IN THIS ISSUE

Dh. S. Shuteriqi — In November 1941 1
— The ten village aldermen of Hekali 2
— Words and deeds 4
— Rifle of three generations 6
— Legend and reality 8

Sh. Vani — The Agricultural Cooperative “Partisan” in 1971 10
— A word from those born 30 years ago 14
— Foreigners about Albania 16
— Albanian historians looking into Paris archives 20
— “Biography” of the land 21
— Albania at international fairs 25

A. Xhiku — “We, the sons of this new age” 28
A. Rundo — Lamartine and De Rada 29

R. Sokollu — Folk instruments of our people 31
— Albanian firearms at the time of Scanderbeg

“NEW ALBANIA”

A political, social illustrated periodical appearing bimonthly in Albanian, Chinese, Russian, French, English, Arabic and Italian.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-chief: Ymer Minxhozi

Members: Andon Kuqali, Ismail Këndare, Jusuf Alli, Halil Stolla, Sofokli Aszellli.

Art-Editor: Lumunti Drizani.

Photo-reporter: Simon Xhiliari.

Address of the Editorial Board: “Shqipëria e Re”, Rr. “Labinoti”, Nr. 7 — TIRANA—ALBANIA

Subscription rates: For one year 2.80 U.S. dollars, or 2.16 rubles

Address your subscriptions to: Central Directorate of the Book Distribution and Propagation.

TIRANA — ALBANIA

One Out of Every Three Albanians Goes to School

On 1st September, the school bell rings in the four corners of our fatherland, classrooms and auditorium echo with the voices of children and youth.

The number of pupils and students is increasing every year. This year it is again at a record-breaking level 600,000 persons. Thus in our country, one out of every three goes to school.
IN NOVEMBER 1941

D.H. S. Shuteriqi

In November 1941, when the Communists of Albania formed their own Party, they were no more than 200. And, although the ideas of Marx and Lenin had already gained ground among us and the confidence in the socialist future had knocked at Albanian hearts, few could believe that a handful of men could bring about in only three years the greatest overturn in the history of these few people, in this corner of the Balkans run over by a forty-million-strong Power with neighbours on whom fascism had also pierced its claws.

Not that the Italian fascists and the ruthless classes of the Albanian feudal and bourgeoisie in their service had not been aware of the danger. The fascists had a long experience in waging an anti-communist war in their country and abroad. They were aware of the danger the formation of a Communist Party would mean for them in a country where the people's resistance movement against the invaders was waiting for its helmsman, even in a country like Albania where the proletariat was so few in number and had not given proof of organization and management. As to our feudal lords and the bourgeoisie, they shuddered when they heard the name of Communists.

Even then, what could 200 communists do? How could they cope with an Empire which had turned Albania into a great military base directed towards the East?

In spite of that, those in power began their campaign to nip the Communist organization in the bud and not many days later they began to kill and hang. Only six months later did fighting begin in the capital bringing about the death of one of the most outstanding leaders of the Party, Qemal Stafa. Then the flames had spread to the forests. The first partisan detachments had taken to the mountains and guerrilla units were operating in town after town. The smaller these forces, the more courageous and unbelievable were their blows, and the clearer it became that the blazing winds would soon spread the flames throughout the country. Confidence in and enthusiasm for the war grew surprisingly great and gripped the masses. The enemy flew into a rage and took to their heels whenever they came up against our resistance.

The three year long history of the national liberation struggle of our people proved a number of things. Firstly, that even 200 Communists could, in record time, lead the people to victory over the biggest enemies history could ever give to a people this century, the Italian fascists and, later, the German nazi, with untrustworthy allies who tried to dig the grave for our people behind their back.

Secondly, that Albania possessed extraordinary liberation energies which only a true popular leadership reacted and imbued with revolutionary fervour could lead them to victory. Our people had lacked such a leadership in the past. Now that they had it, they had also secured their victory, a victory they had never secured before. The liberation of Albania from Turkey of the Sultan in 1912 had been a major historical event. But that mainspring Albania remained, on the other hand, a "little Turkey" as we say, who had never enjoyed freedom, a prey to the imperialists and chauvinist neighbours, so international intrigues and foreign occupation. Were not, for instance, the two World Wars fought on its territory even though it was not at war with either Party?

Thirdly, the victory achieved in November 1944 against the foreign invaders and traitors to the country testified to an already extraordinary force which had finally made these people masters of their own. Now that the Communists of Albania had seized power, what could prevent them from embarking on the socialist road? But could this be achieved by a new bold drive which might seem as unbelievable as that of three preceding years? What could be done in a country which though in the heart of Europe, had remained semi-feudal, a country in which one in ten persons could hardly read, where the land was scraped over with a wooden plow, where the principal means of communication was the saddle horse? What socialism could the Albanian Communists set up under such a state of poverty where the flames of war had also raised havoc? Those who came off victorious in the war shared devastation and hunger after it. The "allies" rejoiced now over our poverty and set to work to ruin us, under rating the force which had seized the reins of state in Albania, confident that this force would not last long.

The new hardships we had to cope with were terrific, even more terrific than those of the war days. The international solidarity of the Communist with the Soviet Union in the lead, was great, but Albania remained in this corner of the Balkans a country geographically surrounded and everyone knows or can imagine the danger and severity of such a surrounding. Add to this the monstrous blockade imposed on us by the revisionists with all the weight it could have and had, especially, on a small and surrounded country like us and one can imagine what force of resistance was called for and what energy was created once more for victory. Albania did not give in. Every attempt to smother it was itself smothered. The curtailment of its territory showed but one thing—no matter how small and poor a country may be when it people hold the reins of state in their own hands and are guided by a strong and correct leadership, it is invincible.

This is what People's Albania represents where socialism has become a reality. This is what Communist ideas lead to when they are loyally adhered to and applied in a creative way. For without a creative application of the ideas of Marx and Lenin how could semi-feudal Albania under foreign occupation be freed, how could socialism be built in a backward and encircled Albania? The force of our victories lies in the creative Marxism-Leninism which the Party of the Albanian Communists has pursued these last thirty years in its loyalty to Marxism-Leninism. This is the great lesson anyone can draw from the Albanian experience.

The Albanian thirty-year-long reality shines bright and sounds loud. The imperialists and revisionists are aware of this and the many friends of Albania understand it. Yesterday's victories are a guarantee for the coming victories. This small socialist country, here, amidst capitalist and revisionist Europe, by its very existence speaks out loud of the possible and the impossible of the boundless resources of proletarian revolution.

In November 1941, when the Communists founded their Party, they were not more than 266. Today, the 9th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania in these thirty years of struggle and victories, displays the invincible socialist reality.
The struggle to smash the old state power and set up the new one, which the Party called for, was one of the most important fronts of our people's revolution. This was a political, ideological, organizational, armed struggle. The Anti-Fascist National Liberation Conference in Peza, of September 18th, 1942, the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Congress in Prizren of May 24, 1943 up to the entry of the Provisional Democratic Government in Tirana, the meeting of the Constituent Assembly and the proclamation of the new Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, all these events mark stages in the establishment of the new People's State Power in our country. This State Power emerged in the heat of the National Liberation War, from the National Liberation Councils of villages, suburbs, towns and districts.

Now, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the founding of our Party, our painter Fatmir Haziri is about to finish a tableau on this theme. He has drawn his historical subject matter from an event during the war. The painter has found inspiration in the self-sacrifice of the ten members of the National Liberation Council of the village of Hekali in the Malakastria District.

Remaining loyal to the people, these ten councillors stood manly and unshaved before the Hitlerite invaders. The enemy shot them but not the cause for which they fought. In Albania the People's State Power was built, become strong, and will become stronger and stronger as the years roll on.
"Mother Albania", a work by the sculptors Muntaz Dhrami, Shaban Hadieri and Kristaj Karma (in the studio).
Our Party of Labour has never separated words from deeds. This has been and remains a distinctive feature of the whole of its thirty years of existence. In the future, too, this will continue to be a distinctive feature of the Party of Labour of Albania.

When the Communist Party of Albania was founded, the communists took upon themselves the task of raising their Party to a real Marxist-Leninist one, the vanguard of the working class and of all the oppressed masses. It had to become a Party of action, faithful to its publicly proclaimed policy.

In the resolution adopted at the meeting of the principal communist groups of Albania which was called to found the Party on November 6, 1919, we read, among other things:

"... the Party will not become a Party of the old type, a Party similar to those of the Social-Democratic Second International in which disintegration, inactivity, factionalism and betrayal of the working class prevailed. We want a disciplined Party in which the comrades will subject themselves to the orders (the highest committee) a Party which will be capable of leading the working class in its fight for victory. This is a new party, which will be close to the people and will have a people's character." And now that we have come to the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Party, the Albanian communists, workers, the cooperative movement, and all the Albanian people are proud that they have such a Party, a powerful Party, a Party which, in the struggle for victory, will be close to the people and will have a people's character.

In the above-mentioned resolution we read also:

"One of the fundamental laws of development of the Party of the new type, of the Bolshevik Party, is that of fighting on two fronts: against our own mistakes, especially against attempts of form groups, and against the class enemy." The whole thirty-year history of our Party is the history of the finest struggles on these two fronts: the fight against the foreign invaders and traitors to the country and the fight against the factionists and opportunists, against modern revisionism and its agents with in the Party.

From its foundation, our Party put forward as the immediate task "we must fight for the national independence of the Albanian people and for a People's Democratic Government in an Albania freed from fascism." These few lines summed up a great strategic objective. In order to achieve it, an unparalleled struggle, a major epic written in blood was necessary. And true enough, while this paragraph of the Resolution of the Meeting of the Communist Groups to form the Party was being composed in a small house in Tirana, on the streets of Korça, in the front ranks of a powerful anti-fascist demonstration, the writing of this bloody epic began: the communist Kom Noka, hero of the Albanian people, the first communist martyr fell in the fighting. After him there were hundreds of others.

The Party put out the call:

"Through actions of sabotage, strikes, demonstrations and so on, prepare the people politically and militarily for a general armed uprising, involving all the patriotic and anti-fascist forces for this purpose." This was the road laid down by the Party. It was the road of the armed struggle, the only road that would lead to victory. The problems that had to be solved were many and extremely difficult. They had to be solved in the course of the struggle. The call of the Party reached every town, every village, every work site, to the most remote hamlet of our countryside. And, under the heavy conditions of illegality, the Party organized itself, as well as the masses of youth and women, created the National Liberation Front and its own propaganda apparatus publishing thousands of leaflets and bulletins, the central Party organ "Zeri i Popullit", the newspapers "Bashkim", "Koshtrimi i Lirisë", and tens of newspapers and periodicals in every district and partisan unit.

This is what was written in a message addressed to the Albanian people by the Party Central Committee on April 7, 1941:

"... We call on all honest Albanians who love Albania and are ready to unite all their forces and place them at the service of the National Liberation War, to close their ranks in the National Liberation Front. Take up arms and join the Albanian National Liberation Party Volunteer Detachments and create new guerrilla units. The fate of our country depends on our fight and, the broader and fiercer the war against the invaders, the sooner will the day of liberation dawn."

And our people listened to the Party. They set up guerilla units in towns, partisan detachments, battalions, groups, shock brigades, divisions, and army corps. They trained the cadres who would lead them in the heat of battle. They began to fight with a few old rifles left from the generations who had fought in the past for the independence of Albania. In a letter which the General Staff addressed to the commanders of the partisan units on August 14, 1944 we read:

"It must be borne well in mind that we started the war without any other aid except that of our people and we must realize that we will fight to the end basing ourselves on this aid alone. The commands must see to it that clothing and weapons should be drawn from the enemy. Our only means of supply is to attack the depots of the enemy. You must attack them and seize them from the enemy. And the weapons were seized from the enemy—from pistols to field guns."

"For the national independence of the Albanian people and their People's Democratic Government..." this was the slogan of the Party from its earliest days. And side by side with the armed uprising against the enemy, it taught and led the people towards destroying the old state power and building the new one. In every inhabited center the National Liberation Councils elected by the people, sprung up, and there became the nucleus of the new revolutionary state power. The Peza Conference in September 1942 advanced the realization of this aspiration, while the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Congress in Prizren, on May 24, 1944, attended by representatives elected by the people throughout the whole country, solved definitely, de facto and de jure, the question of the people's regime. On November 28, the members of the Democratic Government of Albania, headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, entered Tirana.

On the following day, November 29, Shkodra, the last city held by the Germans and Nazis, was freed by the forces of our Na-
THE ORIGIN OF A SONG

At daybreak on June 22, 1942, the city of Shkodra awoke to the rumbles of tanks and sounds of machine-guns fire and bombs.

What had happened?

The news spread like wildfire that hundreds of fascists had surrounded painter Jordan Mizrahi's house on Fleriz Street. Inside were Jordan and two clandestine comrades: Perlat Rexhepi and Branko Kadrija. Hundreds of fascists were deployed to take the house and capture the freedom fighters. But the red berserkers fought back. For eight long hours it resisted the tide of blackshirts until Branko was shot dead, Jordan burned to death, and Perlat seriously wounded, and with the roof in flames.

Shkodra witnessed unparalleled heroism that day.

From people's hearts songs burst forth to honour the three heroes. One such song was born in the Shkodra jail:

Awake! Bang the drum when dawn has severely broken.

Who is the author of this song? The fascists. Let us leave it to our writer Kol Jakova to tell the story.

One week after the Fleriz road affair, I was arrested and thrown into jail. I was put in a cell 8 x 3 meters in the basement in which there were fifty other prisoners. We did what we could to pass the time in such a place. I couldn't get the event of 22nd June out of my mind, and one day I scratched the words of this song on the wall. Later, urged by my fellow prisoners, I set it to music. Soon everyone in the jail had learned the song, and it even began to be spread outside in the city.

This drove the fascists nearly frantic. One day, the captain of the carabiniers and forty of his men armed to the teeth came to the jail. They were accompanied by the director of the prison and the guards.

They entered our room and pushed us all out. They lined us up in single file facing the machine-guns. We were all political prisoners.

The ordinary prisoners were locked in their cells. They were all looking out of the windows to see what was going to happen.

The director said:

"Listen!" One of you has written a song in insulting the Ducis and our Primo Minister, Mustafa Krupa. The song has its origin in this jail. We are quite certain of this. We even know who the author is but we want him to admit it himself. Let him come out and save his companions. Otherwise, we will shoot every tenth person in this row. Let him come out and save his fellow prisoners. If he confesses his lie will be spared. I give my personal guarantee of that.

No one stirred. I felt a furtive glance at Halil, the leader of our group but his look warned me not to make any move. Then the captain began to shout and stomp hurling all sorts of invectives at us. He belloved into a ball demanding the name of the author.

To our astonishment, Gyioli, one of our comrades who had been sentenced to death and whose documents had been sent to Tirana to be re-examined by the High Court, stepped forward.

"I am the author of that song. What else do you want from me. You have tortured me and sentenced me to death. You can hang me, you dogs but I am not afraid of you. If you are upset by the song insult the Ducis and Mustafa Krupa, I will insult Victor Emmanuel and his mustache right here and now!"

The carabiniers rushed to grab him, but the director knew Gyli well. "No, no, this man has not written the song," he said to the captain and to the carabiniers.

"He does not know how to read or write."

"That's right!" butted in Ahmed Hoxhia. "He is telling a lie. It isn't he who has written the song but I who know how to read and write and play the guitar as well."

The carabiniers let go of Gyli and grabbed Ahmed. Whereupon, another comrade stepped up and rushed at Ahmed.

"Why do you tell lies?" he shouted at him, pretending indignation.

"You know very well that I wrote the song."

A great commotion followed. Meanwhile the voice of a mountaineer was heard from the windows above:

"The communists are deceiving you!" shouted the mountaineer. "They didn't write that song."

"Why, do you know who composed it, then?" the director asked.

"Of course I do!" he replied "I composed that song with my own hands!"

"You fool!" shouted another mountaineer from the opposite window. "That is the song I composed."

Then another voice was heard and another, and gradually the whole jail began to echo with the words:

"If it!"

Then someone began to sing, all the prisoners joined in like a choir, singing that song which spread with the wind all over Shkodra.

A Song to the Three Vivi Heroes

Kol Jakova

At daybreak at four
A knock at the door
Then a loud roar:
"Give up and surrender!"

Jordan takes command:
"Up for our dear lord,
Shout the fascists down;
We fight to defend her!"
During the battle for the liberation of Tirana, every house was turned into a bastion.

A Rifle of Three Generations

In the city museum in Kociri in a special showcase devoted to the life of the distinguished patriot Themistokli Gërmbaj, the visitor will see a long rifle. With this rifle, Themistokli fought against the Turkish occupationists and other enemies who wanted to enslave our country.

The visitor examining this rifle will be surprised to notice some letters as well as a hammer and sickle carved on it. Death to Fascism—Freedom to the People. These letters were not carved by the hands of Themistokli but by that of another fighter who came after him. They were carved in the time of the National Liberation War by the former partisan Sefer Polaçi. When the Albanian Communist Party made the call to the people to join the anti-fascist war our youth took out from their hiding places the rifles of their forefathers and with these weapons, they began the fight. It was a mighty struggle. Many arms were needed. The people handed them from the enemy states, or on the battle-field. The fighters for freedom quickly armed themselves with automatic rifles, machine-guns, mortars and artillery.
The Land to Those Who Till it

One of the most important reforms our People's State Power carried out immediately following the establishment of its rule was the Land Reform. At the First Congress of the Albanian Communist Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha said that the Land Reform “did away for all time with the old relations of ownership on the land, freed the peasantry from age-long injustice and oppression, made the poor farmers masters of the products of the land they had tilled as hirings of the landlords, checked to a certain extent exploitation of man by man, crushed and put an end for all time to the economy of feudal lords who had deceived and robbed the poor peasants centuries at a stretch...”

Here are some data on the deep revolutionary transformation the Land Reform Laws brought about in the Albanian countryside:

In 1945, ownership of land was as follows:
- 7 landed proprietors held titles to 14,534 hectares or 5.7% of all the land.
- 4,713 land rich families owned 83,183 hectares or 28.1% of the land.
- The State owned 50,000 hectares or 17.1% of the land.
- 120,901 middle class and land poor families owned 337,668 hectares or 89% of the land.
- 21,544 peasant families were landless.

Profitable from the Land Reform Laws were:
- 80,667 land poor and 21,544 landless families. In addition to land they received olive trees, draft-animals and agricultural inventories. The confiscated lands were not paid for or compensated by the State. All the land, olive trees and draft-animals were distributed free of charge.

The distribution of land envisaged by the Land Reform Laws was completed by November 17, 1946.
“Albania on the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the PLA”

Legend and Reality

The area of arable land Albania had in 1938. During the ten years between 1961 and 1970 total agricultural output was 61% higher than during the preceding ten-year period.

The changes made in the mechanization of agriculture have no comparison in the past. The number of tractors (in terms of 15 HP) employed today is more than thirty times the number employed in 1950, 2.3 times the number employed in 1960 and 43% above those employed in 1965. These tractors have carried out more than 3 times the amount of work done with tractors and 89% more than in 1965.

The number of combines (non-existent before liberation) has increased more than 3-fold above that of 1960 and 2-fold above that of 1965.

Words That Are No Longer in Use

Nearly everyday the newspapers of the the various capitalist countries publish news items on the increase of taxes and of debts incurred by the ranks and file workers. This is the accepted thing in the life of these countries. Taxes and other charges dog the footsteps of the workers. They follow them like their own shadow but weigh heavy on their shoulders.

... Taxes ... fees ... these two words are mentioned among us only when speaking of the past. In our daily life they are no longer used, they have been wiped forever from all official records.

No Albanian citizen pays any tax or other deduction from his income. The People's Republic of Albania is the only State in the world without deductions and taxes on the incomes of the workers at town or countryside. This fact indicates two things: first, the rapid development of our national economy, and second the further raising of the well-being of every worker of our country.

The gradual reduction and, finally, the total abolition of the burden of taxes on the population is linked with the extension of the sphere of the establishment of socialist relations of production and the development of the productive forces of the country.

The proportion of charges and taxes levied on the population in the total budget revenue of the State in the 1948-1949 financial year was 92%, in 1950–12.6%, in 1960–2.1%, in 1969–0.1%.

Thus, during the first year after liberation, since our State was not yet the owner of the main means of production, its financial basis was on imposts and taxation.

In 1969, as against 1950, the real wages of the workers and employees had increased 1.7 times and the real income of the peasants had doubled. In our country the population also enjoys indirect advantages which have an influence on raising their well-being. In Albania medical treatment and education are given free of charge. Rents are very low. The costs of keeping their children in creches and kindergartens are heavily subsidized. The workers pay at rates which are very low and related to the family income.

Total industrial production of electricity.

52.8

1950 1970
The Miner and His Children

Nill Bill was the first to break his family tradition; he left his home and set off for the mine. He was young then. From Ivjain, his birthplace, he took with him a bag of wears and many bitter memories. His father died when he was very young. So, life with man's burden weighed heavily on the young man's shoulders.

At the beginning, in the mine of Krasno, in the Ivjain District, he loaded wagons with coal, then he put wagons in motion. But Nill's mind was in the depths of pits. He was not satisfied with the work. He wanted to do much more.

So he started work as an assistant-engineer. He attentively followed every operation of his master.

They spoke very well of Nill. He became a miner. Two decades have passed since then. Today Nill is of the same bodily structure. Only his hair and some wrinkles in his face are marks of the passed years.

His family is very big. On mornings, his sons, dressed in overalls, take the road to their jobs.

"Good morning, Nill!"

"Good morning my boy!" And Nill responds to the greetings with a smile. He puts his arms on his two tone shoulders who are walking by his side. With him are his three sons, Perikli, Petar and Luka. Petar's wife, Rada, is smiling as well. She looks like her husband. Nill's family is very big.

During the five years of the five-year period, the volume of investments will be 70 to 75 per cent higher than during the preceding five-year period. It will be nearly equal to the volume of investments during the 10 years from 1945 to 1953. The investments to be made for the construction of the Metalurgical Plant at Eleno and the Second Hydro-Electric Power-Plant on the Drina River at Fier are nearly equal to all the investments made during the 1st Five-Year Plan or half as much as those made during the 2nd Five-Year Plan.

During the last ten years, 2.5 times more medium and higher cadres were trained in the country than the total number of miners had in 1950.

The total production of 1960 was realized in less than 3 months during 1970. One per cent of the increase of production during the period 1955 to 1960 was valued at 11 million leks while during the 1960 to 1970 period it was valued at 32 million leks.

The Language of Statistics

For the number of students for every 10,000 inhabitants Albania ranks with the advanced countries. In 1950, in this respect it left behind a number of countries like Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland and others. In 1960, as against 1955, the number of workers with secondary, or higher schooling increased about 14 times. In every 1,000 workers in 1955 there were 41 who had been through secondary and higher schools, in 1965, that number rose to 120 and in 1968, to 346.

During the five years of the five-five-year period, the volume of investments will be 70 to 75 per cent higher than during the preceding five-year period. It will be nearly equal to the volume of investments during the 10 years from 1945 to 1953. The investments to be made for the construction of the Metalurgical Plant at Eleno and the Second Hydro-Electric Power-Plant on the Drina River at Fier are nearly equal to all the investments made during the 1st Five-Year Plan or half as much as those made during the 2nd Five-Year Plan.

During the period 1955-1970, agricultural production was 61 per cent higher than during the preceding 10 years. In 1970 the electric power used in agriculture was 2.5 times greater than in 1955. Agriculture used 2.5 times more artificial fertilizers during the 4th Five-Year Plan than during the two preceding Five-Year Plans taken together.

The future Metalurgical Plant in Eleno will extend over an area 15 times as large as the "Metal" Technic Plant in Feri, which is considered one of the largest establishments in the country. The machinery which will be installed here will be 9 times greater in weight and volume than that of the Nitrogen Fertilizer Plant at Feri. The machine shop of this works alone will be 5 times as large as the "Tractor Plant" in Tirana. The Thermoelectric Power-Plant, which is a small annex of the Deep Oil Refinery in Bursi, will have an installed capacity equal to those of the "Tractor Plant" in Feri, the Thermoelectric Power-Plant at the J.V. Stalin" Textile Mills in Tirana taken together. The area of the artificial lake of the Feri Thermoelectric Power-Plant will be 3 times that of the artificial lake of the "Karl Marx" Electric Power-Plant at Ulza.

During the 5th Five-Year Plan consumption (fuels increased) 3 times faster than the increase of population. During the new Five-Year Plan, 45,000 apartments in towns and 40,000 houses in rural areas will be built.

These new buildings will house a population equal to the present population of the cities of Shkoder, Durres, Vlore, Kamez, Elbasan, Berat, Ploce and Lushnje taken together.
The "Partisan" Agricultural Cooperative in 1971
Up to a short time ago, there was a small shacky standing somewhere in a sector of the “Partisan” Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative in the Krusa District. Despite attempts to repair it, it could not resist the vicissitudes of time; it sagged and collapsed just as all old things do. Now there is only a photograph of this shacky hanging on the wall of the House of Culture as a glimpse of the past appearance of this district.

“Not even here live in a caup like that nowadays” some young people said to me.

I talked to many elderly people, all members of the cooperative. Their memories are like an album in which pictures of two epochs, the past and the present, are shown side by side.

And their conversation begins: “The young people may think we are making those things up. But that is not surprising. The better their lives today, the more unbelievable for them is the picture of the past.”

The peasants of this region like those of Albania as a whole, became masters of the lands held by the landlords and the clerge for the first time. It was from these shabby huts, and swamps, the wooden plough and ignorance that they set out on their new course. Soon after the land reform the peasants of the village of Lizin set up an agricultural cooperative. Lizin stands out as the first village to raise the banner of cooperatism in the Krusa District. The

peasants pulled down their hedges, filled in the swamps and put the waste land under cultivation. They appeared in place of the wooden plough. Later threshing mills and combine harvesters came into use.

In fact they are people of few words and hard work. But the peasants round about watched the progress of Lizin in silence. Before them stretched a road unknown at that time. Now its advantages are evident. These peasants were faced with this alternative: to go on as before or to adopt Lizin’s way. They solved this dilemma: they had to follow Lizin’s example. Thus, one after the other, they raised the banner of cooperatism. Somewhat later, the villages of Push – Krusa, Acredgrad, Larabuk, Hasanab, Lizin (Laliq) and Zerdish were united. We see them now marching together like seven brothers towards the same goal and under one name: the “Partisan” Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative.

The profile of the economy of this agricultural collective is the production of bread grain, rice, sunflower and vegetables, and, last but not least, livestock farming, mainly cows. The average yield of rice is from 50 to 73 quintals per hectare, that of hybrid corn from 76 up to 104 quintals per hectare. During the last ten years, the production of bread grain increased 3-fold, the production of milo – 8-fold. During the last three years, the number of cows has increased three-fold. A modern complex has been set up for them including an up-to-date milking shed. A poultry raising establishment has recently been built at this cooperative.

The “Partisan” Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative achieved its targets for the 5th Five-Year Plan one year ahead of schedule.

Regular scientific experiments are conducted in the fields of the cooperative for the purpose of increasing production. The experimental plots have yielded 45 quintals of rice and 171 quintals of maize per hectare. Pedological and agro-chemical maps now been drawn up. This will have a great scientific use for various ter-
Major work has been done here to ensure irrigation water. During the last decade, the area brought under irrigation has increased ten-fold. Today, more than 90% of the fields of the cooperative are under irrigation. This is one of the factors which has led to the increase of productivity of the agricultural crops in recent years.

The complete electrification of the countryside has made it possible to use a number of machines and other equipment in the service of agricultural and livestock production: electro-pumps for irrigation, flour mills, ventilators for drying lucerne, woodworking machines, etc.

Economic progress has given an impetus to the all-round development of life in this cooperative. Instead of one small primary school, there are now a general secondary school, four 8-grade and four primary schools in the cooperative. Now there are as many teachers in this cooperative as there were school children prior to liberation. Today, this agricultural cooperative alone has three times as many doctors of higher and medium training as the whole district had in 1944.

This year alone 18 midwives and nurses graduated from training schools. More than 40 persons attend part-time agricultural and veterinary schools.

A complex of public health buildings and a House of Culture have been built at the center of the cooperative. A new Palace of Culture is under construction there. In every village there is medical post, a cultural center, creches and kindergartens and other social and cultural institutions.

It should be mentioned that the members of this cooperative are lovers of folk art. Masters of folk dances, players of the cello and other folk instruments can be found in every village.

The economic and cultural progress of the cooperative leaves its mark increasingly in every home. Within a period of less than ten years, the incomes of the cooperative members have risen five fold. Chief accountant, Hamid Celis, who has been working at the cooperative since its foundation, told me that at the end of the year many families like those of Hyen Kapillard, Salimma Hoxha (he mentioned tens of other names) received sufficient money for each to build a good new house.

At this point it should be said that more than 60% of the houses of the cooperative members have been newly built. The new has entered into their lives. Every house has modern furniture and facilities. Some of them even have TV sets.

We met some of the members of the cooperative.

Sefer Tolli is its chairman. He was born and brought up here. Circumstances forced him to start work at the age of eleven. The liberation of the country found him almost illiterate. Today, he has been through a university-level school. Life is full of life, a good organizer on the best of terms with the people, and optimist of the future of the cooperative.

Liri Odaj's career is like a rising. We met her in one of the auxiliary sectors. As a farmer's daughter, she began life with a hoe in her hand in the fields of the village of Kamejaq. Later on, she attended school and became a squad leader in Aramaq. She displayed her ability as an organizer and soon took in hand the management of a whole sector. She is one of the six members of the staff of the cooperative.

Other women like Zvo Raxaj, Hatunfe Leza, File Hoxha, and others who fill managerial posts, have followed a similar course.

We met other cooperative members, Mustafa Kasapid, Sulimena Hoxha, Sabri Stafaqi. . . Some of them are agronomists or doctors, electricians, tractor drivers, carpenters . . . Sabri Stafaqi registers 165 workdays a year. Tractor drivers Hyen Seria and Ali Dogi are months ahead of schedule in their work.

These and other members of the cooperative have recently begun to tackle an important problem, namely, how far ahead they will carry their cooperative during the 5th Five-Year Plan: Listening to their ideas, suggestions, and remarks, and one gets a picture of the new ways and possibilities which are opened to this cooperative for a further intensification of agriculture and livestock farming, for a considerable raise in all the targets set for agriculture and animal husbandry. The cooperative members themselves draw up their plans for the future. According to their forecasts, tens of dwelling houses, institutions, and projects for social and cultural purposes will be built.
“THE PHOTOGRAPHER’S EYE”

At the Miraka sector of the Elbasan-Frenjas Railroad which is being built by or youth.

Photo by P. Cici

A snapshot taken at the Assembly and Building Establishment at Stalin City.

Photo by M. Xhufka
“Albania on the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the PLA”

A Word From Those Born Thirty Years Ago...

Stavri Pore — a postgraduate student

I was born when the Party came into being and brought me up. The lot of my family as well as of many other families like mine which were afflicted with poverty has greatly improved during these three decades.

Today, two of my older brothers have completed their higher studies and are employed as engineers, my sister is a physician while my younger sister is attending a part-time school in the city of Fier.

After having served for two years as a teacher I am now postgraduate worker at the Institute of History and Linguistics, majoring in the history of Albanian literature.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labour of Albania finds me working on a scientific thesis which I hope to complete early in November. The title of my essay is “The image of a positive hero in contemporary drama”.

Our literature of socialist realism is of the same age as our Party. It came into being during the stormy days of our struggle for liberation and has experienced a sudden rapid growth and expansion during the years of socialist construction. By reflecting reality it is filled with positive heroes who are to be found everywhere: in work sites, factories, fields and so on.

And now that I have become thirty years old, these positive heroes in our drama interest (the least of all) to the scientific thesis I have chosen.

Coherei As Lani — technologist

My curriculum vitae is a simple one. I was only four years of age when our country was liberated. When I was of age I began my career as a worker in the agricultural cooperative of my home village. Then I came to the State “Perlat Rexhepi” Farm in Shkodra where I was employed as a field worker.

In 1985 a new industrial project was inaugurated in our city. This was the Copper Wire Extrusion Plant. I had heard of this establishment when its foundations were laid. Somehow or other I got a notion of taking up a job there.

I applied for a job and one of the most thrilling moments in my life is when I started work there. The same year I applied for and was admitted to membership in the Party of Labour of Albania. I was deeply impressed by the modern machinery and installations and I liked the comradesy life of the collective. Amith all that were I felt as if I were a weaver. I liked my job and have already been promoted to the sixth category.

I have been elected to the post of assistant secretary of the Party grass-roots organization of our work center and I am, thus, filling professional and political functions.
Isuf Elmas Deda — a miner

I was born in November 1941, on those stormy days when our Party came to being. All I know of the past is what I have read in books or heard from the elderly people. This is a double jubilee for me and my age companions. It must be admitted that our life has run smoother than that of our elders. The Skutervi Village where I was born used to be called, as I have been told, “the cursed land” for it grew no grain for the people’s daily bread. This was in the pre-liberation days for now it has been turned into fertile land belonging to those who work on it.

As far back as my childhood days I had always longed to be a miner. When I grew up, I applied for a job in the Kruja Coal Mine. I began as a wagoner, then as an assistant miner and now, after eight years, I am have been promoted to a miner of the fifth category. I am devoted to this job for I feel that I am helping extract from the earth what has not been done for centuries in succession. I have never missed reaching the target and have often overachieved it by working on two fronts. They say that a miner’s job is a hard one. Though it may be so, it becomes a light and even a pleasant job when one puts all his heart and soul into it. That’s what I am doing and I feel glad of the results I have attained.

I attend an evening 7th-grade school without interrupting my work. I will soon graduate from it. It is my wish to pursue my studies in the vocational school which has been opened at the Kruja Coal Mine where I will be trained to become a technician in mining. I have all the conditions to do this and my only regret is that I hadn’t started earlier.

Liri Petro Trola — in charge of a factory

As I have been told, my parents had not been so happy for giving birth to a girl-baby thirty years ago when girls were considered to be a burden to the family. But everything has changed. I am an age companion with the Party which has led the people in the struggle for all-round emancipation, that of the woman included.

The reconstruction of the country began Party and people in a body set to work to rebuild the country devastated by the war and to launch a campaign against the wrong concepts inherited from the past.

I accomplished the work of the 7th-grade school and in 1957 I started to work at the Winery in Tirana. I was given the opportunity to attend a secondary part-time school with a break in my work. New factories were added to the existing one and, in 1960, the “Ali Keli mendi” Food-Processing Works was set up. I have spared no efforts to make my job a success. Because of this my application for membership in the Party was accepted and from 1964 I figure as a member of the Party of Labour of Albania. I accomplished the work of a secondary school in 1966 having been promoted to a worker of the fifth category at the same time. But I didn’t stop here. The opportunity was given to me, as to many others who wished to do so, to pursue the two-year course in analytical chemistry which I completed in 1970.

Today I have been elected to the post of assistant secretary of the grass-roots organization of the Food-Processing Plant. The workers of the winery employing about 90 persons, 85 of whom women and girls, elected me to be in charge of the factory. I have still another wish, namely, to attend the Department of Chemical Engineering at the State University of Tirana in order to complete my studies in that subject.

Alexander Bashati — a pedagogue

Decades are, so to speak, the principal stages in the life of man. In such cases, willy-nilly, one turns one’s head and looks with the mind’s eye back to the course one has traversed. Such is also case. Instinctively, I ask myself: what would have happened to me under the former regimes and where am I now at the third decade? Of course I would have followed in the footsteps of my parents: I would have been a peasant working on the lands of others as was the case with my father and mother.

After liberation, the road to progress was opened for all. I have three brothers and a sister. Two of us are engineers, my sister is a dentist, the third brother pursues his studies at the Conservatory, while the youngest brother attends a secondary school.

I have completed my studies at the Mechanical Engineering Department of the State University of Tirana on a state scholarship. After completing my studies I was appointed a pedagogue at the same University. I teach mechanical technology. My job as a pedagogue scene more and more interesting as it urges me to delve deeper and deeper into the details of my specialization. And the more I acquire such knowledge the happier I feel.
Theory Finds Its Confirmation in Practice

Brunhilde Mahr — Austria

I wish to thank all those who took the trouble to make my stay in Albania as pleasant as possible and who showed a lot of things about their country.

My trip to the southern part of Albania which I had not yet come to know gave me an opportunity to get better picture and cognizance of the country, its people and its socialist reality. My travel diary, be it ever so detailed, can never give a replica of what I have seen with my own eyes in Albania.

One cannot help being astonished at what the Albanian people have succeeded in accomplishing these last 21 years after liberation. Within this period they have set up an advanced industry throughout the country, they have completed the electric reforestation up to the remotest mountain village; they drained the swamps and unshaped and turned them into fertile lands or building sites. The peasants who used primitive methods of farming before liberation are now receiving higher yields thanks to their joining into cooperatives, to the facilities created for them to buy modern machinery and tools and acquire a better knowledge of agricultural technique. The rapid development of industry and agriculture has, of course, given an impetus to building construction in towns and in the countryside. This revolutionization of the whole life of the country requires the collaboration of all the population, the women included. The Albanian women who, ever since the day of liberation, have been enjoying equal rights with their husbands, are cognizant of their position in socialist society and, through their active collaboration in industry, agriculture, public health service, education and even in the domain of politics have rendered a major contribution to making Albania achieve such a rapid development.

In Albania there is no unemployment. On the contrary, efforts are being made to introduce automation so that work hands may be freed to employ in new industrial projects.

The most important factor in socialist construction is the problem of education and of the sense of duty. Albania has set up a whole educational system which is based on three fundamental principles, namely, study, work and defense and which is one of the most progressive systems in the world. According to statistics, one in four persons in Albania has been through a secondary school. The problem of forming the socialist sense of duty is a process which will be carried out in time together with the further construction of socialism.

One other thing is factually seen and felt when travelling through Albania: this is the complete unity of the people, the strong ties binding them together which spring mainly from the fact that the economic gap between peasants, workers and intellectuals is not so deep, as well as from the great faith the people have in the Party of Labour of Albania. The Party has always known how to show the people the right political road to follow and has assigned to itself the main task of looking after the welfare of the people.

A Big Construction Site

— Our country was recently visited by a group of Italian friends of Albanian origin. Towards the end of their visit, our correspondent had a meeting with this group: Vincenzo Minise, Partitiuri Anna Bianca, Chioci: Anna Maria and Gabriele Francesco.

QUERY: Have you been to Albania before?

ANSWER: This is the first time we come to Albania. But for us this was a return to our mother country. We, the Arbereshi (Albanian settlers in Italy) have preserved the language, traditions and customs of our mother country. But, above all, we have kept alive in our hearts our love for Albania which we call our far-away motherland. And now that we are here we feel we have returned home. The warm fraternal reception accorded to us makes this impression still stronger.

QUERY: What idea had you of Albania before coming here?

ANSWER: For a long time we have had only a superficial knowledge of Albania. It was a land overseas from where our ancestors had emigrated. It was alive in our songs and in the works of our poets De Rada, Varlloch, Seremetra, Stratosi and others but we have had no access to the reality of Albania. In the past, Albania was a poor, backward country whose people oppressed by a handful of feudal lords, had been plunged into ignorance and illiteracy. New Albania which emerged from the National Liberation War, was equally little known to us. We live in a capitalist country which disfavors any knowledge about a country which builds socialism.

QUERY: What impressions has your visit to our country made on you?

ANSWER: We have been deeply impressed by this visit to Albania. We saw a youthful people who have taken their destiny into their own hands, who are enthusiastically building a new society, having confidence in their own efforts, in their right road towards socialism. From Shkodra to Tirana, Albania impressed us as being a big construction site. But what impressed us most was the formation of a new man who builds his own society, a society of men free and self-denyng, always ready to sacrifice themselves for others and endowed with a high sense of duty. This assures us that the successes achieved will be multiplied and the Albanian people will soon build a brilliant future for themselves along communist lines.
People Who Do Not Rest Upon Their Oars

Brigitte Laga-France

All my knowledge about Albania was what I had read in various pamphlets, in the columns of your periodical and in books but this trip enabled me to confront this knowledge with reality and to find that what I had read in these publications tallied with reality.

One of the principal elements of Albanian life is the trust the people put in their Party which is justified by the latter's role in their war for national liberation and in their daily efforts for building socialism.

In order to understand the importance of what has been achieved it is necessary to take into account from where they began which was practically null. It was from null that the development of agriculture began. Quite as impressive is the sight of the newly-built towns at the industrial centers, like Fier, at the powerful Hydro-Electric Stations like that of "Mao Textur" on the Drin River. Major importance is attached to voluntary initiatives and work both on extending the railway line from Ribarsko to Prenjas as well as on building dwelling houses which constitute a proof of the revolutionary enthusiasm of the population as a whole.

In Albania "man is the most valuable asset" and examples I could cite are many both in the domain of public health—I take one example namely, that of the Skhodra Hospital where mothers can stay with their babies and pay nothing for maintenance and even receive 8% of their salary—as well as in the field of cultural development, to wit, the Ljubovna Agricultral Cooperative which has a cultural home with accommodations for 2,000 persons.

But the Albanians do not rest upon their ears, intoxicated with the achievements they have attained. The process of improvement, of enriching what exists, continues non-stop. Therefore, these people impart a lesson of optimism to all the freedom-loving peoples fighting in the world.

I wish to thank the editors of this publication who went all the way to facilitate my round trip by making it possible for me to meet many people and make my visit valuable. My greetings to "New Albania" the country and the Magazine.

The Albanian Woman Works, Learns and Directs

During our visit in Albania we got a clear picture of the brave Albanian people who, before liberation, used to be oppressed, persecuted and exploited by reactionary regimes. Now, thirty years after the founding of their revolutionary Party, these people enjoy full and real democracy, manage their own state affairs, enjoy full freedom of speech and of the press, having established full equality between man and woman in all fields, in rights and obligations and equal opportunity to enjoy true education at all school levels.

Today we see the Albanian woman render a worthy contribution to social production which is the basis of social progress. We find her in factories or farms where she works and directs, in all categories of school where she teaches or learns. She is an engineer, physician, directress and so on. She directs, works and produces.

We think the Albanian woman owes the successes she has achieved to the Party of Labour of Albania, a Marxist-Leninist Party, which ever since its founding attached great importance to the cause of the women and to the work of emancipating them considering them an important link on which the future of country depends.

A major role in the complete emancipation of the Albanian women from the shackles of backward traditions and customs left over by the various colonialists has been played by Comrade Enver Hoxha's speeches.

The greatest test of the complete emancipation of Albanian woman is their participation in the political and social life and in state and social affairs where they express their opinions on major issues and render their positive and concrete contribution to their solution.

During our visits to factories we were impressed by the nature of the relations between the workers and the administration, relations of solidarity and close collaboration in accomplishing revolutionary tasks.

We visited also agricultural cooperatives where social production is organized on socialist lines. They have succeeded in strengthening their economic basis.

During our visits to secondary schools we noticed that the new school system based on study, military preparedness and manual labour is built a new society in a revolutionary system which should be studied by all the states under a revolutionary and progressive regime.

No matter what we say and write we cannot express in full what we felt about those militant, hard working, hospitable and good people. We think that the experience of the People's Republic of Albania is a living and rich example to be followed by all revolutionary peoples at the stage of democratic national revolution or at the stage of socialist construction.

Greetings to the women of Albanian who strive and contribute to the construction of socialist society!

Greetings and thousand greeting to our Comrade-in-Arms Enver Hoxha!
"THE VOLUNTEERS"

Photo-reportage by P. Kumi at the Elbasan-Prenjas Youth Railroad.
Albanian Historians
Looking Into the Paris Archives

Main Cami

During the last decade, Albanian historians have had repeated access to the Paris archives from which they have drawn documentary materials of interest about the Medieval and, more so, about the modern history of Albania. France, as a great Power, has had its own political and economic interests in the Balkans and in Albania, and therefore, has closely followed the development of events in this part of Europe. The Paris government has been especially interested at given periods, during political crises of a local Balkan character or of a broader European or world character. Therefore, the French archives contain a wealth of materials connected with the history of our country which the Albanian historians are exploiting for the completion of their individual or collective studies.

Before 1974, the Albanian historians had had access to the French National Archives and to the Archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Guay d’Ossay, whereas now they are delving into the Archives of the War Ministry, concentrating on the materials of the period of the First World War and of the early post-war years, which were recently opened to scholars. The historical documents of the French archives covering this period are of special importance because, from 1916 to the middle of 1920, part of Albania (the Korce and Pogradere Districts and part of Scutari) was occupied by contingents of the French Army which were part of the “Eastern Army”, while, after the end of the First World War up to March 1920, a military garrison of the Allied Powers, the victors in the war, was stationed in Shkodra under the command of a French General assisted by other French officers. The French historical documents covering this period of the history of Albania have, therefore, a two-fold character. The military documents of the French War Ministry and the diplomatic documents are of a diplomatic character.

The material documents of the “Eastern Army” deposited in the archives of the War Ministry and kept at Chateau de Vincennes in Paris contain very important information, first and foremost, of a political character and also of economic and social nature. The extent and intensity of the Albanian National Movement in Korce during the 1916-20 period and in Shkodra during the 1918-20 period emerged clearly from these documents. The French commands in these two important centers of Albania received almost daily reports from their dependant units on the situation in the country, on the political demands of the population, and forwarded them, in summarized form, to their superior commands in Salonica, Istanbul, and Paris, every fortnight or every month. These documents also throw light on the stand of the French towards the Albanian National Movement at Korce and Shkodra, a movement which was widespread and which these commands were obliged to take into account.

The documents written by the French are of primary importance but besides them there are important original documents and materials written by the Albanians themselves. These are in the form of memoranda, petitions, and various demands by the patriotic circles of the whole country addressed to the Allied Powers of the Entente through the French command in Korce and, especially, to that in Shkodra which held the title of the Interallied Command.

In addition to important information on the political, economic and social situation in Albania during the 1916-20 period, the documentary materials of the War Ministry in Paris also reveal the Italo-French contradictions over Albania during and after the First World War as well as the intentions of the two neighbouring Balkan countries, Greece and Yugoslavia, to annex part of Albania and the attitude of France towards these intentions.

These contradictions and intentions are detailed also in the documents of the archives of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, giving the Albanian scholars new materials of interest on other important problems. Such are, for instance, the attitude maintained by France and the other Entente Powers towards the intentions of the Italian Government to occupy Viera towards the end of 1914, the support given to the Sultan’s chancery of Central Albania, Rash Pasha Toptani, by the Government in Paris, the negative stand of the French diplomats towards the “Autonomous Republic” of Korce when it had just been recognized by the “Eastern Army Corps” towards the end 1916, and so on.

An Exhibition “Rumania in 1971” was opened in Tirana commemorating the Romanian national festivities.

In Krushe, where Sandzanger had his headquarters, there still exists a tele of the past, namely, a coffee-house of the Medieval style which is visited by many tourists who come to this city.
The "Biography" of the Land

The objectives at which this major mass action is aimed are not only technological problems but questions of world outlook, questions to do with smashing old empirical concepts and creating new scientific concepts on the organization of agricultural production. The workers of agriculture will understand more clearly that increased productivity in agriculture cannot be achieved except as a result of scientific organization and management of production.

In the organization of the scientific study of the areas under cultivation rely on the directive of the Party that agriculture is everybody's concern. This directive is based on two fundamental principles of the building of socialism in our country: on self-reliance, and carrying out the line of the masses in performing tasks.

The Council of Ministers set up a central headquarters to direct this major national mass action. Staff and work groups have been set up by the Executive Committees of the People's Councils in every district as well as in each co-operative and state farm. Central department, scientific institutions, schools, as well as the broad masses of the farm workers themselves, take part in them. Working groups have been set up in the central departments and institutions. With the means and specialists which these institutions have at their disposal, they help directly in surveying the land and make soil analysis in their laboratories. In particular, the laboratories of the schools at the center and in the cooperatives give effective aid to the setting up in the future of agro-chemical laboratories experts, school teachers, industrial and building experts and school pupils are involved in this work.

It is only a few months since this work started on a national scale. The results attained so far indicate that the aims envisaged will be achieved. In many districts the enthusiasm of the workers, specialists and leading cadres has led to a shortening of the time required to accomplish the tasks and to improving the quality of work.

At the present stage, the surveying and pedagogical and chemical investigation of soils, constitutes one of the key problems in the intensification of our socialist agriculture.

This problem is not raised today for the first time in our country. It was treated in broad outlines during the preceding Five-Year Plans. But a new present stage it calls for a complete, detailed working out so that the area of agricultural land, its particular physical, chemical and agronomic characteristics may be precisely known, so that land, water, manure, climate conditions, machinery, even the working people themselves and everything connected with production, may be utilized as rationally and with the greatest high efficiency possible.

This year; the drawing up of such a "biography" of the land was proclaimed a great national mass action. The surveying of the land and compiling of a pedagogical map for each agricultural cooperative and state farm will be completed in all districts by 1972. The agro-chemical maps of all the lowland areas will also be completed within 1972, while the action will be completed in the mountain and hilly regions during the first half of 1973.

What are the main tasks to be solved through these studies?

The work of studying and evaluation of soils begins with surveying and determining the size of the areas in the survey maps. The preparation of these maps will create conditions for a better scientific organization of agricultural production. They will give accurate information about the areas of land, the boundaries of plots, the lay out of the principal objects on the land, the network of roads and canals, the changes in the configuration of the land, and so on. In this way the managers of the cooperatives, and state farms or the sectors of these economies will be able to direct and organize the work based on accurate scientific data.

The survey of the areas opens the way to knowing the structure of land to pedological and agro-chemical studies and, consequently, to drawing up the respective maps. The conclusions which are being reached in this study and which will be reflected in the pedological and agro-chemical maps, will permit the solution of a number problems connected with the organization of production on a higher level with the improvement of soil structure, the use of fertilizer the relationship between water and soil, the rotation of crops and so on. The study of soil fertility, its content of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, will enable the agricultural workers to determine accurately the amount of manure and artificial fertilizers needed by the various types of soils, keeping in mind both the structure of these soils and the requirements of the crops raised in them.
“VAU I DEJES, IN SEPTEMBER, 1971”

His Cuqi, one of the fitters of the Hydro-Power Station

The reservoir of the Hydro-Power Station
Izmir, Turkey, in 1971.

ALBANIA

Bari — Italy.
At the International Fairs

In Autumn this year, the Chamber of Commerce of the People's Republic of Albania participated in four international trade fairs, of Izmir, Belgrade, Zagreb and Bari with pavillons of export goods.

Many samples of various goods representing the full range of our exports, photos of the scenery and our people at work as well as diagrams illustrating the successes achieved during the years of the people's power in the various sectors of the people's economy, were exhibited in our pavillons.

A considerable amount of publicity and advertising material dealing with the economic development in our country, was distributed at these fairs.

From the day they opened until the moment they closed, our pavillons attracted huge numbers of visitors, businessmen and ordinary people, Albanian emigrants, and friends of Albania.

At Izmir and Belgrade as well as at Zagreb and Bari the Albanian pavillons visited by hundreds of thousands of visitors, were among the pavillons that aroused the greatest interest and had record attendances.

There were many visitors who expressed warm words of admiration for the successes achieved in our country. Albanians living in Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia and Italy who left our country many years ago when it was a land of the wooden plough, the oil lamp, malaria and illiteracy, were very enthusiastic to see in our pavillons products of mechanical, chemical and plastic industries.

Commercial circles, also, were interested in our pavillons mainly in the products of the food and light industry, artistic Albanian products etc.

In recent months, the Sweden-Albanian Friendship Association has engaged in a number of activities commemorating the recognition of Albania by the Swedish people. Here are two pictures showing the activity of this Association.

The Chairman of the Association, Olev Ulvedal speaking to those present at the reading of his impressions from Albania.

The proceedings of the meeting were followed by an Albanian film "This is your way, comrade!"
Pupil Zana Shulezai of the "Jordan Misja" Art Lyceum during a piano lesson.

Photo by S.Xhillari
Here begins the first impression of school life.

Photo by S. Xhillari

Valleleie Mag. Istariat work in the Laboratory of Geological Studies.

Photo by P. Kumi
He dedicate these few lines to one of the most outstanding Albanian literary figures of the last century, to Milish Gjergj Nikolla who wrote under the pen name of Migjeni. His life was very short: he lived only 27 years. His literary work is not extensive, but it occupies an important place in the history of Albanian literature in spite of that. His literary works in verse and prose have a great social impact through the breadth of their themes and the force of their ideas and artistic expression. Migjeni lived during a dark period of the history of our people. The peasants, who comprised the overwhelming majority of the population, were in a state of utter misery.

Oppressed by the landlord's who enjoyed the support of the anti-popular and anti-democratic state apparatus of King Zog, the Albanian peasants of the time suffered from hunger and epidemic diseases. The working class was still very small; it was brutally oppressed and exploited, constantly under the threat of unemployment and starvation. Nevertheless, it began to create its political organizations and to play its role in the political and social life of the country.

In his work Migjeni reflected the life of the poor of town and countryside with profound realism strongly expressing their discontent with the social reality of the time at which he lived. His unswerving belief that a new, better and more just world would eventually be built runs through all his works. Migjeni did not hesitate to align himself with the revolutionary democratic forces which opposed anti-popular regimes.

One of Migjeni's most powerful realistic works is "Ode to Poverty" which depicts deplorable scenes from the life of the common people.

"Man, what I can never swallow is the poverty,
It sticks in my throat and fills me with despair.
To see the pallid face, the inflamed eyes
Of the ghost of a man with suppurated hand.
Outstretched still when we have passed
A beggar till the day he dies.
Migjeni is revolted by the great social differentiation; he stigmatizes the inhuman nature of class society. Poverty he writes is an incurable ill of this society.

"A dirty stain that has remained on the face
Of humanity though the centuries".

While suffering flowers in childish eyes
A feeble candle's glitter
Neath roof all spider webs and smoke
Gains living walls dark-stained with damp
Where ghost-like people shiver
Where sitting cold like spirit possessed
Howls for its mother's hungry breast.
And she, cursing the deeds of god and man.
Finding herself pregnant again,
Curses the fruit of her own womb,
Curses her world of toil and gloom.

Migjeni treats the theme of poverty of the moral and physical pain it brings its train, in his sketch in prose, "The Legend of corn". In his Migjeni describes the mountainous as he used to be hungry in rage: "A grain of corn becomes a grain of pain when there is great hunger and little grain". With real bitterness, Migjeni describes the social and psychological consequences of poverty. Prostitution is one of these consequences. Speaking of a woman a victim of unjust society he writes:

Her life this crazy dance
Though city streets
A worthless shriveled thing
Heart-sick and spirit dead
An echo from the grave, a ghost
That dances late at night
Through city streets.

In his works not only did Migjeni draw a true picture of poverty and of the other ills it brings with it, but at the same time he exposes the whole official ideology of the time which tried to hide the reality, to peddle it by means of false illusions. He directed his blows first of all at religions and its false morality. He was well acquainted with religion and the clergy for he had studied in a religious seminary, and in all his works by means of biting sarcasm he stigmatizes the hypocrisy called religion.

In his poem "A Scandalous Song" Migjeni clearly proclaims his attitude towards religion and the clergy:

You priest and I
Conquering with a single rope
Pulled by two opposing groups
A struggle stern
That one will win.
Then haul the rope
And clash the men.

In his works, Migjeni knew not only how to attack the old world, but at the same time how to look towards the future, to the new world which would certainly be the world of the common man. His poetry in inspiration, expression, revolt, fails to action, to struggle.

The essence of his poem "We, the Sons of his New Age" is his unshakable conviction that society will change.

"We, the sons of this new age,
Quilt our fathers, patronage,
Raise our fists to fight and win".

Migjeni says that it is youth who will change the world that the world belongs to them:

"Sing youth, sing, your joyous songs
Laugh youth, laugh, to you the world belongs."

From this deep conviction of the poet bursts forth his optimism which takes the form at a poetic prevision of the new life:

"... And the spring comes...
Across our faces slips a smile
And hope is born in our hearts
Of a new life of beauty
A life, blooming and happy.

The optimism of the poet was well based. Migjeni saw the revolt that was gradually maturing. He portrays it in vivid colors in his sketch "Forbidden Fruit".

Migjeni was a great artist of the pen. His absolutely original style bespeaks a powerful literary talent. The imagery of his poetry is very vivid, his lines on the original Albanian—(BD) are rich in rhyme and rhyme. Migjeni's prose, too, is outstanding for the rare mastery with which it creates environments, situations and figures which quickly form exact impressions.

In their entirety, Migjeni's works exerted a major educational influence. They spread far and wide especially among the ranks of the progressive-minded youth of the time.

Migjeni's works portrayed the most progressive ideas of that period. From their ideological content and fine artistic form, Migjeni's works turned into a means of transition to the literature of socialist realism. This accounts for the numerous editions of Migjeni's works and the many articles and studies published about him. Migjeni's works remain forever dear to the people and of interest of scholars.
The Population of Albania

A book has recently been published in Albanian on "The Population of Albania", giving a general view of the dynamics of growth of the population of Albania under those headings: town or village, sex, age group, family status, size of family and educational level. It covers the dynamics of natural growth as well as the average span of life and forecasts the growth of population in Albania up to 1990.

The population of Albania is characterized by its rapid growth, particularly during the years of the People's State Power. During the last 30 years it has grown at an average annual rate of about 2.5%. This increase is due to both the high birth-rate and, in particular, to the pronounced lowering of the death-rate, which has been reduced from 110 per 1,000 in 1938, to 6 per thousand of population in recent years.

As a consequence of the rapid increase of population during the period, the population increased in 1967 to 4,060,000 with a density of 70 persons per square kilometer.

The high rate of growth of population, not withstanding the rapid rate of economic development, exceeds it. In 1950, against 1930, while the population increased by 58%, national income increased only by 62.8% due to the slow pace of economic development.

The urban population of Albania is the country with the most progressive population in Europe, in which the contingent of population under 14 years of age forms over 40% of the total.

Albania was once the country with the lowest average the span of life in Europe, while today, in this field too, it compares with most states and even surpasses some of them. In 1930, the average span of life was 38 years which in recent years it has reached the 57 year mark.

Taking into account the characteristics of the population of Albania and the trend of its development, the book also gives some forecasts of the future numerical population growth. From the figures given it appears that according to the variant of average increase, the population of Albania in 1990 should reach 2,720,000 while by 1990 this number will reach 3,100,000.

Lamartine and Zé Rada

The facsimile of Lamartine's letter to Zé Rada.

Arranging the letters exchanged by the Arabo-Albanian settlers in Italy, poet Jeronimo de Rada with Albanian and foreign personalities there is a letter by the French poet Alphonse De Lamartine.

Lamartine sent this letter to De Rada in Naples on September 6, 1844 when he was spending his vacation at Ischia.

Lamartine writes in glowing terms of our poet's merits and expresses his appreciation of the just struggle of the Albanians for national independence.

In the 60's of the 19th century, De Rada began to win recognition in Naples in the circle of artists and writers. He began to develop his love for the land of his forefathers which is clearly apparent in his early works, such as Sura e Musat e and Srvna e Serafin Topia, two of his finest literary pieces.

The basic themes of De Rada's poems are based on the folklore of the place where he was born and spent his youth, in the bosom of the Albanian colony in Mekë at Calabria, from which were taken the heroic battles waged by the Albanian people under the leadership of George Kastrioti Scanderbeg, against the Turkish onslaught on Albania. Thus, the themes based on the historic past of the Albanian people which inspired our National Renaissance, attracted the attention of many foreign readers and scholars, among them the eminent French poet, Alphonse De Lamartine.

At that time, Lamartine was at the peak of his activity as an outstanding poetical figure and writer. A few years later, he took part in the Provisional French Republic Government as Minister for Foreign Affairs. In the history of French literature he is known as the author of beautiful works of great fame such as his first collection of lyric poems, named "Meditations poétiques", "Les Harmonies poétiques et religieuses," "Dorelly", "Histoire des Grecs", etc. The younger generation of romantic poets hailed him as their teacher.

Our poet Jeronimo de Rada, who had just completed his 30th year had received the full flowering of his career as the author of many published works. His poetic productions, which were well-known abroad, such as "Ring of Mushto" (Sons of Mushto), "Srvna e Serafin Topia", "Scanderbeg" (Scanderbeg), "Joh Nemyad" etc. had established De Rada as a poet.

De Rada tells how when Lamartine passed through Ischia by the good offices of a sailor, he sent him a copy of Mushto and the published Songs of Scanderbeg. A few days later, when De Rada was ill in bed, the sailor brought Lamartine's letter acknowledging the receipt of the two Albanian poems.

Lamartine wrote about Albania and the Albanian people in terms full of sympathy and admiration. He was acquainted with the ancient history of the Albanian people. And here, in this letter of thanks he finds the occasion to express in the warmest terms, his appreciation not only of the poetic merit of these two works by De Rada, but also of the force of the Albanian subject. His words: "I am happy about this symbol of fraternity between you and me are significant. Lamartine added: "The poetry has come from your highlands and must be returned to them". These words filled De Rada with enthusiasm and gave him an inspiration to him. What the French poet had in mind here was the land of the Rada's forefathers, the land which had given birth to such poetry so full of beauty and feeling. He expressed his pleasure when he wrote: "I have had no other wish than to feel this joy and I am the first to greet the freedom and revival of Albania".

It is very likely that Lamartine knew about the fierce fight for autonomy which took place that year in Albania, and that is why he wrote to De Rada that he was the first to greet the freedom of Albania.

Overjoyed, De Rada told his father about all this in a letter which he sent to him that same day in which he wrote: "Yesterday I received Lamartine's reply and he told me that he would be glad to visit my motherland".

In this memoirs, Alphonse De Rada says that on his way back from Calabria he had paid a visit to Lamartine at the Hotel des Etrangers on the Chiaia seaward. He says: "the words Lamartine said to me would have made anyone feel proud."
"ANCIENT AND NEW KRUJA"

General view of the town of Kruja
Photos by S. Xhillari

The old bazaar in Kruja.
Monument raised to National Hero Sanderbeg in Kruja.

Partial view of the ancient town.

Foreigners visiting the museum of the town.

Typical dresses of the Kruja District. Photo by N. Kodrahi.
A hearty colloquy of Comrades Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu with the members of the “China” Artistic Ensemble from the People’s Republic of China.

Chinese Artists on Our Stages

The talented Chinese pianist Yin Chong-tung
The "China" Ballet Troupe of the People's Republic of China came to Albania in September this year.

The warmth and love which our people showed for the representatives of the fraternal Chinese people are evidence of the militant and unbreakable friendship between our two socialist countries.

During its stay the Chinese troupe gave a number of performances in the main cities of Albania: Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, Elbasan, etc. Their program includes the modern revolutionary ballet "The Red Detachment of Women", the ballet "The White Haired Girl" and the piano concerto "The Yellow River". The proletarian socialist culture of Chinese choreography has made a qualitative leap forward, affirming itself as a great example. This was quite evident in all the performances of the ensemble. The profound revolutionary content and virtuosity of the interpretation of the works, demonstrated that this is a marvellous ensemble.

The high artistic level of the interpretations won the admiration of the Albanian audiences.

Everywhere they went their performances were charged into manifestations of the friendship between our two peoples. The guests also sang songs to our Party of Labour, to the Communist Party of China, to Comrades Enver Hoxha and Mao Tse-tung.
Musical Instruments of Our People
Ramadan Sokollu

From the past our people have inherited various musical instruments which are of interest both for their craftsmanship, their origi

From the past our people have inherited various musical instruments which are of interest both for their craftsmanship, their originality, the way they are used and the tones they express. The knowledge and study of these instruments is of special importance to our national art and culture for, through them, we delve deeper into the quality of our folk music and the peculiarities of the music talent of our people. Now and then we hear the tones emitted by these instruments in every village or town quarter. Without them no social entertainment takes place.

Taking them in the order of the four main scientifically established genres, we have in the first place those of the idiophone genre like (1) the two pebbles hit together in order to lure the swarm of bees which have abandoned their original hive, (2) raskofetik which children make out corn blades cut lengthwise, (3) rokose made of twigs placed together in a spherical shape with round pieces of wood or pebbles inside used to entertain small children when the device is shaken, (4) gorgan made of a tapered wooden axis ending with an elastic string which bounces making a noise when turned around (5) the metalic tray which is used in northern and northeastern part of Albania to accompany songs and dances, (6) three dish spoores which are used to keep time, (7) qapari in the form of metallic discs tied to the fingers of dancers used in Central Albania to keep time by jingling them when dancing, (8) bells or gongs of various shapes, sizes and names used for ritual, practical or aesthetic purposes, (9) trikeza or gams made of a horn or metallic plate hanging down on a rope and used as a means of signaling, (10) ungora of the Albanian settlers in Italy pierced by a metallic rod in the form of a horseshoe which vibrates and emits sound when touched by the fingers.

From the membranophone genre we have: (a) the tambourine, a shallow drum with loose metallic discs at the sides, (b) the drum or tympanic membrane, consisting of a hollow cylinder with a skin head stretched over each end, (c) the kadum or tumbaba of the shape of a half-cylindrical cup with a skin stretched over its ends, (d) tarabuk of the shape of a jar with a skin, stretched over its head.

All four of the above instruments serve to stress the rhythm. Of the aerophonic genre we have, first of all, some devised of plants like “prainga” which children make out of grass blades, corn stalks, of apricot seeds (“fryal”) or of the bark of young twigs (“gusyja” or “bidil”). These plant devices just as “lugjylluka” and “shambushika” “puzp” and “zalalime me leke” are temporary entertainments produc

The most popular and the newest aerophonic instrument of our peasants is the “tyri” (the flute) which is made in shapes, sizes and names different for each district. The key of this instrument depends on the number of holes and is blown either inclined at the lips or fixed on the teeth.

In various shapes, sizes and names appear also the “pipa” which are usually devised at harvest time from various stalks.

Surjeja or sunaja is another aerophonic instrument with a wooden cylindrical-conical neck, some holes on the surface and a double tip at the end.

In Labritia we have the buti or cyglistia made of two tapered nozzles carried on a wooden block, one of the nozzles has only three holes while the other four on the surface and one hole on the opposite side.

In southeastern Albania we have the gazda which is made of a sheepskin with two vents (pipa and biqalla) one (the shorter) for the melody and the other (the longer) for the refrain.

The genre of string instruments begins also with some children’s musical entertainments as, for instance, “kolegramni”, “tirergnra” “mari” and others.

The most widespread string instruments are: the ciftela in strings bullamajaj (5 strings), sharkja (4, 6, 8, strings) sazeja (10 strings) giri and jorgen which have been almost abandoned now. This category of instruments possess some common characteristics in shapes, use, etc, but at the same time they are distinct from one another.

In addition to the above from this genre we have the udi with four pairs of strings and of the shape of a pear cut lengthwise. Related to this instrument are the balula (with from 6 to 8 strings) and kalushman (with from 2 to 3 strings) which the Albanian settlers in Italy use.

Finally, from this genre we have the lahunte with one string used in Northern Albania and laurina with 3 strings used in the Mati District.

In addition to these musical instruments made by our peasants, our folklore has been enriched by certain instruments manufactured abroad like the violin, clarinet, accordion which are being broadly used by our instrumentalists.

In short, these are the musical instruments used by our people. Some of them are used only in certain districts while others are in use all over the country. Some of them are native and of old origin while others have been introduced under various historical circumstances but as years roll on have been adapted to the taste and musical peculiarities of our people.

Of the above instruments some are used for solos while others in groups. The way they are grouped depends more or less on the occasions, districts and availabilities for their use. As a rule, our people prefer groups of few instruments. Many melodies have been created, preserved and developed by these instruments.
Songs From the Land of Albania

Prof. Celu Maksudevich

(Excerpts from an article in the Romanian Newspaper "Red Flag", July 21, 1971.)

After a short tour through a number of cities of our country, the Folk Ensemble of the People's Republic of Albania made a stop in Bucharest where they treated us to two performances with great artistic mastery in which songs and dances were blended a marvellous freshness of Albanian folk melody. The interpreters have brought with them part of the beauty of the regions of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, the wonderful freshness of the laurel and orange plantations, the beauties of the lofty Albanian Alps, glowing in the rays of the sun and above all, something of the spirit and vitality of these people engaged in building socialism in their country. It is astonishing that, although the soloists came from various districts of the country, their performances had a complete unity, giving a comprehensive view of the main characteristics of the Albanian songs and dances, of folk costumes and instruments of various types. All the members of this Ensemble showed themselves to be capable interpreters, sincere and enthusiastic about their work, they, themselves, having produced a wide range of different artistic expressions. A reappearance on our stage of the merited artist Vace Zela, and of the soloists of the Tirana Variety Theater, who, a few years ago, enchanted us with Albanian songs in Bucharest, gave us an opportunity of enjoying the pleasure of those great days. We must not fail to mention the first appearance on our stage of Hyson Koçi, an interpreter with a great future and a brilliant voice. Laina Papa's appearance on the stage was loudly applauded. So was the expressive and sensitive interpretation of a number of difficult compositions by Blix Ndoja, a merited artist, soloist of the Palace of Culture in Elbasan, a city in northern Albania endowed with a rich heritage of typical folklore. A powerful and true voice is that of young Kleopatra Skaraja, a soloist of the Villa Variety Theatre, who, together with folk singer Ojok Thoma, and instrumentalist Jorgo Roso from Gjirokastra and Alfons Balliçi from Elbasan showed that they are worthy interpreters of the folklore of this country.
Albanian Firearms
at the Time of Scanderbeg

Rita Drishti

As far back as the end of 14th and the beginning of 15th centuries efforts had been made by the Albanian principalities of the Balshaj and Toplaj to equip their armies with cannon.

As regards the large quantity of firearms during the 15th century we have documents which show that during 1447-48 Baraja possessed heavy guns.

According to Barletti, during the first siege on Kruja in 1438, Scanderbeg's army had about 30 small cannon. In the Battle of Berat, Barletti informs us, Scanderbeg used 3 big guns, 13 small guns and 500 muskets 14,000 fighters in action all told.

During 14th and 15th centuries the Albanians were outstanding miners and metalurgists.

Various authors have stressed that in Albania the firearms were wrought entirely from metals produced in the country. The copper, iron, lead, silver and gold mines worked mainly by the Albanians both before and after the Turkish occupation became the principal source of raw materials for the needs of the local population.

The Turks had a workshop to cast cannon balls at Leghi (the Dukagjin District) in 1575, and the Venetian documents of 1591 mention that the Turks were exploiting a silver mine at Fan (Morina). Another document claims that the extraction of copper from the mine of the Ceprik Mountain in the vicinity of Puka, was exploited by the Turks for the manufacture of the firearms of the time.

In 14th century two Albanian craftsmen are mentioned as collaborating in the production of firearms. These were Stejko Shkodri and Martin Balisteri, the former from Shkodra and the latter from Ulqin both from the principality of the Balshaj. They are famous, especially, for having made two big cannon at Ragusa. At that time, this was a great success of the technology of producing something so rare for that century.

From the middle of 14th century to its end the name of Osman Ali Dibra, an outstanding armorer, was well-known in the arms literature. His name appears in one of the reference books on armorners published in Italy in 1665 and 1779.

One of the fighters and makers of artillery weapons mentioned in our history is Dest Gjeri. He made a gun which put Vago Pasha's Turkish army to flight during the Klementi uprising in 1838.

During 17th century mention is made of an Albanian armorer named Haxhi who with exquisite skill, made the long Albanian rifle known in Turkish literature as the Albanian "Kanflia". Haxhi's name was famous not only in Albania, but also in Asia Minor, Iraq, Iran and as far away as India.