



NEW ALBANIA

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1977**

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NEW ALBANIA

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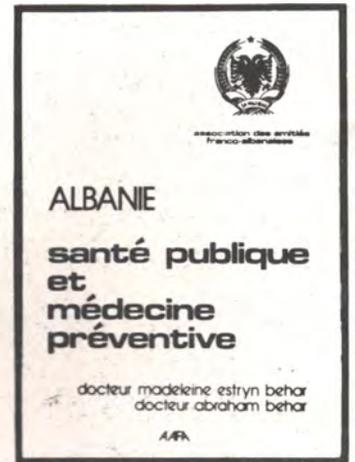
ADDRESS OF THE BOARD OF EDITORS

«Shqipëria e Re», R. Labinothi, Tirana, Albania.

FRONT COVER: Violinist Elvin Dhimitri, pupil of the IVth class of the «Jordan Misja» School of Arts. Photo: S. Xhillari.



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THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND THE 6th FIVE YEAR PLAN ARE APPROVED

The Fifth Session of the People's Assembly was held during the last days of last year. This Session of the supreme organ of the State was of special significance since it took up for discussion and approved the fundamental law of our State, the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

The Speech delivered on this occasion in the People's Assembly by the beloved leader of our Party and people, comrade Enver Hoxha, as well as the programmatic Report which he delivered at the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour Albania, bring out the ideological, political, juridical and social content, the distinctive features, the fundamental principles and colossal practical and theoretical importance of the new Constitution of our Socialist State.

The original draft of the new Constitution was made known to the public in January, 1976. For several months the broad masses of working people in town and countryside, under the direct guidance of the Party of Labour of Albania, acquainted themselves with the provisions of this draft-Constitution and held broad discussions to amend, supplement and improve it from the political, ideological, juridical, organizational and other aspects.

The new Constitution which was unanimously approved by the supreme organ of state power, the People's Assembly, embodies the basic teachings of the doctrine of scientific socialism of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, resolutely defended by our Party and implemented consistently in a creative way under the concrete conditions of our country. It clearly and loudly affirms and sanctions a number of major Marxist-Leninist principles, such as the class struggle, and the dictatorship of the proletariat, the undivided leadership of the Party of the working class, Marxism-Leninism as the predominant ideology, the direct participation in and supervision over the government by the working class and the broad masses of working people, the arming and military training of the whole people, the defence of national sovereignty, self reliance, proletarian internationalism, and so on. Thus, as comrade Enver Hoxha emphasised, the new fundamental law of our State gives «a complete tableau of our socialist society which is forging ahead on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism which have been firmly confirmed in our revolutionary practice».

On the basis of the life-giving teachings of Marxism-Leninism and the scientific summing up of the revolutionary experience of our Party and the construction of socialism, the new Constitution of our Socialist State synthesizes and sanctions the ways in which the socialist revolution will be carried steadily

forward to its ultimate victory, and the road will be blocked to the danger of revisionism, degeneration, peaceful counter-revolution and the restoration of capitalism. This experience of the great process of the continuous revolutionization which pervades every field and link in the entire life of our country and which is embodied organically in the whole content of the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, is an important contribution of our Party and people to the common treasury of Marxism-Leninism, to the living development of the theory and practice of scientific socialism.

In his Report on the new draft-Constitution, comrade Enver Hoxha said:

«In order to safeguard the independence of our Homeland in the economic field, to defend the socialist economic and social order and the socialist ownership over the means of production and keep it inviolate, the draft Constitution affirms that in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the granting of concessions to, the creation of foreign companies and other economic and financial institutions or joint ones with the monopolies of the capitalist, bourgeois and revisionist states, or taking credits from them, are prohibited».

«The new Constitution leaves no room for equivocal opinions or interpretations to the detriment of the freedom, independence, sovereignty and defence of the Homeland. At the same time it does not encroach upon the rights of any other State. The Constitution does not allow anyone, state or individual, to interfere in the internal affairs of our country, and conversely, nor does it allow our State of the dictatorship of the proletariat to interfere in the internal affairs of any other state».

«A socialist State like ours, which has such a democratic Constitution, cannot fail to have good, friendly relations with the peoples of the world».

«Our Constitution is not one which leads to the isolation of our country, as some pretend, but on the contrary, it attracts the love and respect of the peoples, of the democrats, of the progressive peoples and States».

At this same Session, the People's Assembly approved the 6th five year plan of the economic and cultural development of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for the period from 1976 to 1980.

The new five-year plan, drawn up on the basis of the directives of the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, will mark a further development of socialist construction in Albania. During this plan, too, the process of the socialist industrialization of the country will be constantly developed in breadth and depth. The further and percep-

tible improvement of the structure of industrial production, and especially, the more rapid development of certain products of special importance to our economy, will strengthen the leading role of industry, and raise it to a higher level, for the rapid development of the productive forces of our country.

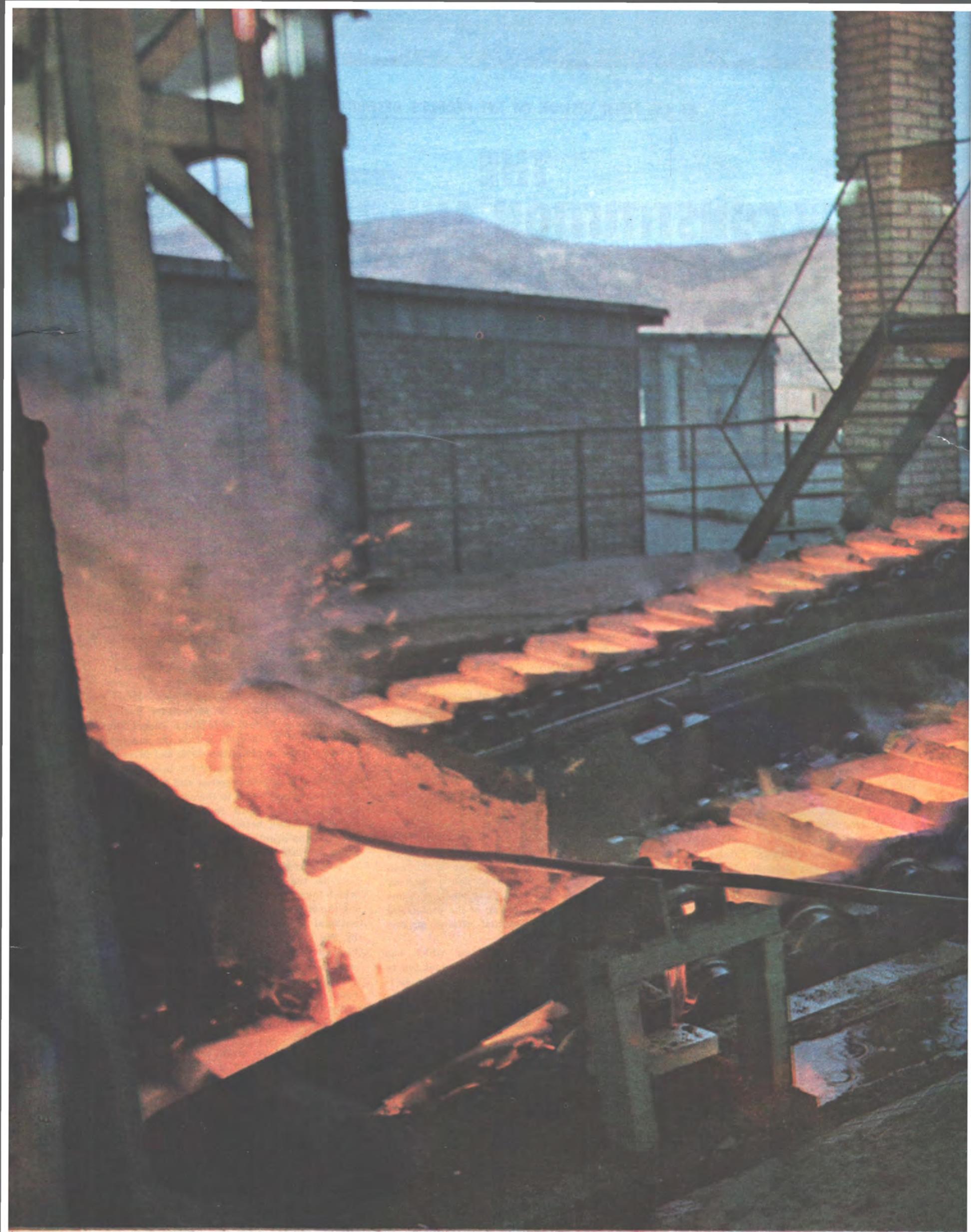
In 1980, as compared with 1975, total industrial production will increase by 41 to 44 per cent, total agricultural production by 38 to 41 per cent, while total investments for the five years taken together will be 35 to 38 per cent higher than in the 5th five-year plan. Overall goods transport in 1980 will be 30 to 32 per cent higher than in 1975 and the transport of passengers — 34 to 37 per cent. The productivity of labour in industry in 1980 will be 15 to 17 per cent higher than in 1975 and in construction — 12 to 13 per cent. National incomes in 1980 as compared with 1975 will increase by 38 to 40 per cent, the real income per head of population — 11 to 14 per cent, and the turnover of goods in retail trade — from 22 to 25 per cent.

The main objective of agriculture during this five-year period is to fully ensure the production of bread grain within the country. It has been planned from 1976 on, to meet all the needs of the country for bread grain, to increase the State reserves and to establish reserves gradually also in the agricultural economies, and to fulfil fodder requirements for the livestock better. In order to fulfil the needs of the people and of economy for bread grain, in 1980 grain production is envisaged to be about 60 per cent higher than in 1975.

With the vigorous general development which the people's economy will undergo during the 6th five-year plan, the rapid increase of national income based on the guidelines set by the 7th Congress of the Party, it is envisaged so that the standard of living of the working masses will not only maintain its present stability but will rise further. The fund of consumption will increase more rapidly than the birth rate of the population and will make up 65 per cent of the national income.

Priority will be given to increasing real per capita income of the peasantry during the 6th five-year plan. In 1980, the real per capita income of the peasantry will be more than 80 per cent of that of the urban population, as against 71 per cent in 1975. With the application of the measures envisaged, further steps will be taken towards narrowing the differences between town and countryside in the fields of education, culture, health communal services and so on.

The 6th five-year plan envisages important targets in the further development of education, culture and science, in line with the directives set by the 7th Congress of the Party.



The Metallurgical Complex under construction in Elbasan. The steel, into operation. The engineers, technicians and smelters of the Complex are busy and fitters, on their part, are striving to complete



СОВЕТСКИЙ
НАУЧНО-
ТЕХНИЧЕСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

УНИВЕРСИТЕТ
СОВЕТСКОГО
НАУЧНО-ТЕХНИЧЕСКОГО
УНИВЕРСИТЕТА

**pig iron, and coke plants and many others have already been put
mastering ever better the modern technology of smelting the metal. The builders
the other projects quickly and with good quality.**

Photo S. Xhillari



Members of the People's Council of N° 3 city quarter of the Capital at a meeting.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL OF THE CITY QUARTER

THOMA KERKESHI

listen to their opinions, to carry their will to the council and demand the precise implementation of the socialist law. This function does not ensure them any privilege or post which could be a source of supplementary gain for themselves or their relations. They fulfil all their needs from the incomes which they receive at the enterprises or institutions where they work, just like all the other citizens. As members of the council they have only the duty of serving the people. This is a fundamental characteristic of a council member. This feature has its beginnings in the years of the National Liberation War against the fascist occupiers and the traitors to the country, when, together with the destruction of the military forces of the enemy their state organs, too, were smashed to their foundations. The people created their own organs of self Government, the National Liberation Councils. The People's Councils of the present day are a continuation of the wartime National Liberation Councils.

The People's Council for City Quarter Nr. 3 contains many members who took part in the National Liberation Councils in the time of the war. Halit Xhari, Haxhi Farka, Distra Halimi and Eqerem Biba, now grey haired, have been continually active since those years. To the newer generation of Councils belong Semihë Kazazi, Kimete Lyti, Shyqëri Teska, Zybete Bylbyli, and others who, with the contribution which they have made and are still making to the building of the new Albania, have won the love and trust of the residents of the quarter.

Under the jurisdiction of Quarter Nr. 3, are several thousand residents, scores of various economic and service enterprises, commercial

Tirana is divided into ten administrative units. City Quarter Nr. 3 is one of them. Like all the other units, City Quarter Nr. 3 has its own People's Council which carries out the functions of government in this administrative unit, the quarter. It runs all social life in the political, economic, social-cultural fields, as well as in that of the defence of the Homeland and the preservation of the socialist juridical order.

The People's Council is elected once every three years by the inhabitants of the quarter,

by secret ballot. Candidates proposed for the council are broadly discussed by the residents. They are the sons and daughters of the people, outstanding as social activists or as people who have carried out conscientious work who thus enjoy the trust of the masses. These people include workers, intellectuals, armymen, elderly people and young people. Usually about half of them are either women or girls.

The members of the people's council, as representatives of the masses have the duty to serve the people consciously and loyally, to

units, as well as many social-cultural institutions. It can be understood that the Council has to deal with many different problems. It approves the plan and the budget, issues directives and takes decisions on all the various questions and problems which have to do with the smooth running of life in the Quarter. It handles the right to work for every citizen, which it rigorously applies planning the needs of the residents and those of the various enterprises and institutions and making such a distribution, that none of the residents are left unemployed. It competently handles the various problems which have to do with the regular supply of consumer goods for the residents it interests itself in placing the trade units as conveniently as possible for the residents, sees that the hours at which they function are suitable to the working people, that the sales people and suppliers are completely in order with their work and well behaved. The People's Council sees to the smooth running of schools, nurseries and kindergartens; it studies the needs of the people for these institutions so that no child is left without the relevant education and that every working mother has all the facilities for her children to be brought up in nurseries and kindergartens. The Council studies and approves the rights of the youth to study in the University, giving preference, in the first place, to those who are the children of workers and the most outstanding in their lessons. The People's Council also studies the requests of the working people for housing and decides on the order and time that these requests are to be fulfilled. It is in control of the health service, intervening and taking measures so that its service will be as swift and effective as possible, especially in the direction of the prevention of disease. It exercises control over measures of hygiene and sanitation within the residential blocks, the institutions, service units, and units of production. The People's Council runs the municipal services in the quarter, takes measures to see that the various services meet the needs of the people as well as possible, and sees that the common environment is planted with shrubs and trees and kept in good order. Official marriage ceremonies are conducted in the offices of the Council and the registration of births is also done there.

To handle daily matters, the People's Council has elected the Executive Committee, which is the executive and administrative organ of the People's Council on which it is dependent. It exercises the rights and duties of the People's Council between sessions of the Council, with the exception of these which by law are left to the authority of the People's Council alone. The Executive Committee renders account to the People's Council over its activity, presents its most important decisions for approval, and reports on the implementation of the decisions of the People's Council.

The Executive Committee has a very small apparatus. The decisions taken by the People's Council and the tasks it allocates are carried out by activating all the members of the Council and the masses of working people. To activate the maximum number of people in state affairs, as well as for the most thorough examination of problems, a number of permanent commissions have been set up, such as those of education, health, trade, municipal services, and so on. This means that all the members are informed about the work of the Executive Committee, are in contact with the masses, know the demands, suggestions and proposals of the electors, and at the same time, raise before the Council the problems that are worrying the masses, criticise shortcomings and correct them.

Apart from contacts during daily life, there are also organised contacts with the masses. For example a little while ago the Council examined some problems in regard to trade. The members of the Council had earlier analysed this problem in detail in cooperation with the masses. Joint meetings of residents, workers of the trade network, and the Council were organised on the basis of the residential blocks. Broad and helpful debates took place at these meetings and the most varied ideas were given for the improvement of the work in the future. The Councillors went to this meeting of the Council, not as simple spectators, but full of suggestions and proposals approved by the masses.



Nimete Mara is one of the distinguished members of People's Council of the No 3 city quarter. She enjoys the affection and respect of the electors.

es. This method means that the Council carries out the will of the masses in practice.

But the Councillors do not have to wait for the meeting of the Council before they can raise a problem. In daily life, many problems arise which demand rapid solution. In these cases, the members of the Council intervene with the Executive Committee of the Quarter and, when necessary, take part in its meetings or even request special meetings of the Executive Committee of the Presidium of the Council.

It is a rule of the work that the elected organs must analyse the problems which the masses raise and give a precise reply without delay.

It can happen that such problems go beyond the authority of the People's Council. In these cases the Council intervenes with the appropriate organs which may be of a higher rank. The People's Council follows up these questions until they are completely settled.

The People's Council relies in its activity on the organisation of the Democratic Front, the Women's Union and the Youth Union, as social organisations which unite broad strata and masses. It draws them into the running of the country in an organised manner. For example, as a result of ever increasing demands, the members of the Front of one block made suggestions for the further improvement of the health service. The People's Council organised meetings of the Front with the workers of this sector.

The suggestions made in these meetings were analysed in detail by the Executive Committee and the necessary measures taken.

All the state organs of the quarter are responsible, and render account, to the Council. At various periods the Council itself and its members render account to the masses of the electors on how they have carried out their duties as their representatives. The masses praise those members who have worked well, offer their opinions about the improvement of the work, and when it is seen that someone has lost the political trust of the masses and is not fulfilling his duties, or is acting in contravention to the law, the withdrawal of his mandate as a representative is demanded. The masses have the right to make any criticism of the work of the Councillors in any place or at any time. This means the putting into practice of that great principle sanctioned in the Constitution of the PSRA which says, "in all their work, the representative organs and other organs of the state rely on the creative initiative of the working masses, draw them into the governing of the country, and render account before them."

In April this year new elections to the People's Councils will be held. This campaign has been turned into a great political action for the further strengthening and democratisation of the local organs of statepower and for the timely carrying out of allocated tasks on the political, economic and social-cultural fronts. The lists of candidates for the People's Councils include the finest sons and daughters of the people tested in the heat of battle for National Liberation and the triumph of the People's Revolution as well as on the great front of socialist construction.

THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT

Prof. ALEKS BUDA
President of the Academy of Sciences
of the People's Socialist Republic
of Albania

Within a period which barely covers half of a man's life, our people under the guidance of the Party, brought about a transition which, in figurative terms, can be expressed as a transition from the oil lamp to the giants of hydro-electric power, from the primitive wooden plough to an agricultural technique of exemplary high yields, from medieval obscurantism and mass illiteracy to an equally massive technical scientific revolution.

The triumph of the people's revolution, fruit of the leadership of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania, became in this sense also the liberation of Albanian science, which was taking its first steps, liberation from the shackles in which it had been held back by the regimes of darkness, oppression and exploitation.

The Party never failed to lavish its care on those few intellectuals who had been brought up under the adverse conditions of the anti-popular regimes. Faced with major tasks for the construction of socialism in our liberated country, it had to place its technico-scientific knowledge and abilities on a scientific methodological basis in order to break through the bounds and limitations of narrow artisan work with spontaneous and subjective features, which up to that time, had characterised work in the field of studies.

The ranks of our scientific intellectuals were increased systematically every year with new

cadres from the ranks of the working masses, sons and daughters of workers and peasants. The creation of this new intelligentsia, loyal to the cause of revolution and socialism, its mastery in a frontal manner, of the Marxist-Leninist methodology as the only scientific basis, marked one of the important successes of the policy of the Party in the field of studies.

It was under these historical conditions, in the heat of an intensive ideological struggle, in the practical construction of socialism, that the new Albanian science was crystalized as a science based on Marxism-Leninism.

In a backward country, devastated by the war and threatened by famine and by open and hidden enemies, the setting up of our scientific institutions began intensively in the first years after liberation.

The broad view of the future on which the Party decided its whole policy in the field of culture and education, including that of science was clearly seen in comrade Enver Hoxha's speech at the Second Congress of the Democratic Front "...It is not a simple question of education and administration, but here we have before us a major political problem, which is linked with our future as a nation and a State".

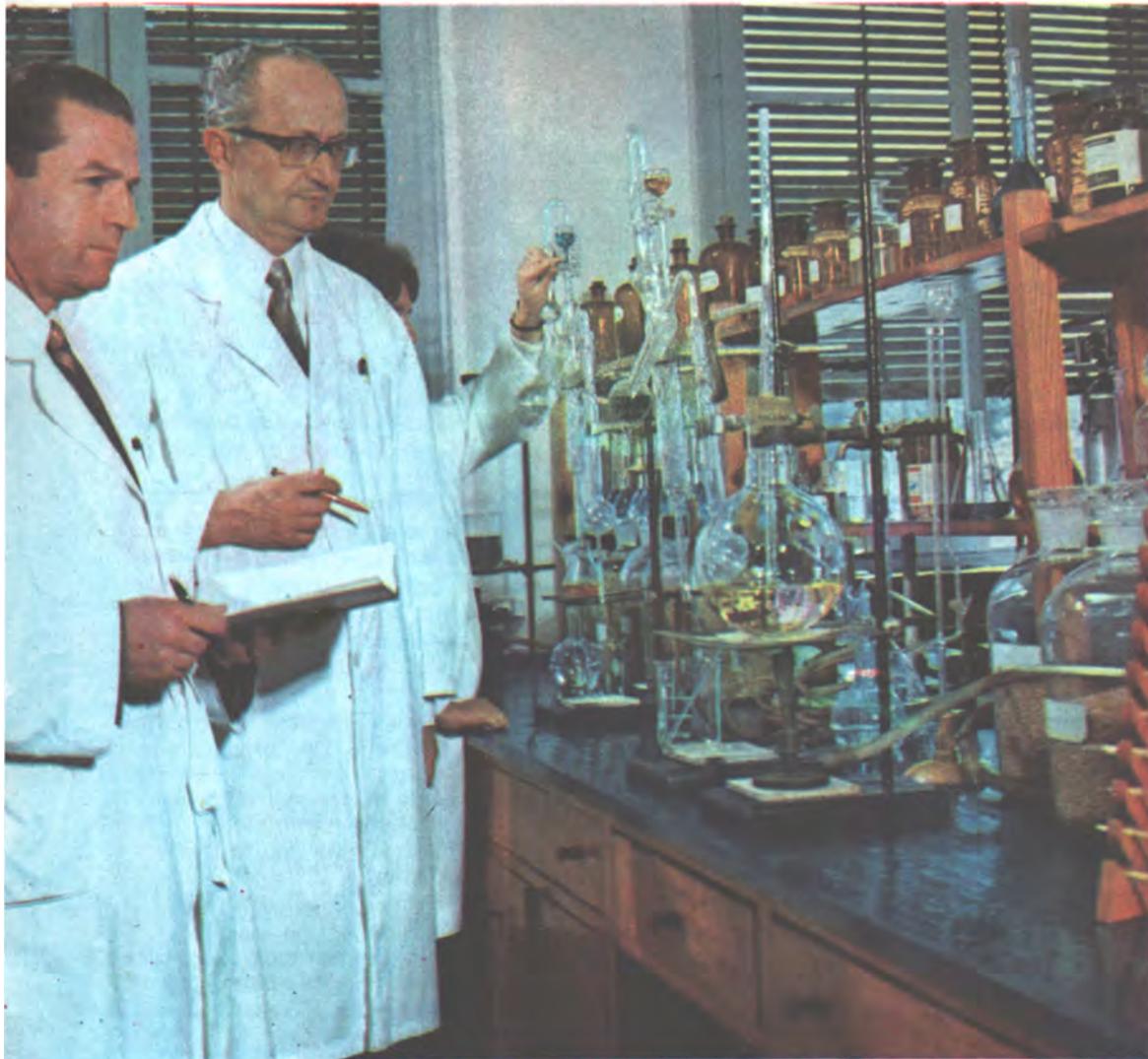
Of importance in this context is the formation of the first institute of studies in the history of Albania, on January 28, 1947 (later called the Institute of Sciences) which laid the foundations of organized scientific activity in our

country. The idea of the political and social responsibility of our science was clearly reflected in the Government decision which stressed that the new institute, inspired in its activity by the economic and social reforms of our State Power should make its contribution to the study and solution of current problems which were closely linked with the socio-economic and cultural development of our people.

The years rolled by and, on the basis of planning, the network of higher educational and scientific institutions was intensified, the number of workers increased and their level of qualification was raised, the range of problems which they tackled and the economic, social and ideological importance of the problems they solved increased, too. The Archaeological Ethnographic Museum was set up in 1948, the first institute of scientific research, the Institute of History and Linguistics was founded in 1955, and, in 1957, the principal teaching and scientific forces were brought together in the new University of Tirana, in order to cope with the growing needs of our country for the mass training of higher cadres. Beginning from the 60's up to our own days a series of institutions, faculties, stations, nuclei and technological bureaux have been set up which extended scientific experimentation among the masses and carried it down to the base giving ever more priority to research work in the field of technological and natural sciences. The

Prof. Muharrem Frashëri and lecturer Ilmi Bimbashi at work in the laboratory of industrial chemistry at the University. Photo: H. Gjiriti

The printing industry has been equipped with modern machinery. In picture: The rotary press sector at the new Polygraphic Complex.



OF ALBANIAN SCIENCE

decision of the 2nd Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania in 1972, which laid the foundations of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of Albania, the highest scientific institution in our country is one of the outstanding events in the history of our science.

It is only a few decades from the beginning of this course, but those years will remain always fresh in our memory with the romance of every revolutionary beginning. Those beginnings may seem modest compared with the present achievements. Those who participated in them may remember with what hesitation they started, but they are also witnesses of with what a sure and courageous hand the Party always guided them through the natural difficulties of birth and growth, as well as through the difficulties which the blockade of the 60's created. The principal documents of the Party, comrade Enver Hoxha's speech at the meeting with the representatives of the intelligentsia in the capital in 1962, comrade Enver Hoxha's speeches on cooperation and the technico-scientific revolution, on the great ideological problems of the deepening of the cultural revolution, the reports to the 6th and 7th Congresses and so on, stand like great sign posts on the road of the constant uplift of our science, firmly based on Marxism-Leninism.

Here, too, progress could not be realized without a fierce principled class struggle

against any alien manifestations in our concepts about scientific work, without overcoming an intellectualist and bureaucratic way of thinking which regarded science as a monopoly of a few, without fighting against liberal and bureaucratic attitudes, against self-satisfaction and pragmatism, which are sworn enemies of every true scientific work. Thanks to the constant guidance of the Party, within our Scientific institutions today there is an intense life with vigorous discussions of principle to further develop the class spirit of our science, to combat the anti-scientific, anti-Marxist and anti-Albanian concepts of the science of the bourgeois and revisionist countries, a great struggle which freed our science from the tutelage of the science of the capitalist and revisionist countries.

Today we can speak with pride about a genuinely Marxist-Leninist Albanian science, with its own defined fundamental methods, features and views. Here we are not speaking only of the aspect of figures, of the number of workers, of the works written or embodied in the practice of construction, but first and foremost, of its qualitative aspect, of a science which was built up so to speak, from nothing, on a terrain where mass illiteracy prevailed, of a new science which has become a source of strength for the technical, economic, and social progress of our socialist Homeland. With our own forces we have succeeded in forming a scientific thought of our own on the principal

problems of the life of our country and people, on problems which have to do with recognition and utilisation of the resources and assets of nature and our rich socialist national culture, which is so ancient and always fresh.

Proceeding from the teachings of the Party and comrade Enver Hoxha, our science did not shut itself away in "ivory towers" even if they were scientific institutions. It is steadily and systematically coming down to the grassroots, in order to be enriched with the scientific experience accumulated by the masses to turn its theoretical experience into the practice of construction. The spread of science among the masses has thus become one of the distinctive features of our science, embodying comrade Enver Hoxha's teaching that "the technical — scientific revolution in our socialist society cannot be carried forward by a few specialized research institutions alone", that "it is decisive in scientific experimentation to actively involve the broad masses of workers and peasants, the cadres and specialists of production".

The great and important tasks which the 7th Party Congress put forward in the field of science, are a clear program of work and a source of great inspiration for all the working people of science to devote all their efforts to the great cause for which our revolutionary Party strives, in order to achieve new victories in the service of the construction of socialism and communism in our country.

The control center of the power stations



Scientific experiments in fields planted to maize. Photo: N. Kodheli



VANGUARD MEDICAL SERVICE AIMING MAINLY AT PREVENTING DISEASE

Prof. **PAUL MILLIEZ**
Chairman of the France-Albania
Friendship Association

The book recently written by Madeleine and Abraham Behar appeared at the appropriate time. In their book they have summed up the wonderful work done during these last thirty years by a brave people who had been for a long time under the domination of foreigners: Greeks, Romans, Byzantians, Ottoman Turks, Italians and Germans. These people, who for centuries on end were able to preserve their own identity despite the slavery under which they suffered, who never lost their mother tongue the origin of which dates back far in the past and is still not well known, have created within these thirty years, in addition to a modern Republic, a medical service which is first of all preventive, and which, regardless of the simple means in use, stands today in the forefront of prophylaxis.

The Albanian people are the only people in the world, at least among the peoples I know, who have known how to protect themselves without any one-sidedness from all alien influences, while at the same time being prepared to accept and master all the scientific discoveries which they deem beneficial.

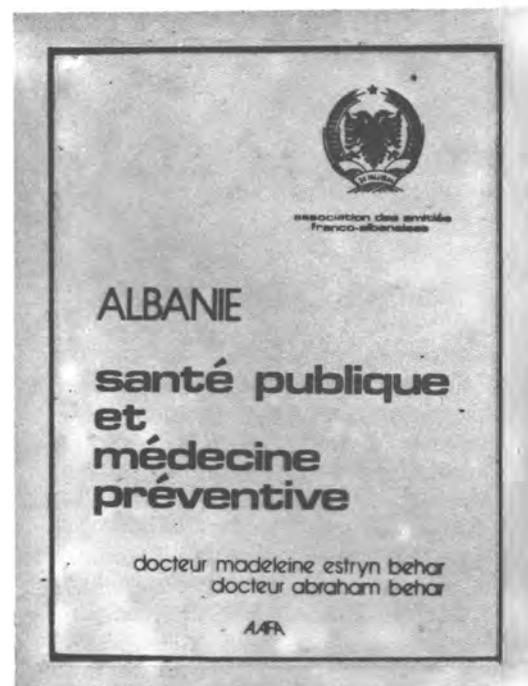
Suffice it to see how the Albanians wiped out the serious endemic and epidemic diseases which caused death and disease everywhere.

How did these men and women achieve such a result with only a handful of doctors and with limited financial means? This situation is due to the extraordinary qualities and the ideal which inspires the whole Albanian nation which is united as one behind its leaders who led to the second liberation which the Albanian people have achieved during the last few thousand years. This time it is clear that Albania has finally found the equilibrium which blocks the road to any new dependence. Albania owes its success to the struggle it undertook in all fields and especially in that of medicine, in which doctors, students, health personnel, nurses, volunteers, the masses, all to a man, strive to create a vanguard medicine which has the prevention of disease as its main aim. Nothing is done without the general approval of the whole people; no district of the country has been left to its fate; immediately after the cities medicine was taken to the countryside and great work was done to explain to the whole population the categorical demands of medicine. Young children were taught the rudiments of epidemiology and hygiene; every one was taught how diseases were taken and how they spread; at the same time, prophylactic work was kept at a high level, since it constitutes the best basis for the general protection of the health of the people.

The Albanians have not discarded any of the discoveries of their popular medicine. On the contrary, they have kept them when they yielded valuable results. They are the first to acknowledge the shortcomings which still exist in their medical service and, in my mind, they are the only people in the world who assess these shortcomings in a sound spirit.

These qualities which we attribute to the modern Albanian people existed as far back as 1820 at a time when the Albanians, the first in these regions, practised a valuable medicine and surgery especially Jenner's vaccination. Work hygiene, food hygiene, municipal hygiene, school hygiene, protection of mother and child are well developed today. A sector of the physiology of work and ergonomics is in full operation; most of the serums and vaccines are now produced in the country.

A pure medicine, practiced by doctors who are pure from all viewpoints, assisted by a large number of nurses, midwives, sanitary workers and by the workers themselves, some of whom carry out health functions, are the factors which account for the amazing rate at which a new modern medicine is developing in this country which for a long time had to struggle simply for survival.



PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**A book by the French doctors,
MADELEINE ESTRYN BEHAR
and ABRAHAM BEHAR**

Following the publication of the book «The ideological Revolutionization in the People's Republic of Albania Schooling, Education and Culture» the France-Albania Friendship Association has published the book «Public Health and Preventive Medicine in the People's Republic of Albania», written by the doctors Madeleine Estryng Behar and Abraham Behar, with an introduction by Professor Paul Milliez, Chairman of the France-Albania Friendship Association. The introduction is published with this article. The authors dedicate their book to comrade Enver Hoxha, who represents the path followed by the New Albania, and to the publicist, Gilbert Mury, who strove passionately, to his last breath, to make Albania known to France.

The book is divided into two parts. The first deals with certain aspects of the development of the health service in Albania prior to liberation, during the foreign occupation and the national liberation war, immediately after liberation, up to the present. Figures are given about the extension of the network of health institutions and the increase of the number of medical cadres from one five year plan to another. Stress is laid especially on the efforts made in our country to narrow the differences in the health service between town and countryside. The great results achieved in our country, in the struggle against malaria, syphilis, and tuberculosis, occupy an important place in the book. The first part closes with the text of the decision of the 11th

Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

In the second part the authors go more deeply into the preventive aspect of Albanian medicine, and analyse in detail the organization of, and the results achieved by health education among the people dwelling on the various forms of work done in this field, its broad extension among all the strata of the population etc. Then they deal at length with some problems of industrial hygiene and ergonomics, that is, the science which studies places of work and their transformation according to man's needs. After presenting some aspects of our labour legislation and the organization of industrial medicine in our country, proceeding from these achievements, the authors criticize the Taylor system in capitalist countries, which tries to turn the workers into slaves, and work into a heavy burden which degrades the workers spiritually and morally. Two separate chapters are devoted to the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, and the Institute of Popular Medicine, and the results they have attained in their work. An article by Llambi Zicishti, minister of Health in the People's Republic of Albania, published in the newspaper «Zëri i Popullit», on the prevention of occupational diseases and accidents at work, is included in this chapter.

Under the title «Hygiene and Prophylaxis — the Concern of the Whole People», the authors give their conclusions, underlining the importance of raising socialist consciousness not only through education methods but also through practical actions for preservation and protection of the health of the people. They come to the conclusion that it is the working class and the people that are the guarantee of preventive medicine, which, according to them, is a true revolution, «a refined form of the art of» caring for and healing».

The book ends with about 45 pages devoted to reprinting the report of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania at the 11th Plenum on the «Situation and the measures to be taken for the improvement of the health service», as well as the full text of Comrade Enver Hoxha's speech at this plenum.

When, we Albanian doctors, read such books we feel a special satisfaction, not only because we see in them a positive assessment of the work we have done so far on the far from easy road of affirming prophylaxis as the dominant principle in our socialist medicine, but also because we have sincere friends and wellwishers who, proceeding from the particular that they see with their own eyes when they visit our country arrive at generalizations of a great value to the genuine medicine of our time, a medicine of the people and for the people, which challenges not only the mercenary medicine of the capitalist and revisionist world, but also the obscurantist and anti-scientific medicine of the Illyches and Boskoves and others.

We are delighted when we read in the preface so lovingly written by the greatly respected professor Milliez, the chairman of the «France-Albania Friendship Association», that we are not intoxicated by the successes achieved and that we are conscious of the shortcomings which we still have in our health service, which, in time, we shall certainly overcome.

The publication in this book of the materials of the 11th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, and especially comrade Enver Hoxha's speech at this Plenum, increases its value, because in these materials one clearly sees the importance our Party attaches to the protection of the people's health, especially to the preventive aspect of our health service, which can be considered as the general line of the Party's policy in the field of health.

The authors, the French doctors, Madeleine and Abraham Behar, deserve to be congratulated on their competent interpretation of the facts and figures, they have dealt with, their skilful arrangement of the material, the sharpness of their polemical tone aimed at some negative tendencies of ergonomics in the capitalist countries, their rich language and clarity of thought, the love and sympathy they show for our people, especially for the health workers of our country.

Such books broaden and deepen the friendship between the French and the Albanian people.

ZISA CIKULI
doctor



The new polyclinic in the Fier district.



This is the new hospital opened in recent years in Përmet.



The new Maternity Hospital in Tirana.



The new hospital for the treatment of infective diseases built in Tirana.

NEW PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

Large funds are spent every year for building hospitals and new health institutions. During the five-year period 1971-75 more than 20 new hospitals and health institutions were built in 17 major centers. Tens of other smaller health institutions were built in villages and minor towns. At the same time, many other institutions in towns and villages were extended and improved.

Today, the major centers of habitation in town and countryside have their own hospitals with the necessary facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

NEW RECORDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

FIGURES AND FACTS

Students of the Engineering Faculty doing practical work in the branch of geodesy. Photo: H. Gjiriti



Thousands of workers and cooperative members attend the full-time and part-time affiliated branches of the University of Tirana and the other higher Institutes which have been opened in a number of cities of the country like Korça, Vlora, Lushnjë, Berat, Elbasan, Shkodra, Durrës and so on, and all the necessary conditions have been created for them to pursue their higher studies. The number of specializations as well as the number of students in our higher schools have kept increasing. From 41 specializations before 1970 today specialists are trained in 58 profiles. The number of cadres of higher training up to 1975 was 32.000. During the last five-year plan, the number of cadres trained in full or part-time higher schools was nearly double that before 1970. By 1980 it is expected to train an additional 18,000 higher cadres.



During a class in one of the auditoria of the University of Tirana. Photo: R. Baholli

The first higher school, the 2-year Teacher Training Institute, was opened in Tirana a little over thirty years ago, on December 20, 1946. Up to that time Albania had had no higher schools. The triumph of the revolution and the establishment of the People's State Power created the objective conditions for the solution of problems in the field of education. A number of tasks were set for creating a new and complete educational system, with all the necessary links, in the service of revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. In August 1946, the educational reform was proclaimed, which laid the basis of our socialist school system. Hundreds of schools were opened immediately. The unified year and secondary schooling marked great progress. The 2-year Teacher Training Institute played a great role in training new cadres for these schools.

In 1951 the Higher Institute of Agriculture, the Higher Teacher Training Institute, and that of Engineering which played an important role in raising the educational, cultural and scientific level of our workers, were opened.

The opening of the University in Tirana in 1957 marked a further success in the education and training of higher cadres in order to meet the requirement of our socialist economy and culture for specialists. The number of higher schools continued to increase during the last five-year plan period (1970-1975). Two 3-year Teacher Training Institutes were opened in El-

basan and Gjirokastra, as well as the Higher Agricultural Institute in Korça. In order to raise the ideological, scientific and vocational level of the working class and the cooperative peasantry, in addition to full-time higher education, part-time higher education has also been greatly extended. The affiliated branches of the Tirana University and the other higher institutes which have been opened in a number of cities of our country like Korça, Vlora, Lushnje, Berat, Elbasan, Shkodra, Durrës and others are attended each year by thousands of workers and cooperative members who have been provided with all the necessary conditions for continuing higher schooling such as reduced hours of work, leave of absence for exams, and so on. To respond better to the growing needs of our economy and culture, apart from the increase of the number of students the number of specialties covered by the higher schools has also been increased. As against 41 specialties up to 1970, today there are 58. The total number of higher cadres trained up to the end of 1975 was 32,000. The number of cadres trained in full-time and part-time higher schools during the last five-year plan period is equal to nearly twice the number of all the cadres trained before 1970. It is forecast that an additional 18,000 higher cadres will be trained by 1980.

The cadres trained in our higher schools are at work in all parts of our country. They are responding ever better to the needs of the de-

velopment of our socialist economy and culture.

Important successes have been achieved in strengthening the content of the higher schools and the revolutionary formation and tempering of the younger generation with revolutionary communist features, with a sound Marxist-Leninist world outlook. For the further revolutionization of our school, other important successes were achieved during recent years in strengthening the Marxist-Leninist ideological axis in our higher schools in the implementation of the three components, lessons productive labour and physical and military training. Perceptible improvements have been made in the new school programs in strengthening the Marxist-Leninist subjects and the national and scientific character of the school, in linking it with the revolutionary practice of the socialist construction and defence of the Homeland. Within a very short period over 700 new textbooks were drafted in which radical changes have been made as regards their ideological content, scientific level and their national physiognomy.

The 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania (November 1976) set main tasks for our higher schools for the deepening of all the work for the further revolutionisation of higher education, giving priority to the strengthening of the ideological content in all the educational work and lessons.



Pupils of the 3rd class of the secondary school of the Agricultural Cooperative of Divjaka in the Lushnja district.

REPLYING TO A LE

Sometime ago our Editors received a letter from 16 students of class 2F of the 1975-76 school-year of the secondary school at Cutro in the Italian Province of Catanzaro. In their letter they write among other things: «We are students of the secondary school in Cutro of the Catanzaro Province and attend the second class. We are studying Albania. The textbook writes: «Because of its mountainous nature, its rugged and inhospitable shape, and its historical traditions Albania is probably the poorest and most wretched country in Europe...» In another chapter of the book we read: «On the opposite shores of the Adriatic there are marshes and swamps infected with diseases», and further on: «The lack of roads of communications (the country has only 150 kilometers of railway) and very little exchange of trade with the outside world, are another indication of the low level of development of the country».

Our professor has often told us that what we have read in the book is not true, because Albania is a modern country where the workers are in power and the people are guaranteed employment and live well.

We are sons and daughters of farmers and workers. Our fathers are obliged to emigrate abroad because there is no work here, because life is far from good, here.

We want to know more about Albania, to have more news about it, what the people do and how they live, what the Albanian youth of our age study, and many other things.

The letter is signed by: Rizzo Stefano, Rossi Antonio, Lorduca Antonio, Callia Salvatore, Annunzio Salvatore, Tiratta Alfonso, Brugellis Salvatore, Muto Coteri, Sana Giuseppe, Grande Domenico, Sabattini Domenico, Tripoli Goltono, Grande Domenico Giovanni, Spagnolo Francesco, Galdi Alcherio, Stivaro Salvatore.

The Editors sent the letter to a corresponding class of the secondary school of the Divjaka Agricultural Cooperative in the Lushnja district.

We are publishing the reply of the Divjakastudents:



LETTERS FROM ITALY

Dear Friends!

We are pupils of the 3rd class of the secondary school of the Divjaka Agricultural Cooperative. Our village is situated on the eastern shore of the Adriatic and, precisely, opposite your Province of Puglia.

We read your letter with great interest. We were impressed by your sincerity and wish to learn the truth about our country. We know that there are many dark forces in the world which try to hide the reality of present-day Albania and present it with the appearance it had half a century ago. But those times have gone. We are too young to have lived through those difficult days. We know them only from what our parents relate, from the exhibits in our museums, from the works of our novelists, poets, dramatists, painters and artists. We can tell you a lot about Albania of our own days. Your professor is right; he tells you the truth. In our country the working class is in power in close alliance with the working peasants, with the revolutionary intelligentsia, and with all the progressive forces. This is the greatest achieve-

ment of our people. And this was achieved through a very bitter armed struggle against the fascist and nazi forces of occupation as well as against reactionary feudal-bourgeois forces. Up to a few weeks ago our country was a People's Republic. The People's Assembly approved the new Constitution and proclaimed our country «The People's Socialist Republic of Albania». Dear Friends. You may come across a copy of this document and through it, you will understand better what socialist Albania represents.

In this reply we cannot enumerate all the unprecedented transformations which our country has made as compared with the past. We will confine ourselves to only a few significant facts. It is true that the National-liberation War, led by the Communist Party of Albania gave political power to the workers, but the working class could not have maintained its State Power without carrying out revolutionary transformations in the economic, educational and social fields and in every other direction. The exploiting classes were liquidated in our country. Industry, agriculture, commerce and communications be-

came the property of all the people. Before liberation, that is, before November 29, 1944, Albania had a very weak industry. Today our country has a modern multi branched industry. From underground it extracts oil and gas, coal, chromium, copper and iron-nickel. According to the results of our geological studies, our rocks do not lack bauxite, phosphorites, polymetals and other minerals. Last year the iron and steel industry produced the first Albania iron and steel. The electrical industry precedes all other branches of industry. A hydro-electric power-plant is under construction on the Drini river which will have a capacity of about five hundred thousand kilowatts. This will be the fifth hydro-power station built during the last two decades. Albania is rapidly developing its chemical industry with plants in Laç, Fier, Vlora, Ballsh and other centers. Our country is now ahead of a number of neighbouring countries in the use of artificial fertilizers per hectare. Our textile industry meets the needs of the country and exports some of its products. The building, timber processing food-processing and other industries have also been developed. ▶



Mechanized means are being used more and more in agriculture. They have become an important factor in easing the work of the farmer and increasing production.



To fight harmful insects the most modern preparations and means are used in the fields which were formerly swamps. Aerial spraying of grain crops, with insecticides in the plains of the Lushnja district.

In the field of agricultural development, this year for the first time in its history Albania, a mountainous country, locally met the whole year's requirements for bread grain. The foreign trade of our country has developed vigorously despite the ruthless blockade imposed by the imperialist and revisionist circles. You find our chromium, copper, oil, textiles, on the markets in Europe and other continents. Even the vegetables from our cooperative are known in Central and Northern Europe.

In the field of education and culture we need only say that illiteracy has long been abolished in our country, that 8 year schooling has become compulsory and we are moving towards compulsory secondary schooling, too. Our University and higher institutes of learning give the country thousands of cadres of higher training every year. In our country all the villages were electrified as far back as 1970. Every Albanian home, even in the most remote village, is lit by electricity. Every village is linked with motor roads and a telephone network. Before liberation we had no railways. Today the network of internal railway, line within the Metallurgical Complex in Elbasan alone extends about 60 kilometres. Before liberation the average life span was only 38 years whereas today it is 68 years.

Dear friends! we could write at great length about our country. But we wish to dwell somewhat longer on the revolutionary transforma-

tions that have taken place in our village in the Divjaka cooperative. We believe that Divjaka in itself reflects the Albanian reality of our days.

Our village is a very old one. It is situated on a strip of land along the Adriatic coast (41° longitude and 19° 35' latitude). The new white houses arranged, according to a well-studied plan stand at the foot of the hills which bear the name of our village. To the north of the territory of our cooperative runs the Shkumbini river while to the south lies the Karavasta lagoon. On the east there used to be the Terbufi swamp, which covered thousands of hectares of land. Today in place of the swamp lie fertile fields which make up one of the granaries of Albania. Before liberation the village remained surrounded by water for nine months of the year during which it could be called an island, while the other three months it could be called a peninsula. In a document exhibited in the local museum we read: "January of the year 1938. A terrible night: the Shkumbini waters rose and spread over the fields. The village was flooded. People and animals were drowned. The waters carried away the mud and wattle thatched huts..." Such was the fate of Divjaka before the establishment of our People's State Power — a miserable village with 300 huts and 2000 inhabitants, suffering from hunger and malaria. The village was the property of King

Zog. No day passed by without the church bells announcing a death, since diseases wrought havoc. The average span of life was barely 35 years. There was one elementary school in the village but it was attended by only those few pupils who could afford it. Our parents did not know how to read or write a letter.

In his great novel, "The Dead River", our wellknown contemporary writer, Jakov Xoxe, has given a realistic and beautiful tableau of the bitter past of these regions of ours.

What we want to point out most is the present, reborn Divjaka. Hopes for this rebirth arose at the time when the Albanian Communist Party came into being. We say this because no achievement, no progress of ours could be thought of without the guidance of the Communist Party (now the Party of Labour) of Albania. Every achievement of ours is linked with the name of this Party and that of its beloved leader, Enver Hoxha. All Albania rose at the call of the Party for armed struggle against the fascist occupationists. Our Divjaka also provided its partisans and made its contribution to the war with the lives of many of its sons and daughters. Now songs of praise are sung to them and their work and memory are deeply honoured.

Only thirty-two years have passed since the country was liberated and the People's State Power established. And all these transforma-

Every year Divjaka is embellished with beautiful new houses for the cooperative members.

In one of the classrooms of the secondary school in Divjaka.





Part of the land of the Divjaka agricultural cooperative is planted to cotton.



The cooperative members of Divjaka are outstanding growers of tomatoes. They raise them in modern hot houses and take early crops for the home market and for export.

tions have taken place during these years. The land was taken from the big landowners and given free of charge to those who tilled it. In our fields big canals were opened, the swamps were drained and the network of irrigation canals was extended. Powerful pumping stations were set up to draw off superfluous waters and discharge them into the sea. High stop banks were built along the Shkumbini river bank and a forest belt was planted. The collectivization of agriculture created the conditions for modern agriculture. From 500 hectares of land poorly worked with primitive means, we have nearly 3,500 hectares of land under cultivation. The main field work has been mechanized and the most modern scientific methods are now in use in agriculture and animal husbandry. Crops have been greatly increased. We must make special mention of the cultivation of cotton and vegetables which were not known at all in the past. Our secondary school has an agricultural profile. And we take part in the technical-scientific revolution in agriculture. We have a school farm where we carry out our practice. Besides this, we take part in special mass actions directly in the fields alongside our parents. Our schoolwork, as in all the schools of Albania, is based on the three fundamental objectives which we call the triangle-lessons-work in production-physical and military training.

The fine results attained in our agricultural economy have exerted their influence on raising the standard of living of our cooperative members. Life in our village has undergone a radical change. The 300 huts of the past have been replaced by 700 beautiful houses, built of bricks and full of light and in pleasant surroundings. They are supplied with running water brought from artesian wells some kilometers away. Electricity from the national grid of the Republic lights every home and makes the work of our families lighter. Radios, TV sets, washing machines, sewing machines are normal equipment in our homes.

Today our village has two 8 year schools and our agricultural secondary school with a daily attendance of about 1,500 students (day students and those who attend evening classes). The teaching staff is made up of 60 cadres, mostly of medium and University training. Our school turns out nearly 60 specialists of secondary agricultural training every year, without mentioning those other young people of our village who are studying in the other schools of the Republic to come out as engineers, agronomists, doctors and artists.

Our village, which had not even a nurse before liberation, has a local hospital today with 33 beds, employing 6 doctors with university training and 15 assistant doctors with secondary school training. In our cooperative there are 3 maternity homes with consultation centres for mothers, 4 creches for children up to 3 years

of age, and 5 kindergartens for children from 3 years up to school age. The medical service in our country is free of charge to all the citizens. In our cooperative there is a modern house of culture with halls where the amateur groups of artists give performances, a cinema hall, a recreation games hall, a library, a museum, and so on. The network of retail trade and service units meets all the needs of the village folk. The cooperative is linked with the national highways and the District centre by asphalt motor roads. The forest belt along the shore made up mostly of pine trees, is a great asset and one of the most beautiful places for summer and winter holidays and for hunting. A beautiful beach has been developed there.

Dear Friends,

We wanted to give a panorama of the transformation of our village. We want to tell you also, that each one of us is full of optimism and revolutionary enthusiasm, love for our socialist Homeland, for the Party and comrade Enver Hoxha, and the spirit of proletarian internationalism. We feel very close to the millions of workers and peasants of the world who are fighting for their rights. We are convinced that the cause of proletarian revolution, the cause of socialism will triumph.

We send you our best greetings!

The pupils of the 3rd class of the secondary school at Divjaka-Lushnja District — Albania

Pre-school children taking their walk in the fields.



The headquarters of the Divjaka agricultural cooperative. Here stand the buildings of the House of Culture, the trade network, the health service and various communal services.





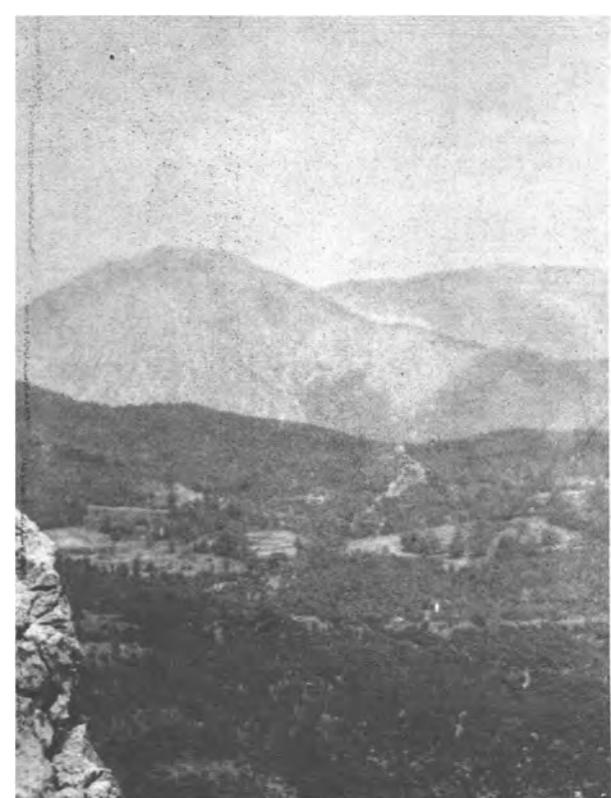
Amateur prospector, Nikolla Mushaka from Tropoja in search of minerals in the northern Alps.

GEOLOGISTS WITHOUT DIPLOMAS

HALIL OSMANI, economist

Amateur prospectors and geologists visiting an exhibition of useful minerals.





First deputy-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, comrade Adil Çarçani hands the certificate of honour to the amateur prospector of minerals, Nikolla Mushaku, at the National Meeting which was held at the end of the year with the most outstanding amateur prospectors.

The geologists are the pioneers of the socialist industrialization of the country.

Well aware of their role, the geologists of our country have worked with courage and devotion to surmount the difficulties of growth and to open new fronts to industrial development and the whole national economy.

Relying mainly on their own efforts, the Albanian geologists have thrown more and more light on the secrets of our soil and what lies below it. Step by step they have discovered valuable resources which have greatly increased the values of our national assets, have smashed the ruthless imperialist-revisionist blockade and strengthened the economic independence of our homeland.

Before liberation, Albania had 2 or 3 small mines with little production. The profession of a geologist was almost unknown. Whereas today, the Albanian geologists are found all over the country and our country has an advanced multi branched industry which carries out the full cycle of copper processing and complex oil refining and produces, iron and steel. Albania occupies fourth place in the world in the production of chromium ore.

In addition to many teams of professional geologists, a place of honour is occupied also by the amateur prospectors for useful minerals, the «geologists without diplomas». They have always made an outstanding contribution to the discovery of many mineral deposits and to Albanian geology in general. The geological service in our country is faced with the important task of not only traversing, but of studying every inch of our land, to discover the treasures within it and put them at the service of the people's economy. Under these conditions the great principle of relying firmly on the broad masses of working people finds its practical application in geological research, too. At the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha set the task: «The geologists must boldly traverse every inch of our mountains and plains shoulder to shoulder with amateur prospectors, and assess with the greatest earnestness every trace, every sample, and every discovery».

Experience to date has shown that the broad and permanent participation of the masses in looking for traces of useful minerals is an important factor in finding and uncovering deposits of chromium, copper, coal, and iron-nickel.

In a number of cases, the successes achieved in the field of prospecting for deposits of useful

minerals began with information given by amateur prospectors of various ages and walks of life — workers, cooperative members, vineyard workers, students, pensioners, shepherds, cadres. It was precisely the assistance of the amateur prospector, Xhavid Nergu, that led to the discovery of an important copper deposit at Gjegjan in Kukës, in northern Albania. The information of another amateur prospector, Skënder Xhuglini, led to the discovery of coal at the place called Mëzez, and so on.

It is due to the information and contribution from amateur prospectors Nikolla Mushaku, Sali Pançi, Fetah Sulejmani, Pjetër Doda, Kamber Dyli, Ali Hasa, Baki Shaqe, Dish Pjetri, Ahmet Reçi, Ymer Hajdari, Xhevat Krosnishti, and tens of others, that work is being done on a number of mineral outcrops and geological projects all over Albania for assessing their mineral content and proving deposits of useful minerals.

Although the amateur prospectors are of different ages and walks of life, ranging from young pioneers to pensioners, from workers and cooperative members to leading cadres of the Party and of the State, all over the country they are united by one and the same purpose, the desire to make their modest contribution to the discovery of the underground resources in the interests of the people.

Sixty-five — year old Nikolla Mushaku from the district of Tropoja is one of these prospectors of useful minerals. At 15 years of age he had a passion for collecting stones. «At that time», he recalled. «I used to tend goats, over the hills and streams along the Drini river and I was fascinated by the beauty of the stones I found. The variety of colours made me collect and keep them. Of course I had no idea of their value, but the occasion arose for me to continue the work I had begun with more fervour. In 1935, a stranger came to our village, Berisha, in search of minerals. They told me he was an English geological engineer named Smith. Having learned that I collected stones he was interested to know what kinds of stones I had gathered and where I had found them. He showed me some specimen he had with him and said he would pay me for my services. I told him I would not sell the stones of my country and left him there and then».

After the liberation of the country, a team of Albanian geologists came to the village of Berisha. A peasant approached the tents of the geologists and offered his services. He was Nikolla Mushaku. At the National Meeting of

amateur prospectors for useful minerals which was held in Shkodra in October 1976, Nikolla said: «As long as my eyes and legs do not fail me, I'll be looking for the precious stones of my country».

The participation in and contribution to geological research by the amateur prospectors is not only notification of finds though, this and information are of importance to the geologist working on a project. But the many years of experience of our amateur prospectors goes beyond this. They make a serious contribution to going from the known to the unknown in the study of the geological phenomena. The amateur prospectors have provided a number of ideas and facts about the prospects of various mineral stones or deposits. They are an example of the combination of practical experience with scientific studies and facts.

A number of steps of a technical-organizational nature have been taken to place the work of the amateur prospectors on a sounder and more organized basis and to ensure continuation of their geological prospectors. They are kept in close contact, a warm environment has been created for them, the workers of the geological enterprises consider them as fellow workers, a number of popular practical handbooks for them have been written, published and distributed on prospecting for useful minerals like chromium, copper, coal and so on. Groups of amateur prospectors have been organised in villages and districts and, from time to time activists meetings are held on a zonal, district or Republic level, in which the opinions and good experiences are exchanged. Exhibitions with samples of useful minerals have been sent to at the centres of agricultural cooperatives, of military detachments and schools and, above all, the work of the amateur prospectors has been highly praised by the Party and the Government as a valuable contribution to the discovery of underground riches and putting them at the service of the Homeland and the socialist construction. For this they have been awarded titles of honour, the badge «distinguished in geological research», and so on.

The participation of the broad masses of working people in geological research work is a further revolutionization of all the work of the Albanian geological service rejecting the theory that geological science is the work of a few learned men in their offices, because, as the Party teaches us, the problems of geology, are not the problems of a group of technical specialists, but the problems of all the masses.



THE GALLERY OF FIGURATIVE ARTS



«CHEEK BY JOWL WITH THE PEOPLE»

Zef Shoshi:

THE SONG FESTIVAL

At the end of December 1976, the traditional musical-artistic activity, the 15th Radio-TV song Festival was held.

It attracted the attention of the art-loving masses as well as of the professional and amateur



composers and performers.

24 songs were presented most of which were well received by the public. They dealt with current themes which are of interest to our art-loving masses and were well performed artistically with a variety of styles and individualities. Through their motifs ran our new man who is striving to build the new socialist society.

The songs sung at this festival sounded like a beautiful epilogue in which the mass happiness and the optimism of all our people could be heard.

It must be said that this festival brought more new things from the professional standpoint of the artistic treatment of the popular motif. It was not accidental that the motifs of many of these songs were mastered immediately by the masses of our art-lovers.

At the end one first prize, two second prizes, and three third prizes, were awarded.



EARTHQUAKES IN ALBANIA

EDWARD SULSTAROVA



The pronounced seismic activity of Albania, like that of many other regions of the Balkans, has constantly attracted the attention of various chroniclers, newsmen and scholars.

Data on earthquakes in Albania are found not only in chronicles and historical documents but are also inscribed in works of art. A bronze work of the year 217 of our era by Gimla Donina portrays Apollonia and the symbol of a mountain which, in this case, represents an earthquake. This symbol has been presented also on the occasion of the catastrophic earthquake which shook Apollonia during the 2nd or 3rd century before our era. On a stone tablet found at the church of St. John Vladimir in Elbasan we read: «It should be known that this temple was razed to the ground at the time of the reign of His Highness Karl Topia the First, who reigned over the whole of the Albanian land...» (1380).

The archaeological findings made in Durrës, Butrint and other sites also portray the damage caused by earthquakes in these zones. From archaeological and historical data it turns out that Durrës (ancient Durrah) was devastated a number of times by earthquakes, in 334 or 345, 506, 1273. According to Pachymeri, the 1273 earthquake reduced the city of Durrës to ruins. In 1153, according to Selinger, Butrint was demolished by an earthquake, the traces of which are visible to this day.

During the 19th century there were many powerful earthquakes which caused damage and destruction in Vlora, Berat, Elbasan (in 1851), in Shkodra (1855), in Delvina (1858), Kudhës in Himara (1893) and others.

On June 1st, 1905, Shkodra and its surroundings were shaken by a very powerful earthquake (force 9). Within 10 to 12 seconds, it razed to the ground, 1,500 houses in the city of Shkodra alone and heavily damaged 6,500 others killing 250 persons and injuring about 600 others. The earthquake also damaged Rozafa castle, causing cracks on the ground through which water oozed out. The earthquake was felt by people as far away as Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece and Italy. The main shock was followed by hundreds of after shocks which lasted up to July 1906. In summer 1972, while taking stock of the photographs by the Shkodra patriot Marubi, 40 negatives were found taken immediately after the earthquake. This material is of great value in assessing the force of this earthquake. It took a long time to heal the wounds from this earthquake.

Very powerful earthquakes occurred in the region of the Lake Ohri on February 18, 1911 (force 9), in Tepelena on November 27, 1920 (force 9), in Durrës on December 16, 1926 (force 8-9), in the Vlora region on November 21, 1930 (force 8-9), in Korça on January 28, 1931 (force 8-9), in Peshkopia on August 27, 1942 (force 8-9).

Before liberation an earthquake was a dreadful misfortune for the people for they suffered a long time being left without food and shelter. The small funds allocated by the anti-popular Zog regime to aid those affected and the contributions made by the people for this purpose, were stolen by the officials of the commissions set up allegedly to eliminate the damage caused by the earthquake. This is what a newspaper of the time dated April 21, 1931 wrote after the powerful earthquake which shook Korça on January 28, 1931: «The Commission charged with aiding those damaged by the earthquake gave a sumptuous banquet... while the

hungry poor are languishing in tents and shanties and the contributions of aid are spent by the commission to drink champagne... The commission squandered the money given by the people to provide food and shelter for those who suffered from the earthquake...» («Liria Kombëtare», Geneva, April 21, 1931).

During these last 20 years, our country has been hit by powerful earthquakes which have caused considerable damage. Very powerful earthquakes occurred on September 1, 1959 in Lushnja (force 8-9), on May 26, 1960 in Korça (force 8-9), on March 18, 1962 in Fier (force 8), on November 30, 1967 in Dibra (force 9), on April 3, 1969 in Mallakstra (force 7-8), on November 22, 1975 in Dhivër, Saranda and elsewhere (force 7).

Our Party and People's State Power have shown special concern for eliminating the consequences of the earthquakes. As a result of the powerful aid of our socialist State and the lofty socialist solidarity of our people, the consequences of earthquakes have been eliminated within a short period.

On November 30, 1967, the Dibra and Librazhdi districts were shaken by a very powerful earthquake (force 9) which caused 12 deaths and 174 injured, 6336 houses were damaged, 534 of which were completely

destroyed. By special decree of the Council of Ministers it was decided that all the houses which had been demolished and damaged would be rebuilt or repaired within one month (December 1967) at the expense of the state. To carry out this decision the entire people rose to their feet and in less than 25 days, in the fierce cold of December 1967, and on a rugged mountain terrain 6336 houses and other buildings which had been demolished and damaged by the earthquake were rebuilt or repaired, and thus in a very short time, the situation became normal again. This is what has been done in all cases of earthquake damage. This is a great and important victory which is due to the lofty patriotism of the people and the wise guidance of the Party of Labour of Albania, headed by comrade Enver Hoxha.

Special care is taken in our country that buildings are constructed in such a way as to resist earthquakes. For anti-seismic measures special regulations are in force for the application of which the State spends considerable sums every year.

With the aim that these anti-seismic measures will be constantly improved, the seismological centre of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania has conducted a series of studies on the seismography of the country. Within the framework of these studies a scientific work the «Catalogue of Earthquakes in Albania» was published recently. This study is the result of over ten years work by the authors, together with their colleagues of the Seismological Centre, in collecting and processing the data about earthquakes in Albania. The catalogue contains information about 2116 earthquakes that have taken place in our country or in the zones close to our borders, during the period ranging from the 2nd and 3rd centuries before our era to the year 1970.

In compiling this catalogue use has been made of the abundant material from archives, the press of the time, chronicles, studies etc. Many expeditions have been undertaken also all over our country, in order to collect macro-seismic materials and to verify data collected from different sources. For the period 1900-1970 information has been gathered from seismological archives of foreign countries.

All the material collected has been processed by the most modern methods, using the electronic calculating technique of the computer centre of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

For certain powerful earthquakes of the period from 1800 to 1970 the catalogue gives macro-seismic descriptions as well as maps of the distribution of the energy of 60 powerful earthquakes. There are very brief descriptions of all earthquakes which took place before 1900.

This study does not give a simple chronological list of the facts that have been collected, but a many-sided interpretation of the physical parameters of each event. At the end of this study a bibliography of the earthquakes of Albania is provided.

The study «Catalogue of the Earthquakes of Albania» is intended to serve a number of objectives: it serves to conduct studies on the seismological regionalisation of Albania to the scale 1:500,000, which the Seismological Center has just completed; it serves studies of the distribution in time and space of earthquakes with a view to discovering the laws of how they occur and so on. It will be of help to many other seismological studies which are envisaged for the future. It can also serve a broad circle of readers.



This wealth lay latent under the ground for centuries at a stretch. Now water in abundance is in the service of our village.

THE END OF A

On the eve of liberation in 1944 there were almost no aqueducts in the Albanian countryside. It was the People's State which healed this malady. It is years since the supply of drinking water to the villages has been turned into a general mass action. Thus, in 1967 there were built 223 aqueducts, in 1970 - 506, in 1972 - 227 villages were supplied with water, in 1973 - 388, in 1974 - 318. Up to now 2260 villages have their own aqueducts. The day is not far away when the remaining 348 villages will be supplied with drinking water. This will be one the brightest pages of the history of our countryside.

Hydrological and hydrogeological studies have long been conducted in our country. They have confirmed that our country is very rich in water resources. Through research work and hydrogeological drillings down to depths of 50 to 200 meters large resources of water have been discovered. Today many cities of Albania are supplied with water from these resources.

In many districts of Albania, water, like bread, has its own legend. One must be aware of this, even if only superficially, to understand the joy of the village today when drinking water flows from the taps for the first time. In the past, the problem of drinking water was one of the most difficult for our cities and villages. For various economic and social reasons, during the centuries under foreign occupation, the Albanians have had to abandon their ancient places of habitation by the natural springs of water or rivers and settle in places suitable for defence against their enemies. In those times, caravans of pack horses would carry water for the people from distant sources or the people would build systems to store rain water or dig deep wells. Before liberation in all the towns of Albania there were only nine pipelines supplying a total of 161 litres per second. In such cities as Durrës, Kavaja, Lushnja, Fier, and, at times, in Tirana, water was sold from cans like milk. Thus the shortage of water was added to the other shortages — bread and housing. Infective diseases wrought havoc, especially, among children.

During the years of our People's State Power, the problem of supplying the towns and villages with drinking water as well as water for the needs of industry and agriculture, was solved step by step. Now, every city has not only one but, in many cases, more than one water supply. Thus, the capital receives 25 times more water and of better quality, than before liberation. It is brought by pipeline directly from the mountain springs tens of kilometres away.

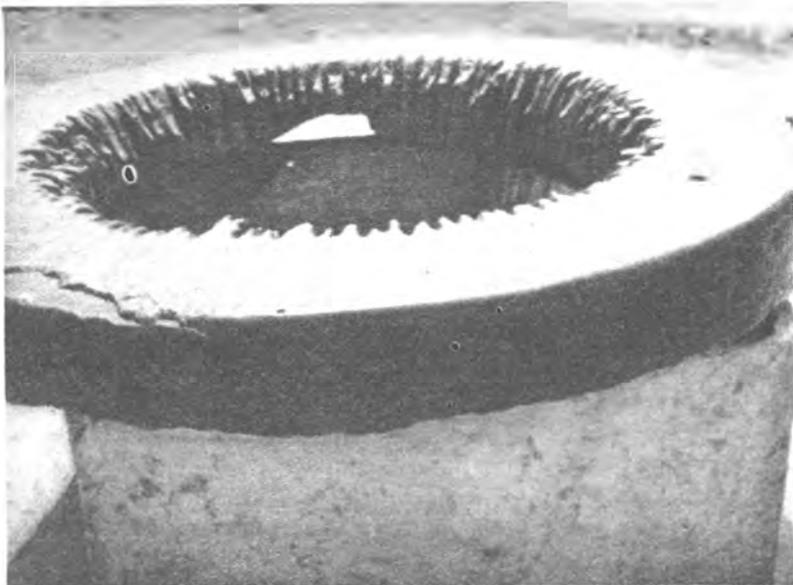
Whereas in 1944 there was hardly one village water supply system, in 1967 223 were built to supply villages, while in 1970 that number grew to 508. The electric reticulation of all the villages served as a



The fountain springs of the Progri village in the district of Korça Photo: S. Musha

BITTER LEGEND

MET RRELI, Engineer.



A well in the village of Bajza in the Shkodra district.

great experience in supplying them with water. The problem of drinking water supplies was turned into a big mass action. In 1972, 277 villages were supplied with water, in 1973 — 388 and in 1974 — 318. Up to now 2260 of the 2608 villages of Albania have been supplied with running water.

The State has spent large sums to build water supply systems and is still doing so. About 20 million leks were spent for the construction of the scheme for the villages of upper Shkodra alone. In addition to the local materials (electrical equipment, pumps, asbestos cement pipes, etc.), the State has imported thousands of tons of metal pipes, many electric pumps, and other equipment for this purpose. Meanwhile, the public health organs and those of the administration exercise constant control over the hygiene of water.

348 villages remain without a water supply system. Some of them are among the most difficult, at a great distance from water sources. The pipe lines must pass through rocky terrain and require powerful motorpumps and other machinery. During this five-year period the State plans to build such big schemes as that of the zone of Dumre in the Elbasan district in Central Albania, that of the Zadrima region in the Lezha district in northern Albania, that of the Dropulli region in the district of Gjirokastra in southern Albania and others, without mentioning here tens of other water supply schemes which will be built by the State and with the voluntary work of the peasantry. Among the latter are the big scheme for the Semani region in Fier in southern Albania, and those of a number of villages in the Tirana, Kukës, Vlora, Korça and other districts. Considerable funds are allocated in the State budget for the completion of these schemes.

Quite justifiably, it has become a tradition to turn the bringing of drinking water to a village into a popular celebration for its inhabitants. But the day is not far off when this great mass action will be completed. And the biggest celebration will be in the last village. That day another new page will be written in the history of the Albanian countryside.



The actress Margarita Xhepa plays the role of the mother of Vlash Zaka, the principal hero of the film «The Forest of Freedom».

CINEMATOGRAPHY

THE FOREST OF FREEDOM

Vlash Zaka is a very young lad who spends part of his time in the virgin pine forest by the Tërbufi and Karavasta lagoons which used to extend over the Myzeqeja plain by the Adriatic Sea. The quiet life among the pine trees with their wholesome aroma, catching and breaking the horses that ran wild in the dense forest gave him joy, health and optimism, helping him to forget, to some degree, the drama of oppression and poverty under which, he, his family and the people as a whole were suffering.

It is during the years of the Second World War, the years of the Italian fascist occupation of Albania. The flames of war kindled by the people's resentment and revolt had burst out even in the little, poverty-stricken village of Myzeqeja where Vlash lives. Now there is an underground National-liberation Council acting in the village which, under the Party's guidance, fulfils the functions of the new State Power which is emerging from the flames of the war. The communists give heart to the people who are ruthlessly exploited by the bey and the merchants and persecuted by the Italian occupationists. Nearby the partisan fighting units are dealing heavy blows at the invaders and traitors, influencing the political atmosphere and raising the consciousness and morale of the oppressed people. Vlash is obliged to engage in all sorts of work in order to earn a crust to keep the family and himself alive. But although poor, he is too proud and dignified to kowtow to the bey or the merchant who, through the threat of starvation, try

to exploit and humiliate him. Because of this virtuous dignity and the fact that Vlash has a partisan brother, he becomes the object of persecution. The Ballists burn down his house leaving his mother homeless. The greater the violence of the enemy the more furiously the flames of resentment and protest mount. It becomes ever clearer to all including young Vlash, that no freedom can be enjoyed without rising in revolt, without taking up arms to drive out the occupier, and without overthrowing the old society which is a constant source of oppression, exploitation, injustice and humiliation for the honest common people. This has already become a general conviction, a political awareness of all the people of the village who, in steel-like unity round the Communist Party (today the Party of Labour of Albania), strike back at the enemy. Vlash himself, who has been treacherously shot and wounded by the bey and the merchant, takes up his gun and puts a bullet right in the heart of the treacherous exploiting merchant.

There is no other way except that of the war and no country has freedom except that which is opened with the barrel of the gun. Vlash and other comrades leave the village and set off for the forest to join the partisans, the harbingers of freedom and a new world. Up to the edge of the forest they are seen off by the loving, stoic mother as well as by a young girl, Vlash's friend and neighbour in the poverty-stricken village, with eyes sparkling with pride and affection for her hero.



Merited artist Violeta Manushi in the role of Olga in the film comedy «The Lady From The City».

THE LADY FROM THE CITY

The film, «The Lady From the City» is a comedy pervaded by the atmosphere of gaiety and optimism of the new life in the Albanian countryside, which pokes fun at certain hangovers from the old world and the psychology that goes with it.

Meli, a young girl, full of dreams, has just completed her training as an assistant-physician, and is impatiently awaiting the moment to go to the village to which she has been appointed to serve the people. But her mother, Olga, is of a different state of mind. Although she is a good, kindly woman, she has not yet been liberated from her petty bourgeois prejudices and can not get it into her head that her daughter should go to the countryside, at a time when she herself had thought of a quiet life and a brilliant marriage in the city for her daughter. Since she has spent her whole life on household affairs, gossiping with her neighbours, and tidying up and beautifying the family home, she is incapable of fully understanding that people's lives and mentality have radically changed; that the aspirations and ideals of girls are no longer to ensure family comfort and fame through their husbands but how to serve society, the revolution and the Homeland. Therefore Olga leaves no stone unturned to arrange a job in the city for her daughter. But the girl is of a different opinion, thus, she is obliged to accompany her daughter to the village, without giving up her hopes of persuading her to return to the city at the first opportunity.

The flourishing village with its active, happy and hardworking people with a good level of schooling and culture, put Olga, with her haughtiness, her scorn for the life and residents of the village, in ridiculous situations time after time.

While Olga is writing scores of letters to friends and cousins to look out for «a good husband worthy of her daughter» in the city, Meli has fallen deeply and sincerely in love with a good and distinguished teacher. Life in the village, with her daily care for the health of the people, with cultural and social activities, with the warmth,

sincerity and simplicity with which she has been surrounded, have completely won Meli. The peasants discover Olga's weaknesses and, although the Party Secretary and the young men and women of the village make fun of her hangovers from the past, they love her, invite her to their social gatherings, and gradually she is liberated from her old-fashioned ideas. She understands that she is the victim of prejudices which have distorted her world outlook, thoughts and feelings and kept them far removed from the free and rich reality which offers much more joy, noble and worthy pride, and the general flowering of society and the human personality.

Finally, Olga is convinced that the village where she is staying is not very far away from her city but that she has lagged behind. She arrives at the conclusion that her daughter will find her own way to happiness, to the man she will link her existence with, on another moral basis and proceeding from other ideals, the opposite of her own. She is convinced that the beauty of life lies in the great love people have for their work and the efforts they make for the general development of their country.

The lively and wholesome atmosphere created by work to the benefit of society, through which the interests of the individual are solved, transform Olga from a woman who had been engaged throughout her life with petty household cares, into a woman full of dignity, who makes up her mind to work in the cooperative as a cook, thus giving a proof of her conscious transformation.

The film is full of laughs and pleasant situations, which spring from the joyous and happy atmosphere of free people, masters of their own fate. The humour that runs through all the episodes and the scenes does not fail to reveal the genuine reality of the emancipation and prosperity of the new socialist countryside, where the essential differences from the city are steadily diminishing.

The «Jordan Misja» secondary school in Tirana was the first school of arts in our country. It was opened in the early post-liberation years, on December 26, 1946. The country was faced with big and very urgent problems. The reconstruction of the country, laying the basis of industry, the agrarian reform abolishing illiteracy, had to be considered and got under way. The opening of a school of arts under such circumstances might seem somewhat premature, even an unnecessary luxury. But even then the People's State Power was thinking of the future.

Now this school has created its own history, its own beautiful tradition, and has clearly defined its own physiognomy. As against 25 students in 1946 its classrooms, studios and work-rooms now accommodate 500 pupils and 82 full time teachers, in addition to 50 others who are part-time instructors. The school and the hostel have been built in the one of the most beautiful parts of the capital. The school is supplied with modern equipment in order to give the teachers and pupils every possibility to carry on their activities. And all of it, including the personal instruments used by the students, are provided by the State.

Let us now spend a few moments amongst the teachers and future artists.

In the entrance hall one is impressed by the orderliness, exemplary cleanliness, and by the pleasing decorations. Pupils with violins, paint-brushes or the necessary carver's tools come and go. From one of the rooms come the sounds of a piano played vigorously, while from above, the rhythm of a drum.

«Please come in! Whom do you want to see?» It is the pupil on duty for the day. «Wait a moment, please, till I inform the director or the secretary of the Party organization».

We wait a few minutes, pausing a moment before a sculpture of «Jordan Misja». Our readers may have read something about this name. Jordan Misja was a painter, or more precisely, a teacher of drawing. He was one of the three communist heroes who were besieged in a house in Shkodra on June 22, 1942. Now the school bears his name. The dreams of Jordan and his comrades have now become reality in Socialist Albania.

In the school we meet many pupils and teachers. They speak with a sense of pride about their school and with enthusiasm about



Pupils of the «Jordan Misja» Secondary School of Arts in the Folklore class.

Mimosa Halili — pupil of the second class at the «Jordan Misja» secondary school of art.



the young talents which are flowering here every day. Gjovalin Lazri, the vice director of the school, is a veteran in this institution. He came here in 1950, when he was still a child. Later, when he had completed his higher studies, he returned this time as a cadre. Gjovalin knows the history of this school, the stages of its development, very well. The thirty years that have elapsed have been years of persistent efforts to establish the work in the school on the soundest possible revolutionary basis in order to combat any influence of the bourgeois-revisionist decadent art and ideology. Under the constant care of the Party, the «Jordan Misja» school now bases all its activity on the sound foundation of our national culture. The educational-teaching process is characterized by its sound revolutionary socialist content. These fundamental characteristics which define the physiognomy of the school are expressed in the specialised classrooms furnished with instruments models, and other equipment based on the national traditions, in the textbooks, programs and processes of teaching, in the close links of the school with the centers of production and other cultural institutions.

The leading comrades of the school stress the special importance attached to the problem of discovering new talents and enrolling them in this institution. In admitting pupils to the school two main requirements are kept in mind, the pupil's ability and his or her dedication to serving the cause of the people, the socialist culture and art in the future.

Special commissions which are active in all districts of the country are set up for this purpose to discover new talents both in the towns and in the villages. Many of these newly recruited pupils enjoy state bursaries in order to pursue their studies. Mimosa Halili has not yet completed her 8th year of age. She comes from southern Albania. Her father is a miner and she dreams of becoming and is learning to be a pianist.

The school has several branches. The musical department has these specialties: violin, violoncello, piano wind instruments, training teachers of music and choreography. The department of figurative arts includes painting, sculpture and the applied arts. The best graduates from this school, as well as from the other art schools of the outlying districts, can continue their studies further at the Higher Institute of Arts.

Every success scored in this school is linked with the leadership of the Party branch. The most important ideological, organizational, social and pedagogical problems are dealt with by the branch. It takes decisions in a revolutionary spirit, directs the work of the Pedagogical Council, and leads the Youth Union organization in the school. Keeping well in mind the three basic components of our new school, lessons, work in production, and physical and military training, the whole collective of the school works persistently to achieve further successes. In a brief talk, Genc Bogdo, who has been giving lessons here since 1955, points out

AMONG OUR FUT



Pupils of the second class of the ballet branch doing exercises.

URE ARTISTS

the revolutionary class direction of the school. «Not only the direct instruction of the students in the spirit of Marxist-Leninist ideology, but also the content of the vocational subject» says he, «should be such as to serve the education of the pupils in this spirit. For this reason we enrich the material teaching base every year with the works and models of our own artists. The works of foreign authors which we need to use are first subjected to a sound analysis and a correct class interpretation.

Another teacher, Petrit Papa, an ex-pupil of this school emphasizes another aspect of the work of the school: in the ideo-aesthetic formation of the pupils, we do not claim to turn out perfect cadres. We strive to open the way for them to advance courageously in life themselves. In this direction the linking of theory with practice, the school with life, is of great assistance to us. For example, we take up a task in the class, betake ourselves to a factory and carry it out on the spot. We subject our productions — paintings, sculptures or applied arts — not only to our own judgment as teachers but also to the judgment of the workers, who view the problems of aesthetics more simply and in close connection with reality. The groups of singers, dancers and instrumentalists give frequent performances in work and production centers. We have pupils who compete with success in national events.

Comrade Suzana Turku, who is the secretary of the bureau of the youth organization, stresses the great role played by this organization in

the formation of new art cadres. The young people frequently take revolutionary initiatives which temper them. They take part in various actions in production, and agriculture striving to gain the highest level of physical and military training.

In the classroom of folklore one is at once aware of the care of the well-known scholar of our musical folklore, Ramadan Sokoli. A special place is devoted here to the traditional Albanian folk instruments, ranging from the simplest to the most complicated ones. The study of and reliance on the marvellous heritage of our people constitutes a sound guarantee for the formation of our future artists worthy to reflect their time in art. One feels the warmth of the people, the sound revolutionary atmosphere, in all the classrooms and halls where pupils are playing musical instruments, painting on cloth, or carving the features of a sculptural portrait.

Staying among these future artists one seems to be carried away by their work to future years. It is as if we are seeing their monumental works carved in stone or marble, the workers of the big hydro-electric power-plants, the smelters of steel, the sailor on the foaming billows, the fearless soldier, hearing the majestic symphonies which these artists will sing with revolutionary fervour to the heroism of our people who, in the conditions of a savage imperialist and revisionist blockade, are building their happy future, socialist society.

Pupils of the 4th class of the branch of graphic arts during a lesson in the drawingroom.



In the center of the city of Elbasan in Central Albania one sees the time blackened ramparts of an old fortress. They have attracted the attention of foreign scholars and visitors. It has been observed that under the medioeval walls are the traces of older fortifications belonging to the epoch of late antiquity.

This fortress is quadrangular in shape. Of its 26 turrets only 8 have survived. The whole rampart was once surrounded by a deep moat, through which water flowed.

From the examination of the walls three principal periods of construction, have been distinguished, belonging to the periods of late antiquity, the Byzantine, and that of the Turks. The first stage of construction is linked with the name of ancient Skampini which is first referred to by Ptolemy in the 2nd century. The numerous Illyrian names found in Elbasan prove to us that Skampini (=Elbasan=) was a big Illyrian city. The danger of barbarian attacks made it necessary to surround it by ramparts. From the Byzantine period there are two repairs which are thought to have been made during the 6th and 9th centuries.

In 1832, the vizier Mehmed Rushid Pasha, demolished the ramparts of the fortress to avoid leaving it in the hands of the Albanians. The 1920 earthquake and the lack of care for this project made the Elbasan fortress lose its former appearance. After liberation steps were taken to preserve and consolidate this monument.

THE ELBASAN FORTRESS



THE ZEKATE HOUSE

This is what the city residents call the most typical Gjirokastra house which occupied a special place among the traditional Albanian houses. The oldest inhabitants of Gjirokastra attribute the construction of this house to Ali Pasha Tepelena. Its composition, individual architectural elements, and especially its interior decoration indirectly confirm this. This house must have been built about 1813.

It rises on a spot which commands all the southwestern part of the city. The house has three courtyards and four external doors. The existence of these courtyards and numerous portals are intended to make its defense from any attack as secure as possible.

The talented Albanian builders have skillfully adapted the construction of the house to the terrain.

The pronounced defensive character of the Zekate house is very clear, therefore it could be described as a typical urban castle or fortified house.

THE BOGA VALLEY - A GLACIAL VALLEY



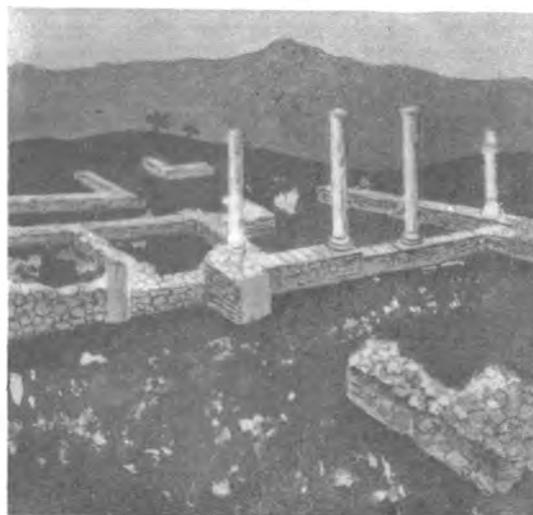
The Boga valley is in our Northern Alps. Here and there it becomes wider. In its widest part it has the form of an arch and its appearance is such that you seem to be at the bottom of a tub of fantastic size. This «tub» is encircled by high peaks. Its rugged but rare beauty, makes it very attractive. On the slopes near the peaks one sees here and there, deep hollows, broad and with concave bases. They look like gigantic overturned helmets. These are glacial depressions in which the snow lasts till late in summer. How can one account for the tub-shaped part of the valley and how have the glacial depressions been formed? During the anthropogenic period, during the ice-age the glaciers in our country covered the peaks of mountains more than 1600 to 1700 meters above sea level. Because of their great altitude, the Albanian Alps formed not only glacial depressions but also glacial tongues which extended in several valleys. One such is the Boga valley.

The special fascinating beauty of the Alpine landscape, its healthy climate, have made this valley a specially important center for tourists.



THE ILLYRIAN CITY OF ANTIGONEA

The ancient Illyrian city of Antigonea was discovered some years ago in the vicinity of the city of Gjirokastra, in the southernmost corner of Albania. Excavations have brought to light a number of interesting relics. The numerous findings testify to an intensive life in this region. The many coins unearthed there are clear



evidence of the commercial and economic relations between this and other Illyrian cities like Durrachium, Apollonia and the Greek cities.

Traces of the great fire which swept the city are to be found everywhere. It is thought that the Roman Consul, Aemilius Paulus razed this and 70 other cities to the ground. After this, Antigonea, it seems, lost the appearance of a developed city and was reduced to an unimportant place of habitation. The few findings of the period after the Roman occupation show that from the year 169 before our era, this city seems no longer to have had its former development.



THE OLD PUBLIC BATHS OF SHKODRA

The numerous public baths built during the period from the 15th to the 19th centuries occupy a conspicuous place in the social buildings of our mediaeval cities. Together with other projects they often made up the urbanistic nuclei of our cities of that time. Today such baths are preserved in Elbasan, Shkodra, Gjirokastra, Durrës etc. They are also mentioned by various writers since the 17th century.

The old city of Shkodra preserves relics of the material culture of the most varied genres which are now protected by the State as monuments of culture. Among them is «the small public bath of the city» built in 1739. This has been kept in very good condition. On its roof stand 9 low cupolas which give the bath house a picturesque horizontal silhouette.

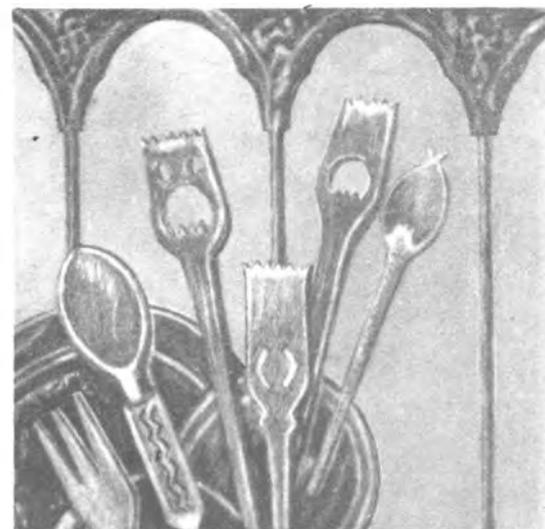
Besides this bath house there was a big public bath in the former old bazaar. A small public bath is preserved today at the Rozafa castle.

THE SHARP ZIGZAG BEND OF THE DRINI RIVER

Drini is the longest river of Albania. About 105 kilometers from where it joins the Buna river it makes a sharp zigzag bend 2.5 kilometers in length. The traveller is fascinated by the beauty created by the waves crashing against the first rocks.

During the years 1966-1967 an Albanian expedition made up of engineers and workers of the Hydrometeorological Institute of Tirana successfully carried out a journey down the whole course of the Drini. The expedition sailed in a rubber boat from Peshkopia, where the Drini enters our territory, to where it joins the Buna.

In 1937, an expedition of foreign specialists set out from Pogradec to determine whether this river was navigable or not. But precisely at this sharp zigzag bend a member of the expedition met his death.



THE WOODCARVERS OF THE MATI REGION

In the past, the Mati region in northern Albania was famous for its woodcarvers. They made cradles, wooden utensils, spoons, combs and many other articles. This craft was favoured by the suitable timber which grew in this region.

The most interesting aspect of their products are the decorations carved on them. They are ancient designs of the Illyrians who inhabited these regions. We find the same motifs in earthenware and bronze articles, on weapons and ornaments that have been brought to light by excavations.

The tools used by the woodcarvers of this region have helped us to understand what the tools of the Illyrians were and to recognise the perfection of the circles and lines with which the Illyrians decorated their ornaments.



The president of the Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Prof. Aleks Buda, and other workers of the capital visiting the Exhibition of the Institute of Monuments.

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL MONUMENTS

The Third Session of the Institute of Monuments of Culture was held in Tirana towards the end of December, 1976. A report delivered on «the results and tasks in the field of the protection and work of research and restoration on monuments of culture», in which a balance was made of the 10-years work of the Institute of Monuments of Culture in protecting, studying and restoring monuments in Albania. In contrast with ten years ago, the funds spent on preserving and restoring monuments have increased 7-fold. In 1975 alone work was done on 160 monuments. This is due, on one hand, to the increase of the number of monuments brought under the protection of the State, and, on the other, to increased possibilities of doing this work on the basis of greater numbers of better qualified cadres and the improvement of the material and technical basis, etc.

An additional 34 communications were read at this Session.

The good scientific level of these materials and the discussion at this Session opened new horizons for more fruitful work by the Institute of Monuments of Culture in future years.

PRODUCTS OF THE «MIGJENI» ENTERPRISE OF ARTS AND CRAFTS



The portrait
of our National Hero
Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderbeg
in copper.



Decorated Copper utensils

The products of the «Migjeni» Enterprise of Arts and Crafts, are well known on foreign markets. They are articles of different techniques and high artistic standards. These products inherit the finest qualities of Albanian folk art.

The works in filigree and copper are often reminiscent of the beautiful embroidery of the Albanian women. The plastic form is handled in the folkspirit. With their beauty and elegance the copper utensils and lamp shades create a pleasant sense of utility and aesthetic satisfaction.

Works in stone stand out for their clarity of form and treatment.

Wood engravings are a synthesis of popular opinion which speaks briefly and clearly in terms of figures and symbols.

The utensils made of hard wood (erica) for daily use and the coffee grinders create a sense of pleasure with their beautiful forms, their different natural colors carved in various motifs.

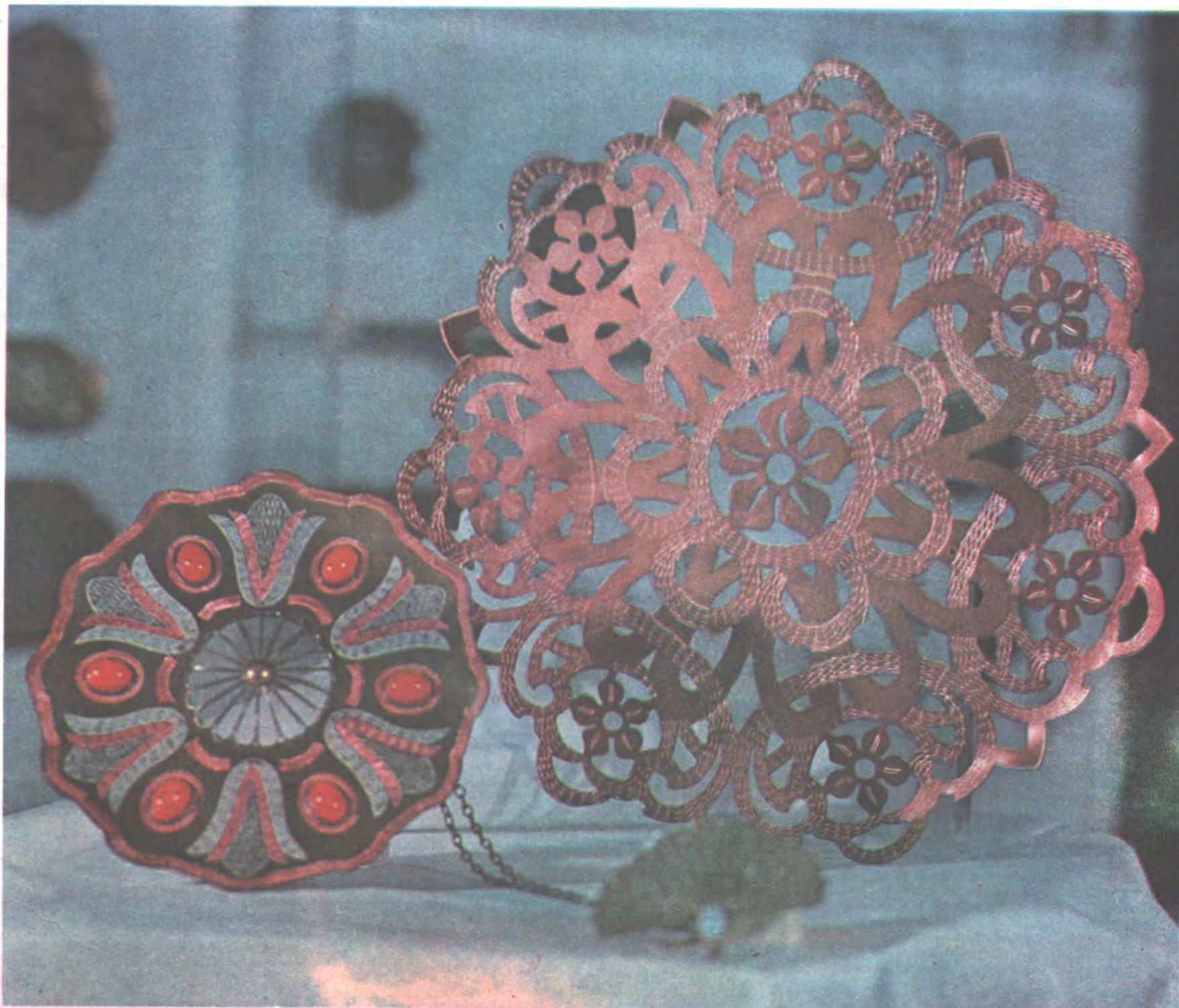
Of special beauty are the cotton blouses embroidered in rich and beautiful colors. They remind one of the embroidered folk costumes which are outstanding for their elegance and simplicity.

Woolen goods occupy an important place in the total output of this enterprise. Our artists have designed and produced the first samples. They are made of local wool which is of a high quality and guarantees all the requirements of our clients. What stands out in these products is the richness of their colors, their compositional structure and harmony of their Albanian motifs.



Coffee mills

Works in copper



«I, YOUR SON...»

NASI LERA

Around about midday, the Doctor finished his last operation. He amputated partisan Gani Elezi's leg. As usual after difficult operations he walked out into the small yard of the house, turned into a hospital, and gazed out at the mountains. January of 1944 was particularly severe in that remote village. Snow fell upon snow and it seemed as if it would go on for ever. The Doctor watched the wisps of smoke which seemed to make that village and the war even more remote, and brought to mind the operations and all that immense experience which the partisan hospital had given him. The operation had tired him and the whisper of the snow was making his eyes droop. For a moment he saw himself isolated from the atmosphere of war and said to himself that the forest in winter, was a real miracle. He was from a coastal city, and up until twenty-three years of age he had never seen a forest in winter. If it weren't for the operation and the smears of blood on his smock, he would have thought that he was somewhere far away, amidst the strange world of winter. But he felt the war strongly and who knows how many times he had felt himself wounded. Every wound of his comrades left an impression in his memory. He knew almost all the patients of the hospital. He even knew their names and all sorts of intimate details. He still hadn't got to know partisan Gani Elezi. He had operated immediately, as soon as he was brought in. He was, perhaps, one of the rare doctors who would never forget his patients, from the first to the last. The cigarette went out in his hand. The pine forest was still. From afar, came the call of a man. Who knows what he was seeking on such midday that was more like twilight. The doctor tried to imagine the person who would come to announce the end of the war in that remote mountain village. Then, it would no longer be winter. This was the last winter of the war. The Doctor was certain of this. The snow would have thawed and the forest would be alive and green. Not even he knew why he linked liberation with the Spring. He threw away his cigarette and felt a sort of emptiness. There was no work at the hospital. Partisan Gani Elezi would be in pain but he would do nothing to lessen it. He had no means at all. If he had, he would not have had that empty feeling which the lack of work left with him. He saw Sali who took the axe to chop wood. The strokes of the axe plunged him even deeper into thought. The snow which fell remorselessly, the silent forest, and the rhythmic strokes of the axe, were so peaceful and soothing that anyone had the right to think that the war had ended and that only he, the doctor of the partisan hospital, did not have that right. The amputated leg of Partisan Gani Elezi was the war. He thought of his despair and immediately jumped to his feet, as if something important had just occurred to him. He entered Gani's room and approached the bed. His comrades, who had brought him, sat around in silence. One of them, stroked

his hand with the tenderness of a mother. The Doctor had witnessed this simple gesture many times and every time it seemed to him that he had discovered something new in the spirit of men. He hesitated and only gazed at those two hands which clasped each other so naturally. They turned their heads as soon as he entered the room and rose to their feet. The partisan who had clasped Gani Elezi's hand rose the last and gave up his place. The Doctor made a sign to them not to move, but they did not obey. It was respect for him as a partisan and Doctor. The Doctor picked up Gani's hand. It was hot. He could feel the usual post-operative temperature on his forehead too. But there was nothing to worry about. Nobody spoke. The Doctor understood that he had to break the silence, but he was at a loss as to what to say. Against the windows, the snow fell with the same soft sound, as if all the characters of childhood fairy tales were gathered there and were whispering to one another. He said:

— «Don't worry Gani Elezi».

The partisan laughed. Perhaps this laugh would have seemed strange to some, but the Doctor knew the partisans well.

— «I've been a bit of trouble to you and your comrades Doctor», said Gani Elezi.

He spoke as if the Doctor wasn't the man who had amputated one of his legs, but who had done him some, ordinary service.

— «Don't say that, Gani. Why are we comrades, eh?»

— «That's true, but there's this fierce winter and my wound on top of everything...».

The partisan who had clasped his hand wiped his forehead.

— «That's enough Servet, you've been more than a mother to me. I wonder if I will ever be able to repay you».

— «Of course you will, Gani», said the Doctor.

— «If only you knew what Servet has done for me, Doctor, you too, would be filled with regret if you couldn't do him some good in return. He even sucked the puss out of my wound».

— «That's enough Gani, you'll tire yourself», said Servet. Would it be better for him if he slept, Doctor?».

— «Yes».

— «Did you hear that Gani?» «The Doctor says you are to sleep».

— «I've got plenty of time to sleep, Servet, plenty of time. I'll sleep enough for all of you. But I'll get bored. Damn it all, it would have been better if I hadn't been wounded, but, I suppose somebody has to get wounded, and it's better that I did».

Does he know that he has lost a leg, wondered the Doctor looking at Gani Elezi's calm face.

It was getting dark outside. The pines no longer seemed separate trees but one whole. The snow of the year 1944 fell and fell on them. The two partisans who had brought Gani Elezi whispered something to each other.

«Are you going to leave?», asked Gani.

They got up, undecided, and looked at the Doctor. He knew that for the patient this moment marked the beginning of a difficult period. He began to feel his wound and in some cases this continued for days. The patient withdrew into himself and silently submitted to everything. It seemed as if nothing was important to him any longer... This spiritual situation of the patient was not easy for the Doctor either and he tried to bring him out of it at all costs. The partisans did not know what to do. Servet shook Gani Elezi's hand and kissed him.

— «If you like, we will stay», he said.

— «No, said Gani Elezi, it's a long way back to the battalion. Has it stopped snowing?»

— «No».

— «You should have gone earlier, comrades».

— «It doesn't matter, it's not too late yet».

— «Right. Forgive me for all the trouble, I only hope I shall be able to repay you for everything. Death to fascism».

The two partisans kissed Gani Elezi again. Again it seemed to the Doctor that Gani still didn't realise that he had only one leg now. This thought had stuck in his mind and was hammering away there distracting his attention from what was occurring.

If he didn't know, it would have been better for the two partisans to have told him. The partisans shook hands with him and slung their rifles on their shoulders.

«Don't worry about anything», said Servet and hurried out of the room. He couldn't bear the parting. The other partisan, who hadn't uttered a word turned around, filling the door of the room. He tried to say something, but not a sound emerged. He raised his fist in salute and the Doctor heard their heavy steps on the wooden stairs. Both the Doctor and Gani Elezi fell silent as if they were trying not to lose the sound of those fading steps. In their minds they followed their progress through that winter twilight, deep into the mountains, while the snow would fall softly on their tracks as if caressing them.

— «They've gone Doctor, eh? They are good comrades».

The Doctor nodded.

— «You are a good comrade too, Doctor. Don't think that I am angry with you for amputating my leg. But if you had cut off my right hand, I swear on my mother's head I would have hated you».

The Doctor laughed. In that atmosphere of war and winter, this almost childlike sound of the word mother was something very warm and dear. That word was great like the pine forest heavy with snow, like some ancient and majestic decor.

— «And why would you have been angry if I had taken off your right hand»

— «Because I learnt how to write. Zymrytja taught me. But I suppose that means nothing to you. Perhaps, for you, it would have been better to lose a hand than a leg. For you people from the city, being able

to write doesn't seem to be so important. Whereas for me... Do you know Doctor, the day before I was wounded, I wrote a letter to my mother. It seemed as if she was before my eyes, Doctor. You people from the city don't really know the value of writing.

— «Did you send the letter to your mother?», asked the Doctor.

— «I didn't have time».

— «Why didn't you give it to Servet to send?»

— «No, I didn't want to cause him any more trouble. They've done enough for me. And Gani Elezi placed a hand near his heart. «I keep it here, and it seems as if I have my mother here», he said and turned his head, embarrassed.

— «I love her very much, Doctor, so don't be surprised at me».

— «No Gani, of course not, if you like, give it to me to read».

— «I've made mistakes, Doctor».

— «That doesn't matter».

— «No, Doctor, no. It's not right for people of my age to make mistakes».

The Doctor wanted to say to him that he had never made mistakes in his life and never would, but he didn't speak. He didn't ask for the letter again either. The first letter... to his mother... The last winter of the war... Snow, eternal snow... Sali is filling the stove with wood... Pine... A quiet evening deep in the mountains...

The Doctor got up to go and visit the other wounded.

— «Doctor», said Gani Elezi.

— «Yes», said the Doctor, turning around.

— «You're not offended that I didn't give you the letter?»

— «No Gani, of course not», laughed the Doctor, whenever you like, I'm ready to teach you to write».

— All right Doctor. But do you know why I didn't give it to you? Of what interest would my letter and the maize my mother will sow in the summer be to you? Because it's about the maize and the winter I wrote.

The Doctor was deeply touched and wanted to embrace Gani Elezi. He felt his eyes moisten. And that maize seemed the sweetest and that mother as if she was his very own.

— «If you really want to, I'll give you the letter to read».

— «No», said the Doctor, «I have already read it».

Gani Elezi was surprised and his hand felt for the letter. He touched it several times and when he was sure that it was in its place he was even more surprised.

The Doctor laughed and left the room. Gani Elezi turned his eyes to the window. It was early, but nothing could be distinguished. The only sounds were the snow which fell and the fire which crackled, filling the room with the pleasant smell of pine.

Gani Elezi endured the pain with the pride characteristic of the peasants. He replied briefly to the Doctor's questions, as if he were annoyed, and changed the conversation to the war, the winter, freedom. Then he spoke about the village. Gani Elezi loved his village and described the houses, the mill, the pastures, so well that it seemed to the Doctor that he was from that same village.

January passed with snow. The wounded who came to the hospital, brought news of the war. The war was raging and the winter growing steadily fiercer. Gani asked about his brigade. It had left on some long march. At those moments he felt the loss of his leg, he'd turn his eyes to the window and try to imagine himself beside his comrades. But it was impossible, and this distressed him. The Doctor couldn't bear to see Gani Elezi like that. And he began to give him lessons. The first letter, Gani kept near his heart and he still hadn't sent it to his mother. He was waiting for the thaw to begin, when his mother would be getting ready to plant the maize.

The days passed slowly, even though they were short. The nights were even more monotonous. The patients heard how the wind whistled through the pine forest and slammed the snow against the windows. And one day, near dawn, the order came for the hospital to be moved immediately. The Doc-

tor was worried about Gani Elezi. It was almost impossible for him to travel in such weather. The Doctor ordered one of the partisans who were to accompany them to remain at Gani's side.

— «Don't worry about me Doctor, look after the others», said Gani Elezi. «Let him see to the others too. If I need him, I'll call out».

— «It's a long way, and the weather is bad».

— «It's always like that in winter, Doctor».

The Doctor called Sali. The hospital was ready to move. They lifted Gani Elezi on to a mule and tied his good leg to the animal's belly. Once on the mule, he forgot that he only had one leg and made ready to kick at the animal with both legs as he did in the village when he went out for wood, and he almost fell, because he lost balance, but they caught him. As soon as he was straightened up, they left. The village was emptying. This was something sad for Gani Elezi, to see that village abandoned, and perhaps, in a few hours, it would be turned into ruins. They had slung his automatic on his shoulder and every time he touched it, he felt stronger.

The Doctor moved continuously from end to end of the column. The snow was almost smothering him, but he couldn't stay in the one place. Such a deep love for the doctor filled Gani Elezi that he wanted to embrace him. But the same thing was occurring with the Doctor. When he saw how calm Gani was he forgot his own fatigue.

The column entered the forest, and the Doctor told them to rest for a quarter of an hour. He attended to several of the wounded and approached Gani. There he was faced with something unexpected. Gani's wound had opened and was bleeding.

— «Why didn't you call me when it started to bleed?»

— «I didn't want to bother you. We've only got another five hours to go. When we reach the next hospital you can fix it up».

— «But do you know that if this continues, you may die?», said the Doctor, and pulled himself up sharply. For the first time he had told a patient the truth. He waited to see how Gani would react but could make out no change. Gani glanced at the blood which oozed out of the wound and made a gesture to the Doctor as if to say, «enough of this». The wound had opened badly and the Doctor felt that he couldn't do the impossible. He gave the order to move on. The mule walked quietly, his breathing visible as puffs of steam. Gani patted its neck and whispered soft words. It was a slow and ordinary dialogue. Coming out of the forest, on the first slope, the mule slipped and fell.

— «Now you've made a real mess of things», said Gani Elezi and tried to jerk it up. The mule was lying on his good leg. They came and lifted him. The mule set off again. Gani Elezi scolded it.

— «Don't do that again, because you bring shame on yourself and on me. On me because I know these mountains and on you because you have walked over every inch of them too, so, it's just not right for us to fall. All right?».

The mule shook its head, as if asking forgiveness.

— «Well I suppose we may fall, but not so that we can't get up again. That's right, on your feet, on your feet. Be careful, because there's ice here. That's right. We know every inch of this country. The Germans will break their heads here. And they should too, because not even the soil can stand them, whereas this soil strengthens our bones. Or am I wrong?. No».

— «The Doctor now stayed beside him. This made the journey seem even longer to Gani Elezi. Several times he tried to get the Doctor to move on, but he refused.

— «How much further is it Gani?».

— «A good two hours yet».

— «Damn it, that's still a long way».

No, it's not far. It's winter Doctor. If it were summer you wouldn't even notice it. When the war's over don't forget to come back here some day. All right Gani, all right. Have you any pain?».

— «No».

— «Don't lie to me Gani».

— «Well it hurts a bit. But the pain of wounds is for men, for who else?».

The Doctor took a long look at Gani's pale face and did not know what to say to this. He was expecting Gani to topple off the mule. But this was not happening. The peaks of the mountains could be seen in the distance like a white caravan. The clouds were getting heavier. The partisans accompanying the column moved from one of the wounded to the other. It seemed as though, that day, they did not feel their weariness.

— «It's going to snow, Doctor».

— «Why the hell couldn't it have hung off a bit?»

Gani Elezi laughed.

The Doctor was losing his patience. There was no sign of the village. The snow began to fall quietly with big flakes. It was beautiful snow which magnified the road and made that caravan look even longer. The snow fell and settled with that characteristic soft sound. The leafless beeches were like haystacks.

The snow gave the trees and the rocks the most astonishing shapes. Gani Elezi turned white. To the Doctor he was like some ancient legend, which brought the great news of victory. However surprising this may seem, the Doctor couldn't get enough of seeing the whitened Gani Elezi, who moved beside him. Then, the summits of the mountains began to protect the caravan. The Doctor began to sing a new partisan song. Now it seemed as if everything was travelling, moving towards the village where the new hospital had been set up.

The road ran flat, through a beech forest. At the end of it lay the village.

— «Don't worry any more Doctor, we're almost there».

— «We are strong Doctor».

— «We are, we are, we are...»

And the Doctor was almost beside himself with joy. Shifting the hospital had been his final test, and he had passed it. Gani Elezi, like an ancient legend of the mountains was still on his mule, even though he had lost all that blood. But, like the legends, he drew blood from invisible sources. I wonder what the source of legends is, thought the Doctor.

Gani was at the head of the column. As soon as they left the forest and entered the village street Gani Elezi saw the Germans, automatics ready, almost running towards them. He shook the snow from his shoulders and shouted.

— «Back, back into the forest, Germans».

He grabbed the automatic from his shoulder and fired. They all took their positions. A fierce fight began. Gani hunched himself down on the back of the mule and drove it forward. Bullets whistled round him but he continued to advance, firing. The Germans had not expected such an attack and seemed dumbfounded. Then someone fired a volley at the mule, which fell, pinning Gani Elezi beneath it. He managed to scramble free enough to bring up his gun again and resumed firing. The weight of the mule was on his wound but he felt no pain. The Germans attempted several sallies but they could not advance even a few meters. Gani Elezi's rifle kept firing.

The Doctor could not remember how long the fight continued. When the forces of the partisan brigade arrived he had lost all notion of time and was thinking only about Gani Elezi. As soon as the rifles and machine guns fell silent and, in the tense calm, the snow could be heard falling softly, he ran to Gani Elezi. He seemed to be sleeping. The Doctor began to look at his wounds. When he unbuttoned his jacket, he found the blood smeared letter. He took it and read it breathlessly.

«Mother this is the last winter. We will sow the maize together. What a crop it will be standing higher than our heads. Now I send my regards to all those who may ask after me. I, your son, Gani Elezi, write this letter to you. The end.».

The Doctor carefully folded the letter and looked up at the mountains. The words still echoed in his mind: «I, your son...».

DECORATIVE STONES



Marble from the mine of Muhri in the Dibra district in northern Albania stands out for its variety of colour and purity.



In this picture you see one of the places where red marble is quarried at Muhur in the Dibra district. It is taken from here in large block to the building sites or exported.

Marbles have been known in Albania from the very early days. Many archaeological discoveries all over the country testify to its large scale use both as construction material or sculptural projects.

The geological structure of our country is a variegated one and, consequently, marbles of various colors and high decorative qualities are met with in a number of districts.

Before the liberation of Albania marble, just as many other subsoil resources were left unexploited. It was only during the years of our People's State Power that it became possible to search for and discover the quarries of this precious stone. Now we know a number of quarries with considerable reserves of this wealth.

In addition to the quarry at Muhur which has just been mentioned there are also others like those at Qaf-Shtama, Shkodra, Lisi in the Mati region, Lezha and Qaf-Priska in the Tirana district. White, grey, pink and other marble is extracted from these quarries. These quarries are envisaged to be exploited to a larger degree during this (1976--1980) five-year plan period.

In addition to its variety of hues and color, the Albanian marble possesses good physical and mechanical qualities. This accounts for the fact that it is in wide use in our buildings and social-cultural projects and finds ready market abroad.



Our archaeologists during the excavation of ancient theatre of Apollonia

THE 1976 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEASON

In 1976, the workers of the Archaeological Research Centre, of the Academy of Sciences, carried out a number of archaeological expeditions, at various points of the country.

These expeditions provided fresh, convincing evidence which confirms the autochthonous character of our people, their original culture and their contribution to world culture in the past. Many excavations were made at the prehistoric dwelling-site of Kolsh (Kukës District), at the Illyrian tumulus of Patos, at the dwelling site of Triport (Vlora district), at the Illyrian city of Antigonia (Gjirokastra district), at the ancient city of Butrint etc. From these excavations, important data have been gathered for further excavations and the study of the ancient history of our people, the problem of the ethnogenesis of the Illyrians and the origin of the Albanians, etc.

In recent years, the archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Apollonia, have been concentrated mainly on uncovering the theatre

of the city. An area of 915 square metres has been explored, the stage of the theatre, one of the most important parts of the theatre complex, has been uncovered, along with a great number of architectural fragments such as limestone blocks and plaques, fragments of the steps, Doric columns, fragments of a frieze, sculptures, etc. Although gravely damaged by time and man in the past, the theatre of Apollonia is outstanding among the four antique theatres found in our country. In its size, this theatre holds first place and may be ranked among the ancient world's largest theatres.

Of great interest was the discovery of some fragments of frescoes and pilasters, or bases of limestone, used as decorative elements in a large basilica discovered these two last years in Ballsh (Fier district). These fragments show various decorations in relief with floral and animal motifs characteristic of the 6th Century. The Ballsh monument is remarkable for its fine craftsmanship and high artistic level, and as such is one of the most important monuments

for the study of Mediaeval art and architecture in our country. The findings from these excavations are a new contribution to the study of the illyrian-Albanian cultural and ethnical continuity.

During 1976, a series of expeditions of an informative character was also organized. Thus in the Vlora district, in the valley of the Shushica river, some castles and dwelling sites of Antiquity and the Middle Age were visited and explored. The exploration of this zone is of particular importance because although it is a remote mountainous region, many ancient dwelling sites are found there, which testify to the continuity of urban life from Antiquity to the Middle ages.

On an informative expedition to a number of Illyrian and Mediaeval castles, in the regions of Berat and Skrapar, many important facts which will serve for the further study of urban life also in other Illyrian-Albanian centres of this region were gathered.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIA WEI — People's Republic of China.

I am a young Chinese and a reader of «New Albania» magazine. I like your magazine a great deal because through it I have learned of the successes which the Albanian people have achieved under the leadership of the Party of Labour and comrade Enver Hoxha. Your successes are a heavy blow to U.S. imperialists and Soviet social-imperialists. They are a great encouragement to the peoples who fight for freedom and independence.

DONZEAUD JEAN — France.

We always receive your magazine with the same pleasure and enthusiasm and see in its pages familiar or new landscapes, worksites, views of factories, agricultural cooperatives or State Farms, schools, hospitals, creches, films, art's works and so on. All of these testify to the drive, energy, persistence and heroism with which the Albanian people are building and consolidating socialism within the borders of their homeland in the light of Marxism-Leninism and under the farsighted leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania and its indomitable Secretary, Enver Hoxha.

The «New Albania» magazine has the merit that in its pages it gives appropriate space to political, social, economic, scientific and cultural activities, properly illustrated with well selected pictures which arouse admiration, sympathy and respect.

The reproduction of paintings and various works of the art of socialist realism also help to give a better knowledge of the artistic image of present day Albania.

The themes we have suggested in our former letters have mostly been dealt with and we thank you. In the coming issues we

would like, if possible, a reportage on a small mountain village during the epoch of socialism, a cooperative with its creches school, shops, and so on.

WERNER KRAMER — The Federal German Republic.

I am a worker from the Federal German Republic and have often heard about Albania, especially through the radio or «New Albania» and «Albania Today» magazines. I rejoice at the successes you have achieved during these thirty years of your People's State Power. I have read the new Constitution and am convinced that there is no better constitution in the world today and I congratulate you also on this success of your people.

I wish to come to Albania in 1977 and see with my own eyes the successes you have achieved. And here is a minor request: Although I do not know Albanian I wish to have a newspaper from Albania, no matter what it is, as long as it is in the Albanian language. Perhaps you can fulfil this wish of mine. If it is not possible, it does not matter. I wish you successes for the coming thirty years of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and that you will remain the beacon light of socialism in Europe.

NASR ALI SHAVATAH — Egypt.

I am a young Egyptian who listens to Radio Tirana and have read several issues of «New Albania» magazine. What I have learned about your country have made me admire the Albanian people for their ability and the great progress they have made in building socialism and setting a vanguard example for other peoples. I want to know more about the sound foundations of the

Albanian Socialist State which is led by its Party of Labour. I want to know more about the economic, cultural and educational development of your country. I can learn these through the «New Albania» magazine; but how can I get it?

GEORG SCHIBER — Austria.

I follow the development of Albania towards its future based on Marxism-Leninism with great interest. I wish to express my congratulations on «New Albania» magazine. The socialist reality of your homeland is reflected strikingly in it.

Hearty revolutionary greetings for the socialist future of Albania.

B. MARINA — France.

I am a reader of «New Albania» magazine and every issue of it brings me joy, because its pages enable me to follow the great progress of the Marxist-Leninist Socialist Albania, to see the close ties between the leadership and the people.

I feel happy to see Albania advancing steadily along the revolutionary road for the construction of socialism, fighting against imperialism and revisionism. Under the guidance of their Party of Labour and comrade Enver Hoxha, the Albanian people, within these thirty years of People's State Power, have transformed their homeland, once oppressed, poor and backward, into a powerful bastion of Marxism-Leninism, the dictatorship of the proletariat and the revolution in the world.

Please help me find the speeches and works of the great fighter, comrade Enver Hoxha and the History of the Albanians.

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THE VILLAGE OF DARDHA IN WINTER

View of the mountain village of Dardha in the Korça district. During the winter young people go there on mass excursions and hold skiing contests. Photo: Agron Kurti



