or injustice, front line fighters for the progressive new and stern enemies of everything rotten. Not because they are people without shortcomings and weaknesses, by no means. Try to sit in on one of their discussions, just one of the meetings of their organisation, and you will hear severe criticism and self criticism even more severe. No, they have not come out of a box like a new suit without any wrinkles. They can get angry when something goes wrong and really blow up in case someone resorts to trickery. But just as they are men enough say «Stop», to evil they are also men enough to admit their fault and apologise when they are wrong.

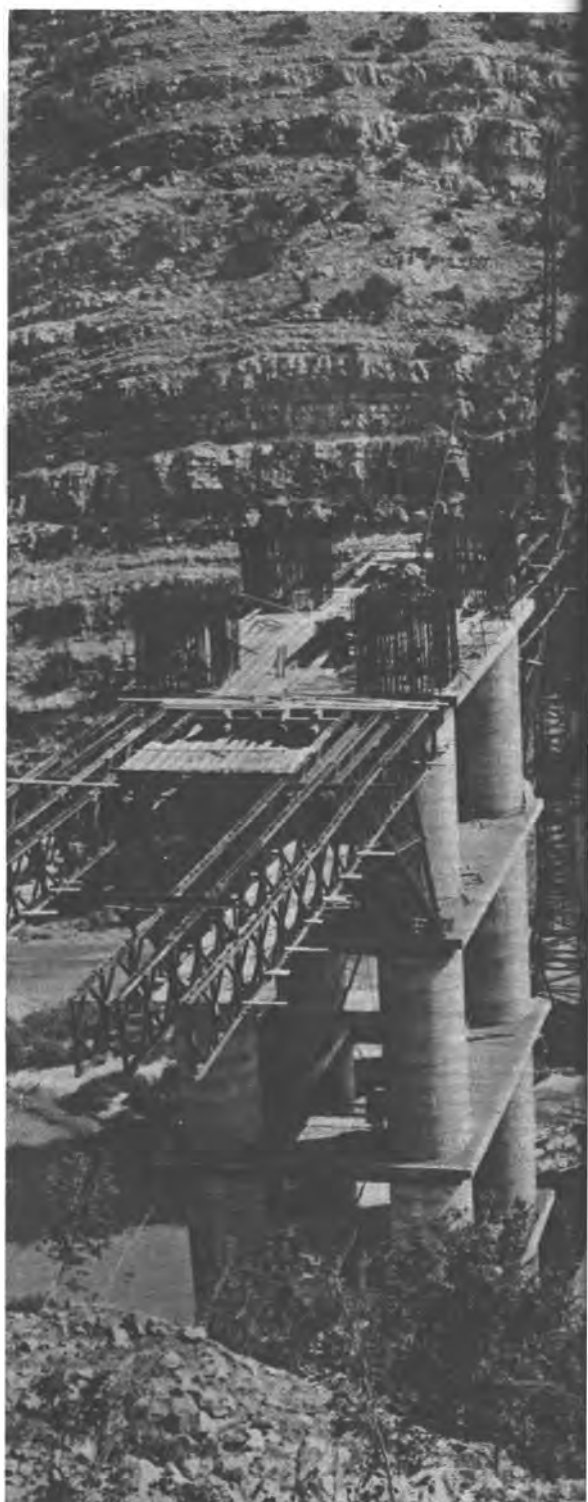
These qualities can be clearly seen in Gjok Pjeter Marku, an old metallurgist and for three years on end, Secretary of the Party branch, in Prenda Doda, unyielding fighter for the revolution, in Llesh Pjeter Ndoi and Pjeter Preng Nikola, the two youngest communists of the plant who are like twins in their inextinguishable vigour at work, in Gjela Biba, Deputy to the People's Assembly, and Lejla Kojka.

Late at night. The red stream of molten copper pours from the converter, sending flaming fire-works in all directions through the darkness. The third shift is at work. There in one of the offices, the light is still on. Is someone working late? No, it is a meeting of the communists of the second shift. There is fiery discussion about something then, something quiets them. No-one can remember a month when the plant hasn't fulfilled its monthly plan. But this doesn't mean that more cannot be done, nor that something could not be done better.

There is a strong connection between this light in one of the offices of the plant and that great light which the flow of molten copper releases, between the fire of the discussions of the communists and the fire which liquifies the solid ore. Like a generator, the meeting of the communists gives power and energy to the fire that melts the ore, the fire that increases the vigour of the work and opens the road to the march forward.



A NEW LANDSCAPE IN THE MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT OF KUKËS





Part of the new town of Kukës which is still being built.

THE YOUNGEST TOWN

In one of the main streets of the new town Kukës (north-east Albania) there is marble plaque at the entrance of a four-storeyed building. The inscription says that 22nd July, 1962, marked the start of the new town with the building of this block of apartments. In the intervening fourteen years, this site, 340 to 360 metres above sea level, has been filled with hundreds of apartments, industrial buildings, social-cultural institutions, etc.

Of this area of about 144 hectares, residential buildings occupy 56 hectares, industrial and public service institutions 45 hectares, and 45 hectares, including the town's natural park of 27 hectares, is green space.

The construction of the new Kukës, 3 kilometres from the old town, is a result of the building of the big Fierza hydro power scheme. The lake created will be more than 80 kilometres

long, filling the valley of the Drini river which flows through the districts of Tropoja, Kukës and Puka. This lake will hold about 2,5 billion cubic metres of water and will inundate the site of the old town of Kukës, as well as several villages.

With the creation of the great lake, the new town of Kukës, seen from above, will look like a picturesque peninsula.



TWO BRIDGES— THE HIGHEST IN THE REPUBLIC

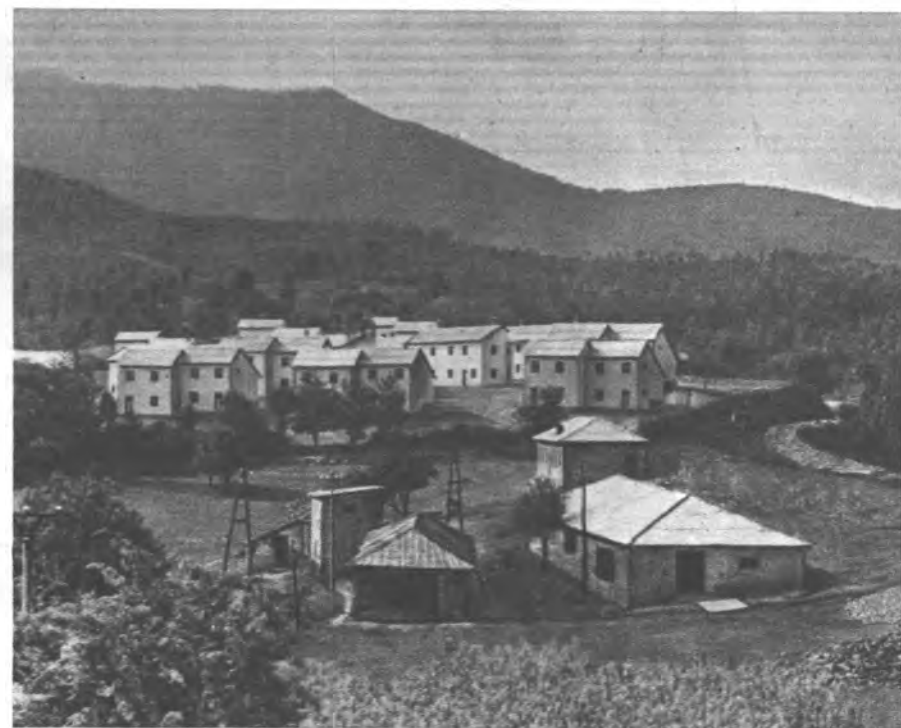
Two big bridges will link the new town of Kukës with other parts of Albania. In regard to their height, length, and method of construction, they are unique in the history of our country. The bridge over the white Drini will link Kukës with the Hasi region and the town of Kruma and Tropoja district. This bridge is 60 metres high, 260 metres long, and 7 metres wide a footpath of 1,5 metres on each side. The centre span will be 79 metres.

The second bridge is that over the Black Drini, and will link the town with the roads to Tirana and Shkodra. This bridge is similar to the other, but is 17 metres shorter.

The construction of these bridges, which is being done entirely by mechanized methods, began sometime ago. It will be completed in 1977.

When the lake is filled to its maximum level, these two bridges will be only 3 metres above the lake surface.

One of the two bridges being built over the Drin River in the Kukës district. It is 60 meters high and 260 meters wide.



One of the new villages in the highlands of Kukës, which are also still under construction.

REBORN VILLAGES

Because of the lake, which will be created with the construction of the big Fierza hydropower scheme, several villages have to be shifted from the lower parts of the Drini valley to higher ground. Building the new villages has been under way for some time and most of them are now completed. They have been built by the state according to a studied plan and observing all the requirements of modern residential centres. Each family has its own apartment with all the necessary space and facilities. In

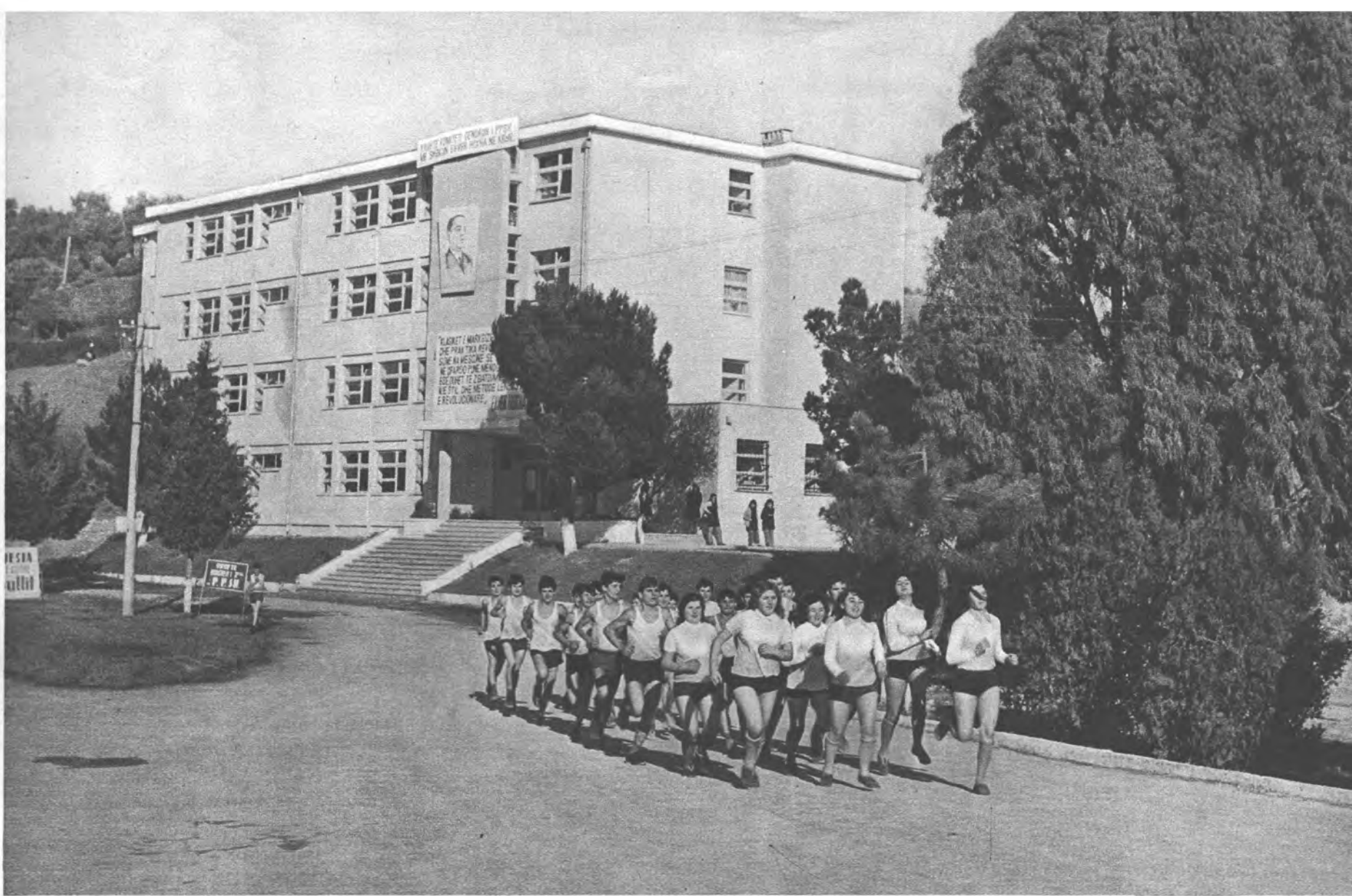
addition to hundreds of apartments, many social-cultural institutions, such as health centres, schools, shops, etc., have been built or are under construction.

Seen from a distance, several of these villages such as Pista, Fajza, etc., are like verdure-encircled small towns.

The rebuilding of all the displaced villages will be completed in 1977. The area of new land opened up in these parts is more extensive than that which will be flooded by the lake.

Students of the industrial secondary school in Durrës during practical work.





The physical culture period with the students of a class in the agricultural secondary school at Golem.

A NEW STAGE IN VOCATIONAL SECONDARY EDUCATION

MUSTAFA FEZGA
Inspector of the Ministry of Education

During the 6th Five Year Plan (1976-80) geological research, the oil and gas industry, the mining industry, metallurgy, electric power production, as well as all the other branches of industry, will be further developed. Likewise, important steps will be taken in the development of agricultural and livestock production.

This all round advance dictates the need for further extension of vocational secondary education. Today, there are 215 vocational secondary schools, or fifty times as many as before liberation, while the number of students attending these schools has increased more than 100 times over. 75 per cent of all secondary school students attend this category of school.

A feature of the secondary schools of industrial or agricultural profile during the past few years, is that they no longer train middle level cadres to manage production, but qualified workers to work directly in large-scale production.

There are secondary schools to train qualified

workers for almost all the branches of industry—geology, oil, mining, metallurgy, engineering, the electrical, chemical, construction, timber, textile and knitwear industries, food technology, etc.

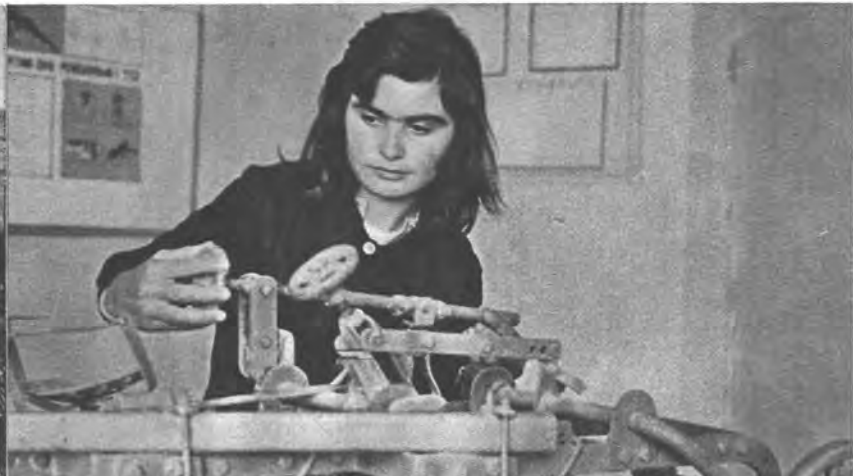
This year the number of secondary schools has been further increased and that of the students attending them almost doubled. New branches were opened for the sectors of mining, engineering, construction, light industry, etc.

Agricultural schools, which account for nearly half the vocational secondary schools, have increased at especially high rates. This year alone, 72 agricultural secondary schools were opened, being extended to the most remote villages of our country. This measure will help, not only to increase the number of qualified workers in agriculture, but also to narrow the differences between town and countryside. In our country, today, about 55 per cent of the pupils who attend vocational secondary schools come from the villages, where more than 65 per cent of the schools are located.

Practical work in the field occupies an important place in the curriculum of the secondary schools.



A student of the IIIrd class in the agricultural secondary school at Golem.





It is important to stress that, along with the extension of the network of vocational secondary schools, and mass attendance at them, great attention has been paid to the quality of the lessons given in them. The thorough study of the subjects, the raising of the general culture to the same level in all the secondary schools, have opened the way to the general ideo-professional and cultural development of pupils and students of the most varied profiles. The participation of the pupils in large-scale social production, among the working class and the peasantry, has resulted in a better linking of school of this category with life. This means that the pupils are better prepared from the angle of theory and practice.

In the future, too, the road is open for an ever more vigorous development of vocational secondary schooling, both as regards mass participation in it and as regards its content, keeping in step with the all-round progress of our economy. In this way, for the running of complicated modern machinery and for carrying out scientific research work in our fields, we shall have more and more capable workers, qualified to solve any problem to which our development may give rise.



1 At the agricultural secondary school at Golem, teacher Rahman Çelçina, teaching anatomy in the animal husbandry class.

2 Students of the Industrial Secondary School in Durrës during their practical lesson on the drill press.

3 Student Drane Mark Doda of the agricultural secondary school at Golem, speaking before the class about the cultivation of rice.

4 Teacher Kujtim Pema teaching electronics to his class at the industrial secondary school at Durrës.

5 The agricultural secondary school at Golem (Durrës) during the lesson on the use of the microscope.

In recent years vocational secondary schooling has been greatly extended. This school year 75 per cent of all secondary school students have been enrolled in vocational schools. About 55 per cent of those attending vocational secondary schools come from the countryside and 65 per cent of the total number of secondary schools are in the villages.



THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF PROFESSIO- NAL THEATRE



Eight professional theatre companies competed in the National Festival of professional theatres which was organized in Tirana. The ideo-artistic achievements of our theatre were apparent in their performances both in the field of dramatic composition as well as in that of theatrical art, in the performance of the actors, skill of production, settings, and all the other components of performances. The ideo-artistic achievements of this festival were the fruit of the thirty years work of our theatre, of the constant efforts to consolidate the principles of the method of socialist realism, partisanship, and the national and popular spirit, as well as of the constant struggle against any influences of alien bourgeois and revisionist ideology and of formalist decadent art.

The variety of themes of the festival carried the spectators to the difficult but glorious days of the National-liberation War to the early post-liberation years, to the period of the struggle for the collectivization of agriculture or to the present problems of the working class and the cooperative peasantry.

The value of this festival is not just in its treatment of major social themes which have been and continue to be the concern of our people, but also in the high and sound ideo-artistic level which characterized both the plays and the performance of them. Viewing the problems from the angle of the class struggle, the authors and



players provided realistic performances in the Party and national spirit.

The variety of themes which characterized the festival is a distinctive feature of the Albanian theatre all through its development. By reflecting the major problems that are preoccupying the country, the theatre has become the expression of the consciousness of our people at the most important historical moments they have passed through.

The great struggle of our people to build the new socialist society, which is waged through major difficulties and victories, remains the principal theme of our theatre. The treatment of contemporary themes is a matter of great ideological importance, an ideological necessity which our epoch calls for, which is a reflection of the high level of consciousness, the revolutionary spirit, the whole ethical-moral physiognomy of our socialist society. The construction of socialism in our country is going on through a stern class struggle on a national and international level. Our people are building the new life surrounded by ruthless imperialist and revisionist enemies. But they are not intimidated. They are marching steadily ahead, triumphant. And in our theatre the treatment of this theme occupies an important place. Such a thing was apparent in this festival, too, in which, as we mentioned, most of the plays dealt with subjects from our new socialist life.

In addition to the persistent efforts of our professional theatre companies, the extensive amateur theatre movement also makes a major contribution to strengthening the socialist realist character the communist partisanship and the national and popular spirit of our theatre. At all work centers, agricultural cooperatives, schools and the University and in military detachments there are amateur theatrical groups which continually give performances and, from time to time organize festivals. Through their performances the amateur actors bring to the stage in a natural way the active life of our people, the freshness of this life which they live day by day. On its part, the professional theatre contributes its experience in the mastery of interpretation on the stage to the amateur movement. The combination of these two kinds of theatre raises the artistic level of the amateur theatre, on one hand, and brings new blood, freshness and naturalness to the professional theatre, on the other. Such a thing was observed also in this festival, in which nearly all the companies appeared on the stage with professional and amateur actors, a feature which imparted more variety, freshness and naturalness to the festival.

New blood is provided for the professional theatre also with the students who are trained in the Higher School for Actors. In this festival, too, a considerable number of players were students who had just completed their studies.

The festival of professional theatres showed that the theatre in our country takes an active part in the struggle to educate the broad masses of the people with the line of the Party, with the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, so that they became fearless fighters for the cause of the people and the Party.

«For us, the theatre is a political and ideological weapon for educating the people», says Comrade Enver Hoxha, «therefore, it should be understandable to them, and, in order to be this, it should express their feelings and desires».



Aspects from the performances of the festival of the professional theatre.

THE «ÇIFTELI»¹⁾ ARTISTIC B

The «Çifteli» Ensemble giving a concert at the Cultural Club of the «Stalin» Textile Combine.



ENSEMBLE

SHABAN VANI

The «çifteli» has spread far and wide and has entered deeply into the life of the people in the Lezha district. Along with the rifle, this musical instrument has accompanied the man of Lezha everywhere. «Each village its costume, each house its çifteli», is a common saying in these regions. After the guest has drained the first glass of raki, he is offered a «çifteli». But the guest leaves it to the host to strike up the first tune. This the man of Lezha does with great gusto. In his hands the çifteli becomes an orchestra.

The «Çifteli» Artistic Ensemble at the Lezha House of Culture is an expression of this tradition. This Ensemble, set up in May, 1966 is made up of the most talented men and women from the groups of the six districts of this region. In it we see persons of various ages and various instruments. But the predominant instrument in this Ensemble is the «çifteli», which we see in different formations as, for instance, in the group of ancient instruments, in the complex of «Çifteli» only, in the big orchestra, in the men's complex. Precisely for this reason, the Ensemble took the name, «Çifteli», as soon as it was set up.

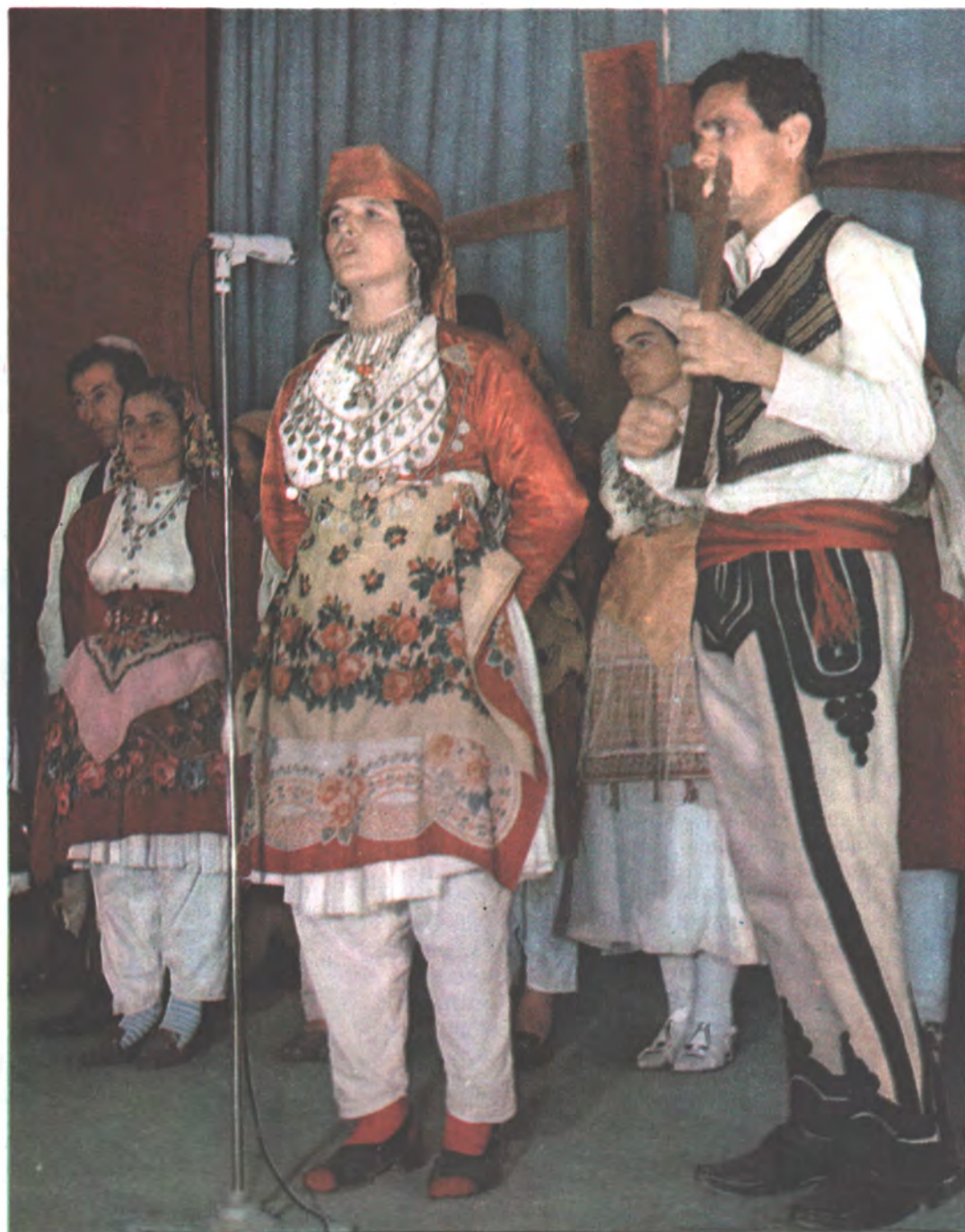
Nine years is not a very long period in the life of an Ensemble. However, this beautiful Ensemble has already earned a fine reputation all over our country. The radio and TV audience and all music lovers in our country have admired the beautiful folk songs and melodies of this Ensemble.

Every year the Ensemble has given first performances. It has also made tours through our country and has taken part in the folklor competitions and festivals organized time and again in our country. And it has always won the admiration of the audiences and been awarded top prizes. Thus, at the 1968 National Folklore Festival this Ensemble was awarded the gold medal. In January 1969, at the National Convention of Rhapsodists, organized at Lezha in commemoration of the 500th year of the death of our National Hero, Gjergj Kastrioti, Skanderbeg, the «Çifteli» Ensemble was awarded the victor's banner. It was the same, too, at the National Folklor Festival held in Gjirokastra in 1973.

In addition to its varied repertoire, this Ensemble has a rich wardrobe. The picturesque costumes, for the purchase of which the State has spent more than the total annual budget of the whole district during the preliberation days, are extremely attractive.

The motifs of the repertoire of the «Çifteli» Ensemble have enriched and brought something new, both in form and substance, to the fund of music of Radio Tirana, something new which is a further development of our native tradition.

1) A two-stringed musical instrument.



THE MOST APPROPRIATE SONG

The story we have printed here draws its theme from the National Liberation War which the Albanian people waged for liberation from Italian fascism and German Nazism and to establish the people's statepower. Here, the author deals with some of the most important moments of the National Liberation War, such as the struggle waged by the Albanian Communist Party against the factionist enemies within the Party, against the organizations which collaborated with fascism, the efforts to set up the National Liberation Army, the fight waged against the intervention of the Anglo-American espionage network in the internal affairs Albania. In all these events, what stands out the most is the great role played by Comrade Enver Hoxha, the leader of the Party, army and the whole people in the National Liberation War.

(Note of the Editorial Board)

In the Balkans, the fascist occupation armies were barely managing to keep a foothold. In Albania alone, fascism had about 100,000 troops nailed down at a time when Hitler was insisting on more divisions for the fronts where things were bad. The recent fall of Mussolini was the prelude to the downfall of fascist Italy, which could not possibly last any longer. The joyful news was conveyed to us by Uncle Pandi at the General meeting.

Uncle Pandi, (as we called him), as the Commander of the fighting unit spoke for a long time. He also made the situation of Italy clear to us, which was soon to give out. But when we burst out into cheers and began to embrace each other gleefully, he started talking in a different tone.

«I think you're going a bit too far», he said. «What are you going to do when the war really ends and the whole of Albania is liberated?» And we must not forget Comrades, that Italian fascism is only one leg of the enemy beast, the other leg is Hitler's nazism, which has no intention of raising its hands in despair.

It will most certainly try to occupy the positions of its friends, to put them under its orders and use them as cannon fodder. Or, don't you agree? You see, there is a lot more to Janina than meets the eye, so we shouldn't rejoice over this news as if the war has been won and throw everything up to celebrate. This is exactly what the enemy wants. On the contrary, we must be prepared spiritually and militarily to face up any difficulty and perhaps an even more gruelling struggle than we have experienced so far.

After this the order was given for a short interval to have a few bites to eat. The meeting was going to re-commence and Uncle Pandi was to read us some very important communiqués.

No sooner had we got ourselves comfortable and started eating, when some of us began to chortle over Uncle Pandi's expression, «there is more to Janina than meets the eye». And the truth was that even though he had explained everything clearly, illustrating his arguments with examples to convince us, we still did not believe that things would be more difficult in the future. «Uncle Pandi exaggerated things a bit», we said to each other.

«We're not as stupid as you think», said the courier, Lika, to several of us. «Let's say, for instance, that both fascism and nazism fall. But what about «Balli Kombëtar», do you think that it is just a small job? Or do you think that Siri Bey Dule and Company, who have committed countless crimes, will surrender arms and asked to be judged by the people? No, comrades, no. We mustn't let our minds deceive us. Not only will they refuse to surrender arms, because they know what's in store for them, but, who know what tricks they'll get up to try and enter

the services of some other patron who has interests in Albania.

We all understood who the other patron was which Courier Lika referred to, but we sat silent only winking at each other.

«I'm talking about those Anglo-American devils», retorted Lika, when he saw Miti jabbing me with his elbow.

His job as courier often took Lika on missions to the leaders of the statepower and our army and he had had the opportunity to get to know the officers of the Anglo-American missions at close hand and sometimes he had even accompanied them from district to district, but he was so indignant by their behavior and several other things that they did, that even when you mentioned them, he would turn his head away and refuse to speak.

«What's more, Comrades, this place has its own master», said the courier closing his speech.

«But we've got someone who knows how to deal with anybody, who tries to put one over us».

«Are you talking about Comrade Taras!»?, said Uncle Qerimi, the eldest in the çeta, who so far hadn't said a word.

Courier Lika nodded and smiled.

«That's right, Uncle. You know him yourself, don't you?»

«Yes, you bet I know him. It was there I met him», and the old man stretched out his arm and pointed to a hill opposite us. «There were about a thousand of us, almost the whole district. It was as if the devil had come among us, not even we, members of the movement could come to agreement with each other. That rouge, who called himself Xhep², who was known as a communist, while he was nothing else but a traitor, had made a real mess of things. He had the eloquency of a lawyer, and he had drawn a lot of young people over on to his side. Things reached the point where that criminal was preparing to gain control of the Regional Committee through an armed uprising within the Party. But we all know what happened. The Party took measures and within a few hours completely smashed, this plan. But this was just the chance for the fascists and especially the «Balli» members to start saying, «People, just look who you have to deal with. The Communist Party which has been pulling you through the dirt has exposed itself as a party of madmen who are at one another's throats. The one communist who dared raise his voice against its crooked path was shot. So, be aware and take measures. «Balli Kombëtar» is not against that kind of communism sought after by the man the Party has condemned, Xhep, a communism which really convinces you, that it is in the interests of our Motherland Albania, but it is

against the communism, which under this mask, does the work of foreigners». This propaganda sank roots and confused many people and you had to have Lenin's brilliance to be able to divide the chaff from the wheat.

The old man spoke fiercely. His lips were parched and he was having difficulty in breathing. He laid his piece of bread and cheese aside, which he still hadn't touched and asked for some water. Then he lit a cigarette, which Courier Lika rolled for him, and after drawing on it a couple of times, continued his story:

«But we had Lenin there among us, and we didn't know it»). He had by-passed mountains and rivers throughout entire regions, crawling with fascists and Ballists who were searching everywhere for him and could find not even a trace. He had footed it for days and nights on end over unknown roads and trails, clothed as the occasion called, sometimes as a peasant, sometimes as a worker, with his sports bag slung over his shoulder. On the way he would stop over at some family whom he knew he could trust just enough to have a bite to eat and get some sleep, and then he would be away again. The comrades who walked with him, experienced and hardened with such journeys, were amazed with this tall robust man who walked on deftly on without, defiantly, ignoring the ruggedness of the valleys and steep slopes of our mountains. And he came like the rain in summer, when the ground is parched and the plants begin to wither. He came here where the voice and the rights of this people called him, this people who suffered and toiled so much, who had pinned all their hopes on the Communist Party and who had followed its course because of the people this was the most sacred and beloved. He came, and there, on the side of that mountain, we held the meeting. We were about one thousand from around about. Besnik, as the leading figure of the Party in our district, told us that he was leader of the whole Party. All of us raised our heads and turned to look at him. He carried himself tall and straight, but he was robust and had a healthy face, big black eyes, a high forehead and thick hair, which stood on end. He smiled at all of us, but we could see that something was bothering him deep inside.

He began to speak in a low voice which gradually grew louder. But in those moments I don't know why I found something in that man which I had never noticed in anyone else. Perhaps it was his words or some movement of his eyes or face which made me think like that, even now I can't explain it. I felt exasperated with myself and even with the others that they didn't notice it. But who knows what they were thinking about. Perhaps there was the odd one among

them who was suspicious of the fact whether or not he really was the biggest in the Party. I noticed on his left and right, Comrade Beso and Uncle Pandi, who was barely retaining himself. But it was evident that he himself understood the situation and his words were coming out with some difficulty. But, nobody had spoken as well as he did. Within the first five minutes he laid out the whole situation to us. «He's ours alright», I said to myself, and I nudged Leven with my elbow, who was next to me. I wanted him to listen. You see, he always lowered his head, but his ears were wide open, listening to what he was saying. He flinched sideways at me and nodded his head, meaning... «he's speaking very well».

He continued to speak. After really going to town on Zogu with some information, which we had never heard before, he started in on fascism with Mustafa Kruja and Balli Kombëtar. But he revealed all their crimes so blatantly that your hair almost stood on end. I don't know why I suddenly remembered some articles in «Zëri i Popullit» (The Voice of the People), which Beso had read to us some time back, articles which sometimes, cunningly but deftly and other times, openly and mercilessly dealt a crushing blow to fascism, and all those who tagged along behind it.

Round about me, I could see that everyone had moved, their heads were up and they were all ears looking at him steadily. The words seemed to flow more clearly and could be heard afar, we could hear them echo in those boulders over there. He spoke about Xhepi and his partner, a certain Qorri. The comrades had explained the activity of those criminals several times, but the explanations which that man gave us topped every thing else and they were really convincing. Since then, as you all know, Xhepi and his followers, from fear that the people would tear them to bits, ran for shelter to Balli Kombëtar.

Uncle Qerimi ended his story right on the whistle for the recommencement of the meeting. He gulped down a couple of mouthfuls of bread and cheese which he still had left and hurried off with the rest of us to the meeting. Just like all of us he, too, was eager to hear what news Commander Pandi would have to tell us in the second part.

«For a joint action», thought some of us, «It's more than necessary now that the fascists are feeling the earth slip beneath their feet. The head's gone and that's no joke.

«I don't agree at all», retorted Courier Lika, «When you cut the head of a snake it goes into a frenzy».

We all burst out laughing.

«Don't be too sure of yourselves», he insisted. «That frenzy of the headless snake is its last call to its kind for aid».

«Well, how about that», said Uncle Qerimi thoughtfully frowning, «You know he could be right that rascal Lika at that». He's got a good imagination that man. Who is the ilk of the snake in this case? The Balli people and all those Duce has fattened macaroni. There are also the Germans with that pig Hitler whom Pandi mentioned and who, on the quiet have already started to enter Albania. Was a small thing those barbarians did at Borova, No, no, He's right that Lika. He...

Here, Uncle Pandi broke in on the old men's words. He was sitting on the trunk of a fallen tree and was clapping his hands for silence. Silence fell immediately, and he began:

«Comrades, what I am going to tell you now is a wonderful piece of news for us partisans and for the whole people... On the decision of the Central Committee of the Party, the General Staff of the National Liberation Army has been created. This means that our partisan fighting units all over Albania will from now on have the one leading staff which will lead and direct them. They will be organized into a regular

army with battalions and brigades, which will each carry out operations in the zone where it is appointed and in conformity with the situation there but always on the basis of a general plan drawn up by the General Staff.

Uncle Pandi then explained to us in detail how this organization will be. «Our army», he said, «is growing day by day with new forces, who are hurrying to join it from all the villages and towns and soon the things will come to a point where many of our present comrades who hold responsible positions in our unit or some of its ordinary partisans, but who are experienced in this work, will be charged with high and responsible posts such as commanders and commissars of battalions, companies, detachment and other formations which are being created throughout the country. And he named several of the comrades of our çeta, who, according to him, would for certain be called up for other important duties. Among other names, I heard my own, Sino Boraka, and I don't know what came over me, it was as if someone poured some cold water down my back. It certainly was no joke to lead a company or battalion».

«Just a minute now, what are you all scowling at?», intervened Uncle Pandi, who saw that we didn't welcome his last words about our promotion, «or do you think that we are going to bring out officers from Europe, who have graduated from Academies to lead our army? You should all be ashamed of yourselves. Officers from academies with one hundred diplomas headed Duce's army, but you see, we, without food or shelter, with the few things which the Party taught us and with the weapons which we seized from the enemy, routed them. Is there any better proof than this to show that we are our own masters today and forever. No, boys, no. A foreigner is a foreigner. Even if he is friendly and wishes well, he is still not like your own ilk. Its not for nothing that they say that only its master can pull the mule out of the mud. Therefore, pull yourselves together and try to draw as many lessons as you can both from the victories and the defeats we sometimes incurred in our plans and fights against the enemy. More than anything, else, we must enhance our discipline and vigilance, to link ourselves with the people like flesh to bone, for the liberation and future of whom we have taken up arms and in every one of our actions we must always proceed from the notion of just how our activity is in the interests of the people. Did you all understand, that is all I had to say comrades.»

Nobody replied in words, but all of, in one single body, stood to attention and saluted. Only Uncle Qerimi remained without moving. He was looking at Uncle Pandi, deep in thought.

«Did you have something today, Uncle?», he asked. The old man was addressed with the word Uncle even by the two or three of his contemporaries in the unit. And this had remained as a sort of nickname.

«Yes, I have something to say», nodded the old man, «You said all those wonderful things, Comrade Commander, things which really filled us with joy. But you did not say the main thing. You didn't say who has been elected to that General Staff you mentioned. Tell us if it is not a secret.»

«It is no a secret at all», said Uncle Pandi with a trace guilt in his voice. But I forgot to tell you. Here I have the call of the General Staff signed by its members, their names and surnames. At the head of them, and let the wholeworld know right now, as the General Commissar of the Albanian National Liberation Army is Comrade Enver Hoxha, whom we have heard of and know as Comrade Taras.»

Uncle Pandi had brought the call out of his pocket and was getting ready to read the names of the others, but the old man, Uncle Qerim, got in ahead of him. He pulled his revolver out of his belt and gave three shots. Together with the

shots the whole clearing resounded with the cheers and clapping of the partisans, who began to shake each other's hands and embrace one another. In their midst stood out the old man who embraced all of them one by one, murmuring in that carressing voice of his, greetings and good wishes. «Didn't I tell you». I know he was like that... He is the luck of Albania... May he live as long as the mountains!»

«I think you went a bit too far with that revolver you fired without permission», said Courier Lika, in an attempt to joke,

«I went too far?. Not at all, don't you think that this custom of the Albanians should be done such a joyful occasion as this? No, my son, no. And even if you want to call what I did as a violation of the rules, then I'll pay for it myself. But do you know what you can do?»

The old man grasped Lika by the hand and pulling him after himself for the middle of the clearing to be opened. «Let's dance together», he said,

We all knew that Uncle Qerim would, as was his custom, compose a new song on the spot and we quickly formed a big circle.

He took his red scarf off and waving it a few times in the air, he began to sing in the beginning in a low voice.

«Come closer, comrades...
Come closer in the dance.»

He stamped his right foot down on the ground, shook his head and shoulders two or three times and, looking out over our heads and waving his scarf, he continued:

«Come closer comrades in the dance,
We have a great celebration today.»

With the rhythm of the song which poured out with the roar of falling boulders and then softly and muffled like the water in the creek bed, the old man stepped back and forwards, bowed and lifted his body with some dextrous movements and quick circles which the other tried to imitate but couldn't.

Courier Lika, who supported him, and was forced to follow in all the movements, found it was impossible to keep up with him, so he left his place to Bardhyl, as he was younger.

And the song continued to emerge with lines which the old man improvised on the spot.

«We have a great celebration
The Liberation Army who has
Elected the commissar, so many problems
Enver Hoxha, the bravest of the brave.»

He danced, but it seemed as if his feet barely touched the ground. He almost flew, like the butterfly, which without touching the petals of the flowers where it searches for its food, withdraws and speeds on to the next one, where once again he hovers and makes ready to land on it but doesn't.

When the dance ended, the old man drew aside and began to wipe the sweat which was pouring off him. We encircled him, all of us pushing to shake his hand, to congratulate him for this really appropriate song.

1) One of the pseudonyms of Comrade Enver Hoxha in the period of the National Liberation War.

2) The pseudonym of Sadik Premte, one of the leaders of the hostile factions, which tried to undermine the Communist Party from within and which ended up in the ranks of fascism.

3) The author is referring to Comrade Enver Hoxha.

THE BASILICA AT BALLSH

SKËNDER ANAMALI Archaeologist,



General view of the basilica.

One of the new centers where archaeological excavations were made during the summer in 1976 is also the town of Ballsh. In this small town of the Mallakastra district in southwestern Albania the archeological expedition worked on unearthing a building of worship, a monumental basilica.

For nearly a century in Ballsh the attention of the inhabitants of the region and of the various travellers had been drawn by a big heap of ruins which because of a projecting pillar with an inscription on it was called, at that time, «the written stones». But folktales preserved the memory of a big monastery that had stood there long ago. The heap of ruins had served as a quarry and continued as such all along the first half of the XXth century. The «plunderous» excavations of that time unearthed numerous monuments like reliefs, various architectonic fragments and stones with ancient and mediaeval inscriptions on them. The latter are of great interest to the history of this center. The pillage of stones had heavily damaged the monument, a thing which was clearly shown during the recent excavations.

What should be stressed right at the start is that the excavations brought to light a monument of worship, a basilica of great historic-artistic significance. This year's excavations unearthed nearly the whole basilica but not yet the subsidiary structures round it which already seem to be quite complex.

The basilica at Ballsh has been a monumental structure of a high level as far back as when it

was first set up. This is borne out not only by the technique of construction, by its planimetric shape but also by the architectonic details and ornamented reliefs of great artistic value. What strikes one's eye in the architectonic details, in the capitals, framework, pillars and arches of windows nearly all of marble, is that, in addition to certain traditional ornamental elements, there are new, entirely floral motifs realized with a strict symmetric order but artistic perfection.

Of special significance are certain pilasters or basements made of limestone with all four sides worked out in relief. What makes these pilasters still more interesting are the rich ornaments of the reliefs and the craftsmanship with which they have been worked. Floral motifs, ivy and grapevine leaves predominate also on the reliefs of these pilasters. But on the reliefs we come across also other figures among which dolphins and other fish, various birds including peacocks and occasionally also animals. On the face of one of the pilasters is carved the effigy of a man, a fisherman holding a reed in his right hand with two strings at end of each of which hangs a fish. In comparison with the other effigies on the pilaster, the fisherman's effigy is a poor piece of work which goes to show that he who had carved it was not well versed in carving human figures, but a master at carving floral motifs and, in general, of those decorative elements and symbols accepted by the art at the initial stage of its development.

The basilica at Ballsh had been decorated inside



Fragment of a fresco.

with frescos which have been badly preserved and in fragments. They belong to two different periods connected with the construction and reconstruction of the basilica.

As regards the age of the basilica, its planimetry and technique of construction, the architectonic details and decorative reliefs take us back to the VIth century while the two inscriptions are a better indicatio of the time of the construction of this monument and its importance, namely, at the time of the reign of Emperor Justinian, the period from 527 to 565 of our era. Some supplementary walls of different technique which are preserved to this day, differences of the level of floors and smaller internal ground space go to show that the building has been reconstructed two times. These reconstructions belong to a relatively later period which we have set in a preliminary way between the XVth and XVIIth centuries. After the last reconstruction, the basilica did not have the same stately appearance as before.

The basilica at Ballsh is one of the most beautiful and best preserved monuments of worship of the VIth century in our country. As such it is a valuable source for the knowledge and study of the architecture and art, of the level they had reached in the Albanian regions of the interior. At the same time, this monumental building proves that during the VIth century the Mallakastra district was not a poor and neglected region but one which took active part in the cultural manifestations of the Balkan Peninsula and of the Mediterranean basin. The Basilica at Ballsh was one of the works by local masters, architects, sculptors and painters well versed in contemporary arts. It is one of the most important monuments of the later

time of antiquity which, as comrade Enver Hoxha says, «represent part of the past culture of our forefathers», through which our people «have contributed also to the heritage of world culture».

While looking at the Ballshi monument and its accessories, scholars and visitors arrive at the conclusion that it must be connected with an early Albanian important center of habitation. For the time being the beginnings of this center of habitation, or better still, the beginnings of its prosperity may be set at the VIth century. Near Ballsh, on a hill of the village of Hekal nearly six kilometers to the south lie the ruins of the Illyrian city of Bylis which fell and was razed to the ground in late antiquity. During the Vth century Bylis is mentioned only as the residence of a bishop. Since Bylis and Ballsh are only six kilometers away from each other we are inclined to think that this is a question of the migration of the population from the former town to the latter. The excavations have shown that in building the basilica at Ballsh there have been used mainly ancient materials blocks of stones and tiles taken from an earlier center of habitation which could not have been except the ruins of the Illyrian Bylis. Finally, not accidental but a possible result of the further evolution of the language is also the binomial Bylis-Ballsh, especially when we take into account the form of the later times of the first name Belis and Bellias. Thus, in Ballsh we see the continuity during the Middle Ages up to now of an Illyrian center of habitation and together with it the preservation of the ancient name but transformed in accordance with the evolution of the language.

In conclusion, the basilica at Ballsh is the work of native masters of the Vth century and belongs to a native center of habitation.

Some pilasters in relief. Photo N. Baba



PHILATELY

An issue dedicated to the National Conference of Ethnographic Studies, Tirana, June 28, 1976.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chên An Nin — The People's Republic of China.

I am a secondary school student and a regular reader of «New Albania» magazine through which I have become better acquainted with the successes achieved by your heroic people in building socialism under the wise guidance of your great leader, comrade Enver Hoxha.

Albania, which used to be a backward, poverty-stricken place in Europe, has now turned into an advanced country which is building socialism successfully.

«We have friends in this world, we are closely linked with them. No matter how far away we are, they are our good neighbors».

D. Meisenheltar — Australia.

Yours is an interesting, well presented magazine, which gives valuable information about the achievements of your country, which we could not learn otherwise in Australia, because we do not have enough news about Albania.

As an architect, I am engaged in the preservation of historic buildings and I am very interested in the articles which describe the work which is being done in research, restoration and maintenance of historical monuments in your country.

I would be greatly interested to have further information about the work in these fields in Albania. Perhaps the occasion may arise later to visit your country.

I would be very grateful if you could give me the names and addresses of the organizations in your country which are engaged with the preservation of historical buildings.

Mokhtar Milud — Tunisia.

I am very glad to hear of the successes your fraternal country has scored. I have learned

a great deal from your beautiful magazine and I am very satisfied with it. I have been receiving it for a year and a half, and I like its content on the achievements in the construction of socialism, just as I like its presentation and lay out with beautiful photographs.

I wish to be listed among your friends.

Niculescu Stilian — Rumania

I have a subscription to the Italian edition of the «New Albania» magazine and read it with great interest because in it I find a great deal of information about your country, Albania. It is a very attractive and education magazine. In issue No. 2 I read that another periodical, «Albania Today» is also being published in Italian and would like very much to receive that periodical, too.

Tenny Miller — Australia.

Recently I came across your magazine «New Albania», which I liked very much. I was especially attracted by N° 2/1976 which published materials on Albanian folklore and national costumes.

Belarbi Abdel Selam — Algeria.

I was very pleased to read your periodical «New Albania», which a friend of mine gave me. This was the first time I had read about your country. I wish to know Albania, which is building socialism by its own efforts, forging ahead with determination to ensure the prosperity of its people. Therefore, please send me some issues of your magazine. I would also like some publications about its geography and history as well as about aspects of the construction of socialism.

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FRONT COVER: Mass rally at the «Skanderbeg» Square organized on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania and the conclusion of the proceedings of its 7th Congress.

Back Cover Meeting the metallurgists.

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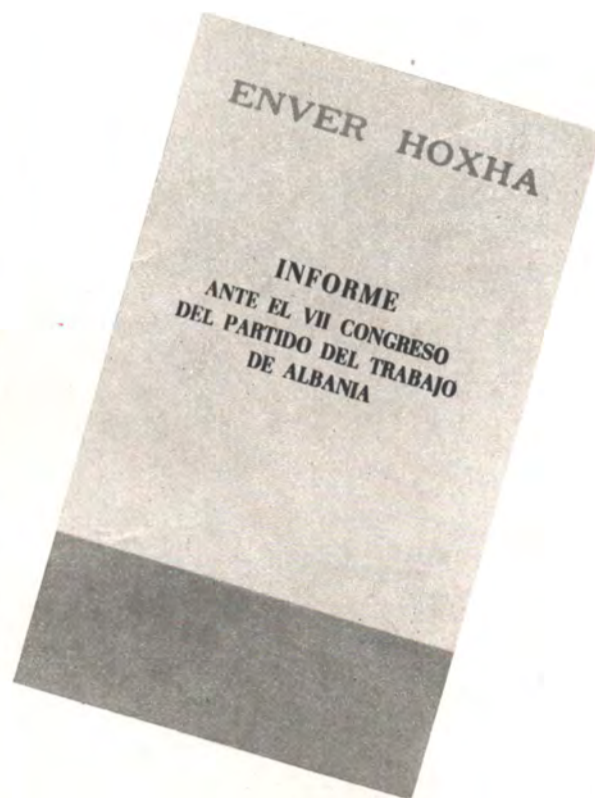
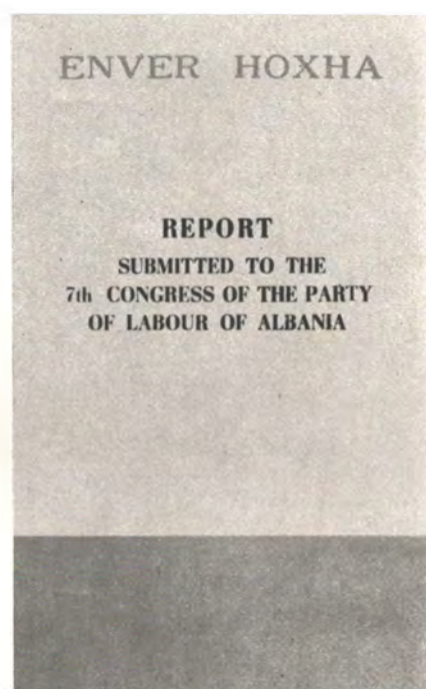
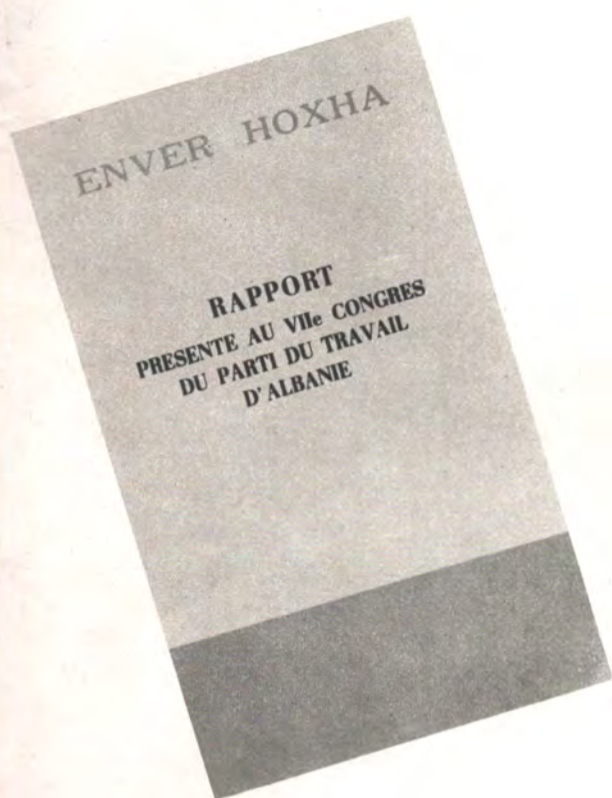
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French and Spanish.**

