



NEW ALBANIA

**2
1977**

COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AMONG THE WORKERS OF THE VLO

Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, among workers of the «Rinia» State Farm and



RA DISTRICT

members of the Dukat-Tragjas Agricultural Cooperative.



Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania paid a visit to the Vlora district. He held a meeting with the Party activists of the district, including the secretaries of the Party basic organizations of the economic enterprises, the agricultural cooperatives, cultural institutions, and the army, and cadres of the Party, the Government, the mass organizations and the military detachments.

The First Secretary of the district Party Committee, Gaço Nesho, informed him of the tireless work which the patriotic and hard-working people of the district have done and are doing, with the communists in the lead, to carry out the tasks set by the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

Comrade Enver Hoxha greeted those present and congratulated them, and through them, the communists, the working class, the cooperative peasants and the Vlora workers, on the important successes they have achieved in all sectors of production and political and social life. He spoke to the participants in the meeting about the brilliant prospects which the decisions of the 7th Party Congress, have opened up for all our people, as well as about the great tasks which face the Party, the State organs, the mass organizations and all the working people of the district in the fields of the development of industry and agriculture, culture, defence and so on.

Speaking about a number of problems of the international political situation and the Marxist-Leninist movement in the world, comrade Enver Hoxha said that the whole capitalist-revisionist world is in the grip of a grave, complex, economic, political, financial and social crisis, and that the situation in the world, in general, is not calm. This means that it is our duty to see that our country is always vigilant towards the development of events, towards the schemes which the imperialists, social-imperialists, revisionists, and other reactionaries are hatching up against the peoples, against the cause of the revolution and socialism.

Comrade Enver Hoxha stressed the importance of a proper understanding of the slogan «work, live and fight as under siege» and the great principle of self-reliance, so as to break any imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade against our country. On the economic front, this blockade is broken by enhancing our efforts to increase production, by turning out goods of high quality and at lower cost, by decreasing imports and increasing exports. On the ideological and political front, the Party has never maintained a passive stand towards events. Guiding our people along the correct road of socialism, on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism, it has always acted with determination and vigour. This is how it acted against Yugoslav revisionism, against Soviet revisionism, as well as against all trends of modern revisionists and opportunists of every shade. And this always correct and consistent line of the Party has made it possible to cope successfully with any blockade. It is precisely due to this correct struggle and this principled Marxist-Leninist stand that the Party has won the sympathy, respect and trust, not only of the Marxist-Leninists and of the genuine revolutionaries, but also of progressive people throughout the world. This, comrade Enver Hoxha emphasized, is the explanation for the wide echo that the proceedings and decisions of the 7th Congress of the Party had in the outside world.

As soon as the residents of the city learned of comrade Enver Hoxha's arrival, thou-

sands of them turned out into the big boulevard. They greeted comrade Enver with enthusiastic applause and cheering.

Comrade Enver Hoxha also paid a visit to the hills of Jonufër which the volunteers of the younger generation of Albania have terraced and planted in recent years. Among the terraces green with olive, orange, lemon, and a variety of other fruit trees, the beloved leader of the Party and people was welcomed with cheers and enthusiastic applause by a group of workers of the «Rinia» State Farm, by members of the Dukat-Tragjas Agricultural Cooperative, and specialists and leading cadres of these economies.

Comrade Enver Hoxha warmly shook hands with and embraced many of those present. The Manager of the «Rinia» State Farm, Gogo Vjero, and Secretary of the Bureau of the Party of the Dukat-Tragjas Agricultural Cooperative, Hasan Gjonj, informed comrade Enver Hoxha about the work, life, and achievements of the workers and cooperativists, as well as about the great prospects which the 6th five-year plan opens before these agricultural economies.

Comrade Enver Hoxha told the workers, cooperative members and cadres of his great satisfaction in being in this region of which he has indelible memories from the stormy years of the Anti-fascist National-Liberation War.

While admiring the flourishing beauty of the hills of Jonufër, embellished by the toil, sweat, and intelligence of our heroic youth, the leader of the Party highly praised the good work which they have done on these now blooming hills. This, he said, reflects the great strength of our youth, which is inspired and multiplied by the correctness of the line of the Party, a line which has as its objective the freedom and independence of the homeland, the happiness of the people and their well-being and prosperity. All the successes scored in our country, pointed out comrade Enver Hoxha, are due, above all, to the fact that the Party, knew right from the start, that it had to make its line clear to the people, both during the war as well as today, in the great work who has to be done to build socialism, the work which has transformed the appearance of Albania. But whenever we think and speak about these major transformations, we should first of all see the changes that have come about in the spiritual world of our capable and hard-working people, who are the decisive factor in attaining all these victories.

Having spoken about the successes which have been achieved, and certain tasks connected with the patriotic socialist education of our youth, as well as about some problems of the application of agro-technical science, comrade Enver Hoxha continued: The decisive thing in this struggle and work for the allround strengthening of our socialist homeland in order to smash the imperialist-revisionist encirclement, is the education of people with our ideology of Marxism-Leninism. This is not simply a slogan. This ideology has been transfused like life-giving blood into the arteries of the body of our Party and it always fights to keep it pure, as the only guarantee of success in the advance towards a classless society, towards communism.

At the close of this meeting, while again wishing them success in work and in life, comrade Enver Hoxha embraced the workers of the «Rinia» State Farm and the members of the Dukat-Tragjas cooperative, and having posed for a photograph with them, was seen off amid the joy and enthusiasm of all those present.

GJIROKASTRA

A CITY OF STONE WITH A HEART OF FIRE

HALIM STOLIA
MEDIN ÇOLLAKU



Views of the city of Gjirokastra. These pictures were taken during the days of the National Folklore Festival.

Gjirokastra is one of those cities which, once you have got to know it, you can never forget. The image of the castle of the suburbs spreading over the ridges of the Mali i Gjerë (Broad Mountain), the characteristic buildings, the narrow cobbled streets, the inhabitants who go so easily up and down these steep streets — this image can never be confused with that of any other city. «The city of two thousand steps», «fascinating city» some have dubbed it, while others have described it as «a city like no other city».

There are cities in our country like Shkoder, Berat, Kruja, and others, whose history is woven into legend. There are others like Laç, Memaliaj, Prrenjas and Kurbesh whose existence is measured in years or, at most, in decades. Gjirokastra is of the former category. Legend says: «...when Princess Argiro saw the foreign invaders break through the gates and burst into the castle, she clasped her infant son in her arms, climbed to the highest turret, and jumped to her death to avoid falling into the hands of the invaders». Women jumping from castles or rocks to avoid falling into the hands of enemies is an ancient legend.

Gjirokastra is first mentioned in history by the Byzantine chronicler, J. Kontakuseni, in the 14th century, when he writes of a powerful Albanian uprising in 1336. From the all-round studies of our scholars during the years of our People's State Power, and especially from geo-

logical excavations, it turns out that the rich valley of the small river Drino, between Lunxheria and Mali i Gjerë in southern Albania, was densely populated in ancient times. In recent years our archaeologists have discovered the site of the ancient Illyrian city of Antigonea. The ruins of another ancient Illyrian city, not yet identified, are located at Melan, some tens of kilometres southeast of Antigonea on the eastern side of the Drino river. We know that tens of cities were sacked and plundered by the Romans during the time of Consul Paul Emilius, following the war to subjugate Southern Illyria, Epirus, and Macedonia, towards the end of the 2nd century before our era. It was during this period of occupation that the above mentioned Illyrian cities were destroyed. It appears that Gjirokastra was built later as a necessary centre of trade in the valley of the Drino. It stands at the foot of Mali i Gjerë, precisely

in the middle of the valley and at a key junction which links a number of districts: the district of Kurvelesh to the north and northwest, the districts of Zagoria and Lunxheria to the east, Libohova and Pogon to the southeast and Drophulli to the south. The city itself, with its characteristic streets, has a radial construction which is evidence of this linking. At Market Pass, which is the epicentre of this Museum City five cobbled streets come together. They run from the above mentioned districts, pass through the suburbs of the city and meet at this spot.

From a perusal of historical documents it turns out that during the second half of the 14th century, Gjirokastra became the centre of the feudal domain of the Zenebishi's. In 1419 the city fell into the hands of the Ottoman armies which had now descended upon the Balkans. The new occupiers turned Gjirokastra into the administrative centre of the Albanian Province, which extended from Çamëria in the south up to the Mat river in Central Albania. In the 17th century, as a result of the disruption of the natural economy and the decline of the military feudal system of landholding, Gjirokastra, like many other Albanian cities, developed more rapidly. A detailed description of the city has been given by the Turkish traveller Evliâ Chelebia, who visited the city in 1672. Describing the castle, which was at the centre of the city, he wrote: «its was built entirely of



Photos by N. Gjiriti, P

hewn stone many centuries ago on a rock shaped like the backbone of a fish. On either side of the mainstreet which runs through the castle there are 200 houses roofed with slabs of stone...» At that period the city had partially emerged beyond the walls of the castle and extended round about it, forming the various suburbs. By the last quarter of the 18th century Gjirokastra had eight suburbs and two thousand houses. Some of these suburbs, like Paloroto, Dunavat, and Manalat, still bear the same names to this day.

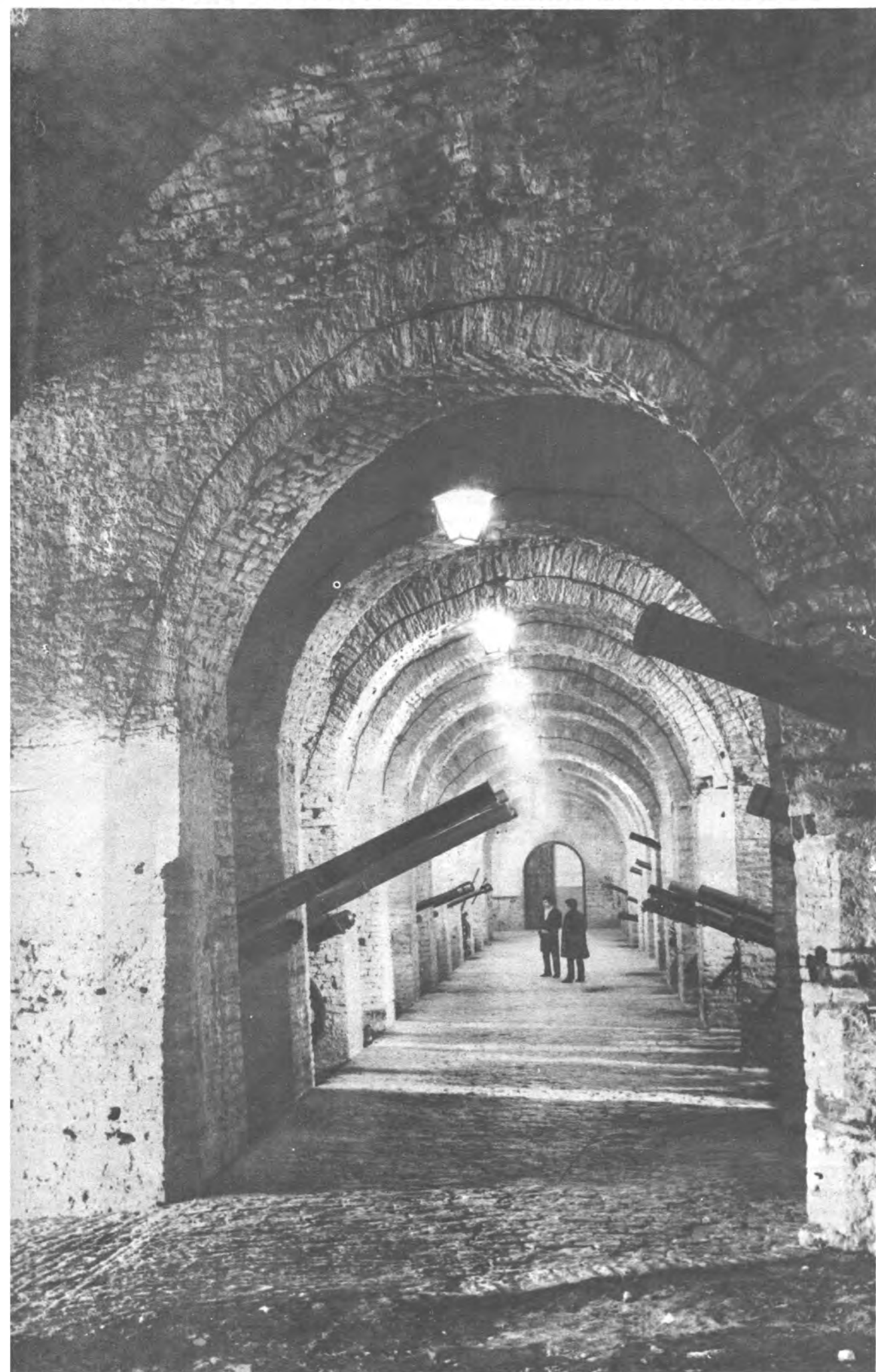
The city of Gjirokastra attained its greatest development during the 18th and 19th centuries. The valuable monuments which make up the Museum city as it is today belong mainly to these centuries. Many buildings went up especially during the period of Ali Pasha Tepelena's rule (at the beginning of the 19th century). The old castle and its aqueduct were rebuilt during the same period. The castle is in good repair even today while the aqueduct, a project of architectural value, has been completely demolished. The castle of Gjirokastra is located on a rocky mountain ridge commanding the city and facing northeast and southwest. It is 360 metres above sea level, 500 metres long and 75 metres wide. The dwelling houses within it have been removed. Today the National Museum of Arms, the only one of its kind in our country, has been established within the castle.



This building houses the Museum of the National Liberation War of the former Gjirokastra region. Photo by N. Veseli



In the galleries of the ancient castle the National Museum of Arms has been established.



Having emerged beyond the walls of the castle the city developed around it and still looks much as it did in past centuries with its streets and buildings of characteristic construction in traditional materials. These buildings themselves comprise a heritage of rich cultural value. They are two or three and, at times, four-storeyed houses. They have thick walls built of the local stone and often beautifully chiselled and hewn. The roofs, too, are covered with slabs of stone. The ground floor rooms, which are used for storing food and rainwater in cisterns, as well as for living rooms in winter have arched doors and windows, reinforced with iron bars and are provided with loopholes. All these features make the Gjirokastra house one with a pronounced defensive character. The upper floors are different. Here the construction is lighter, with wider windows, extended eaves, and the outside walls plastered and decorated with various pointed designs and scenes. Whereas the lower floors reveal the epic spirit of the resistance and courage of the inhabitants, the upper floors reveal to the visitor their rich lyrical inner world.

Because of these great cultural values, the Presidium of the People's Assembly, some years ago, proclaimed Gjirokastra a Museum city. Large funds have been allocated for the upkeep and restoration of the castle, the streets, and the ensemble of characteristic houses. The best master craftsmen in stone and wood work are employed on the interior and exterior restoration of the objects of value. They are patiently teaching their skills to young workers so that the fine tradition of the builders's art will be preserved and further developed.

Looking from the top of the castle out over the city with those monumental stone buildings with their roofs also of slabs of stone, and with its streets paved with multicoloured cobblestones winding down from the castle like carpets, one gets the impression that everything here is stone, that stone is absolute master here.

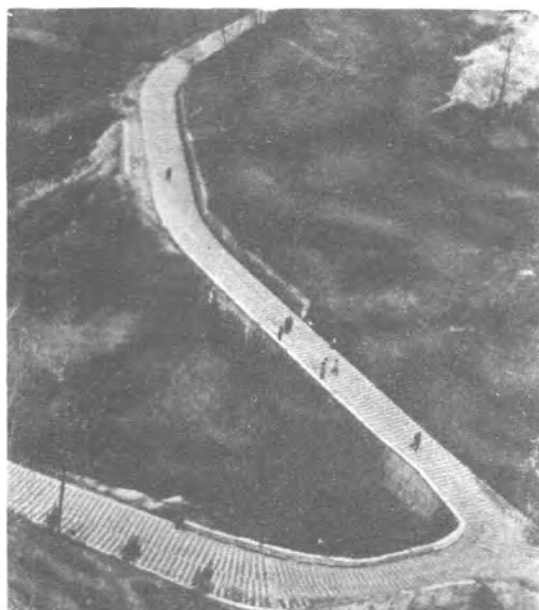
However, through the centuries these narrow stone streets, these fortress-like buildings have been peopled by men and women with fiery hearts and events have taken place which have filled glorious pages in the history of our homeland.

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From the legend of Argiro down to our own days, the city has a brilliant history. In Gjirokastra there are a number of museums like the National Museum of Arms, the Historical Museum of the struggles for freedom and independence of the Gjirokastra district, the Museum of the National Liberation War of this district and the Archaeological-Ethnographic Museum. In becoming acquainted with the Museum-city itself as a whole, and with the exhibits which the above museums contain, in particular, one



Gjirokastra. In the foreground new buildings in the city. The old suburbs of the Museum-city with the castle in the background.



The beautiful cobble streets are typical of the city of Gjirokastra



The 3-year Higher Teacher Training Institute stands on one of the most picturesque hills of the city

learns the brilliant age-old history of Gjirokastra, the ceaseless struggle of the Gjirokastra people in defense of their freedom, their land, their mother tongue and their fine traditions.

The Historical Museum of the struggles for freedom and independence is housed in a monumental building which resembles a fortress. This used to be the home of a family of outstanding patriots, the Topulli family. In this house were born the brothers Bajo and Çerçiz Topulli, two outstanding figures in the struggle of our people for freedom and independence at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. The visitor needs several hours to gain even a cursory knowledge of the materials exhibited in this beautifully restored building.

The thousand years of Byzantine occupation was unable to wipe out the distinctive Albanian features of the population of the Gjirokastra region. Nor was the five-hundred years of Ottoman rule able to do this. The Turks never felt secure in this region. As we have already mentioned, the Ottoman army occupied Gjirokastra in 1419. Within one decade they had established their military regime. In the 1430's within the framework of the great Albanian uprising against the Turks led by Gjergj Araniti, one of the outstanding Albanian leaders of the time, a powerful uprising led by Depe Zenebishti, a local ruler who had been ousted by the invaders broke out also in Gjirokastra. There were continual uprisings even after the death of Scanderbeg, in the 15th and 16th centuries. One of the most important of them is the 1537 uprising, which included the highlands of Gjirokastra and Himara down to the coast of the Ionian Sea. The Ottoman army was unable to subjugate



A typical Gjirokastra house.

these regions. Documents speak of other big uprisings like that of the years 1701 to 1704, and later at the beginning of the 19th century, when Ali Pasha Tepelena tried to break away from Turkey. Towards the middle of the 19th century the uprisings in the Gjirokastra region became more intense. The centralizing reforms which Turkey proclaimed, the «Tanzimati Reforms» they were called, sparked off the outburst of the hatred of the freedom-loving Albanian people in armed struggle all over Albania. The uprising in the southern regions of Albania, including the district of Gjirokastra, was very powerful. An important place in the history of these battles is occupied by the peasant uprisings in the 40's of the 19th century, led by such outstanding personalities as Zenel Gjoleka, Rrapo Hekali, Tafil Buzi, and others.

But these uprisings which broke out in Albania still lacked the all-round preparation and the organization and collaboration of the whole country required to win freedom and independence. The lack of this basic factor, so essential to get rid of the age-old bondage would be corrected during the second half of the century and Gjirokastra would make its very valuable contribution. The Gjirokastra zone produced outstanding patriots from the ranks of its people.

The documents and materials exhibited in this museum give a summarized description of the events.

The brothers Frashëri, Abdyl, Naim, and Sami, are among the most brilliant figures of the period of our National Renaissance. They were born in the village of Frashëri of Përmet, which was included in the administrative zone of Gjirokastra. Abdyl (1839-1892) was the oldest of



Typical room of a Gjirokastra house.



National costumes of the Gjirokastra district.

the three brothers. He was one of the most distinguished political champions of the Albanian cause, a great propagandist and organizer, while Naim (1846-1900), the second brother, is the greatest poet of our National Renaissance. Through his many beautiful poems he kindled the flame of freedom and patriotism in Albanian hearts. Naim's works were passed from hand to hand and read in strict secrecy in such hot-beds of patriotism as this house of the Topulli family in Gjirokastra and others... The youngest brother, Sami Frashëri (1850-1904), a thinker outstanding in the whole Turkish Empire, carried the Albanian cause still further forward.

Another outstanding figure of the Albanian National Renaissance is that of Koto Hoxhi (1824-1895) who struggled for the national awakening, for the alphabet of the Albanian language, for the writing and distribution of books in Albanian. He was born in a village called Qesarat, some kilometres to the east of Gjirokastra. In the last quarter of the past century Gjirokastra became a fiery centre of the Albanian cause, although the firemen of the Sublime

Porte in Istanbul and the Patriarchate of Constantinople strove to quell the flames. They banned Albanian books and the top muslim and orthodox clergy officially curbed them. Koto Hoxhi taught the Albanian language to the youth in secret, and from these youth, emerged the teachers of the first Albanian schools, such as Pandeli Sotiri, Petro Nini Luarasi, and others. Koto Hoxhi was thrown into prison. In the prison cell he wrote these words: "Boys, you will remember me when freedom awakens". Chauvinist agents murdered Pandeli Sotiri. But freedom could not be killed. Sometimes openly and sometimes secretly, it was simmering in the warm hearths of the stone houses in Gjirokastra. "People from the North and Kurvelesh gathered in Gjirokastra with Abdyl bey Frashëri". So runs a popular song. And this took place in July 1880, at the Convention of Gjirokastra which took up the question of autonomy for Albania. Other outstanding figures emerged from Gjirokastra during this decisive period of the history of our people. Andon Zako Çajupi (1866-1930), the next most distinguished poet after Naim Frashëri, was born in a village of

Gjirokastra. As a poet and publicist he fought to raise the national consciousness, for the unity of the people. In his works he also took up important social problems, viewing them from a democratic and progressive angle. Then come other figures such as Bajo and Çerçiz Topulli. They were born and brought up precisely in this house which has now been turned into a National Museum. Bajo Topulli (1868-1930) was the elder brother. He made a name for himself, not only as a political leader of the cause of the freedom and independence of Albania, but also as an organizer of the armed struggle. He organized and took command of the first fighting unit of the uprising in southern Albania in 1905. His brother, Çerçiz (1880-1915) was most outstanding as a fighter, as a commander of armed detachments. One of the most notable encounters of his detachment with the Turkish forces was the battle which took place on March 18, 1908, at Mashkullorë, about five kilometres north of Gjirokastra. Worthy of mention, also, is the nephew of Bajo and Çerçiz, Ago Topulli, who was to lay down his life for the cause of the liberation of Albania some decades later, during the anti-fascist war.

Thanks to the all-sided efforts and struggle, Albania, including Gjirokastra gained its independence in 1912. But it was to take several more decades and the working of a bigger war with a profoundly revolutionary content and great intensity and severity, for Gjirokastra, like Albania as a whole, to gain its true freedom in November, 1944.

For the people of Gjirokastra, as for all the people of Albania, the years following the proclamation of independence were years of hardship. The foreign overlords left, but new, local overlords came to power. Up to the middle of the 20's Gjirokastra had to fight against the greed of neighbouring chauvinists, against the Italian occupation. In 1920, from the city alone, within one day, 150 men left to take part in the Battle of Vlora against the Italian invaders. Many associations of teachers, clubs and meetings were organized to promote democratic rights, education and culture, the emancipation of women, and so on.

New figures appeared on the national political scene like Avni Rustemi (1893-1924), a young revolutionary democrat. Gjirokastra played an important role in preparing for and launching the bourgeois-democratic revolution in 1924. But the external enemies and the rabid reactionaries killed or imprisoned the finest representatives of Gjirokastra. Çerçiz was murdered by the Montenegrins in Shkodra in 1915, and Avni Rustemi was assassinated by Ahmet Zog's henchmen in April 1924. The monarchic regime of Zog hampered the drive for progress in Gjirokastra, too. The clubs and progressive associations were banned, education marked time. Instead of schools, a big prison was built within the castle. Political opponents of the order were incarcerated there. From time to time the prisoners were taken from the cells and paraded through the streets chained hand and foot, between the bayonets of the gendarmes, allegedly on their way to the courts. The shackles rattled on the cobblestones of Gjirokastra. And these scenes, which were intended to intimidate the population, seemed to increase the gloom over this city, which had striven so hard and fought so many wars for real independence and freedom. During Zog's regime, instead of advancing, Gjirokastra declined. One fact alone is sufficient proof of this: whereas in 1921 the population of the city comprised about 12,500 residents, by 1938 it had fallen to 8,820. In connection with this, the local newspaper, "Demoratia", wrote "Gjirokastra is being emptied... hundreds of families which could not make ends meet have left... taking the road of emigration. It will not be surprising if one day the wail of the cuckoo is heard in our city of Gjirokastra foretelling its death".

Before liberation the number of wage workers employed within the city was 400 all told. There was only a tannery, a flour mill, an electric power plant of 150 Hp, and a tobacco packing shop. With the fascist occupation, the situation became even worse.

The deep economic and political crisis had reached its culmination. The contradictions between the suffering people of Gjirokastra and the enemies, first of all the fascist invaders, became extremely acute. It needed only one spark to set off the explosion that had been gathering in the hearts of the people. And the formation of the Communist Party of Albania on November 1941, provided this spark. Upon the call of the Party, Gjirokastra hurled itself unreservedly into the National Liberation War.



The Metal Manufacturing Plant in Gjirokastra. Hero of Socialist Labour, Fotaq Mara, talking with the brigade leader of the preparatory department.

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Every house in Gjirokastra was a fortress, every house a centre of the fight for freedom. Such was a house in the Palorto suburb, in which the Museum of the National Liberation War of the district of Gjirokastra has been established today. But there is something special about this house. Here, on October 16, 1908, was born a boy who would grow up to become the greatest and most beloved leader of the Albanian people — Enver Hoxha.

Enver Hoxha was born during the stormy years of the struggle for freedom and independence. Here he spent his childhood being nurtured with fiery feelings of manliness, valour and freedom. It was with such sentiments that the scion of the patriotic Hoxha family would leave Gjirokastra, would go to other places like Korça, and abroad to France, would study and accumulate knowledge, would become acquainted with the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, become a communist, carry on revolutionary activities both inside the country

and abroad, and finally, would found the Communist Party of Albania. Now the house where Enver Hoxha was born still preserves all its former characteristic environment, and, at the same time, has become the centre of revolutionary education for the younger generations. In the various rooms, through many materials and documents, we find the continuation of a new chapter of the history of the city and district of Gjirokastra.

With the formation of the Party, the revolutionary communist movement in Gjirokastra entered a new stage. Within the stone houses, which were formerly the centres of the fighters of the National Renaissance, the first communist cells, the Regional Party Committee, the organizations of the communist and anti-fascist youth, and the guerilla units, were set up. The fire burst out in the narrow cobble-stoned streets, the schools and the villages. The first communist martyrs, Muzafer Asqeriu and his comrades, fell in battle. The first partisan fighting units and detachments were set up. There were 215 bases of the National Liberation movement in the city. Up to the day of

liberation, in autumn 1944, the city of Gjirokastra had provided 736 partisans, 134 of whom were young women.

The materials at the museum give a clear picture of the proportions of the National Liberation War in the district of Gjirokastra. Through diagrams, photographs and other materials one gets a picture of the battles for the liberation of such regions as Kurvelesh, Libohova, the fighting at Kardhiq and Cepo, Mezhgoran and Përmet. With the further extension of the war following the formation of the General Staff of the National Liberation Army, the Staff of the First Operational Zone was set up in the districts of Gjirokastra and Vlora and a number of shock brigades were formed, which carried out military operations from Konispol in the southernmost corner of Albania to Vishegrad in Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, whole regions had been liberated from the nazi invaders at the beginning of autumn 1944. In these zones the state power of the National Liberation Councils had been established. On September 18, 1944, the partisan forces of the 14th Shock Brigade, together with other partisan forces, liberated the

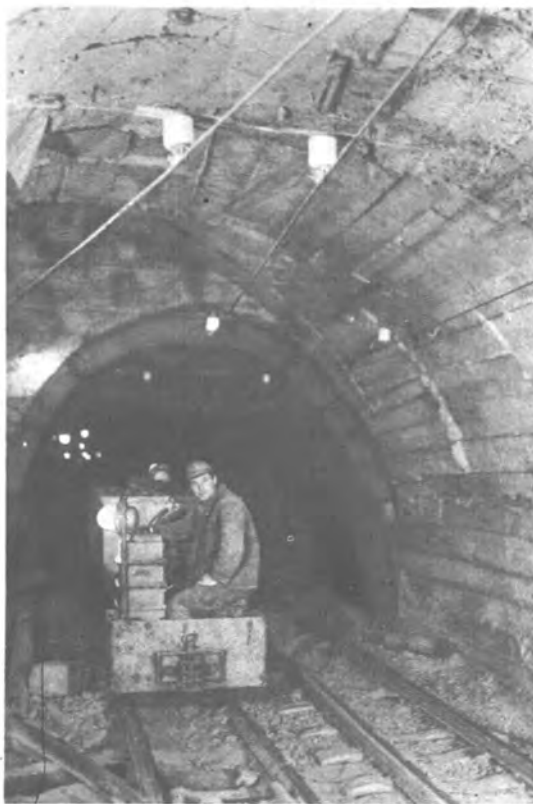
city of Gjirokastra once and for all, from the domination of foreigners and their collaborators. The flag of freedom was raised over the old castle. Seventy-six sons and daughters of the city of Gjirokastra laid down their lives for the cause of liberation in the anti-fascist war.

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In September this year the city of Gjirokastra will complete thirty-three years since the day of its liberation. During these three decades the ominous prediction of the newspaper «Democratia», that the voice of the cuckoo would one day pronounce the death sentence on Gjirokastra, was proved wrong. On the contrary, something entirely different was proved correct — the words of Enver Hoxha that: *«Gjirokastra of stone / With its iron fist / Hit the enemies always / Stood for centuries / Stronghold for freedom / Pedestal for its sons and daughters.»*

Let us illustrate this with some figures: according to statistics the population of the city which was 8,820 in 1938, numbered 20,000 in 1975. The average life span in 1969 had reached 71 years, from 38 years before liberation. Residents under 20 years of age make up nearly 50 per cent of the population. Over 33 per cent of the population of the district are workers. In comparison with the prewar period, the number of workers has increased by almost 20 fold. The figures on development in the fields of agriculture, trade, communication, education and culture, public health are beyond any comparison with the past. In every region such as Lunxheria, Kardhiq, Zagoria, Lower and Upper Dropull and Libohova, there are secondary schools, hospitals and out-patient clinics and motor highways. These conditions have enabled the overwhelming majority of young people who complete their 8-year schooling to continue with secondary schooling. Dropull was the first region with electric power in every house of all the villages. Now the villages have been supplied with drinking water. The big reservoirs of Doftia, Upper Dropull, and others, supply water to the once parched fields of the Drino valley. In Gjirokastra, in addition to the affiliated branches of the University for workers to attend there is a Higher Teacher Training Institute with a three-year course. Today Gjirokastra has truly modern industry with plants and factories like those of the leather and footwear plant, the cigarette factory, the metal-manufacturing plant which turns out more than one hundred kinds of mass consumer products, the clothing enterprise, the food-processing industry, and in the not distant future it will also have a phosphorite mining industry. We shall not burden our readers with other lists of statistics. We want to stress the vitality which our socialist order has imparted to this old city in three decades. The museum city preserves its mediaeval appearance from the external aspect. And this because of its great cultural values. Socialism does not destroy the good and the beautiful which the genius of the people has created during the centuries, whether these traditions are material or spiritual. The great work which has been and is being done in Gjirokastra to preserve this heritage is adequate proof of this. Today the old castle has been partially restored. The Museum of Arms which has been established there shows, in its own way, how the Albanian people have fought for freedom and independence. The other museum, the Archaeological-Ethnographical Museum, shows the marvellous talent of the people of this district to create the beautiful in architecture, in woodwork, stonework and costume. The traditional folklore festival in Gjirokastra displays the great spiritual heritage of the whole Albanian people.

Another important fact is that the museum city of Gjirokastra is not declining in old age but a city seething with life. In the traditional houses many of them adapted to the new living conditions, lives a population full of dynamism, full of revolutionary vigour. From the environment of these buildings emerge talented workers, craftsmen, artists, authors, and intellectuals of the most varied fields of science and technology. One meets them all over Albania. The distinguished writer of our days, Ismail Kadare, who is known abroad, has been born and brought up in this city. It was here he found the motifs of the novel «Chronicle in Stone». The young people of Gjirokastra, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population of the city, are to be found everywhere, in the voluntary mass actions of youth, on the sports fields of the Republic, performing on the stage, and in the ranks of the People's Army. For its outstanding merits and successes in all the fields of socialist construction, Gjirokastra has recently been honoured with the highest title of our country. «Hero of Socialist Labour».



The main transport road of the new mine.



A NEW MINE

TH. KËRKESHI

This reportage is dedicated to the new Vallias coal mine which is under construction in the vicinity of Tirana. It is one of the biggest coal mines in the country.

We went to the new mine in a spring day. Until recent years, the land over which the new mine now extends was planted with wheat and other field crops. Now a township with big various shaped buildings, with orderly surroundings and greenery on the outskirts, has been built there.

The coal here was discovered by Albanian geologists and the mine is being constructed by Albanian engineers, technicians, and workers, according to advanced methods and technology. The extraction of the coal will be mechanized and working conditions will be very good.

The construction workers invited us to visit some of the work fronts. First we visited one of the shafts of the mine. It was very wide and completely mechanized. Such shafts have been sunk at many Albanian mines. Their design meets all requirements, both for the extraction of the mineral and for the provision of normal working conditions for the miners. The geological conditions, with very poor stability of the formation and the presence of a great deal of water, made it necessary to use here, for the first time in our country, special methods for sinking the shafts of the mine, such as the preliminary freezing of the waters and the area in which the shaft was sunk.

This method was unknown to our workers. Work was made especially difficult because the temperature at the work face fell to 10 degrees below zero. On the proposal of the more experienced miners and after detailed study, it was decided to use explosives to sink the shaft in the frozen ground. This greatly speeded up the work without causing any harmful consequences.

Together with the photoreporter, we went down the mine. The doors of an underground industrial city under construction were opened to us. On the transport roads electric locomotives went back and forth pulling wagons loaded with various materials. We met miners, technicians and engineers. Some of them, like Naim Islami, Sherif Luzi, Ferit Merda, Dhimitër Papa, Ferit Veizi, etc., were veterans with great experience in mine construction. They have gone from one coal field to another and have always worked to leave behind a generation with the skill and ability to undertake even bigger and more complicated projects in the future. There we saw with what care and enthusiasm the younger generation of mine construction workers, like Besim Doku, Iliaz Goxhaj, Ismail Kaduni and others, carry out their tasks.



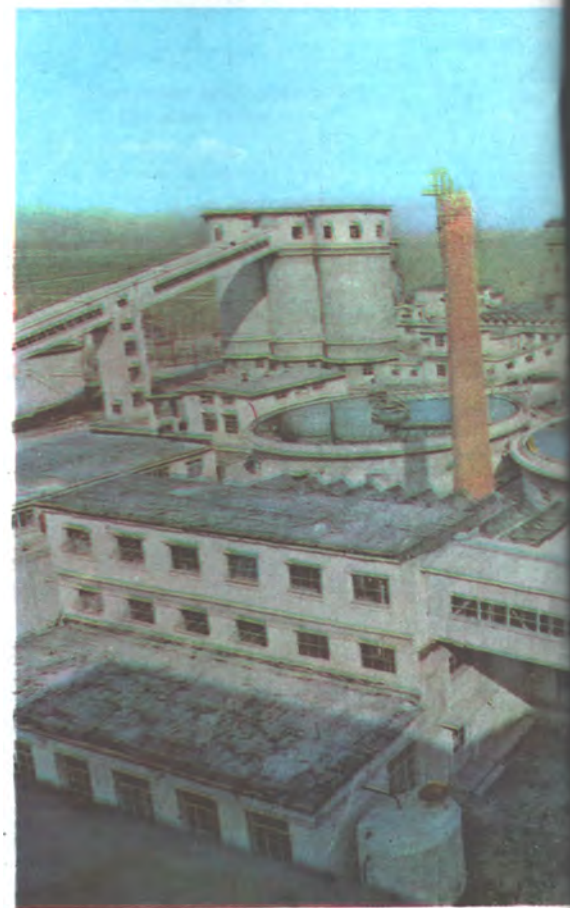
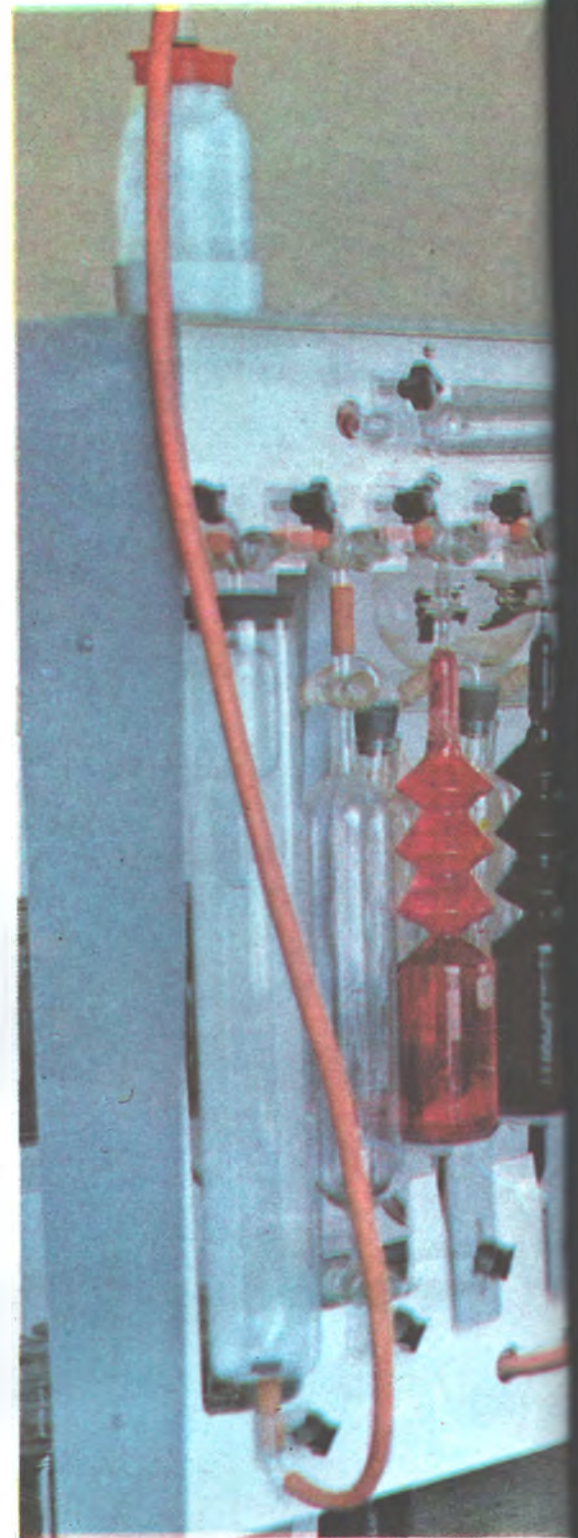
A group of miners in Vallias after work.

The miners' dining room.





The initial steps in building the miners' town at the new Vallias mine.



The workers showed us the work carried out to open the underground galleries to prepare places for the powerful pumping stations, the underground electrical substations, the main transport and ventilation roads, as well as the work for the installation of various machinery, which is under way.

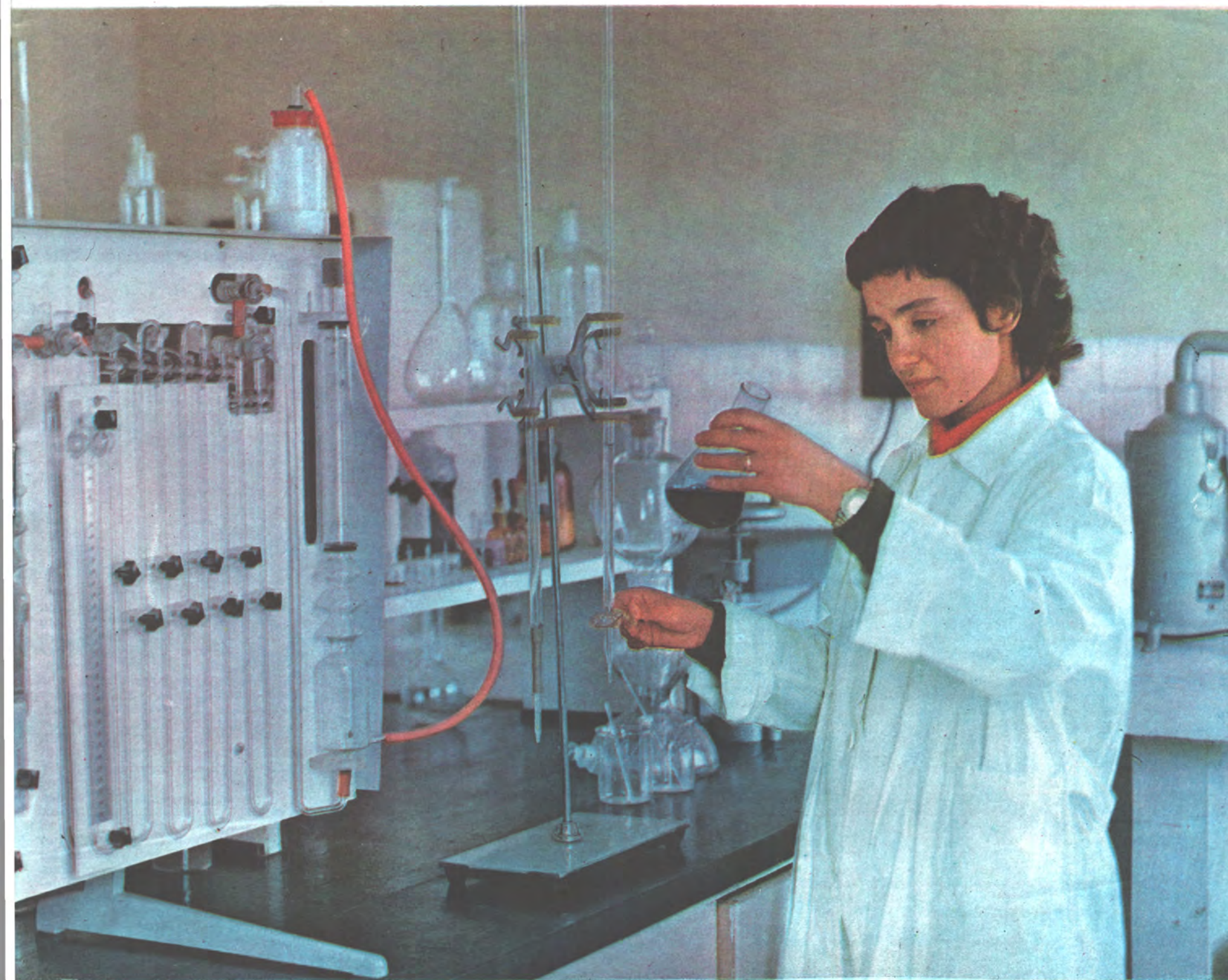
The construction of the mine is a great school for the workers, engaged in it. They are enriching their experience with further, more complete and scientific knowledge, especially in connection with the great difficulties of terrain, due to underground waters.

In the coming months the mine will be brought into production. The working places are big, with plenty of light and clean air. This creates very good conditions for normal work. Transport, which is one of the main processes, will be organized in such a way as to move all the coal quickly, during the shift on which it is extracted. Underground transport of men and materials will be by double-track electric railway. The best of machinery and equipment will be used at the coal face, such as combines to cut and extract the coal, scraper-loaders, metal

props, etc., ensuring very good working conditions. All the equipment and machinery, including the telephones and lighting, are flame proof, to prevent explosions of methane gas. Every means is used to minimize dust production and to eliminate that which is produced at the coal face.

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Very good living conditions are provided at the new mine. The first things completed on the surface were the coal handling and treatment plant, the electric power station, the railway network, the laboratories, blocks of flats for housing, shops, administration offices, schools for the workers' children, etc. Many of the surface buildings such as the changing room and bath house, the dining room etc. are linked directly with the pit in such a manner that when the worker comes up from work he is not exposed to sudden differences in temperature which might be damaging to his health. An ultra-violet ray room is provided, in which the



The technician, Valentina Prifti, in the Chemical Laboratory of the mine.



View of the mine and of the enrichment plant. Photo by S. Xhillari

underground worker, after changing and showering, spends a few minutes under the supervision of the doctor, and replaces the solar energy he missed during his work underground.

The mine has its health centre with uninterrupted round-the-clock service. Underground workers are regularly examined to guard against occupational diseases. (This service is carried out at every mine in the country). All health services are provided free of charge. Underground workers are supplied with working clothes free of charge. They also receive antidotes, mainly milk, free of charge.

Pay for underground workers is higher than that for workers of other sectors. For example, a miner earns an average monthly wage about equal to that of a vice minister. After 10 years work underground, he can retire at 50 years of age on a pension calculated at 70 per cent of his average annual wage for any three years he himself chooses out of his last 10 years at work. Miners enjoy the right to an annual paid leave twice as long as that of workers of other sectors. They are given priority to rest at health resorts, often free of charge or at reduced rates. Medi-

cal treatment is free of charge. During the time the worker is off work on a medical report, either at home or in hospital, he receives 95 per cent of his normal pay.

The mine has a dining room and a cafe. Twenty-four per cent of the cost of the food that the workers eat in the dining room is covered by the state.

Many of the mine workers live in blocks of flats built in the vicinity of the mine, while others live in the city of Tirana. The dwelling houses have been built by the enterprise. Rents are so low as to be merely symbolic. A flat consisting of two rooms, plus kitchen, and bathroom, costs a mine worker about one day's pay per month in rent. Those living in Tirana pay 70 per cent less than the normal fare for transport to the city.

We left the mine late in the evening. On the poppet heads, the lofty contours of the coal enrichment plant, on the service building and the blocks of flats, electric lights were shining. The town on the surface was at rest, while in the underground town work was going ahead at full steam.

NOTES

ON MY FELLOW CITIZENS

IBRAHIM CHAVOLLI (journalist)

The blood of comrades

On spring I have often watched the flow of people in the streets and parks of my city. Thousands pass before my eyes, the majority unknown, but dear to me despite that. They are fellow citizens. One is linked with them by a thousand common interests, which, taken as a whole, constitute what we call collective life. A group of boys and girls go by laughing, without a care in the world. One of them is relating something. Perhaps they sat their final examinations today. Their happiness seems to penetrate into my veins and add to that feeling of pleasure which has seized me. In the crowd of people who pass by there are many silent heroes. Perhaps that man who is walking rather in pensive mood on the opposite side of the street, is precisely the Hero of Socialist Labour about whom the papers have been writing these last few days. Someone else is a doctor who has just come from a difficult operation which saved the life of a fellow citizen.

What difference does it make that I do not know who they are. Even though they are not of my age, even though they are not of my profession, they are co-fighters who are guided in life by the same ideals of socialism.

Some time ago the following incident occurred in the southernmost city of the Homeland, Saranda: Early in the morning the driver Vangjel Llanga, left his home in the village and set off to take a load to the city. On the way he began to feel ill. On his arrival at the vehicle park he went to the rest room and lay down. Only the guard noticed that the driver was a bit pale, so after a while he went to see how he was. He found him in a serious state and immediately notified the hospital. The ambulance came at once. The diagnosis was a haemorrhage in the stomach. The situation was critical. He had lost a lot of blood. They gave him an initial transfusion, but there was no improvement in the red cell count which had dropped alarmingly. They gave him a second and a third transfusion. The blood bank reported that it only had enough blood of the group required for one more transfusion. The patient was in a grave situation. The alarm was given. Within ten minutes the entire brigade of drivers present at the park reported at the hospital, ready to donate their blood. They were followed by the mechanics and a group of sailors and a little later by an entire military detachment. At this time, the comrades of the patient in his village left posthaste for the hospital. People completely unknown to him who heard what had happened also came to donate blood. And not one of them accepted payment. In this way 15 kilograms of blood were donated to the patient. A case of emergency. Finally the operation was completed successfully and Vangjel Llanga escaped certain death. Now, he continues to travel the roads of the country in his truck. At every moment he seems to feed the blood of his comrades surging through his veins, the blood of his fellow citizens. Even now he still does not know the majority of them. But in general, everywhere he goes he looks on people with special gratitude, special affection.

The spirit of the collective. How noble and majestic this word resounds as against the narrow petty bourgeois, «I».

A Flash Poster in the Department

As soon as they emerged from the department after knocking off work they saw that someone had put up a flash poster on the stand.

A group of readers soon gathered. Some expressed surprise while others couldn't refrain from saying, «He should be ashamed of himself». When the engineer approached they fell silent. He didn't want to stop, because he was in a hurry, but there was something odd about the look of the comrades. «Why are they looking at me like that?» he said to himself. In two winds he took a few steps but finally turned towards the poster stand. He saw his name at the top and his cheeks began to burn. But on reading what was written about him, he felt the blood drain from his face. His lips felt dry. Without really reading the poster through to the end, he read the signatures. Then his anger began to mount. The signatures were those of his neighbours with whom he had lived on the friendliest terms for almost twenty years. One of them had been his childhood friend. And it was precisely these people, who, addressing themselves to the collective of this Department, were demanding that a stand should be taken against engineer L.T., describing his behaviour as unworthy of a member of our socialist society. Over the past little while he had had several discussions with them in regard to a quarrel between him and his parents, some hard words had been exchanged, and they had parted almost in anger two or three times, but that they would put up a flash poster right here in front of the Department — that he had never expected. «He has abandoned his parents», read the flash poster, «and this is behaviour unworthy of our society.»

During the following days, engineer L.T. could not pull himself together. In conversation with his friends, with the Secretary of the Party branch, the Chairman of the Trade Union committee, he was ill at ease and irritable. After a few days they summoned him to a meeting of the Trade Union Committee. The Secretary of the Party branch was there also. The meeting went on late. When he came out on the street he felt worn out. He walked slowly home with heavy feet and as he walked he thought, «the comrades of the committee must have been tired too. They had all gathered and stayed so late simply to try to convince me». He remembered old Loni who had said to him, «You are wrong, engineer, you are wrong and that's all there is to it. There's no use in dragging this out any longer». He looked the old worker straight in the eye for a long time without knowing what to reply. Then his gaze turned to the old man's grey hair which looked like his father's. He remembered the tears his mother had shed when he and his wife had left the house without even saying goodbye. That was terrible, really terrible! His parents were both on the pension. They had no need for any financial aid from him, but they did need to have their only son with them from time to time. This is precisely what his neighbours, the comrades of his Department, the trade union committee, and everyone else was trying to convince him of. Their quarrel was of no great importance, in any case how can anyone keep up a quarrel with his parents like this? The Director of the enterprise, who had been a partisan with his father, talked to him gently about this one day. When they parted he said to him, «Give my best regards to your father and mother, I haven't seen them for some time. I'll go and meet them one day. How about going together — what do you say?»

Thus few days went by until, one evening, he went to see his parents, together with the Director. A great weight seemed lifted from his heart and he was filled with joy. He hugged them tight. He would liked to hug all his comrades, his neighbours, everyone who had helped him to see things more clearly.

The Pensioners of Patos

Collectivism is a unity of purpose, will, and action of all members of society in the struggle for socialism and communism; it is the readiness of each individual to subjugate his will and personal interests to the will and interests of the collective; it is the responsibility of the individual to the collective and of the collective to the individual. These principles and moral qualities pervade the entire life of socialist society and thousands of meaningful examples add to the joy of our daily work and life. To take one of many examples let us tell you about the action of the oil workers of Patos who are now on the pension. It was there that I met 70 year old Chelo Shako and several of his friends. For years on end they worked drawing the black gold from the depths of the earth, they knew every inch of the place, just as they knew the «biography» of every oil well, together with their idiosyncrasies. Amongst these pensioners were some who had fought in the mountains in the legendary partisan brigades and afterwards gone back again to the oil wells. Their life was closely linked with the oil, but even more closely with the problems and difficulties of the people, with their victories and joys and worries. One day they met and decided to return to the non-producing wells and the sump holes filled with oil, and collect it all. On the Radio and in the newspapers they had heard and read about the great oil crisis in the world. They understood the great importance the oil had for the Homeland, particularly in these conditions. How could they possibly sit idle on the sidelines? Thus, forty pensioners got together. Every morning they held a roll call even though they knew that no one could be absent. And they collected hundreds of tons of oil without accepting any payment at all: doesn't the pension which we enjoy come from the state, the people? Yes! Well, what more is there to say? The pension is enough for us, we need nothing else. That is what they said. More than a year has gone by and they are still collecting oil, drop by drop. What else could have impelled them to this action apart from the spirit of collectivism and the overall interests of society?

Teachers and Pupils

The young teacher got down off the bus at the entrance to the oil workers town Patos.

«Where are you off too?», asked one of her comrades, who it seemed was also a teacher. It was the time of day when most people were heading for home after the day's work, taking into their families the satisfaction which comes from a fruitful day's work. And no doubt there was some one at home waiting for the young teacher too. Apart from the lessons she gives at school she must certainly have other duties. However she got off the bus and went to the home of one of her pupils. The pupil was embarrassed when he saw her. She shook hands with him asked after his health and then said, «This is the third day you haven't been to school. I came to see why?»

What answer could he give. He mumbled something unintelligible.

She talked to him and he listened with bowed head. He had made up his mind not to go back to school. «What do I need school for? I am a worker, for me it is sufficient to know how to do my job... as for other things... I don't give a damn.»

As if the teacher had read his mind, she began speaking precisely about these things, trying to explain to him how useful scientific



A usual meeting. The old people are always surrounded by the respect and, at the same time, by the curiosity of the youth. They are an inexhaustible «mine» of memories and experience of life. These meetings and talks are one of the ways of acquainting the younger generation with tradition and the past; they serve to keep alive the links and reciprocal aid between the generations.

knowledge is. His embarrassment began to turn into indignation but he continued to listen downcast eyes. She told him how in one of the schools of the district, father and son sat down together every day at the one desk, how a woman worker, the mother of children was the best pupil of the class.

The grandfather who up till then had been quietly smoking and listening broke in «You should be ashamed of yourself! This is sheer laziness! Just look at me left in ignorance because I couldn't go to school! Now people come to plead with you to go and study and you... what kind of a worker will you be, without schooling! I can tell you without school, you'll be nothing, like a hole in water». The teacher did not stay much longer and went away upset because the boy had cut her short.

— «I can't learn»!

Two days later she went to the enterprise where he worked. She had a chat with the Chairman of the Trade Union Committee. They called the boy to a meeting of the committee. As soon as they finished work the comrades of the committee assembled very worried because he had given up school. They spoke to him much as the teacher had done, although one of them criticised him sharply. Once again he blushed.

And so they began to work on him. All these people were worried about him, the teacher at school, his parents at home, his comrades at work. How good all these people are!

You feel this, you see it clearly, and you have no alternative but to take the step which will please those who concern themselves about you, without the slightest personal interest involved. Tomorrow you will be most grateful and will remember them with affection. Therefore listen to them. It is for your own good, for the good of our socialist society.

* * *

Undoubtedly one of the most important problems of Marxist-Leninist ethics is that of the mutual relations between man and man, between the individual and society, between personal interest and the general social interest.

Ever since society became divided into classes, opposing tendencies have always operated in it. One of these tendencies has led to the strengthening of the unity of the working people, the other to the strengthening of selfish and individualist feelings.

The socialist order creates the material, economic, and social conditions within the frame work of which the harmonious combination of personal, collective, and general interest is attained. In our society collectivism finds extensive expression both at work and in relations in life, and one of its outstanding characteristics is reciprocal aid between people. This reciprocal aid is, more and more assuming a mass character and being transformed into a permanent factor of social development. Many mo-

vements and initiatives speak of this great truth. Within one month the towns and villages of the Dibra district which had been destroyed by an earthquake were rebuilt. The same thing occurred in the Tepelena district and several villages in Saranda. All Albania went there to help those in trouble under the fighting slogan, «One for all and all for one». The movement of aid from the villages of the south for those of the north, of thousands of volunteers going to work and live in the villages, the building of housing blocks with voluntary labour, the movement to go to work on the most difficult sectors wherever the interests of the Homeland require it, and in the sectors which are more backward, with the aim of bringing these sectors up to the level of the most advanced, all these are features of our socialist collectivism, expressions of putting the general interest above everything.

I look out into the spring evening and the people passing by. Precisely in these moments, hundreds of thousands just like these, are working all over the socialist Homeland, deep underground extracting valuable minerals, driving kilometres long through the heart of the mountains to turn the rivers into rivers of light, sowing the land or standing on guard to protect our work and life. With these thoughts in mind I am filled with a warm feeling of security, optimism, confidence, and a boundless love for the great collective of my Homeland, socialist Albania.

MATHEMATICS TO THE AID OF MEDICINE

In Albania the methods of mathematical calculation are being introduced into medicine. This has made it possible for a series of problems of concern to our medicine to be studied in detail and a number of accurate and valuable generalizations have been made. Among them we can mention the study of the situation of arterial blood pressure. In the programs drawn up with the aid of mathematical methods more than 180 different variants were compiled, which made possible the scientific processing of the data on 84,000 subjects. Calculations were made for six main age groups, divided according to sex and principle occupations. They constituted a broad statistical analysis on the study of blood pressure.

Thanks to this study, not only was the time required to process all this information greatly reduced, but, accurate data was provided on the situation of prehypertonia and hypertonia in our country. The distribution of prehypertonia and hypertonia among the different age groups, sexes and occupations was studied; average systolic and diastolic arterial blood pressures according to age groups and sexes have been calculated; arterial blood pressure has been studied according to occupation and period in this occupation, and many important conclusions have been drawn. The distribution and incidence of prehypertonia and hypertonia in our country were defined, and the incidence of those conditions has proved to be lower than in the majority of the countries in the world. Thus, in our country, thanks to the studies which have been carried out, it was found that the incidence of hypertonia in the population from 15 years of age and upwards is 2 per cent, and prehypertonia 4 per cent, whereas in other countries of the world hypertonia is found in 5.5 per cent, to 25 per cent of the population while incidence of prehypertonia is very much higher, up to 40 per cent of the population in several countries. With the assistance of mathematical methods and by extensive use of computer techniques it became possible to process the data on the diseases of the thyroid gland; clinical data was classified according to the incidence, severity, the kinds of activity and the time of the appearance of symptoms. With the work carried out in this direction so far, as these studies are continuing, the various kinds of thyroid disease have been studied with all their clinical and laboratory parameters. The enlargement of the thyroid gland and its structural state in the various diseases have been studied according to data provided by the use of the radioactive iodine 131 method, and the function of this gland in various diseases has been studied.

Mathematical methods have been of great assistance in the study and processing of data on hepatitis (a disease of the liver). Thanks to the studies carried out on the basis of these methods, it has been worked out which form of damage predominates, according to age and sex. The effect of the methods which use radioactive gold for diagnosis and define the degree of damage in the various illnesses of the liver, has been studied, comparing this with other clinical and biochemical examinations.

The use of methods of statistical analysis has also been applied in the field of sports medicine. Thus, with the assistance of these methods, anthropomorphic data concerning pupils, students and sportsmen and women who took part in the third National spartakiad have been processed in a very short time. Through correlative retrospective analysis and sigma evaluation various data on the body have been processed, thus providing an accurate scientific picture of the physical condition of our youth. This will be valuable for a more profound scientific work and for comparison in the future.

Work is also underway for the processing, using mathematical methods, of data concerning pulmonary complications of influenza, anthropomorphic data, rheumatic diseases, etc.



The Computer Centre where calculations and data processing in studies on different diseases are carried out.

STUDY OF THE METHODS OF POPULAR MEDICINE

A year ago, the Institute of Popular Medicine in Tirana, which is engaged in studying the methods of traditional popular medicine, began work.

Popular medicine, as part of the national culture, has been handed down from one generation to another, and represents the creative force of the people in defence of their health. Bearing in mind the materialist principle that every creation bears the seal of its own time, the methods of popular medicine, apart from their useful elements, must also contain negative ones. The Institute of Popular Medicine collects these methods, studies them, conducts experiments with them and cleanses them of their valueless elements. Through laboratory and clinical experiments to discover their scientific basis, they pass from the stage of application by ordinary people with practical experience to the raising of their scientific level and from here to extensive practice in the service of the people.

The Institute is equipped with laboratories and various modern means, such as the pharmacological and technological laboratories, etc. A number of experienced specialists, many of whom have been engaged in this work previously, work there.

At present the Institute is devoting great attention gathering information on the methods of popular medicine. To carry out this task quickly and accurately, apart from the personnel of the Institute, many experienced cadres and other people interested in the study of the methods of popular medicine have been activated. They themselves go to various zones and districts and learn the methods of treatment directly from the people who practice them as well as from the patients cured by them. So far, information on about 1,200 various methods has been collected in the districts of Lezha, Përmet, Pogradec and Saranda. Various meetings and consultations have been held over the way to gather these methods, which is a very delicate process.

With the aid of modern apparatuses and means, in the laboratories of the Institute of Popular Medicine and other Health Institutions, many methods of popular medicine have been analysed. Thus, with the aid of electroencephalography, myography, cardiography, kymography, etc., the effect of the plant *Tirilis nodosa*, on the action of the brain, the heart muscle and blood pressure is being studied; several forms of treatment for jaundice, viral hepatitis, skin diseases, and especially eczema, etc. are under study.

From the methods gathered in the Lezha district those used to treat burns and various incisive wounds are attracting special atten-

tion. The oil which is produced from burning the yolk of an egg is used to treat burns. This treatment has given good results in burns of various grades even without leaving any scar on the skin.

The values of a series of other methods have been scientifically proved, for example the mixture used to cure boils, the mixture for the treatment of eczema, and that used for treating some kinds of wounds.

Some of the methods mentioned above are applied today in the hospitals of Shkodra, Lezha, Kruja, Tirana, Gjirokastra and Saranda. And thanks to the centralized leadership of the health service in our country, these methods can find immediate application in all the other treatment institutions.

Well organized work has begun in the direction of the study of mineral waters and muds. They are widely used in practice based on the people's experience for treating

diseases of the digestive system, the liver and the skin. Our country is rich in mineral waters, which have been placed in the service of the people, just as all the health institutions have been. The students of the Faculty of Medicine are being activated in the field of experimentation with the methods of popular medicine. With their diploma theses they have helped to solve many specific problems of this branch of medicine.

At the same time, a great deal of work is being carried on to clear up conservative concepts, and underrating of popular medicine expressed in the lack of understanding of the people's experience and failure to recognize the valuable things it contains. Therefore, importance is being given in all the country's health institutions, to the theoretical and practical training of the health service personnel, especially young cadres, with knowledge of popular medicine.



Doctors Petrit Kokalari and Astrit Koka, during an experiment in the methods of popular medicine.

THE 90th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ALBANIAN SCHOOL

Prof. HAMIT BEQJA

90 years ago, on the 7th of March 1887, the first Albanian school was opened in Korça. Today this day is recognised in our country as "Teachers' Day", as the birthday of the Albanian school and a celebration for all our people.

The opening of the Albanian school in Korça was an outstanding event in the struggle of our people for the creation of the Albanian national school. It was an outstanding patriotic act of the most distinguished activists of our national Renaissance.

During the period of the National Renaissance, the struggle of our people for the Albanian school became a component part of their whole struggle for liberation. As the Party teaches us, during this heroic period the three fundamental directions of our people's struggle — the armed uprising, the allround political struggle, and the struggle for the development of the national culture, merged into one. On this last front the most imperative task was the setting up of the Albanian national school. This brilliant page of the heroic struggle of our people is clear evidence of what comrade Enver Hoxha has said: "Our people have never separated the rifle from the book, the sword from the pen, their courage from knowledge, their fight from their work".

The history of the Albanian school of written Albanian, the Albanian alphabet, Albanian books, of the teaching of the Albanian language, is a heroic history of struggle and sacrifice written in blood.

In the 19th century, schooling in Albania was in the hands of foreigners: the Ottoman occupiers, the Greek orthodox clergy and its patron the Patriarchate of Istanbul. Through the catholic clergy, Austro-Hungary, Italy, and the Vatican began to intervene in this business. In such schools as there were, lessons were given in the Turkish language, Greek or, later, in Italian. The teaching of the Albanian language was banned. There were no schools which taught in Albanian. The foreigners used the school system in Albania as a means to dominate the Albanian people and keep them in subjection, in darkness and ignorance and to strengthen religious and regional divisions. The aims of the reactionary clergy, who did their utmost to ensure that schooling was given in foreign languages and with a religious content, served the aims of foreign invaders. The Albanian patriots, inside and outside the country, understood the danger that threatened Albania from schooling in foreign languages and in the hands of the clergy. Therefore, they fought with all possible means for the writing and teaching of the Albanian language, for the opening of Albanian schools which would serve as a means to waken the national consciousness, to unify the people and involve them in struggle. The first to begin this struggle were Dhaskal Todri and Naum Veqilharxhi, and it was carried on by all the outstanding patriots of our renaissance: Naim and Sami Frashëri, Zef Jubani and Kristoforidhi, Koto Hoxhi and Pashko Vasa, Ismail Qemali and Luigj Gurakuqi, and many others who came after them.

As a result of the efforts of the patriots and the support they received from the people, the struggle to teach and write in the Albanian language began in all possible ways, illegally in people's homes and in the schools which taught in foreign languages. But besides all these forms, every effort was made to open the Albanian school, to organize a national school as a means of struggle for freedom and pro-

gress. "In order to advance on the road of civilization and progress", wrote Ismail Qemali, "we need knowledge, and to gain knowledge we need lessons". Thus, we need to set up national schools all over Albania, in order to spread the Albanian language so that it will be read everywhere...". He stressed that the Albanians "will soon take up the weapon of the national school...". While Naim Frashëri issued the call: "And the fight of knowledge will lead us ahead forward to freedom."

The Albanian school at Korça fully responded to these ideals and the struggle of the Renaissance patriots. It was the first Albanian school, with a clear and complete national form. It was based entirely on the finest patriotic and illuminist traditions of the Renaissance — it was secular, non-religious, progressive and democratic. In its activity it was guided by the slogan — the call of the men of the Renaissance formulated by Pashko Vasa — the Albanian's religion is Albania. In this school the children of christians and muslims did their lessons together. The children of the people were taught there without paying any kind of school fee, and indeed often being provided with their text-books free of charge.

The distinguished Albanian teachers and patriots Pandeli Sotiri, Petro Nini Luarasi, Nuçi Naçi and others taught in this school. Most of the text-book were compiled by Naim Frashëri. And other schools began to follow the same road.

This struggle cost Albanian patriots dear. They suffered imprisonment and persecution, excommunication and anathema, poisoning and perfidious murder. Dhaskal Todri, Naum Veqilharxhi, Pandeli Sotiri, and Petro Nini Luarasi, Papa Kristo Negovani, and others gave their lives for this cause.

However, despite many vicissitudes and ups and downs, up till 1912 the cause of the Albanian school progressed. After the victory of the independence, it seems that the way would be open for the extension of the national education system. But the ruling classes of the country were not interested in this. They aimed to leave the people in poverty and ignorance. Therefore, especially during the brutish regime of Zog, even that inadequate school system which existed, made little progress and was curtailed.

The traditions of the Renaissance came into their own only after liberation. These outstanding, patriotic, democratic and progressive traditions of the Renaissance are fundamental to people's school system today.

This people's education system, which has been built up with such great care by the Party is a brilliant page in the history and the present-day development of our socialist national culture, which is beyond any comparison with the past, either from its unprecedented extension to every corner of the Homeland, or from its profound revolutionary socialist content. Assimilating the progressive tradition of the Renaissance in a critical way, today our school has become the property of the people in the broadest and most profound sense of the word, and it is fighting to realize the great ideal of the allround communist education of the youth.

The 90th Anniversary of the opening of the first Albanian school, in Korça, finds our school in the flood tide of its further revolutionization, in struggle to fulfil the tasks laid down by the Party at its 7th Congress, in struggle to implement the teachings and instructions of comrade Enver Hoxha for the allround communist education of the new man of socialist society.

Albania has a complete education system with a wide network of eight year, secondary and higher schools, as well as a large number of kindergartens for the pre-school children, which constitute the first link of the education system in Albania.

In regard to the number of people going to school in proportion with the population, Albania occupies one of the first places in the world.

Approximately, one out of every three people, goes to school.

Eight year schooling is compulsory. The state has created all the possibilities to ensure that it is completely applied in town and countryside.

Secondary education falls into two categories: general secondary education and vocational secondary education with 65 to 70 different profiles.

The University of Tirana has eight faculties with 65 specialties. There are also a number of higher institutes in Tirana and various districts of the country.

All the expenditure for the education system, such as for building and equipping schools and for the salaries of the teachers and auxiliary personnel is met by the state. The citizens do not pay any kind of taxes for education. The families pay only for the textbooks, the prices of which are below their cost.

THE OPINION OF THE MASSES IN THE ACTIVITY OF OUR COURTS



**A talk with comrade Violeta Isaraj,
Chairman of the People's Court of the Vlora district**

Question: You have been elected as a judge more than once now, comrade Violeta, and this is an expression of the electors' trust in you. Can you give us your comments on this?

Answer: The new elections of the 3rd of April to the people's councils and people's courts are one of the important events this year. These are the first elections since the approval of the New Constitution and the proclamation of our Republic as the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. I consider the trust which the electors have shown in me as a great honour, but at the same time it is a difficult task. One has to ensure that the laws and norms of our state are carried out faithfully. In Albania the state belongs to the working masses, therefore, we consider this task as a direct service to the people, to the cause of strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat and our socialist order. In order to justify this trust of the people, one has to work very conscientiously. Up till now I have been elected a people's judge on three occasions.

Question: What is the social background of your family?

What schooling have you had?

Answer: Both my father and mother were workers in the clothing industry. They suffered in the past like all the other workers. Whereas today... Today everything has changed in our country. The worker enjoys all the benefits of the socialist order. The course of my life is like that of thousands and thousands of my friends. The Party educated us, gave us schooling and knowledge. I graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Tirana, in 1964. Right after graduation I began to work in the organs of justice. As the daughter of a family of workers it was my great desire to become a member of the Party of Labour of Albania. I knew that by joining the ranks of the Party I would be fighting in the forefront of the workers for the cause of socialism. And I received the great honour of becoming a candidate for Party membership. During my probation period as a candidate for Party membership I worked as a brushhand, painting in a construction enterprise of the district. This probation period in production was very valuable in helping me become better acquainted with the working class, and to gain the consciousness of the working class. In 1975 I was admitted as a member of the Party of Labour of Albania. Four years ago, from an elected judge, I was

appointed Chairman of the People's Court of the Vlora district.

Question: How is socialist democracy implemented in the work you are in charge of? What is the social composition of the collective of judges and assistant judges? How do you consult the masses or the mass organizations in the implementation of the laws and norms of the state?

Answer: In our country, all the laws bear the seal of the masses.

They are discussed and approved by the people. The most recent example is the drafting of the New Constitution. It was worked out in the most democratic way and was submitted to extensive discussion by all the masses of the working people. Now, the drafts of various codes, which are being compiled on the basis of requirements of the Constitution, are being discussed in our district. The democratic character of our laws is clear from what I have said. By giving judgements on the basis of our laws, the judgement of the issues itself, has a democratic character.

As to the origin of the collective of our Court, about 50 per cent of the assistant people's judges are workers or from the ranks of the co-operativist peasantry. Their help in the work of implementing the laws of the state is very great. Quite often, they themselves direct the court sessions. They are workers of various occupations who are elected by the residents of the city quarter or locality where they live, as assistant judges. In their quarters, they examine problems and minor conflicts which arise among the residents. Each year they do 15 days training attached to the courts of the district. During this period they receive their full pay from their normal job.

To ensure that we always judge things correctly from the position of the interests of the working people, we are more and more drawing on the opinion of the masses in our work. There are many ways to achieve this. Thus, before holding a court session, we consider if it would be better to deal with this case in a meeting of the workers or the mass organizations.

This method of work has yielded very good results. It helps us, as workers of the organs of justice, to listen directly to the voice of the masses, and on the other hand, it keeps the masses who are present at the trial, more concretely informed about the harmful activity of the class enemy, and anyone who violates the

norms of our society. Consequently, the revolutionary consciousness of the masses is raised even higher, their vigilance becomes more acute, and at the same time the precise implementation of the law is secured. In such sessions, by sentencing one lawbreaker, we assist the education of dozens of others. In such cases we carry out extensive preliminary work, in order to get concrete opinions about the behaviour of the accused in the collective where he has worked, and uncover more thoroughly the causes and circumstances which have led him to break the law. Thus, on the one hand, we give more objective judgements on the basis of the law, and on the other hand, by collaborating with other state organs and with the mass organizations, we help to liquidate those circumstances which lead to violations of the law, and various crimes.

Question: How do you co-ordinate your work with the working masses and collaborate with them to prevent the crime?

Answer: The struggle for the defence of socialist law starts among the working collectives, the mass organizations, the Trade Unions, the Women's Union, the Youth Union and the pioneers' organization. And this is a continuous struggle. As a result of the rise in the socialist consciousness of the workers, their increased vigilance towards the class enemy, the total number of crimes in 1976 was greatly reduced as compared with 1975. Good work is being done to publicize the laws and our socialist norms among the people. To this end, under the leadership of the Party Committee we draft an annual plan, jointly with the Executive Committee of the district, State Attorney's Office and the mass organizations. We, judges and assistant judges, often hold meetings with the people and analyse in detail the dispositions of the law, the norms of our life. In these meetings, various problems are thrashed out and very useful opinions are expressed about how to work better for the prevention of crime, how to make the class struggle more vigorous by using all forms, including the educational groups, criticism and self-criticism, posters and the press.

Very useful work is being done by the village courts, which are very close to the masses of the co-operativists and help in the implementation of the socialist law in the countryside. Practice to date shows, that they take correct, well-studied decisions on the problems which come within their authority under the law.



**Lec Shkreli: «The
 commissar
 and Teacher of the People,
 Qamil Guranjaku».**
 125 x 200 cms — oil
 (The painter immortalizes
 the beginning of the
 new Albanian school
 immediately after
 the liberation
 of the country.
 The commissar
 of partisan
 fighting units
 Qamil Guranjaku
 was, at the same time,
 a fighter for spreading
 education
 among the broad
 masses of the people).

Nestor Jonuzi: «Drashovica, 1943»
(This painting is dedicated to the battle against the fascist occupiers in 1943 at Drashovica near Vlora 190 x 270 cms oil.)



Dhimitraq Trebicka:
«Sons of the Soil» 180 x 150 cms — oil.



Nexhat Majallari: «The Artist Worker» — 60 x 80 cms — oil.

NORBERT JOKL - A GREAT ALBANOLOGIST

A sketch by Naxhi Bakalli



Prof. EQREM ÇABEJ

The distinguished Austrian Albanologist, Prof. Norbert Jokl was born a hundred years ago, on February 25, 1877.

It is a well-known fact that in the past, Austria had a fine tradition in the field of Albanian studies. This tradition in the field of linguistics starts and continues during the second half of the last century, with scholars like Hahn, Miklosich, Gustav Mayer, Shuardt, Mayer-Luebke, and others. Norbert Jokl is the most recent in time but certainly one of the most important in this series of scholars.

At first Norbert Jokl pursued his studies in the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna and after graduating began practising law. Attracted by the study of languages he dropped his original profession and took up linguistics. He graduated from the Faculty of Philosophy in comparative Indo-European linguistics and a number of special branches such as Romance, Germanic, Slavic and Sanskrit languages, majoring in Slavic. The principal representative of this discipline in the Vienna University at that time, the famous linguist, Jagich, directed the young scholar towards Albanian studies, a branch which had lain fallow since the death of Gustav Mayer on the eve of the new century. Thus he took up learning and studying the Albanian language, at first attending a course given at that time in the Austrian capital by the Albanian scholar, Gjergj Pekmezi. In time he improved his knowledge of Albanian through his contact with the Albanians living in Vienna, through investigations into the language with the Albanian students in Austria, but mainly through his own studies and reading of ancient and more recent Albanian literary writings.

Since the establishment of linguistics as a science during the past century, and even before that, the Albanian language had attracted the attention and interest of many European scholars, scholars of different countries and of a variety of professions, like geographers, ethnographers, scientific workers, travellers, diplomats, doctors, historians and linguists. However nearly all the linguists, some of them of world fame, both those of the previous century and those that came later, approached Albanian studies from the field of their own specialities: from comparative linguistics, from the study of the Slavic, Latin, Balkan and especially from the Rumanian languages. Thus, for these linguists, their Albanian studies were a side is-

sue, although it must be said that some of them have made a valuable contribution to this field of studies. From the first steps of his scientific activity, Norbert Jokl gave up his research into the other branches of linguistics and devoted himself entirely to the study of the Albanian language.

This activity pervades his whole life, from his youth to his death.

The scientific activity of this scholar covers a wide range of topics, a broader field than that of his predecessors. It covers most aspects of the study of the Albanian language. In time it covers the history of past periods of the language down to the present day. Thus, in the topics covered, too, his activity presents a certain completeness, a system in itself. He engaged in profound research work, both in the field of phonetics and morphology as well as in that of vocabulary, etymology, linguistic history, dialectology, and the development of Albanian as a written and literary language.

One of the problems that the linguist is faced with in this field of research is that of knowing what is inherited and what is borrowed in the fund of Albanian words. With some exceptions, like the distinguished Danish linguist, Holger Petersen, the former generations of scholars had shown special interest in the borrowings, in those elements which had entered the Albanian language from neighbouring languages. His classification as a «semi-Romance» language had caught on at that period of linguistics and it still crops up even to this day. In this complex of problems it is the merit of Norbert Jokl, who, together with some other scholars, returned to the Albanian language what belongs to it. Many elements of the vocabulary which had been considered Latin-Romance, Greek or Slavic, were proved, eventually, to be elements of the heritage of the Albanian language, itself. Indeed, the role of this language as a contributor to the neighbouring idioms was demonstrated. Many words which are common to several Balkan languages have their origin in the Albanian language and later penetrated into the other languages of this region. This circumstance is of great significance in forming an objective judgment of the nature of the Albanian popular culture and its level of development in the past, in connection and comparison with the neighbouring popular cultures.

The methods which this scholar followed in this field of research, as in his study of

the Albanian language in general, is characterized by these features: First, as complete a mastery as possible of the concrete material, by seeking out the most deeply hidden sources. Then study of the Albanian language by means of Albanian, that is starting from the internal circumstances of the language, from inside outwards, and not from outside inwards. Hence the first state of comparison is the internal comparison; and from this reliable basis to go on to compare it with the other Balkan or even more remote languages.

Another feature of the method followed by this scholar is that of coordinating linguistics with ethnography. This method, which, in linguistics, as we know, finds its application, among other things, in the principle of «words and things», was proved to be fruitful in the field of the Albanian language, by bringing together the data of the material and spiritual culture of the Albanian world, which throws considerable light on the problems of the language.

The higher the scholar climbs up the course of the ages, the more difficult become the problems, the more obscure the historical and linguistic situation appears to be. Thus, the question of the place of Albanian among the Indo-European languages, hence, the question of which of these sister languages it is closest to, a question with which this scholar was intensively involved for a long time remains to this day one of the well reflected problems of Albanian linguistics. Another problem is that of tracing the origin, the source of the Albanian language and, linked with this, the problem of the Balkan cradle of the Albanian people. Right from the beginning of his career, Norbert Jokl is for autochthony, that is, that the Albanians are natives, original inhabitants, on their present territory. More concretely, he sets the early home of the Albanians in ancient Dardanis, in the region of present-day Kosova. In subsequent years (1933-1934) with his linguistic analysis of historical toponymy, concretely of the ancient names of certain rivers like the Drin and the Mat and their present names, he came to the conclusion «that from the earliest of times to the present day, without interruption, these names have been used by Albanians, and that only the Albanian language has been able to give them the form which they have today. With this formulation as can be seen, his concept of autochthony assumes wider

proportions with regard to space, including also most of the western side of the Albanian linguistic region.

As we have said, the scientific interests of this Albanologist also covered the later phases of the development of the Albanian language. During the First World War, he completed a detailed study of the Vrapchisht dialect in the district of Gostivar, but his work was not published and seems to have been lost. Later he published a series of epic songs which had been collected by Vuk Karadjichi, but which had been left in manuscript up to that time. Later, in a long review, he took up the language of the Arbëneshi of Dalmatio, studying in this instance a number of phenomena and problems of Albanian dialectology. He always took up the problems in the field of dialectology in connection with onomastics, especially of the historical and present-day toponymy. Through historical toponymy, as we saw above, he was able to penetrate the ethnic-historical past of the Albanian nationality. It must be noted at the same time that problems of language and dialect have always been within the sphere of the scientific interests of this scholar. In 1930, he devoted a profound study to the language, alphabet, and dialect of Gjon Buzuku, the earliest author of Albanian literature known so far. He showed special interest in the work of Naim Frashëri. In 1925, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the poet's death, he published an essay on Naim Frashëri and his enrichment of the Albanian vocabulary, in the commemorative book «Naim Frashëri», put out by the Albanian students in Austria. In this essay he analyses the methods which the Albanian poet followed for the enrichment of vocabulary of the literary language: that of seeking and using words which existed in the language but which had fallen into disuse, reviving old words which had been forgotten, reducing the use of foreign words, forming new words composed or derived according to the rules of analogy, hence, mainly according to the pattern of the living words of the language of the people and its dialects.

Among Norbert Jokl's scientific achievements, a job of no less importance is that which he carried out in the field of critical bibliography. In one of the principal annual linguistic bibliographies of that time (Idg. Jahrbuch) for twenty-four years on end from 1917 to 1940, he regularly reported in the publications — books and articles — which had appeared during that time on Albanian ethnography and history and on the Albanian language. Of special significance is the objective and competent stand he maintained, often refuting the tendentious conclusions reached by certain scholars about a number of main problems of Albanian studies. This stand he maintained frequently attracts attention even to this day.

This scholar disappeared in May 1942. Persecuted by the Nazi regime as a Jew, he was taken from his home in Vienna to a concentration camp of a series of them, and so he ended his days. The place and exact circumstances of his death remain unknown to this day. A good part of his manuscripts have been lost, including his manuscript of the etymological dictionary of the Albanian language. In a talk with his friend Aleksander Xhuvani, with whom he always exchanged opinions, he expressed the idea that the Albanian language would be studied by the Albanians themselves. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the affection he cherished for the Albanian people and his interest in the Albanian language were among the reasons for which he was killed. In all his works he had pointed out the intrinsic wealth of the Albanian language, while reducing through objective scientific criteria, the Latin part in its vocabulary. He followed this course even during the fascist occupation of Albania, during which period the thread of his life was broken,

REPLYING TO THE QUESTIONS OF OUR READERS

Our readers Luciano A. and Bertino F. from Italy have asked our Editorial Board some questions about higher education in Albania. Here we reply to these questions.

HOW IS EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEED TO CADRES OF HIGHER EDUCATION?

In our country, all the sectors of economy, culture, education and others are being developed according to plan. The economy is developed in a proportional way according to the sectors, regions, and needs of the country.

And the training of cadres with higher education, also, is done in proportion to the progress of the various sectors of the economy, culture, education, etc. Thus, there is a coordination between the overall development of the country and the training of cadres of this category.

Thus, in line with their future plans, the various sectors of the economy, culture, education etc. work out their requisitions for the cadres of higher education they will need. These requisitions are collected and examined by the respective instances, before being approved. This is the basis on which students are admitted to the faculties and affiliated branches of the University of Tirana and the other higher institutes. As far as possible, the aptitudes and wishes of the students are taken into account in assigning them to the various branches for higher studies.

The distribution of cadres with higher education, also, is done according to a plan based on the requirements of the basic units. Thus, as soon as a student has completed his higher studies, he is appointed to a job in conformity with his profile. All the Albanian students have guaranteed jobs as soon as they have completed their studies.

Albania is one huge construction site. Its appearance is constantly changing, from one five-year plan to another. The creation of a big army of cadres with higher education is a reflection of this development. During the 5th five-year plan alone (1971-1975), nearly as many specialists of higher education were trained as were trained from the liberation of the country in 1944 to 1970. In 1975 the country had 7.4 times as many cadres of this category as it had in 1960.

During the 6th five-year plan, it is envisaged to train twice as many cadres with higher education as during the 5th five-year plan.

PANDUSH BALLÇO
At the State
Planning Commission

WHAT CRITERIA ARE FOLLOWED FOR ADMITTING STUDENTS TO THE UNIVERSITY?

After the number of students to be admitted to each faculty and branch has been decided, on the basis of the planned needs and concrete possibilities of the country, then the question arises as to which of the applicants will be admitted.

The first criterion applied is that of class, the origin and social situation of the student and his parents. The first to be admitted to higher schools are the sons and daughters of workers and of peasants coming from the ranks of the former poor peasantry. Before bursaries or the right to enrolment for higher studies are granted, the opinion of the youth organization and that of the Director of the secondary school from which the student has graduated is solicited. For boys this is also sought from the work centre where they have spent their one year probation period in production after graduation.

Secondly, a student's progress at school, his ability, are taken into account.

As a rule, those who apply to pursue higher studies nominate three branches. Therefore, in assigning a student to a certain profile his progress in his studies, his ability in those subjects which are connected with the profile he has chosen are considered. For instance, a student who has applied to study engineering, must, without fail, have received good marks in such subjects as mathematics, physics, and so on.

The needs of the districts of the country are also taken into account in accepting students for enrolment. This is done in order to encourage the spread of higher education in the remote districts. To this end, the needs of the districts the prospects of their development, which branches are more developed there, and which are expected to develop, are looked into. For example, it is not practical to grant the right of study in such branches as geology to students from the districts of Tirana and Durrës when the districts of Kukës, Për, Mat, and others have greater perspectives in this field.

Sixty four per cent of the total contingent of students admitted this school year (1976-77) come from the outlying districts. Such mountain districts as Dibra, Tepelena, and Tropoja have, 3.2, 2.4 and 2.1 per cent respectively of the total number of the students, although, as a proportion of the total population of the Republic, they occupy a much lower percentage. Fifty per cent of the students are girls.

These criteria are followed in the other higher institutes of learning in our country, too.

THE PLACE OF ALBANIA IN THE WORLD

A National Colloquium organized by the France-Albania Friendship Association was held at the Sorbonne University in Paris. It was attended by the Chairman of the Association, Prof. Paul Milliez, the Secretary-General of the Association, Abraham Behard Prof. Allain Ducellier, Prof. Roger Portal, Prof. Yves Lacosta, Prof. Castella Georges.

The hall was filled to the brim with friends and well-wishers from Paris and from other regions of France.

The Colloquium was opened by Prof. Paul Milliez who spoke about the magnificent achievements and the originality of development in our country. Prof. Ducellier presented an exposé on the ancient and mediaeval history of Albania. Prof. Georges Castella spoke about the Albanian Renaissance, the proclamation of independence and the subsequent period up to 1939. Prof. Yves Lacosta spoke about the geography of Albania. Two Albanian pedagogues also took the floor. A debate took place on the above themes towards the end.

Those who were present followed with interest the development of the proceedings.

A stand was set up to exhibit Albanian literature, namely, comrade Enver Hoxha's works and other publications. The hall was decked with slogans «Long live the French-Albanian Friendship» «Long live the new Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania» and «the 6th Five-year Plan».

During the second day of the colloquium the proceedings took place in three committees, on medical service in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, on the emancipation of women and on the control of the working class. In all the committees lively debates took place and many important questions were asked on the topics under discussion. These debates were accompanied with diapositive projections with comments on the problems under discussion. On this occasion Patrick Kessel projected a reel of films illustrating the struggle of the Albanian people all along the period from the independence of Albania to the establishment of

FOREIGNERS

CONTEMPORARY ALBANIAN POETS

The Greek poet, Jani Manikas, organized a meeting on the «Contemporary Albanian Poets», in the capital city of Greece, Athens. The meeting was opened by the Chairman of the Greek League of Writers, the poet and art critic Niko Stasinopoulos, while actress Mary Voayji, warmly applauded by the audience, recited works by our poets Naim Frashëri, A.Z. Çapuji, Fan Noli, Migjeni, Dritëro Agolli, Ismail Kadare and Natasha Lako.

We are publishing a short summary of the speech by the poet J. Manikas, and comments by some organs of the Athenian press on this meeting.

After saying that Albanian literature has deep roots in the past and that the Albanian poetry and novel have begun to become known to a large circle of readers in recent years, he pointed out that the «Albanian poets have been nurtured mainly by the

land that gave them birth. The entire reality of Albanian life is portrayed clearly in many of their poems. All their poetry reflects the reality and is full of vitality. In all their verses they use energetic, vivid words just as the people use. They are poets nurtured in the spirit of the country, its environment and the customs of the Albanian people. They have sung about the worker, the farmer, their land, their fellow men, the problems of their beloved homeland. I dedicate my present words to the poets of the past and today who dreamt of a prosperous and advanced Albania and saw it flower magnificently in all fields. I dedicate my words to them on the eve of the 32nd anniversary of the defeat of fascism and as a token of the Greek-Albanian friendship and good neighbourly relations».

The poet then enlarged on his investigations into Albanian literature since its beginnings. He spoke of the great role played by the Albanian writers during the period of the Renaissance, who, as the spirit of this movement, awakened and aroused the patriotic spirit which led to the proclamation of independence in 1912. Jani Manikas then added:

«While studying the Albanian poets in an unbiassed way, in my capacity as a citizen and poet, I became convinced that their poems are dedicated to man, to his sufferings, anxieties, desires and dreams and every noble feeling. Their verses sound like moving and resonant music; all their poems have particularly expressive forms. Their rhythm, meter and rhyme, in short, the whole verse, contain the beauty of speech, artistic mastery, and, above all, musicality, and strong feelings and ideas. Noble in spirit, daring champions of justice and patriots, they are, at the same time, sensitive to the point of shedding tears. Indeed there is great wealth in contemporary Albanian poetry.»

Referring to the role the Albanian wri-

ters play in the service of the cause of their people, the speaker said:

«The Albanian people honour their poets as defenders, since the heroic Albanian writers and poets took part in the struggle for the liberation of their homeland from fascism as well as against dynasties which, for decades on end, sucked their blood and kept them in ignorance. Today they are carrying out a new cultural revolution, creating a culture worthy of the achievements of their people»

Speaking about the rapid dissemination of art and culture among the working masses, about the great work done by houses of culture in this field, of the reliance of the writers and artists of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania on the humanitarian, democratic, and progressive traditions of their country, the poet J. Manikas stressed that the Albanian poets have something to say in their poems; each of these poets transforms into rhyme the many-sided work of the Albanian — the creator of spiritual and material wealth.

«From the idyllist Naim Frashëri to the young Ismail Kadare, from the outstanding poet Dritëro Agolli to young poetess N. Lako», he said, «their seeking for innovation in form and substance, in style and ideological content, in the unity between the intimate and the political element, in their love for life and optimism about it, are characteristic.»

«In Albania today», he pointed out, «the people read and educate themselves, the people sing and think freely. In this way their culture is created and develops, following their own original tradition.»

This evening dedicated to the contemporary Albanian poets aroused a considerable response in the organs of the press in Athens. They carried reports of the evening, quoted passages from J. Manikas's speech and, expressing the opinions of their rea-



The Presidium of the National Colloquium held at the Sorbonne University in Paris.

the People's State Power. It was followed with interest by those present.

The Secretary-General of the Association, A. Behard, spoke of the great achievements attained by the Albanian people in building socialism and creating a new man in Albania as well as of the fundamental principles of the foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. During his speech A. Behard made frequent references to comrade Enver Hoxha's report to the 7th Congress quoting him on various problems.

Raymond Bergeron summed up the conclusions of the colloquium praising the dissertations read there for their unbiased informative character. Prof. Raymond Houdard wound up the proceedings of the colloquium thanking those present for the interest with which they followed the proceedings, the France-Albania Association for preparing the colloquium and the Embassy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for helping to prepare and carry through with success the proceedings of the colloquium.

ON ALBANIA



Scene from the Conference on «Contemporary Albanian Poets» organized in Athens. Jani Manikas is speaking.

ders, expressed the desire «to learn about the culture of Albania, to become acquainted with the development of their neighbour in the field of literature and art».

«Triumphant speech by the poet J. Manikas» — with this banner headline the newspaper «Qiriks Neas Zmirnis» informed its readers about the evening dedicated to the contemporary Albanian poets.

The magazine «Dialogoi» on its part wrote: «It is true that we know very little about

Albania, nevertheless, the progress that has been made there in the field of literature is truly amazing». Other pages of the press, while informing the readers about the meeting dedicated to the contemporary Albanian poets, stressed that Albanian poets will be introduced to Greece for the first time...», that «most of the poets to be introduced have been fighters and they are well aware of the needs of their people».

In addition to its high assessment of Al-

banian literature and the progress of culture in our country, the press also quotes the words of the Director of UNESCO when he inaugurated the Exhibition of «ALBANIAN ART THROUGH THE CENTURIES»: «Tiny Albania showed that it has a culture and art of great value which ranks it alongside the great states of Europe».

Poems by our poets A.Z. Çajupi, Fan Noli, Migjeni, D. Agolli, I. Kadare and N. Lako, have been published.



«BROKEN THREADS»

This is one of the films that has aroused great interest among the audiences. Its subject matter is the revolutionary vigilance of the people against the enemies of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

This theme has been taken up before by our film producers. This time the subject is fresh, dealing with current events and with a strong contemporary flavour.

The film deals with the attempts of external enemies, who, in collusion with internal enemies, want to blow up a plant of special importance to our country. At every step the enemies and saboteurs are followed by the watchful eye of the people, who uncover and destroy all their criminal schemes and activities.

The story begins in a simple way. Mr. Clark and Mr Sam come to our country as tourists. Behind his disguise as a tourist interested in trade, the latter is seeking to reactivate a group of agents. He makes contact with Marko Ruvina, an old agent in the service of foreign espionage, who is reluctant at first but later begins to carry out the orders of his boss, Sam, blindly. Marko activates the «crab» and Dimitra, who works as a cleaner in the offices of the plant. Through the cleaner, Marko, the cunning and cynical old agent, gets hold of a document taken from the office of the secretary Besa, during a moment's carelessness. With the document in his hand, Marko sounds out Besa, putting her in a very difficult position. She is a good woman and conscience-stricken about what her negligence in guarding State secrets has led to. Her profound anxiety is soon over, because she seeks the aid of the State Security organs.

It never crosses Marko Ruvina's mind that this «terrified» woman would destroy all his plans. Meanwhile, the Security service workers gradually uncover the truth about the «tourist» Sam, who, in fact, is the enemy of the people Sami Ameni, a former collaborator of the fascist invaders of Albania. The confrontation which is organized with the professor of philosophy, and the verification through archives, fully prove the identity of this inveterate agent, despite the plastic surgery he had undergone and the aid of his internal collaborators. The evidence is turned over to the organs of justice. Clark learns who his fellow traveller has been. He goes away full of admiration for this wonderful country which lives free in its «own share of the sunlight», with the ardent desire to return once again to the beautiful and happy Albania.



Excerpts from the film «Broken Threads».





Excerpts from the film «Poppies on the Wall».

«POPPIES ON THE WALL»

Albanian critics have described the film «Poppies on the Wall» as an outstanding success and one of the finest achievements of the «New Albania» Film Studio.

The subject has been taken from life in an orphanage at the time of the fascist occupation of Albania. These unfortunate children, poor and without the support and warm affection of their parents, have been shut away in a real prison in which the fascist director and brutal, cynical, servile, and cruel supervisors mete out beastly punishments, trying to destroy the children's personality and, at the same time, to prepare contingents of mercenaries from among them for their policy of enslavement, denationalization and fascism.

But the creation of the Communist Party of Albania and the National Liberation War which it leads finds an echo even within this great

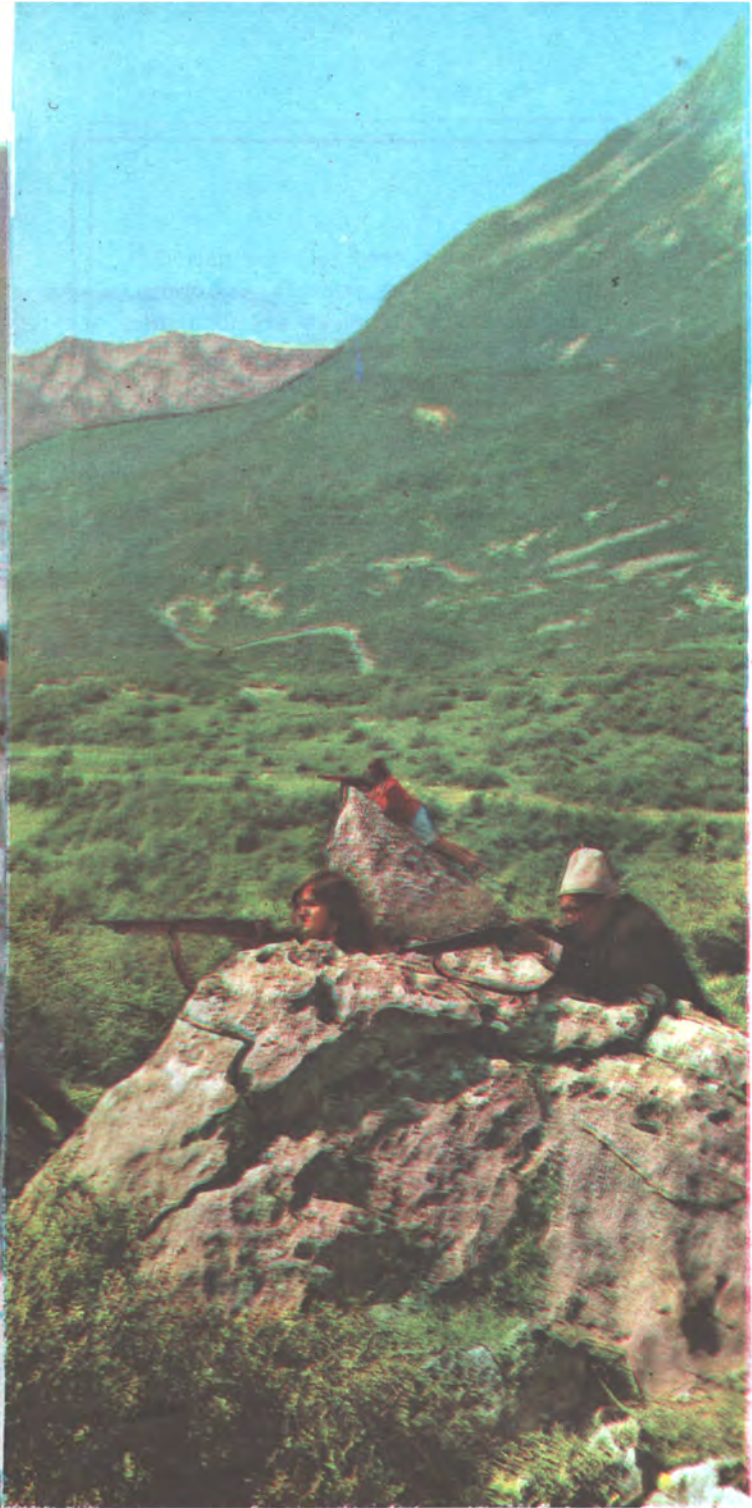
dungeon which is carefully guarded by the fascist supervisors. This echo finds a thousand ways into the hearts of the youngsters. A young communist has made friends with a lively and intelligent boy from the orphanage and tells him about the war, the awakening of the whole people, about the great strength of the people and the Party, and the happy future that lies ahead for everybody. The selfconfidence aroused in this boy and the others who are his friends, gives these orphans a feeling of strength, awakens their consciousness of the time and of their class and they react against the fascist director and the cruel supervisors. In particular the teacher, who represents the patriotic, honest and courageous intellectuals and who follows the course of revolution from his convictions plays a powerful role in their spiritual and moral awakening.

The killing by the fascist of a boy who was trying to avoid the persecution of a cynical supervisor who seeks to make a tool of him, marks the climax of the film. Now the children commit themselves completely to the revolution. They have understood the hypocrisy of the fascists and set out to oppose it. The rapid development of the National Liberation War and the roar of furious battles echo loudly within the walls of this prison — orphanage. The youngsters realize that everything is changing, that a new day is dawning, and that they are no longer alone. Indeed they are no longer orphans — a big mother, the Communist Party which is leading the revolution towards a new society, without invaders, without oppressors, without exploiting classes, has taken them under its protection and care. And they turn their faces towards it as towards the sun, full of confidence in their future.

THE FINGER ON THE TRIGGER

Under the conditions of a ruthless imperialist-revisionist encirclement Albania «is building socialism with the pick in one hand and the rifle in the other» This is the motto for every citizen of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. Our people, workers and soldiers, are working with might and main to make Albania an invincible socialist stronghold. They are constantly sharpening their revolutionary vigilance and training to be ready to give the proper reply to any aggressors who would dare to endanger the revolution and the victories achieved. These pictures reflect some aspects of military training at various training grounds.





AT THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN:

AN ALBANIAN AUTHOR ON BEETHOVEN



A sketch by Narhi Bakalli

Thirty years ago, an Albanian author, Fan S. Noli (1882-1965) defended a thesis on the great composer Ludwig van Beethoven, which caused a stir, at the time, in many countries. The thesis was published in New York in 1947 in English, under the title «Beethoven and the French Revolution».

The author of this study was an outstanding figure in the political, literary, and cultural life of Albania, especially in the early part of this century. He lived for only a short period in Albania. Born in a village inhabited by Albanians in Turkey, on the outskirts of Adrianopolis, he spent most of his life abroad, the bulk of it in the USA, where he was head of the Albanian Church. Although a clergyman, Fan Noli had advanced ideas and was essentially non-religious if not anti-religious. This is apparent in his finest works, such as in his work on Beethoven.

Fan Noli was a distinguished writer, poet, historian, critic and translator. He was the first to translate into Albanian such masterpieces of the world literature as «Hamlet», «Julius Caesar», «Othello», «Don Quixote», and many other famous books. He was extremely well versed in several languages.

Having returned to Albania after the First World War, Fan Noli played an important role in the political life of the country, taking the democratic and progressive side against the feudal lords. In 1924 he headed the Albanian Government of that time which had been brought to power by a bourgeois-democratic revolution which overthrew the government of the feudal lords. At the end of that year this government was brought down as a result of the counter-revolution of the feudal lords, assisted by the foreign forces of neighbouring countries. After living in exile for a number of years in various European countries, he returned to USA.

Fan Noli hailed the National Liberation War of the Albanian people, as well as the victory of this war — the triumph of the people's revolution. Towards the end of 1944, he wrote: «From the darkness of blind alleys we are coming out into the light and the

open field of activity with leaders who have proved their ability in the firing line. These leaders should be supported unconditionally, without reserve and unsparingly, because they fully deserve the trust of the people. With those leaders the future of our country is secure. Long live Albania».

Towards the end of his life, Fan Noli wrote two very important studies: the first on the Albanian national hero of the 15th century Scanderbeg, and the other on the great composer, Beethoven.

In his study on Beethoven, the Albanian author begins from the stand of two renowned French authors, Vincent d'Indy (1851-1931) and Romain Rolland. The former, in a critical biography of Beethoven published in 1911, supported the thesis that Beethoven had never been influenced by the new ideas of the French Revolution, while the latter, in an article published in a German socialist newspaper in 1927, supported the opposite view, that Beethoven was «the authentic offspring of the French Revolution».

Who was right, Romain Rolland or Vincent d'Indy?

The Albanian author gives the answer to this question.

After making a critical analysis of all the bibliography and documents relating to this problem, after describing Beethoven himself, as a man, and making an analysis of the time in which he lived, Fan Noli arrived at these conclusions:

«In order to study the life of Beethoven, it is necessary, first of all, to mercilessly sweep away all legends and stick to fact alone. Then Beethoven emerges as a real man. And the real man is more interesting than all the legendary heroes taken together, for the simple reason that the latter are the offspring of the imagination of hero worshippers. Germany and Austria had been deeply influenced by the French Revolution. So was Beethoven. He mocked at religion and, after receiving his communion he died mocking it. His attitude towards religion is the most important testimony that he cherished radical political views. He was a republican. In his letters we find all the slogans and

dreams of the French Revolution. His work, «Fidelio», is a hymn to freedom and his Ninth Symphony a hymn to world brotherhood. Plato's «Republic» and Plutarch's «Lives», were his revolutionary bibles. As a republican he admired Brutus and Napoleon. At first he dedicated his «Eroica» to Napoleon but erased the dedication when he learned that Napoleon had been proclaimed Emperor of France... His supporters were cultured aristocrats, but his close friends were republicans, as he was himself. Goethe's description of Beethoven, the invitation which the King of Westphalia, Jerome Buonaparte, sent him to come as conductor to the Choir of the Court Church at Kassel, and the secret reports of the police of Vienna, may be considered as diplomas to prove the revolutionary ideology of the master... In conclusion, Beethoven was a scion of the French Revolution, as Romain Rolland described him, with a few criticisms over some reactionary views he held and certain opportunist activities».

The importance of Fan Noli's work on Beethoven and the depth in which he studied the great composer impressed the most prominent progressive intellectuals of the time.

Having read the book, George Bernard Shaw wrote to Noli: «Your book 'Beethoven and the French Revolution' is the work of a first-class critic and biographer. As a qualified musician, critic and professional artist-philosopher myself, I read it from beginning to end with the greatest satisfaction.

You may probably know that one never reads the books which are given him in bagfuls as they are sent to me».

Thomas Mann also wrote to Noli: «The pleasant gift you sent me is something which cannot be forgotten at my age; I read the book with real pleasure. Precisely at this time, the truth of which you speak in the book is something refreshing to me...»

The great composer, Jean Sibelius, also wrote to Noli: «I read the book with the greatest interest. I had thought I knew everything about Beethoven but in your book there were many things that were new to me».

During all the many centuries of their history, the Albanian people have come to grips with and fought numerous enemies. In these encounters they have used various weapons. Their weapons, whether those they produced themselves or those they seized from the enemy, have been their most trusted companions in their battles for freedom and independence. «The Albanian people, have hacked their way through history sword in hand», says comrade Enver Hoxha. Since the dawn of history, the forebears of the Albanians, the Illyrians, have been known as a courageous people who fought valiantly to defend their native soil. Specimens of their various weapons and armaments can be found in every historical museum.

The warlike qualities of the Illyrians were inherited by their descendants, the Arbëreshi, the Albanians. The foreign invaders found themselves again up against an armed people, determined to defend their homeland and their freedom. The 25-year war which the Albanians fought in the 15th Century against the Ottoman invaders is especially famous. Legends have been told about the weapons of the leader of these battles, the National Hero, Gjergj Kastrioti Scanderbeg. But together with Scanderbeg, all the Albanian people were armed. The 15th century humanist Marin Barleti, who wrote the history of Scanderbeg's battles, wrote at that time: «At all times the Albanian kept his weapon handy to his plough».

The Albanian has always used his weapons to defend his homeland in the fight for justice and freedom. An Albanian fighter has always been seen with a rifle on his shoulder and a pistol in his belt. This is how the painters of the beginning of the 19th century have depicted him, and this is how the archives of photographs from the beginning of this century show him. As far back as the 15th century, Marin Barleti emphasized: «The Albanians are more interested in weapons than in religion». This can be easily explained. Their weapons protected them from many enemies, and religion was linked with these enemies.

Among the collections of Albanian arms and, better than anywhere else, in the National Museum of Arms in Gjirokastra, the most varied weapons can be seen, ranging from those used away back in mediaeval times to those used in the great National Liberation War. In reading the catalogues or looking at the rich displays in the Museum, one encounters weapons the names of which are unknown to us.

Many of the side arms and rifles attract attention from another point of view. Produced by Albanian armourers and used by Albanian fighters, they have been ornamented by local silver smiths. The latter have poured all their craftsmanship and art into the ornamentation of these arms. Some specimens look as if they have been embroidered by the hand of a great artist inspired by the great folk art. Thus the weapons have passed from the skilled hands of master



ALBANIAN ARMS AND ARMOURERS

SKENDER ANAMALI — archaeologist

craftsmen into the hands of fighters skilled in their use.

Together with the arms themselves, the accessories which go with them also attract attention. They are a further proof of the love the Albanian has shown for his weapons, their ornamentation and accessories. They include gun and sword belts, cartridge belts, oil bottles etc. Albanian cities renowned for the manufacture of arms and accessories were Shkodra, Elbasan, Berat, Vlora, Gjirokastra and Prizren and Tetova (the latter two cities now in Yugoslavia)

When speaking of Albanian arms one must also speak of Albanian armourers. The names of most of these master craftsmen remain unknown like the names of those who ornamented the weapons. But memories and stories of their passion for their craft, and some of their products, are preserved among the people.

There are families which have been engaged in this craft for 200-250 years, like the Tusha family from Shëngjergj in the Tirana district. Its activity extends to Elbasan, Berat, Fier, Kavaja and Lushnja.

One of the renowned armourers is Elmas Myftiu (1870-1969) from Tirana. He learned his craft from other armourers of our country and worked at it for about eighty years. Towards the end of the last century there were about thirty such armourers in Tirana alone. The value and contribution of Elmas's activity to the history of the armourers' craft in Albania lies in the fact that he has left a fine heritage from his work.

The armourers Jakup Dibra from Shkodra, Mehdi Dumbo from Pogradec, and others, are of the same rank.

The use of firearms and their production brought the need to produce gunpowder within the country. Where and under what circumstances gunpowder was used and produced for the first time in Albania cannot be defined exactly. But, relying on the information we have about the use of firearms by the Albanian feudal principalities, it turns out that gunpowder was used in firearms in our country in the middle of the 14th century. The Venetian archives show that during the wars they waged during the 15th century the Albanians were not only acquainted with firearms but had become armourers and producers of gunpowder.

The Mat district in northern Albania became the greatest centre for the production of gunpowder in our country as far back as the 15th century. This was because the district in question was the oldest base of Albanian resistance. Gunpowder factories were centered in a number of villages.

The gunpowder produced in Mat was used for all kinds of firearms and was sold all over the territory of Albania and abroad.

The «8 Nëntori» Publishing House has recently published the book, «Albanian Arms and Armourers», by Riza Drishti. This book gives a tableau of the development of Albanian arms, based on the many materials and documents known so far in this field. The book is of interest both to general readers and to specialists in this field.



MARIN BARLETI ON THE HISTORY OF SCANDERBEG

The Albanian's resistance to the Ottoman occupation in the 15th Century resounded far and wide all over Europe. In particular, the 25 year struggle led by Gjergj Kastrioti — Scanderbeg, inspired outstanding works by historians, writers and artists through the succeeding centuries. Undoubtedly, one of the first who took up the theme of this struggle was the Albanian humanist of the time of Scanderbeg, Marin Barleti. He was one of those Albanian scholars who, after the occupation of Albania were obliged to emigrate and create their works outside Albania. He was born in the middle of the 15th Century in Shkodra and died after the year 1512. During the fightings of

1473, Barleti fought in the ranks of the defenders of Shkodra, besieged by the Ottoman armies. In 1505, he published, in Venice, his work «About the Seige of Shkodra». In the years 1505-1510 he published in Rome the monumental work, «The History of the Life and Valorous Deeds of Scanderbeg, Prince of the Epirots». This work was very soon translated into many languages and published in various countries of the world. Even today, the work of Marin Barleti on the history of Scanderbeg, has remained the main literary source of information about the wars of the Albanian people at that time.



THE RIFLE OF THE GENERATIONS

In the Museum of the city of Korcha there is a rifle with a note attached, which says that this weapon has been used by Themistokli Germenji, (born in 1867 and died in November the 9th, 1917).

Themistokli Germenji is known by the Albanian people as one of the ardent patriots and fighters of the National Renaissance and Independence Movement at the beginning of the 20th Century. In memory of him, a bronze memorial stands in one of the parks of the city of Korcha, while schools and streets bear his name. But in looking at the rifle of the Themistokli who was condemned to death and executed in Salonica by the French military forces during the First World War, as a result of intrigues by the Greek chauvinists, something else

attracts the visitors' attention; on the butt of the rifle is a star carved with a knife — the star which our partisans bore during the Anti-fascist War. And close to the star are carved the two letters «S.P.» «What is the explanation for this partisan star on the rifle of Themistokli Germenji, who was killed about thirty years before the Anti-fascist War? The staff of the Museum explain that this rifle lay hidden for years until one day it fell into the hands of the partisan «S.P.», who fought with it for years against the nazi-fascist occupiers. At that time he carved his initials and the partisan star, a symbol of the revolutionary struggle, on the butt of the old rifle. Today the rifle can be found in the Museum, still in «good fighting condition». It is called «the rifle of generations».



«LUSHNJA» WHEAT

Intensive modern agriculture requires, among other things, the creation of selected high productivity seeds. In this direction very good results have been achieved in our country during the years of the people's statepower. One of the best varieties of wheat is «Lushnja». It can be used both in the lowland plains and in hilly land up to 700-1000 meters above sea level. The experience and results of 1975 in the lowland

and hilly regions of the districts of Lushnja, Berat, Fier, Gjirokastra, Shkodra, Durrës, Elbasan as well as in the mountains of Korcha, Dibra, Kukës, Skrapar, Kolonja, demonstrated the high productive capacity of this variety of wheat. In some fields where scientific methods of cultivation were thoroughly carried out, the Lushnja variety yielded 50-60 quintals per hectare.



«GLINA» NATURAL MINERAL WATER

To the south-east of the city of Gjirokastra, at the foot of Bureto mountain, lies the village of Glina. The name of this village has become known throughout Albania for its mineral springs. The great curative value of this water has long been known to the people of the locality and neighbouring districts. In recent years, the «Glina» water has been carefully studied in our laboratories. These studies have confirmed that this water has great curative value. A treatment centre for working people suffering from diseases of the digestive system has been built there. An industrial plant to bottle «Glina» water has also been built, and today this water is available in sealed bottles

for use as a curative or as mineral water for the table, all over the country. The table reads: «Glina-natural mineral water». It is widely used as table water. Its use is advised for those who suffer from stones in the kidney, ureter and the gall bladder, and for those suffering from infections of the ureter, the stomach or the intestines. It is valuable against hypertrophy of the liver and diseases of the metabolism. «Glina» mineral water has a beneficial influence on the digestion. Its use by sufferers from nephritis or other serious kidney disease is not permitted.

Foreigners who have visited our country speak very highly of «Glina» natural mineral water.

Illustrations by Niko Progri.



**BEAKED WHALE
OF COUVIER
FOUND ON THE
ALBANIAN COAST**

On the 23rd of October 1976, at a place called Spille, on the Durrës coast, a whale was found, washed up on the shore. It belonged to the well known family of whales, the Beaked whales of Couvier (*Zifius Cavirostris*). The whole was 5.75 metres long and weighed 2 tons. On the basis of the facts available to our scientific workers, on the geographical distribution of this family of whales, it seems that this specimen found at Spille is the first of its kind to be seen in the Adriatic.



**GYMNOSPERMIUM
SHQIPËTARUM**

On the basis of many years of study of the rich flora material collected in various districts of the country, our workers in the natural sciences have brought to light that there are a large number of plant species found within the territory of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, which although they are recorded as species in the important work «Flora Europaea», are not recorded as plants which occur in Albania. Here we refer to 59 such species, the majority of which are very rare. Another new species has been found for science, which the discoverers have called, «Gymnospermium Shqipëtarum». These species are being preserved at the herbarium of Chair of Botany of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Tirana.



CAVES AND HISTORY

Amazing legends, among the most varied and interesting, have been woven around our caves. They are a mixture of some real episode or fact combined with imagination and fable. Often the truth has been obscured by the fog of secrecy and mystery.

There are thousands of caves in our country, which differ from one another in shape, form, situation and their natural architecture. Caves

can be found in rugged mountain sides, among the high peaks, in river valleys and around lakes, often in places which make access to them for study purposes extremely difficult. Many of them contain fantastically beautiful streams, rivers, lakes and cataracts of clear cold water. It is not unusual to find caves at different levels linked together by vertical shelves. Some of them are magnificently ornamented with forms that amaze any visitor, especially with stalactites and stalagmites, columns, and limestone formations created over thousand and thousand of years. These forms amazing to the eyes of the visitors, have served for the weaving of fantastic legends and tales about «underground palaces».

The science of the study of caves, spelaeology, is one of the youngest branches of scientific research in our country. Nevertheless it has already some pleasing successes. Excavations and studies have been carried out in many caves in various regions, and traces of the existence and activity of primitive man and remnants of his ancient culture, such as drawings, sculptures, carvings, etc., have been found there. In the cave at Treni, in the district of Korça and in another one at Lapenica in the district of Vlora, the most ancient paintings of our country have been found. These pictures are stylised presentations of scenes of collective hunting on horseback. Many of the caves of our country have also been used during the 10th Century of our era, and they contain great cultural values in paintings, walls, plastering, inscriptions etc. In a number of other caves and depressions, deposits of useful minerals such as phosphorite, bauxite etc., have been found. There are also many reserves of water of karstic origin which can be utilised.



PHILATELY

The Administration of Posts and Telecommunications issued the new series «Our Castles» on December 30, 1976 and that of «The weapons of Scanderbeg's Army» on January 28, 1967





SPORT AMONG WOMEN



If we glance at the history of the Albanian women's sport during these last 10 years, we will find examples like this: In April 1966, in the Balkans 1000m race held in Bulgaria, the team of three Albanian girls took first place, leaving behind the representatives of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece and Turkey. At the closing of the European Junior Athletic championship in 1968 organized in Leipzig of the German Democratic Republic, the Albanian athlete Marjeta Pronjari won fourth place in high jump. In 1969, the Albanian women's volleyball team eliminated the champion Turkish team in the European cup contest for women's volleyball. In May 1972, during the elimination matches for the women's European basketball championship in Halle of the German Democratic Republic, the Albanian representative team beat the representative team of Switzerland 64:48. In May 1975, the Albanian representative team in women's volleyball in the Balkan championship defeated the Greek representative team in Athens, three games to nil. This team repeated this result in the Balkan countries' women's volleyball tournament in 1976. In this tournament the Albanian player Tamara Nikolla was ranked among the six best women volleyball players in the Balkans.

Thousands and thousands of girls and women take part in sports and physical culture in Albania today. In the schools, work and production centres, agricultural cooperatives and various institutions there are thousands of sports groups in which large numbers of women and girls take part, along with the men. Hundreds of teams have been set up for the sports played here, in which girls of various professions and ages take part. Each year a sporting calendar is compiled by the sports groups themselves to ensure their activation in an organized manner. This calendar ensures not only the participation of



women in various kinds of sports, according to their inclinations and desires, but also the functioning of these sports with ever greater participation throughout the year. Thus, for example, in the local activities carried out among schools, work centres and agricultural cooperatives girls take part extensively. Mass sports contests and displays, such as those of school girls, girl textile workers and cooperativist girls, etc., are organized. The participation of girls in the national spartakiads, which include several kinds of sports for women, is on a very large scale. This participation has steadily increased from one spartakiad to another. In the first one organized in 1959, seven thousand five hundred girls and women

took part; in the second, in 1969, about 30 thousand, whereas in the third, in 1974, of the 300 thousand who took part in its three phases, half were women and girls. Several special spartakiads for women only have been organized on a national scale. In the last women's spartakiad more than 60 thousand sport women took part.

Today Albanian women take part in athletics, all kinds of hand games, swimming, shooting, chess, table tennis, tennis, mountaineering etc. Excursions to historic places, beauty spots and resorts are very popular.

Our new school has given a new impetus to the participation of women and girls in sport. The phy-

sical training of the younger generation is part of the school program. Today, even in the remotest corners of Albania there are sports grounds in schools, work centres and agricultural cooperatives. Tens of stadiums with the necessary facilities, sports palaces, thousands of volleyball and basketball courts, swimming pools and innumerable sports parks have been built. Physical culture and sports have assumed vigorous development in the countryside. Special women's teams have been created in the agricultural cooperatives and their level of sports ability is steadily rising. Today the women's volleyball team of the Krutja agricultural cooperative represents the Lushnja district in the junior national championship.

Some of our sport women have achieved notable results in various contests which are up to world standards. In the world shooting championship held in 1974 in Thun of Switzerland, Ermira Dingu won sixth place. She scored 594 points in the standard exercise 1x60. Whereas the worker Liri Beqja, with 598 points scored in 1975, in the precision exercise 1x60 free model, was only one point under the world record. The high jump of 1 metre 78 cms. by the teacher Marjeta Zaqe is well up to international standards. This year, the pupil Marinda Preka, in 800 m race is training to reach the international masters' standard of 2 mins. 5 seconds.

AHMET SHQARRI



GUARANTEED BRIER



Brier is grown mainly in the Mediterranean countries and its root is suitable for the production of tobacco pipes. In our country it grows along the whole length of the coast and inland.

High quality tobacco pipes are produced from the root of the brier which has a long growth cycle and is fit to be cut only after fifteen or twenty years. Brier resists burning, is clean and is beautiful in appearance!

The tobacco pipe factory in Tirana turns out a varied assortment from brier root to suit the taste, age, profession of the clients, season of the year and so on. The filter system is made of aluminium or paper, while the mouthpiece is of ebonite. They are packed individually or in dozens as the client requests.

Guaranteed Albanian brier is now known in a number of countries in the world.

In addition to production of tobacco pipes, brier root is used also for the production of a number of other artistic products like buttons, decorative vases, plates, bowls, chess-boards, etc. which are prized for their polished timber, mosaic designs and so on.



BIRDS

Albania presents an heterogeneous and very complex morphology. The predominantly mountainous relief largely covered by dense forests is interspersed with fertile valleys. The rivers rich in sediment flow down to the long coast-line, forming, through the centuries, fertile areas, many lakes and lagoons most of which have been turned into cultivated plains today. The extremely varied climate from Atlantic-Mediterranean along the seacoast, Mediterranean and continental in the northeast and eastern zones and transitional between the two former zones favours the development of a rich and variegated flora. All these conditions of geomorphology, climate and flora create different environments with very suitable conditions under which the Albanian fauna, which has attracted the attention of a number of native and foreign scholars is able to exist and develop. As a coastal country of southeast Europe, Albania is an important bridge for the passage of migratory birds either northward or southward bound at different seasons of the year.

In addition to the migratory birds which pass regularly through our country either in winter or spring in quite considerable numbers, at times we also come across other species of birds which as a rule do not pass through or extend as far as this. The observation and recording of these sporadic migrants is of special scientific interest. Below we list some of the species of birds which have been observed during these last thirty years passing through Albania, in very small numbers and which usually do not pass this way.

Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*). A flamingo was shot on December 23, 1951 at the Narta lagoon in the Vlora district.

Spangled goose (*Rufibrenta ruficollis*). A specimen of this beautiful goose was shot on January 19, 1959, on Shëngjin island in the Lezha district.

Somateria duck (*Somateria mollissima*). This duck was observed for the first time in our country during 1959.

Glacier Duck (*Clangula hiemalis*). A specimen of this duck is exhibited in the Museum of Natural Sciences at the University of Tirana along with the specimens of flamingo and spangled goose.

The economic activity of man is transforming the Albanian landscape more and more each day. This has also brought about changes in the environment once suitable to many species of the animal world.

The draining of marshes and swamps which has turned them into fertile fields has resulted in the reduction of the varieties and numbers of birds connected with them. Thus, for instance, the number of pairs of **storks** (*Ciconia ciconia*) which used to come here in the not very distant past to nest was much larger than at present. The area of distribution of storks has also been reduced as compared with three or four decades ago. In our days storks usually build their nests along the southwestern lowlands of our country from Durrës down to Vlora. The other variety of this bird, the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) is a rare bird of passage seen mostly in autumn. Apparently, thirty or forty years ago



Stork

the black stork (*Ciconia nigra*) nested in the eastern part of the country in the Korça basin. One of the waterfowl which used to nest in the lagoons of our country up to the beginning of the 20th century is the **swan** (*Cygnus cygnus*). Now, this kind of swan comes occasionally to winter in our country. Specimens of this kind of swan are to be found at the scientific collection of the Museum of Natural Sciences in Tirana.

The nesting area for pelican has also diminished in size since the marshes and lagoons in our country have been drained.

It is the **crested pelican** (*Pelecanus crispus*) which lives in our country and is also found in some other countries of the Balkan Peninsula. It has been observed that during winter a number of pelicans migrate further south, perhaps to North Africa.

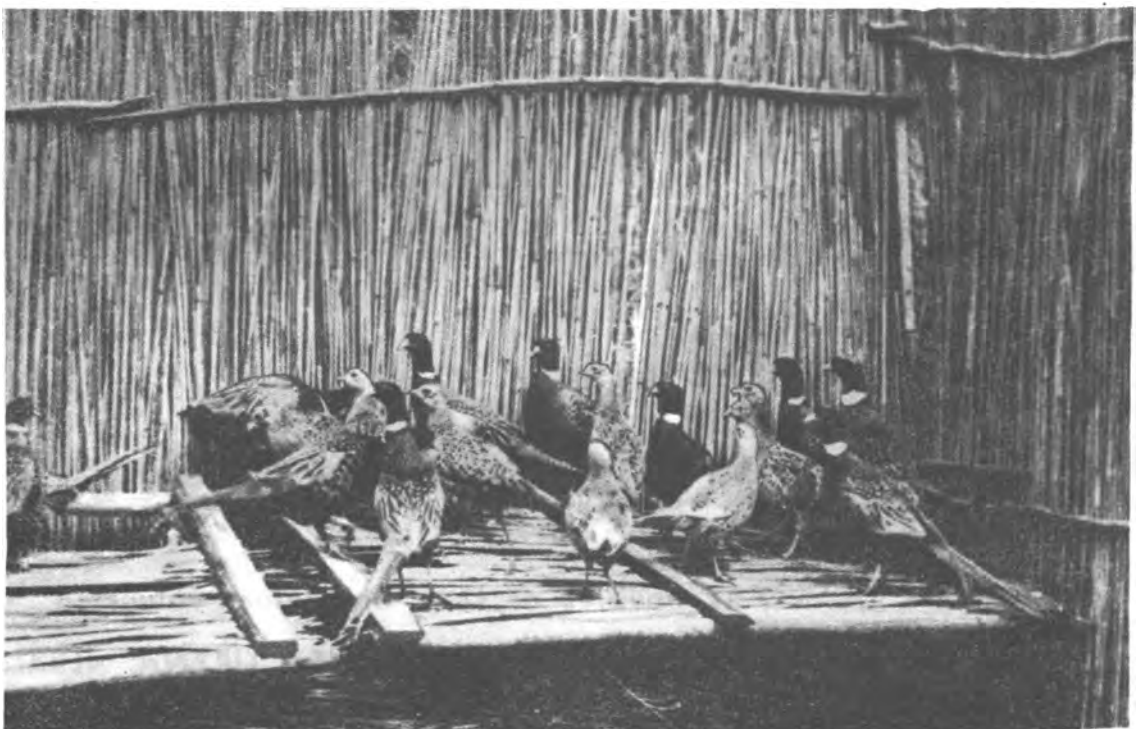
Since the crested pelican is a rare bird anywhere in the world, it is protected by law just as all other rare animals and birds in our country, regardless of the damage it may cause the fishing industry.

There is evidence that up to the end of the 19th century pheasants were in abundance in Albania, but later they were wiped out, especially in certain zones. Since the liberation of the country this game bird (*Phasianus hybrid*) has been acclimatized in our country again. Today it is spread over most of the lowlands and hills of the country. The increase in pheasants, not only naturally but also semi-artificially, in hatcheries, increases their value as a game bird and for export.



Pelicans

Pheasants — their number is being increased not only through natural growth but also through semi-artificial breeding



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E. ALWIS — Sri Lanka

I am the Chairman of the «Young People's Reading Club» and I am writing in the hope that it will be possible for you to help the above Young People's Club. This Reading Club offers facilities for reading to a large number of young people. Most of them are students from poor families of the working class. They greatly admire the Albanian people who are building socialist society. They are very interested to learn about the political, economic, cultural and social life of the Albanian people and their achievements in building socialist society. Therefore, I would be very grateful if you would have the kindness to send us your magazine «New Albania» in the English language regularly.

STEVE WAGNER — USA

We have not been able to find copies of Enver Hoxha's Report delivered at the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania in English. Would it be possible to buy one or two copies directly?

In one of the last numbers of your magazine you had a review of a book on Albania published by the Sweden-Albania Friendship Association. I have friends here who read Swedish and are interested in getting copies of this book. Could you give us the address of this Association so that we can write to them directly?

LASTRUCCI ALEXANDRI — Italy

Although this is the first time I have written to you, for many years now I have been a sincere supporter of your country... I visited your country in August 1975. It was a really important and significant journey for me, and for any comrade who really desires a new, just, planned society without exploited and exploiters and opposed to all kinds of bureaucracy and technocratism and manifestations contrary to the interests of the people.

I convey to you and to your people my sincerest wishes for happiness and peace.

JOHN NEIMAN — USA

I am working on my thesis for my degree in history at the Harding Simmons University at Abilene, Texas. I am studying the history of Albania and I am greatly enjoying the continuation of my studies on Albania. The more I study about Albania the more I am fascinated and my interest increases. I am always very pleased with every issue of the magazine «New Albania». It is a very fine and well written publication. I would like to mention especially an article which left a deep impression on me. In N° 3/1976 you devoted an article to the way you honour the Albanian martyrs of the liberation war against the nazi and fascist invaders.

The photographs of the ceremony on the occasion of May 5, were very moving. I firmly

believe that those who fell heroically and selflessly should not be forgotten. The Albanian people should be admired for their patriotism and spirit of gratitude.

I was born in 1953, 8 years after the end of the Second World War. Nevertheless I feel a very strong obligation towards those who were killed and feel very enthusiastic that the brave Albanian people have not forgotten the fallen.

Dr. JOSIF MARES — Rumania

In N° 6/1976 of the «New Albania» magazine you announce the publication of comrade Enver Hoxha's Report to the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania. Please tell me how I should go about getting it. I very much want to read it. I have subscribed to all the Albanian periodicals and therefore I am interested to follow the rapid development of your country.

Hoping that you will meet my request, I wish you even greater successes.

KLAUS BLAKE — Ireland

Thank you for the book of the History of Albania, the records of Albanian songs and the magazine you sent me some time ago. I am very pleased with them. I liked the record very much and the book was very interesting. I would like to visit Albania but for the time being it is impossible for me.

MANFRED RIPPICH — the German Democratic Republic

At a friend's house I had the opportunity to read an issue of your magazine. It seemed very interesting. Our press reports nothing about your beautiful country. Therefore, would you please send me this magazine regularly if possible. Also I would be delighted if you would send me a postcard with views from Albania.

What you write about archaeology, the letters to the editor and philately were very interesting to me. The Albanian language is also very interesting.

I wish you success in the work of building socialist Albania.

The Editorial Board of «ALBANIAN NOTEBOOKS» which is the magazine of the Friends of Albania Society in the Federal German Republic and in West Berlin, is seeking your help.

In N° 5/1976 of the German edition of «Albania Today» you announce the publication of an album, «People's Art in Albania». The editors of «ALBANIAN NOTEBOOKS» would be very glad if you could help us get this album. In the next issue of «ALBANIAN NOTEBOOKS» we intend to concentrate especially on the topic «The country and People in Albania». The Albanian people's art will occupy a prominent place in these articles because it commands great respect among the people of Germany and there is great interest in it. The editors hope that this album will help in compiling the issue of their periodical.

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ADDRESS OF THE BOARD OF EDITORS

«SHQIPËRIA E RE» R.LABINOTI, TIRANA, ALBANIA

FRONT COVER: Miner Dhimitër Papa, one of the most outstanding miners at the new mine in Valias in the vicinity of Tirana.

BACK COVER: In the Highlands in northern Albania

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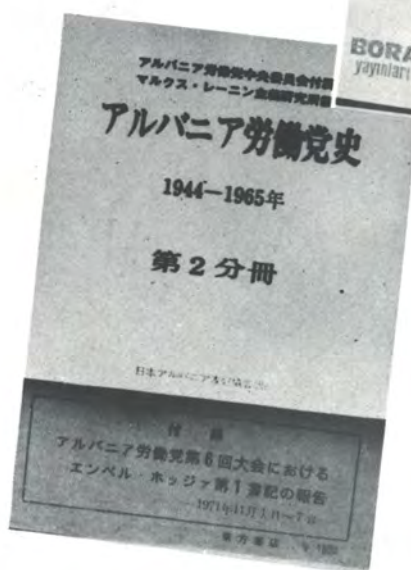
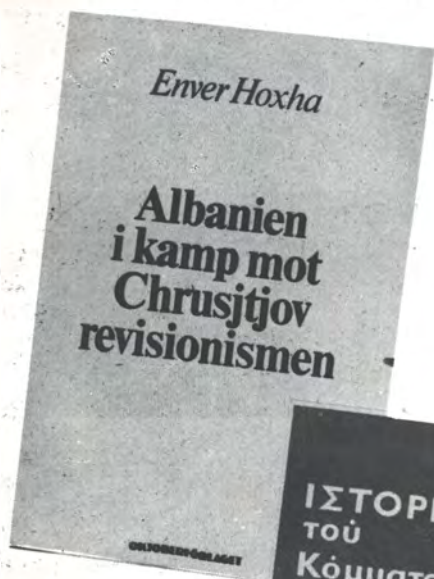
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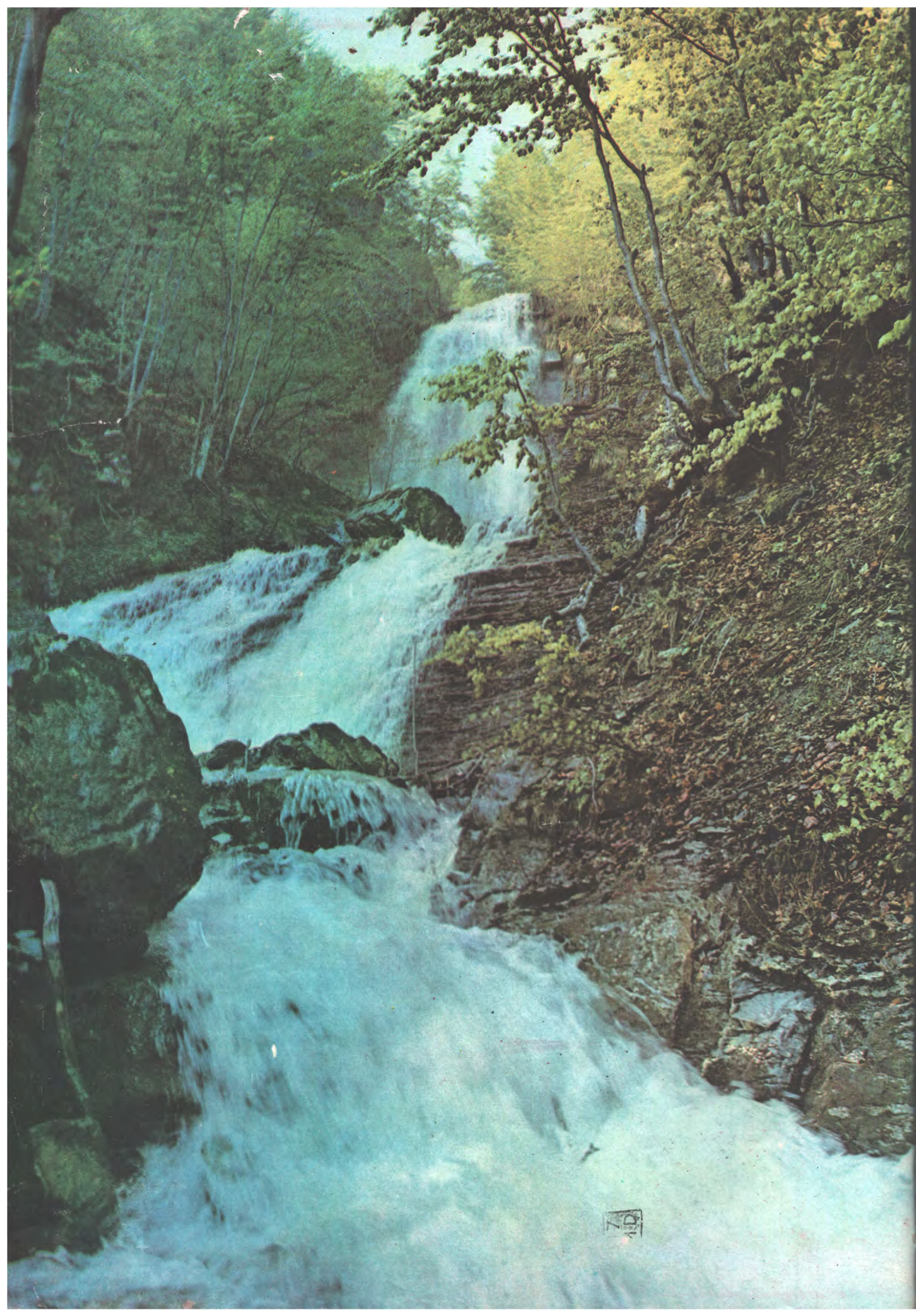
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THE «HISTORY OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA» HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

In recent years, the «History of the Party of Labour of Albania» has been translated and published in a number of countries like Greece, Turkey, Japan, Norway, and other countries. The interest shown by the revolutionary forces of the world in the history of our Party, in the Works of comrade ENVER HOXHA and the documents of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, which was held in November last year, gladdens the Albanian workers and encourages them to new victories on the road of socialist construction in Albania.





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