



**NEW ALBANIA**

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1976**

**IN THIS ISSUE**

	Page
■ MAY DAY — 1976	2
■ THE LIVE IN THE HEARTS AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE	4
■ COMRADE ENVER HOXHA RECEIVES A GROUP OF WORKERS AND SPECIALISTS OF THE METALLURGICAL COMPLEX	6
■ IN THE DAYS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR	8
■ SHKODRA — PAST AND PRESENT	10
■ ON THE DRAFT—CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA	16
■ FOREIGNERS ON ALBANIA	17
■ THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VERY YOUNG	20
■ THEY ARE NOT ORPHANS	22
■ THE FESTIVAL OF ALBANIAN FILM	24
■ THE DROPULL OF OUR OWN DAYS	26
■ THE MAY CONCERTS	28
■ ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ALBANIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY	29
■ THE INSTITUTE ENGAGED IN PREVENTION OF DISEASES	30
■ A NEW VILLAGE ON THE SHORES OF THE IONIAN SEA	31
■ ALBANIAN CASTLES	32
■ COOPERATIVE MEMBERS AS AMATEUR ARTISTS	35
■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	36

**NEW ALBANIA**

An illustrated political and social periodical. It appears once in two months in Albanian, English, Chinese, French, Russian, Arabic, Italian, Spanish and German.

**ADDRESS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD**

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**FRONT COVER** — May Day in Tirana, The Metallurgists with flying colors on parade

**BACK COVER** — View of the Vloora seaside. — Berat.



page 4



page 10



page 24



page 20



page 32

# WELL-BEING FOR ALL THE WORKERS

Our socialist order aims at fulfilling the constantly growing needs of the working people without creating privileges for special persons or groups of persons. A typical feature of the policy of the Party of Labor of Albania in the field of the distribution of material benefits has been, and will always be, its concern to raise the general standard of living of all the working people.

The Party of Labor of Albania upholds the principle that the way incomes are distributed in society indicates the nature and substance of that society itself. In a genuine socialist society, the distribution of incomes should take into account the interests and needs of all the working people so that the improvement of the standard of living may be general, without creating pronounced differences, without allowing privileged categories. If great differences are maintained between the salaries and incomes of different categories of working people, this will inevitably lead to the separation of the cadres from masses, to the cultivation of tendencies to stand above the masses, to become a privileged category, to change from servants of the people to bureaucrats who feather their own nests and tend to command and oppress the working masses.

In order to forestall this, the Party of Labor of Albania has continually taken measures in the pay system, so that the differentials in payment for work should be reasonable and steadily narrowed for the working people in the towns and those in the countryside. In 1967, higher salaries were reduced and some improvements made in lower salaries and wages, and concrete steps were taken to raise well-being of the cooperative peasantry.

The new measures which came into effect on April 1 this year also had the same purpose. The State will increase its investments for the purpose of increasing agricultural and livestock production of the agricultural cooperatives in hilly and mountainous regions, for breaking in virgin land and systematizing other land, for building and extending the network of irrigation canals and increasing the number of draft animals. Artificial fertilizers will be sold to these cooperatives at reduced prices. The State took over all expenditure for building sheds for the machinery of the machine and tractor stations and for transporting the fuel for agricultural machines, and the expenditure for the maintenance and functioning of the electric power and telephone line networks in the countryside. At the same time, it increased its investments for building social and cultural institutions.

Very important steps have been taken to narrow the gap between town and countryside in the social and cultural field. The State took over all the expenditure for running creches and kindergartens, out-patient clinics, maternity homes, clinics, houses of culture and other social, educational and cultural centers in the countryside, freeing the agricultural cooperatives of the respective expenditures.

Important measures have been applied also in the field of pensions and social insurance. The minimum level of old age, invalidity and family pensions was raised for the cooperative members. The percentage of earnings payable as pensions for cooperative members was equalized with that of the city workers. Maternity leave and childbirth benefits for the cooperativist women will now be paid from the budget of the state social security organs. In addition to the expenditure incurred for the upkeep of creches and kindergartens in the countryside, the State will also pay part of the costs of feeding the children in these institutions.

The social policy which the Party of Labor of Albania pursues shows that only under the conditions of socialism, and when its principles are carried out consistently, can the general wellbeing of all the working people be constantly uplifted, and their aspirations be fulfilled. A very important indicator of this is the constant increase of that part of the national income which is allocated to meet the individual and social needs of the broad masses of the working people. In our country, his monthly salary is not all the real income that a worker receives from society. An ever increasing part of the national income goes to the benefit of the working people; it covers the expenditure which the State makes for the education of the workers and their children, the expenses which the State incurs for social insurance, pensions, and other measures. The Albanian worker has nothing deducted from his pay for all these things. The State spends one-fourth of its budget for financing these measures that go to the benefit of the people. And the tendency is for this section of expenditure in the State budget to increase from one year to another.

The stability of prices, the abolition of all taxes, the minimal house rents, charges for water, light and other municipal services, the employment of all able-bodied workers, the bringing of electric light to all Albanian homes with State funds, the construction of the network of motor roads and telephone lines between the villages — all these are important achievements and

indicators of the continuous increase of the general well-being. These expenditures make up the supplementary incomes of the working people.

With the increase of the social fund of consumption, society has the possibility to extend its activity in new directions to fulfil the common needs of the working people, and this tendency, as mentioned above, is quite obvious. But, in its policy of distributing the national income, the Party of Labor of Albania also takes into account the fact that under socialism, social consumption makes up only part of the consumption of the people, because the overwhelming part, about 85 per cent of the total, consists of the personal consumption based on the direct incomes of the workers. Therefore, it can neither replace the socialist principle of distribution according to the work done, nor should it slacken the application of this principle in increasing the interest and participation of the workers in work, in developing material production and other social activities. Therefore, since direct wages constitute the main incomes for the working people, the concern to maintain reasonable proportions in this field is a major question of principle and of great practical importance.

The use of part of the national income to fulfil the joint needs of the working people — hence the creation of the material premises for the birth and development of the embryo of communist distribution — becomes possible only under the dictatorship of the proletariat and on the basis of the increase and consolidation of socialist property, on the basis of the development and strengthening of the common property. The common property is the foundation of the well-being of every worker of our country. The education of the new man with the features of communist morality — with the feeling of collectivism, of placing the general interest above personal interest, is possible only under conditions of genuine socialist society when man feels he is working for himself, when he has no anxiety about the morrow, when he is not under the domination of money or the boss of the factory. When the working man is freed from the fear of unemployment, taxes, of the cost of illness, of being plundered by thieves and rent racketeers, from the fear of rising prices and of exploiters of many kinds, when the State and society as a whole are concerned about him, then he is able to work wonders.

And it is only under these conditions that one can speak of the general well-being of those who work and defend the State of the dictatorship of the proletariat.



First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, comrade Enver Hoxha, greeting the workers of the capital at the May Day Parade.

# MAY DAY - 1976



**May Day, the day of international solidarity of the workers throughout the world was celebrated brilliantly all over Albania. Many beautiful activities took place in all the cities, work centers, villages, schools and military detachments.**

**The photographs reproduced on these two pages were taken during the traditional May Day Parade on the «Martyrs of the Nation» boulevard of the capital in which tens of thousands of people of various ages and walks of life took part. On the central rostrum stood the leaders of the Party and of the State, distinguished workers, and visitors from many countries of the world.**



# THEY LIVE IN THE HEARTS AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE



On May 5th, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania, Enver Hoxha, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, Mehmet Shehu, went to Martyrs' cemetery and, together with thousands of workers, honored the memory of those who had fallen.

The spiritual beauty and moral virtues of a people of a country are apparent among other things, in the respect they have for their own history, in their gratitude towards those who fell for Motherland and freedom, to those who poured out their blood for their land. Our people always remember and respect the deeds of those who gave their lives for freedom. They march with their ideals, with the dreams of those who remain for ever young and immortal. But we have one day, Martyrs' Day, as a special occasion to commemorate and honour them. And this day falls in spring, on May 5. It is linked with the name of Qemal Stafa, one of the most outstanding revolutionary figures, who was killed fighting arms in hand against the fascist invaders on May 5, 1942, in Tirana. This day is linked in our memory, with the names of hundreds and thousands of martyrs of the Anti-fascist National-liberation War and the post-liberation period, who fell heroically in battle with the enemy defending the achievements of the revolution, the borders of the Homeland and socialist property, or facing the vicissitudes of nature.

Every May 5, the streets of the cities, towns and villages are filled with workers, peasants, people's intellectuals, armymen, youth and school children who, with wreaths of flowers in their hands, go to the cemeteries, cenotaphs and monuments. Elderly mothers, the mothers of martyrs, receive the comrades, brothers and sisters, fellow fighters of their sons and daughters for the one ideal.

This is the year of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania and this year's May 5 has a special significance. With

In the evening on May 5, about thirty thousand workers of the capital took part in a commemorative rally in «Skanderbeg» square. A choir of two thousand five hundred members gave an open air concert of partisan songs and songs of socialist construction.





Comrade Enver Hoxha talking with the mothers of martyrs.

pain, but also with pride, we recall the heroes, the martyrs, who were inspired by the Party and fell with its name and the name of Albania in their lips. The enemy never saw their backs. With eyes ablaze and heads held high, they fell in demonstrations, in prisons, in the fields, beside the rivers, on mountain tops and in rocky gorges and everywhere they left as their memorial, the fight against injustice, for socialism, for the happiness of the people.

This year we commemorate May 5 under conditions of a further strengthening of our economy, industry, agriculture and defence potential, and the flowering of our socialist culture. All our working people discussed the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania and found sanctioned in it all the victories they have achieved under the leadership of the Party, headed by comrade Enver Hoxha. In the articles of the draft-Constitution, this fundamental law of the dictatorship of the proletariat, there are inscribed the ideals and dreams of our martyrs. Everything we build and achieve, up to the first Albanian pig-iron, has its starting point in the war, the revolution, the first aspirations and wishes of our people and those who laid down their lives for the people's happiness.

May 5, our Martyrs' Day, reminds us, also, of those who fell everywhere in the world in the fight against fascism, for people's freedom and social emancipation. It makes us think of the present struggle against the imperialists and revisionists, against the hegemonic policy of the two super-Powers, which the peoples of the world are waging today.



# THE FIRST ALBANIAN PIG IRON



The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor of Albania comrade Enver Hoxha received at the premises of the Central Committee Albanian and Chinese workers and specialists who are building the Metallurgical Complex at Elbasan and had a very warm and friendly conversation with them.

## «COMRADE ENVER HOXHA RECEIVES A GROUP OF WORKERS AND SPECIALISTS OF THE METALURGICAL COMPLEX»

On the eve of the May Day celebrations, Comrade Enver Hoxha, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, received a group of Albanian and Chinese workers and specialists, who are working on the construction and the putting into operation of the Metallurgical Combine in Elbasan, at the premises of the Central Committee, where he had a warm and friendly talk with them.

«It really is a happy day today for us to meet together.» Comrade Enver Hoxha said to the workers and specialists who took part in the meeting. «The inauguration of the iron-coke line of the Metallurgical Complex is a great economic and political victory, which strengthens socialist Albania. This is the most important project the working class of our country is building under the Party's leadership, and marks a decisive stage in the development of our industry. It is the project where the basic material to feed our industry will be produced. On behalf of the Central Committee I wish to warmly congratulate you, Albanian and Chinese workers and specialists once again, on this great victory. You Albanian and Chinese comrades, have collaborated like comrades in arms; you have collaborated like brothers and built this great project that further strengthens the glorious and unbreakable friendship between the Albanian people and the Chinese people, between our two Marxist-Leninist parties, which strengthens our love for the outstanding leader of the Communist Party of China and

the dear friend of our people, the great Marxist-Leninist, comrade Mao Tsetung.

You comrades bring the Albanian people happy tidings and a great inspiration on the occasion of May Day, the day of international solidarity of the workers. Through this project, we show the world proletariat what socialism is, what the dictatorship of the proletariat is, what true internationalism is, the brilliant results of the consistent waging of the class struggle at home and in the international arena.»

Comrade Enver Hoxha hailed the great revolutionary Albanian-Chinese friendship. «This friendship is based on Marxism Leninism and will never die. Let the enemies slander», continued Comrade Enver Hoxha. «For some time a campaign has been going on in the capitalist and revisionist world as though the friendly relations between China and Albania have allegedly grown cool. No slander could be more vicious. But this does not surprise us, for this is what the enemies have done and will go on doing.»

«It is an exceptionally great joy for us to have the honour of meeting Comrade Enver Hoxha, the great leader of the Albanian people and the most respected friend of the Chinese people,» said Huan Chin Chuan, the head of the group of the Chinese specialists. «We will never forget this very happy day. Our friendship is unbreakable because it is based on the principles of Marxism Leninism and Proletarian internationalism.»



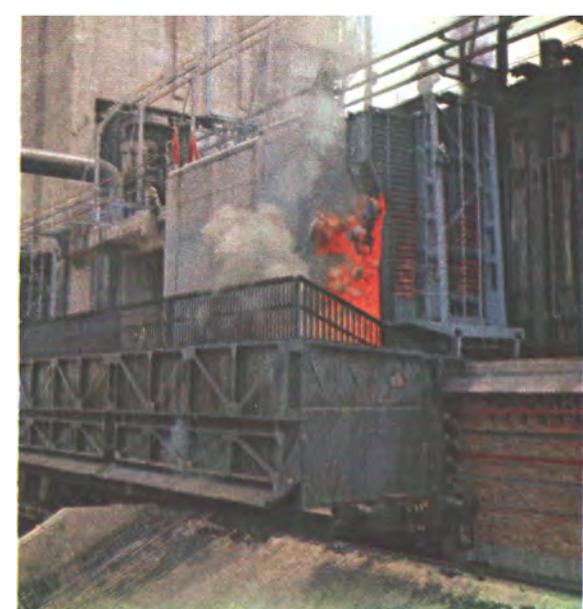
A Metallurgical Complex is under construction on the outskirts of the city of Elbasan in Central Albania. This is the first project of its kind in Albania. It is being built in a number of phases. Amidst great joy and enthusiasm, the iron-coke line was inaugurated on the eve of May Day, 1976. Pig iron was poured... This marked the completion of the first phase of this major project of our new industry.

The construction of this complex is the

fruit of the creative efforts of our workers, engineers and technicians, of their collaboration with the Chinese specialists and technicians, and of the internationalist aid of the People's Republic of China.

Now that the coke-iron line has been put into operation, the attention of the workers of this complex is turned to the next phase, the steel plant. Pig iron is the «forward» to the production of steel.

Pouring the first pig iron.



# IN THE DAYS OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR

(Leafing through the pages of History)<sup>1</sup>

— The political line of the Communist Party of Albania, which was created on November 8, 1944, found its embodiment in the political tasks which were worked out at its foundation meeting. The strategic aim of the Party for the historic period of the country at that time was: «To fight for the national independence of the Albanian people and for a popular democratic Government in an Albania freed from Fascism». This strategic aim was defined on the basis of the fundamental antagonistic contradiction which existed at that time in Albania and which demanded urgent solution: the contradiction between the people and the fascist occupiers. The main forces, and those most interested in achievement of this strategic aim, were the workers and peasants, on whose backs weighed the heavy burden of fascist enslavement. The Party set itself the task of working to mobilize the non-worker patriotic strata, too, who, likewise, were interested in the liquidation of the fascist enslavement, in the national liberation movement. Right from the start, the Communist Party of Albania laid down that, for the liberation of the country and the establishment of people's democracy, the genuine and reliable road, in the concrete conditions, was the armed uprising against fascism. At the international level, the Albanian National Liberation War was a component part of the anti-fascist world War. In accordance with its strategic aim and with the conditions which were created after the entry of the Soviet Union into the Second World War, the Albanian Communist Party defined the foreign allies of the Albanian people and also its attitude towards these allies. The Party put forward the task of linking the Albanian National Liberation War with the great anti-fascist world war.

— Following the creation of the Party, the most urgent task which faced it, was organization. All the members of the Provisional Central Committee were sent out to the different regions to set up new cells, to organize Party conferences and to form the regional committees. There were about two hundred communists in the cells. Eight regional committees of the Party were set up. Almost all of the first cells were organized in the towns, in total illegality. Attached to every Party cell were educative groups set up with fighters loyal to the cause of the people and communism. The organization of the Party was completed about January 1942.

— With the measures which the Central Committee of the Party took, two weeks after November 8, on November 23, the Albanian Communist Youth organization was formed on the basis of Marxism-Leninism. Twenty year old Qemal Stafa, member of the Provisional Central Committee of the Party was chosen as the Political Secretary of the Communist Youth.

— In December 1941, and at the beginning of 1942, guerilla units had been set up and

were operating in nearly all the towns, under the direct leadership of the regional committees of the Party. At the beginning of 1942, these units were very active in fighting against the organs of the fascist order and the most zealous fascist elements. They blew up depots and other military objectives belonging to the occupier.

— In February 1942, for the first time, the Central Committee of the Party issued a directive for the setting up of National Liberation Councils, as a means of organizing and mobilizing the people in the anti-fascist war and, at the same time, as the first step towards the formation of the organs of the people's statepower.

— The rising popularity of the Communist Party, the increase of its authority among the masses, the daring actions of the guerilla units, the anti-fascist demonstrations, aroused alarm in the ranks of the occupiers and the traitors.

— The Party had great successes in its work right from the first months of its existence. But, despite this, the work was hindered by a number of sectarian and Trotskyite elements within the ranks of the Party. To overcome this obstacle and to give a new impulse to the work, the Provisional Central Committee called the first consultative meeting of the activists of the Albanian Communist Party. The consultative meeting opened in Tirana on April 8, 1942.

The consultative meeting defined the elimination of the group spirit and factional activity in its ranks, as the main problem of the internal life of the Party.

But even after the consultative meeting, the activity of factionist elements within the Party continued savagely. This hostile activity, added to the terrorist activity of the fascists, put the Party in a difficult situation. The enemy began to track down the members and the bases of the Party. On May 5, the member of the Central Committee, Qemal Stafa, was surrounded and he fought heroically to his last breath. The fascists also managed to discover the archives and printing plant of the Party.

— In these conditions, to eliminate the danger which was threatening the Party, the Provisional Central Committee called an extraordinary Conference which was held on June 28 and 29, 1942, in Tirana. The Conference discussed only one question: the elimination of the liquidatory factionist trend and the establishment of unity in the Party.

To ensure unity and strengthen the Party, it was decided that it must be purged of all the incorrigible factionists.

— On August 25, 1942, the first issue of the organ of the Central Committee of the Party, «Zëri i Popullit», was published clandestinely. This became a powerful weapon of propaganda for the Party among the masses of the people.

— To put the unity of the people in the National Liberation War, on a more powerful

footing, the Central Committee of the Party organized the calling of the Albanian National Liberation Conference, which was held on September 16, 1942, in the district of Peza, South-West of Tirana. Besides the communists, nationalists of different trends took part in it. The Conference elected the National Liberation General Council and approved the platform of the National Liberation War, drafted by the Communist Party of Albania.

— The armed struggle, which commenced with the guerilla units in the towns, assumed growing proportions during 1942. The war was extended to the villages and the districts, too.

— The growth of the revolutionary movement greatly alarmed the occupiers and their collaborators, representatives of the reactionary classes. After the first National Liberation Conference in Peza, in September, 1942, reaction immediately sounded the alarm of the «communist danger». In November of the same year, they hastily proclaimed the creation of an organization called «Balli Kombëtar»,<sup>2</sup> which had the aim of directly counterposing the «National Liberation Front». The Communist Party maintained a firm stand towards this organization of traitors. First it fought to expose the real aims of «Balli Kombëtar», to expose its leaders as agents of fascism. Thus a differentiation took place in the ranks of this organization and those elements who had been unwittingly misled, gradually began to abandon it. Many of them joined the ranks of the fighters of the National Liberation Movement.

— In the conditions of the profound crisis in the ranks of the enemies, the growth of the armed struggle against fascism and its collaborators, in the conditions of the victories of the anti-fascist peoples, especially the victories of the Red Army in Stalingrad and elsewhere, the question of the organization of the general uprising of the people and the National Liberation Army, was put in the agenda. In the solution of this task, the first National Conference of the Albanian Communist Party played an historic role. This conference was held in the village of Labinot, near the city of Elbasan, from 17 - 22 March, 1943. The conclusions and the decisions of that Conference played a decisive role in the rapid development of the National Liberation War, in the organization of the uprising of the whole people for the liberation of the country and the seizure of the statepower from the fascist and reactionary enemies.

— After the first National Conference of the Albanian Communist Party, and as a consequence of the activity of the communists, the ranks of the partisans were filled with new fighters. In May 1943, the first partisan battalions and regional staffs were set up. By July, there were 20 partisan battalions and 30 smaller units in the country. On July 10, the General Staff of the National Liberation Army was formed. Enver Hoxha, the General Secretary of the Albanian Communist Party,



Shaban Hysa: «The Party Has Been Founded» oil painting.

was appointed as Political Commissar of the Staff. In August, the First Shock Brigade of the National Liberation Army was created, under the command of Mehmet Shehu.

— On September 8, 1943, fascist Italy capitulated. The Albanian people, during four-and-a-half years of war had made their valuable contribution to the struggle against Italian fascism. But immediately, the place of the former occupiers was taken by the new Hitlerite occupiers. The General Staff of the National Liberation Army called on the forces of the Italian occupation army either to surrender their arms or to unite with the National Liberation Army against Hitlerite Germany. Of the Italian soldiers, who surrendered to the forces of the National Liberation Army, only 1,500 agreed to fight beside the partisans against the Hitlerite troops.

— The Hitlerite occupiers deployed about seventy thousand troops in Albania. At first they demagogically tried to create the false impression of the triumph of «National Independence» and the creation of «a sovereign Albanian state». But very soon the occupiers realized that their demagogy was yielding no fruit. The Albanian people replied to this demagogy in resolute fashion. In the Autumn of 1943, the partisan detachments struck powerful blows everywhere, inflicting thousands of casualties on the enemy and causing them substantial losses in material and military equipment.

— To put an end to the National Liberation Movement, the Hitlerites organized a general operation against the National Liberation Army in the winter of 1943-1944. Despite the great sacrifices, the Albanian people, led by the Communist Party, and mobilized in the National Liberation Front, withstood this stern test. The National Liberation Army triumphed over its opponents. Whereas up until 1 November, 1943, apart from the battalions and groups, there were

only three shock brigades in action; in March there were seven, and in April there were eight. In the Spring of 1944, the National Liberation Army, under the direction of the General Staff, went over to the counter-offensive and forced the Hitlerites to withdraw into the fortified cities and zones.

— At the meeting of the Plenum of the CC of the Albanian Communist Party, held on May 15, 1944, in a village of the district of Skrapar (Southern Albania), the Plenum approved the decision of the leadership of the CC of the Party and of the Leading Body of the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Council, on the holding of the First Anti-fascist National Liberation Congress. The measures for the creation of the Provisional democratic Government and for the transformation of the whole National Liberation Army into a regular army were given full approval.

— On May 24, 1944, in the liberated town of Permet, the First Anti-fascist National Liberation Congress was opened. The delegates to the Congress came from all regions of the country, both the liberated zones and those not yet liberated. The Congress elected the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council, as the highest legislative and executive body in Albania, as the representative of the sovereignty of the Albanian people and state.

According to the decision of the Congress, the Council elected the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee, which had the attributes of a provisional people's democratic Government. The General Secretary of the Albanian Communist Party, Enver Hoxha, was elected President of the Committee. The Congress took a number of decisions of great historic importance for the Albanian people, such as: «to build a new democratic people's Albania in accord with the will of the people», the banning of the return of the former King Zog to Albania, and the decision not to recognize any other Government which might be

created inside or outside the country against the will of the Albanian people, to continue the war against the German occupiers and the traitors more fiercely until their complete destruction and the establishment of people's democracy throughout the whole country.

— On May 28, 1944, the Commander-in-Chief, Enver Hoxha, ordered the National Liberation Army to launch the general offensive for the complete liberation of the country.

The plan of the general Command of the National Liberation Army for the complete liberation of the country aimed, at the same time, at ensuring the defeat of the efforts of the Anglo-American Mediterranean Command aimed at preserving the reactionary forces and their positions in Albania.

— The liberation of the greater part of the country by the beginning of autumn, 1944, created conditions for the extension and the strengthening of the people's statepower. The antifascist Committee carried out great work, both concerning the problems of the war and also concerning the problems of the organization of the social and state order. The second meeting of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council, which was held in the liberated city of Berat from 20-23 October, 1944, unanimously decided to transform the Anti-fascist Committee into the **Democratic Government of Albania**. The Government undertook a number of tasks of historic importance. The meeting of the Anti-fascist Council approved the law on the National Liberation Councils and also the law on the election of the councils. The «Declaration on the rights of the citizens» was also approved at this meeting.

— On the eve of the country's complete liberation, on November 23, the Second Plenum of the CC of the Albanian Communist Party met in Berat. At that time the Party had 2,800 members. The summoning of the Plenum was necessary, to draw up a balance sheet of the work and victories, and to lay down the tasks in the new phase of the revolution, which commenced with the liberation of Albania. But the proceedings of this meeting developed in a completely distorted way, because of the brutal interference of the leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in the internal affairs of the Albanian Communist Party. The plot of the Titoites in Berat was not totally successful, because of the resolute stand maintained by Comrade Enver Hoxha and the other members of the CC, who defended the Marxist-Leninist line of the party.

— On November 17, 1944, after a battle which raged for 19 days, both on the outskirts and within the city, the forces of the National Liberation Army liberated Tirana, the capital of Albania. On November 29, after the liberation of Shkodra, the entire country was liberated. The Albanian people, led by the Albanian Communist Party, scored their greatest historic victory: they liberated the country from the fascist occupiers with their own forces and set up the people's statepower.

On November 28, 1944, the units of the National Liberation Army which liberated Tirana, paraded through the city, before the Democratic Government and its Commander-in-Chief, Comrade Enver Hoxha. Meanwhile, two of our divisions continued to pursue the Hitlerite forces beyond the state borders of Albania, in Yugoslavia, thus fulfilling a lofty internationalist duty.

1) Refer to issue Nr. 2, 1976 of the magazine «New Albania».

2) «Balli Kombëtar», or as it could be called, the National Front, was an organization created by the Italian fascists and Albanian reaction, set up in opposition to «The National Liberation Front». For demagogy, they even gave the name of the organization the flavor of nationalism by calling it «Balli Kombëtar».



Views of present day Shkodra.

# SHKODRA - PAST AND PRESENT

## ... HISTORY

Archaeology, on its part, has verified that the oldest wall of the castle belongs to the beginning of the first millenium before our era. Then, in later centuries, other constructions have been carried out. Today the castle is maintained under the care of the state as an historical monument.

The history of the city of Shkodra is linked with the life of its castle. From the beginning of the first millenium before our era, it was the center of the Illyrian tribe, the Labeat. During the third century before our era, it became the capital city of the big State of the **Ardiani**, with flourishing economic activity. Among the numismatic materials of the Shkodra museum we find locally minted coins of that time.

The expansionist aims of Rome came up against the resistance of the State of the **Ardiani**. Queen Teuta, the only woman ruler in Europe at that time, refused to submit to the pressures of Rome. The Roman historian, Titus Livius, describes the bloody battle that took place under the walls of the Shkodra castle between the Illyrians and Roman aggressor forces. In the year 168, before our era, Shkodra was captured.

Later, the city fell into the hands of the Byzantines.

The destruction of the slaveowning order in Europe had its repercussions also in the Illyrian regions under occupation. Shkodra began to be ruled by foreign and local feudal

## HALIM STOLIA

lords. Of the latter, the best known are the Balshaj. They turned Shkodra again into the capital of the territories they ruled. The Merchant Republic of Venice could not leave Shkodra outside the sphere of its domination and managed to take it in 1396.

The longest and harshest occupation for the Shkodra district, as well as for Albania as a whole, was that of the Ottomans, which lasted nearly five centuries. Shkodra was besieged by the Ottoman forces in 1478, ten years after the death of our legendary hero Gjergj Kastrioti, Skanderbeg. Fierce fighting went on for a whole year. The defenders of the castle showed great heroism, as described in detail by the outstanding Albanian humanist and historian of the time, Marin Barleti, while the painter, Paolo Veronese, immortalized this heroism in one of his masterpieces. «The Defence of Shkodra», in the Doges Palace in Venice.

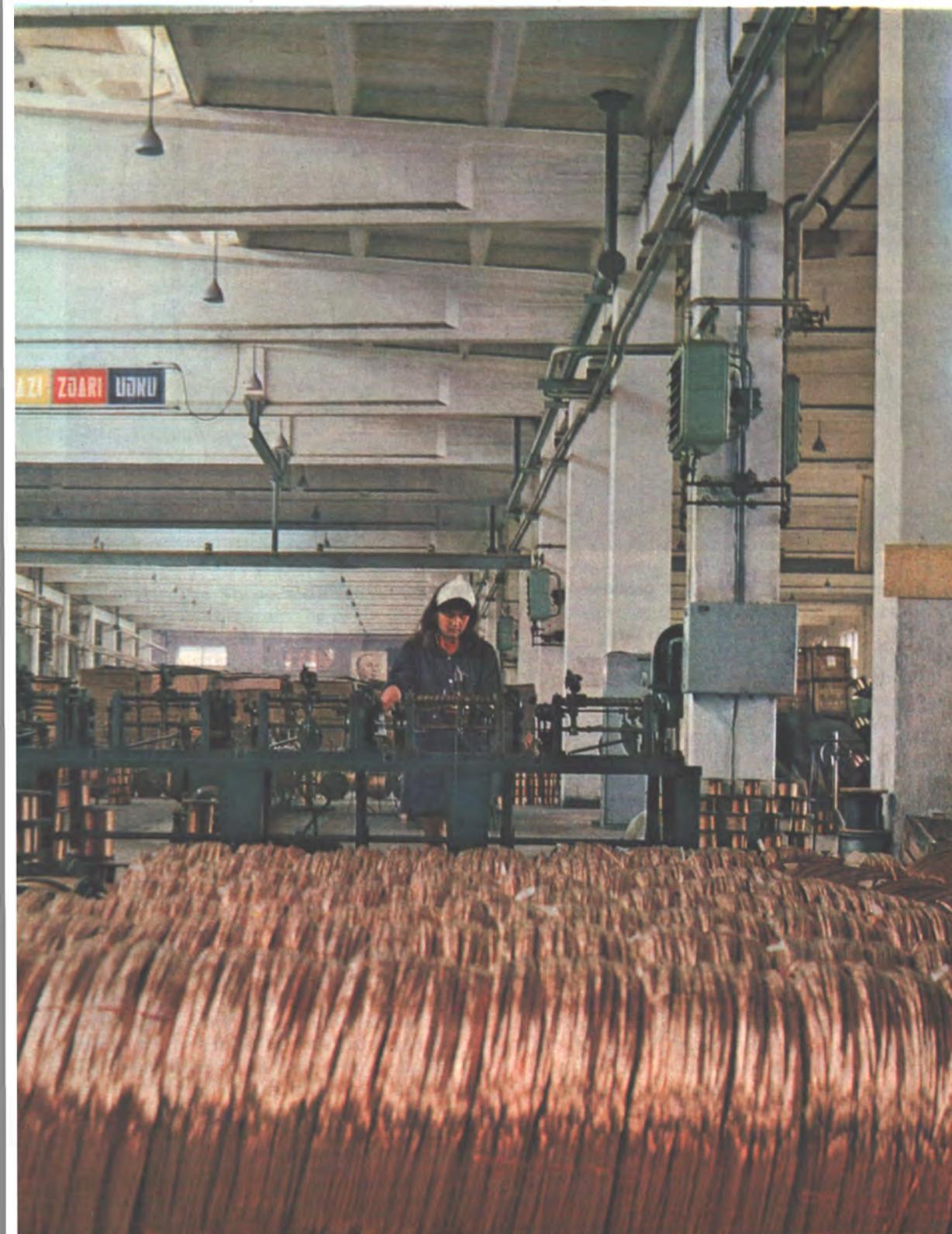
For several centuries after the occupation, Shkodra lost its importance, and only in the later period of Ottoman rule when the Albanian feudal chiefs, the Bushatli, came to power, did it begin to revive and assume special political, economic and cultural importance.

## THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

From the beginning of the last quarter of the 19th century, when the Movement of National Renaissance was at the peak of its development, especially after the formation of



At the electric cable sector at the copper wire plant in Shkodra.



**Shkodra is famous for its ancient traditions in artistic work. Now these traditions are being developed further. In the city there is a special enterprise turning out artistic products and employing hundreds of workers, where old craftsmen train the younger generation.**

the League of Prizren on June 10, 1878, on the eve of the opening of the Berlin Congress, to oppose the injustices being done to Albania, Shkodra played an important role. The Shkodra branch of the League of Prizren was one of the most active, both in political and propaganda activity as well as in military activity. On the eve of Albanian independence, too, the Shkodra district with the uprisings of 1911 played an important, historic role. On November 28, 1912, when the national flag was raised in Vloara and the patriot Ismail Qemali proclaimed the independence, Shkodra was surrounded by the Serbian and Montenegrin troops. It was only one year later, in 1913, that the national flag was raised in this Albanian city, too. During the First World War, Shkodra was occupied by the Austro-Hungarian forces and suffered the consequences of this war as well as of the imperialist policy of the Great Powers. During the 20's and 30's, it became an important center of the progressive movement, although the activity

of the reactionary forces, and especially the obscurantist activity of the Catholic clergy was strong.

The feudal-bourgeois regime of Zog could not fail to suppress the creative energies of the people of Shkodra. On the other hand, the activity of the clergy poisoned the minds of the people and tried to keep them aloof from the great political and social problems. In spite of this, the facts of history show that the people of Shkodra, their best progressive forces, found legal and illegal ways to carry on democratic and revolutionary activities.

From 1934 onward Shkodra, too, became a center for the dissemination of communist ideas through the communist group which was formed there. Next to that of Korça, this was the most important communist group prior to the formation of the Communist Party of Albania. In spite of its shortcomings, it played an important role in preparing the masses for the great events of the beginning of the 40-s.

### ...ANTI-FASCIST SHKODRA.

In April 1939 fascist Italy attacked Albania. Powerful demonstrations were held in Shkodra. The Italian troops who came to occupy Shkodra were attacked from the walls of the legendary Rozafat castle.

The resistance of the people of Shkodra to

Legendary Shkodra, which has marched through the centuries sword in hand, has now become one of the most beautiful cities of socialist Albania. Today it presents an entirely new appearance with its beautiful city quarters and streets, its up-to-date state and social-cultural institutions, its revolutionary working class and peasants, an intelligentsia which is opening the way to further socialist progress. The new industry of Shkodra needs only seven days to produce as much as was produced in the whole year 1938. Agricultural production in 1975 was three times that of 1950. In 1938 Shkodra had only 34 elementary schools; today it has 218 eight grade schools. One in every four residents of Shkodra attends school. Today there are 36 houses of culture and 100 cultural centers, mainly in the villages. The city of about 50,000 inhabitants, has two professional theatres, its symphony orchestra, the city band, two museums, three house museums, three cinemas. As against a total of 7 doctors in 1938, today there are 130 general physicians alone.



Partial view of the Shkodra fortress, one of the oldest Albanian castles.



«Ura e Mesit» (Mesi Bridge) is preserved as an historical monument.

the fascist occupationists was expressed in the most varied ways, ranging from strikes and demonstrations to acts of sabotage. But this resistance increased greatly and was established on firm ideological and organizational foundations with the creation of the Communist Party of Albania, and especially with the creation of the Party organization, in the district (the Party Committee, the communist cells) in December 1941. The Communist Youth Organization was created, the distribution of the clandestine press and the mobilization of the people began. In February 1942, a powerful demonstration of students and workers burst out, in which the communist worker, Vaso Kadia, was killed. The most glorious epic, which shook not only Shkodra but the whole of Albania, as well as the fascists, took place on June 22, 1942. It was written in blood by three communists, Perlat Rexhepi, Branko Kadia, and Jordan

Misja. The three were besieged in a small house in Shkodra by countless fascist troops. The most powerful weapons were used against them: tanks were brought in, an aircraft was sent up, to force these brave young men to give in. But they did not surrender. For eleven long hours the three communists fought on to their last bullet, until the burning roof fell in on them turning them into blazing beacons of the new epoch they were opening to Albania with their lives. The example set by the three heroes kindled other flames: Hero of the People, Vasil Shanto, surrounded, fought to the last drop of his blood. Member of the Committee of the Communist Youth of the district, Manush Alimani, under the savagest tortures of the nazis, wrote to his comrades with revolutionary optimism to carry on the work, confident of victory. Later, five other heroes, «The Heroes of Vigu» wrote another epic.

The work of the Party aroused the people of Shkodra as far back as 1941. A guerrilla unit was set up in the city. On June 6, 1942, the first partisan fighting unit of the Shkodra district was formed. Parallel with the organization of the war, the Party organization carried on a wide range of organizational and propaganda work, under the most difficult conditions. Leaflets, communiqués, and pamphlets were printed and distributed; the first national-liberation councils were set up as bases of the people's state power, and in May 1943, the National-liberation Council of the District was established. On July 30, the «Perlat Rexhepi» partisan battalion, which carried out military operations all over northern Albania, was formed. In the history of the National-liberation War, special mention is made of the battle of Reç, in which not only the partisans but also volunteer forces from the population, fought thousands of fascist troops.



The collectivization and modernization of agriculture brought about a steady increase of production year after year. In comparison with 1950, in 1975 the production of grain increased threefold, tobacco-eleven fold, and that of potatoes increased also.



Scientific studies on high yielding fields of maize. Some economies have taken 60 to 70 quintals of maize per hectare.

The many years of struggle were crowned with the great victory of November 29, 1944, the day of the liberation of Shkodra from the Hitlerites, which also marks the liberation of Albania, the great victory over fascism.

The National-liberation War was so all-embracing and so thorough-going, that it created all the necessary premises to go forward, immediately after liberation, and opened the way to the people's revolution, to the profound revolutionary socialist transformations also in the Shkodra district.

#### ...THE CRADLE OF CULTURE AND FINE TRADITIONS.

The historic contribution of the Shkodra people to the good of the country extends not only to the field of patriotic fighting traditions, but also to that of culture and other activities. The Shkodra district is one of the richest for its folklore. The cycle of legendary songs of Muji and Halili is outstanding for the great artistic creative force of the people. The songs, instrumental melodies, the musical instruments and traditional costumes are the embodiment of the rich world of lofty feelings of the people. The cultural world of Shkodra has turned out historians, and the first writers and scholars of the Albanian language. The outstanding Shkodra poet, Migjeni, (Milosh Gjergj Nikolla 1911-1938) occupies a special place in pre-liberation literature.

Even before the proclamation of Albanian independence, Shkodra had become a relatively good center of national culture. At the beginning of our century our theatre was born there, sports associations emerged, and a number of progressive press organs appeared, and so on. These rich traditions were strengthened during the years of the National-liberation War and, especially after liberation, they were evaluated, their positive aspects were brought out, and they became part of the foundation of the creative works of our epoch as a golden heritage.

#### AFTER THE STORM...

The storm of the liberation war and the people's revolution overturned everything outdated in ancient Shkodra. What was good and beautiful was preserved.

What was Shkodra before liberation, before the revolution and the socialist transformations? Let us turn the pages of the work of revolutionary poet Migjeni, the harbinger of the revolutionary storm who in the '30-s of our century expressed with such power in his verses and prose the reality of the time, the feelings and thoughts of his fellow citizens.

The poet writes: «I see Shkodra wrapped in a blue haze. What ardent desires I nurture for this city... Shkodra, the beloved of the centuries... Here, from this height, I feel its pulse beat and beat... and, like the physician who frowns when his patient has fever, so I become indignant when I see that the pulse of my beloved is not beating as it should... «Mosques and churches clutter our memories... The magnificent mosques and churches throughout our suffering country. The lofty spires and minarets over our lowly houses...» «Mister, mister, please give me something!» This is the refrain of my city. Who could express the «beauty» of this refrain? Mozart, Beethoven... Hahaha! Only the sidewalks of my town can sing this melody, and only our citizens must hear it...» «A man, thirty years old, without a job, stands in front of the cinema advertisements — and it is a work-day... He starts, as though someone called him. But no! No one calls him. No one needs a worker...» «Corn! Corn!... Our highlands, which once were altars for the glorification of gods are now altars for the glorification of corn... corn! — the appeal to save a life!» ...«A ghost... no! but a woman with pale face and eyes black as her life... a water-sprite danced her dance on the mainstreet... out of her mind...»

Isolated verses from the poet's works, fragments from the former miserable life of our people. But the poet felt with all the force of

his being that our people had not died. They were a volcano of «suppressed wills» which would very soon burst out. «Sing, your song youth, sing! Sing the song of joy! Laugh, youth, laugh! The world belongs to you!»

And true enough, the youth sang their song. They sang it in battle and revolutionary work. The old idols were overthrown. The fellow citizens of the great poet have now built a new Shkodra, a Shkodra that breathes freely, a city full of life, full of light.

#### DAYS OF SUNSHINE

Even the simplest comparison of the Shkodra of our days with the Shkodra of three decades ago, convinces one of the vitality of the socialist revolution, of the superiority of the socialist order over all other social orders. This is not just a question of its superiority in the rate of economic development, but even more, of the change in social relations, of the creation of the new man.

Shkodra is almost entirely surrounded by water. Waters can be a blessing, but these waters used to cause Shkodra great misfortunes in the days gone by. Heavy rain would swell the rivers and the city would be flooded and overwhelmed with disaster. Now the terror and misery of floods have been eliminated. In recent years a dam has been built on the Drini river, some kilometers southeast of the city, which regulates the flow of water. Through a powerful hydroelectric power-plant, the energy of the river is turned into light. This one hydroplant alone yields over forty per cent of the electric power which Albania produces today. Before liberation Shkodra was considered one of the most industrialized cities, since it had a small cement factory, a textile factory, a cigarette factory and a few other workshops. However the former Shkodra can in no way be compared with the socialist Shkodra of our days. The present industry of Shkodra need only seven days to turn out industrial production equal to that of the whole year 1938. In comparison with



A hydro-electric power-plant built on the Drini river, a few kilometers south-east of the city, turns out 40 per cent of the total electric power produced in Albania.

the other districts of the country, Shkodra ranks third in industrial production. Apart from the hydro-electric plant on the Drini, the modern copper wire plant, the woodworking industry and the food-processing industry, make up the pride of the city's industry. The winery of the Shkodra district alone processes as many grapes as the whole country processed in 1938. Radical changes have taken place in the structure of the city. With its broad streets full of light and verdure, with its beautiful and commodious blocks of apartments, the gloomy appearance of the city, now remains only in the memory of the elderly and in the photographic archives of the city. At one time, as Migjeni said, the churches and mosques towered over the heads of people who, before their mystic majesty, felt small and powerless before the almighty. Now these shades of darkness have been done away with. From the heights of dams, factories, hotels, apartment blocks and schools, men and women feel confidence in the creative energies of the people, confidence in their own strength.

Revolutionary transformations have taken place during the years of People's Power in the sector of agriculture, too. After the land reform, the collectivization of agriculture began, and now both in the plains and in the hilly and mountain zones, it has been put entirely on a socialist basis. The State has invested colossal funds for land improvement on the plains, for river control and protection of land, for building water reservoirs and the network of irrigation canals, for growing selected high-yield seeds, for fertilizing the land, in a word, for putting agriculture on a modern scientific basis. Important steps have been taken also in the development of livestock farming to change its structure by giving priority to the development of cows, then to pigs, poultry and so on. For this purpose there is a zootechnical institute in the district for scientific studies and experimental work. As

a result of all these transformations, the production of bread grain in 1975 increased about three fold, tobacco about eleven fold, and potatoes four fold, compared with 1950. Crop yields in agriculture have been increased from year to year. A number of agricultural economies in certain sectors have taken 60 to 70 quintals of maize per hectare. The irrigation capacity of the district is about 21 times greater. Hillsides and mountains have been terraced and planted with fruit trees and grape vines.

Revolutionary transformations have been made also in other sectors like education, health, trade and transport. Here are some comparative figures. In 1938 there were only 34 elementary schools with 119 teachers, while today there are 218 schools with 750 teachers. Including all the pupils of the various categories of schools, today in the district of Shkodra one in every four persons attends school. For some time now the city has had a Higher Teacher Training Institute, as well as affiliated branches of the State University of Tirana.

Probably the most characteristic feature in the field of health is the extension of the health service network to the countryside. Today in the villages of the Shkodra district there are 182 creches for children up to three years of age, 150 clinics and consulting rooms, 34 health centers, maternity homes, and so on.

Great progress has been made also in trade, communications and so on. Even the most remote mountain regions like Këlmendi, Dukagjini, and others have been linked with motor roads and with a dense network of telephone lines. It is now six or seven years since all the villages of the Shkodra district, like all the villages of the country, have had electric light. Some years ago a characteristic festival was held in the Great Highlands — the festival of water. Many villages which had always been desperately short of drinking water, received an ample supply piped from cool springs. The people there and then crea-

ted songs to this great event., to the Party of Labor, which shows such great care for the well-being of the people, to comrade Enver Hoxha, who celebrated that festive day together with the people of the region.

#### ... REVOLUTION IN ALL SOCIAL RELATIONS.

The revolutionary transformations and major achievements in the economic base have brought about changes also in the structure and situation of the population of Shkodra. As compared with the pre-liberation period, the population of the district has doubled, whereas the number of workers has increased about 17 times. Women, who now take part in all the spheres of social development in the district, have become a great active force in its economic and cultural development. Today we find the Shkodra women handling modern machinery, working in factories, at the Teachers Training Institute, as agronomists in the fields, artists on the stage, in the leadership of the Party or the trade union organization of the district. They are managers of economic enterprises. In the Executive Committee of the district, they told us, the women of Shkodra not only make up about 50 percent of the number of workers, but they also hold many responsible jobs in leading positions in various sectors.

When we write about socialist Shkodra, about the Shkodra, which is growing and being renewed so sound and healthy, we cannot fail to speak of its heart, of the Party Organization of the District. It is this organization, from the Party Committee down to the grassroot organizations in work and production centers, which regulates the dynamic pulse of Socialist Shkodra. This year Shkodra, too, will celebrate the jubilee of the 35th anniversary of the Party of Labor of Albania. And

every worker, through his work and revolutionary attitude, is expressing his deep gratitude towards the Party for what it has done to transform the gloomy and stagnating Shkodra of the past into a Shkodra full of sunshine, life and activity.

In leading the socialist life of the district, the Party organization has its powerful levers — the organs of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the organizations of the masses — the Democratic Front, the Trade Unions, the Labor Youth Union, the Women's Union, the branch of the League of Writers and Artists, the organization of the War and Labor Veterans and so on. The Trade Union Council of the district carries out widespread activities for the ideological and vocational education of the workers, for the development of socialist emulation, for utilizing productive capacities in the most efficient way, for saving and economizing materials, for safeguarding socialist property. These have become norms of the socialist stand towards work. The Trade Union organization does a great deal of work to activate the workers in solving both economic, political and social problems in a democratic way. This is what the chairman of the trade union organization of the copper wire plant, the worker Fatime Tukaj, tells us: «At the foundation of its work our organization has the education of the workers with the features of communist morality, the mobilization of them to carry out their tasks in the economic field, their physical and military training to defend the victories of socialism, raising their educational and technical-vocational level, as

of the bureau of the Party organization, Sanije Sukaj, talked to us about how the plan was worked out. «We had certain objectives in mind: to rely mainly on our own resources, and in setting our objectives, to base ourselves on the progressive average norms achieved during 1975.

Another aspect of socialist democracy is the worker control of all the problems in the district. The working class, as the class which holds state power in its hands, exercises its control in various forms. And, among others, one of these forms is the check-up through workers' control groups, made up of workers in production, which exercise direct control over the most varied problems.

#### «LAUGH, YOUTH, LAUGH! THE WORLD BELONGS TO YOU»

The city of Shkodra has a population of about 50,000. The overwhelming majority of the population are young people. The Shkodra youth are full of creative energy. The socialist order has opened all doors to them: at work, in school and on the front of creative art. And they have their revolutionary say in the factory, building railways, breaking in virgin land, at school and in the scientific institutions, everywhere. But let us look at the youth of Shkodra after work, during their free time, during their rest and recreation.

Amateur artistic groups have been set up at the work and production centres. These groups draw in many young people. They can take part in theatre groups, in song and dance

collaboration with the amateur artistic groups of the work and production centres and the houses and centres of culture in agricultural cooperatives, they engage in a wide range of cultural activities in the city and the outlying districts. In 1975 more than 1,200 different activities took place. The House of Culture has a Folk Song and Dance ensemble, a symphony orchestra, a brass band, and a group of soloists. Ten courses were run here for 200 students from the centers of work and production to learn to play musical instruments. Today the district of Shkodra has 40 variety theatres and 14 drama groups. Gifted youth and workers take part in exhibitions by new artists. Last year, just in the agricultural cooperatives, 7 exhibitions were held in which over 300 amateur painters took part. In the 18th annual exhibition of figurative arts of the district, 60 percent of the artists were amateur painters. Likewise, the amateur composers last year produced 67 new songs based on the beautiful motifs of the folk music of the district. The «Migjeni» theatre is another important cultural institution not only for Shkodra but also for the whole country. This theatre, which has now been in existence for 30 years, also inherits the best traditions from the theatre of the past. It has staged about 100 premiers, 70 percent of which are of the national repertoire. The «Migjeni» theatre has given performances throughout Albania. One third of its annual activity takes place in the countryside.

Shyqri Hafizi is the chairman of the War and Labor veterans association in the district. He tells us, among other things what this organization does to keep these fine traditions alive and to transmit them to the younger generations. And in this direction the most varied forms are used, ranging from talks to the collection and preservation of historical and traditional documents and values.

The workers of socialist Shkodra have profound respect for the generations of the past, for those who gave everything, even their lives, so that our country as a whole could flourish. In the city there is a very rich historical museum. In the public library of the city, among other things, very rare materials and documents of great historical value are preserved. In the city there are also three house museums, that of the three heroes: Perlat Rexhepi, Branko Kadia and Jordan Misja, that of Luigj Gurakuqi, that of Migjeni, besides the museum of atheism, which is unique in the world.

The squares of the city are decorated with statues and sculptural groups like that of the «Heroes of Vigu» in the center. The city quarters, schools and production enterprises, no longer bear the names of feudal chiefs, kings and saints, as they once did, but the names of prominent patriots, heroes and martyrs.

In the Kastrati region, when two persons met in the street, they used to greet each other with: «Are you tired, are you unhappy?». And this sort of greeting indicated in two words all the sufferings and misery of the people. Today these former expressions have been replaced with fine habits and expressions which reflect the new socialist life, the beauty and majesty of our new life. In a publication of the House of Culture and Popular Creativeness, we read these lines which respond to the wishes and aspirations of our forebears:

Time has turned the page  
Ushered in the new season,  
All young things with renewed life,  
Flowers blooming in your bosom,  
Motherland.  
Today, a teacher am I,  
Upon a rock in ancient Dukagjin:  
Surrounded by children  
We hail our freedom, fearing none...



Hundreds of teaching cadres have been trained at the Higher Teachers' Training Institute in Shkodra. At this Institute, there is an affiliated branch of The Tirana University.

well as enlivening the cultural and artistic movement. As workers we try in various ways to strengthen our alliance with the cooperative peasantry. Every worker has undertaken as a duty to work for two weeks in agriculture. Another concrete aspect of our socialist democracy is the discussion by the workers of the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, in which they discuss every separate article of this draft, or the drawing up of the new 5 year plan in which the workers themselves set the targets they will achieve.»

In connection with the new 5-year plan, we received detailed information also from the Arts and Crafts enterprise. The Directress of this enterprise, Suzana Cepi, and the secretary

groups, variety theatre, athletics and sports, and so on. For this they have been provided with suitable premises and grounds as well as with the necessary instruments and means. At the District Committee of Labor Youth Union Organization they told us that in addition to the work done at the base, a great deal of activity goes on also at «The Heroes of Vigu» youth club.

For the working people of Shkodra, and especially for the youth, there is a dense network of institutions in town and countryside, where they can take part not only as spectators but also as active creators of cultural life.

The leading cadres of the House of Culture gave us some very informative figures. In

# ON THE DRAFT - CONSTITUTION OF THE PEOPLES SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

## On narrowing the essential differences between city and countryside

Radical changes have been made in Albania in all directions and fields. With the construction of the economic base of socialism, among others, the antagonistic contradictions between city and countryside were wiped out but essential differences between them still exist.

Their further reduction is essential and a gradual and continuous process. In the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania we read: «The State works to narrow the differences between countryside and city» (Art. 22).

One of the main directions in which the essential differences between countryside and city, between agriculture and industry are manifested is the lower level of development of the production forces in agriculture compared with industry.

In all its policy to develop the forces of production, the Party has been guided by the principle that this development must lead to the narrowing of the differences between agriculture and industry. In this direction, parallel with the develop-

ment, modernization and increase of the leading role of industry agriculture has been developed more and more in extension and intensity.

The increase of investments by society for the further development of the productive forces, the provision by industry of ever higher proportions of mechanized means to equip agriculture, artificial fertilizers, selected seeds, specialized cadres, a better supply of agricultural production with means and materials, the increase of social investments for opening virgin land, for establishing new orchard blocks, the organization of mass actions for agriculture, the mechanical movement of the population towards the countryside, all these make up some of the principal directions through which society, the State, supports and aids the development, strengthening, and mechanisation of agriculture. In this connection, in the draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania we read: «The State supports the development and consolidation of agricultural cooperatives, their transformation into modern economies of large-scale socialist production» (Art. 22).

The essential differences which exist between city and countryside, between industry and agriculture are manifested also in the relations of production and, first and foremost, in the basis of these relations, in the property relations.

From the standpoint of relations of pro-

duction, Albania has been turned from a country in which feudal-bourgeois relations prevailed, into one in which socialist relations of production have been completely established on the basis of collective property, both in town and countryside.

An important role in the standard of living and way of life and the differences arising from them, is played by the amount to which the population of the city and of the countryside benefit from the fund of social consumption. The establishment of the centralized system of full social insurance for the peasantry, the payment of pensions, the long established free medical services for peasants and city dwellers alike, the fulfilment, to an ever greater degree, of the needs of the countryside for educational, cultural and health services with public funds, especially, have very great political, ideological, and economic importance.

The complete electric reticulation of the countryside, providing every village with drinking water, linking all the villages with motor roads, the telephone system, the extension of the trade network to all villages, improvements in supplying the villages with industrial and food products, the extension of educational, cultural and health institutions to all villages making 8 grade schooling compulsory for the countryside too, etc., have had an important influence on living standards and the way of life.

## «Personal Property in Socialism»

ELENI SELENICA

After the liberation of the country and the establishment of the People's Statepower, our revolution liquidated bourgeois-capitalist private property, and gradually, on the basis of conviction and voluntary will, realised the socialist transformation of the former small producers in the countryside and the town. But it did not eliminate the personal property of the working people, that property which serves the fulfillment of their personal and family material, cultural needs.

This has found its expression in the Draft Constitution.

Article 23 of the Draft Constitution says:

«The personal property of citizens is recognised and protected by the state.

Personal property comprises: income from work and other lawful sources, dwelling houses and other objects which serve to meet personal and family material and cultural needs.

The objects belonging to the cooperative family on the basis of the constitution of the agricultural cooperatives are also personal property.

Personal property cannot be used to the detriment of social interest.»

In socialism, personal property exists on the basis of state socialist ownership. The main source of the birth and increase of personal property in the conditions of socialism, is the work of every member of the society, his income gained through useful social work. It cannot arise or be increased by exploiting and appropriating the labour of others. In our country, as a consequence of the profound revolutionary transformations in the field of relations of production, the labour market and wage labour has ceased to be a commodity.

The objects of personal property in socialism are articles of long term use, (houses, furniture and household equipment), articles of short term use, (clothing), articles of immediate use, food-stuffs, and also the money which every worker has. Personal property also includes objects which belong to the cooperative family from their family plots on basis of the statute of the agricultural cooperative.

Objects of personal property cannot be used as a means of exploiting the labour of another. In case this occurs, these things cease to be personal property and are transformed into private property. Socialism liquidates all economic-social conditions which allow the transformation of personal property into private property.

In the first phase of communist society, the amount of personal property varies

for different working people. This is linked with the fact that in this phase of society, the workers are paid for their work according to its quantity and quality and also have other lawful incomes. This means, that in socialist society «bourgeois right» exists and operates in the field of personal property.

This is because, although they secure their incomes from useful social work, which constitutes the source of the formation of personal property, the working people are not all the same. Some are stronger others are weaker, some are qualified, in one family several members may be engaged in useful social work, in another, fewer, one family has many children another fewer. All this cannot fail to be reflected in the quantity of things which every worker and member of his family uses from the objects of personal property for the reproduction of life. Consequently, differences exist in the consumption of the working people. Our Party of labour aims at narrowing these differences now, in the phase of socialist construction.

Recently, the Party of Labour of Albania and the Government of the PRA took a series of measures on the reduction of higher salaries and the narrowing of differences between town and countryside.

This still remains a problem, which must always be borne in mind and the differences between incomes must be gradually narrowed.

# FOREIGNERS ON ALBANIA



**MUSA EL DZHIRJËS**  
Head of the delegation  
of Trade Union Federation  
of Palestine.

## «I feel as if I am in my own homeland»

The thing that leaves a deep impression in your country is the unbreakable unity between the Party and the people, the boundless and ardent love your people cherish for the Party and comrade Enver Hoxha. We had the opportunity to take part in the memorial ceremony on Martyrs' Day, May 5. We saw how people of different ages, women and men, boys and girls, children and elderly people, went wave after wave, with bouquets of flowers and wreaths in their hands to the resting place of the martyrs of the war. After the laying of wreaths we were privileged to visit a patriotic family and listened with great attention to what the parents of the martyr fallen in battle told us. For us this meeting was a great inspiration and a very valuable lesson for our struggle, for our efforts for national liberation, to win freedom for our much suffering Palesti-

nian people. I, too, as a Palestinian citizen, born on Palestinian soil and brought up outside my motherland, Palestine, learned a great lesson. Our people, too, have taken up arms and are waging an unequal struggle under very difficult conditions against Zionism, imperialism and international reaction. Our struggle, which has burst out powerfully and has been kindled never to die out, will be protracted and bloody, until final victory. Our people have taken up arms with full confidence in the revolutionary line they are following, in its triumph, which can be attained only by keeping their weapons firmly in their hands. Our enemies have tried and are trying to hinder our just struggle, they are concocting all kinds of plots, but we are fully convinced that they will fail in the future, too. On Albanian soil I have felt as though I were among my fellow countrymen, as though I were in the Palestinian military bases. The Albanian people are with us, with our struggle, and we consider the Albanians as Palestinian fighters because they defend a just cause.

## What we saw in Albania is a valuable lesson for us

The celebration of May Day in Albania was a great experience for us.

The festivities took place in an atmosphere of proletarian internationalism. Support was expressed for the liberation and revolutionary struggles against imperialism and social-imperialism, against colonialism and reaction.

Through the many visits which we made to enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, museums, exhibitions, etc., we formed a broad idea about the development of Albania and its level of industrialization. If we compare the flourishing Albania of today with the conditions of the country prior to liberation, we can get a better understanding of the importance of the victories achieved during the construction of socialism. Albania began practically from zero level and is today well on the way to becoming an industrial country.

We were warmly welcomed everywhere by the workers, peasants and others.

Of the various centres we visited, I want to mention the Metallurgical Combine at Elbasan. It is a gigantic project. Nearly 15,000 workers will be employed there when it is completed. For us the pouring of the first Albanian pig iron was an outstanding event. This victory of the Albanian people is also ours. Comrade Enver Hoxha has emphasized that this is the second liberation of Albania, because by producing its own iron and steel, the basis is laid for many branches of industry, first and foremost for machine building. In this way Albania will strengthen its independence.

In various enterprises we were able to see clearly that the workers are the owners of the enterprises, they enjoy the fruits of their labor.

The experience and knowledge we gained here in Albania are an incentive for us to multiply our efforts and to fight in our country, in the east and the west, to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat, through the socialist revolution and for a united, independent, and socialist Germany.



**JOAHIM BAYER**  
Head of the Delegation  
of the Revolutionary  
Workers of the German  
Federal Republic.

## My visit to socialist Albania

I came to Albania to take part in the May Day celebrations at the invitation of the Albanian Council of Trade Unions.

The May Day manifestation was an experience which will remain indelible in my mind. I saw there the militant enthusiasm of the participants, their confidence and great love for their leaders under the general leadership of comrade Enver Hoxha, the great unity of the Party and the people, which only a Marxist-Leninist Party, such as the Party of Labor of Albania, with a correct political line can engender. I saw their legitimate pride in the victories they have achieved in the implementation of the tasks set for them in fulfilling the targets of both the short and long term economic plans. I was highly impressed by the militancy of the children and their love for the leaders of the nation.

The manifestation provided us with the special opportunity to see Albania's socialist development in its broad entirety, from the determination and enthusiasm of the workers, the quality of the products of their labor, the revolutionary political, ideolo-

gical, economic and cultural slogans, their determined preparedness to defend their country from internal as well as external enemies as a nation of soldiers irrespective of sex, and their proletarian internationalism.

From what I saw and heard, I may say that politically I found the people of Albania to have achieved a very high socialist consciousness which is unbeatable in the world today. This clearly accounts for the stand of Albania in the face of imperialism and social-imperialism. There is no doubt whatsoever that the working class in Albania is firmly in control of State power and exercises it in accordance with the principles and norms of the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is the highest form of political organization, in our view, and we have, thus, no fear for the future of socialism in this country.

We found socialist Albania a country of singers, dancers and artists of all types with a high level of taste and talent. Everywhere we came across a new man and woman with an infectious sense of humor, a captivating personality who performs great deeds with heroic modesty. That is the socialist man — and woman — of new Albania.



By **EDWIN MAKOTI**  
Head of the Delegation  
of the Pan-African  
Congress of Azania.



— On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of military airforce, Exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculptures portraying the life and work of the airmen of the country and their success in political and military training was opened in the capital. The Exhibition has been visited by thousands of workers of the capital, young men and women, army men and students. On this page we are publishing Sali Shijaku's painting, «Bravo, the Peza Rifle!» The author was inspired by the brave partisans of Peza who shot down a fascist aircraft with rifle fire during the National-liberation War.

The second painting by Zamir Mati presents another aspect of our airmen, that of the swift aid they bring to the working people of the cooperatives. The author has titled it «To the aid of the countryside».

The third painting which the artist Agim Faja has named «The Children» presents another aspect of the Albanian children's love for flying.



# THE ORGANIZATION OF THE VERY YOUNG

SHPRESA VRETO



On commemoration days, time after time you can see in our country columns of children in line, with the red flag in front heading for a place where a battle took place or some hero was killed, and so on. Here they hold a simple ceremony, one which they will never forget throughout their lives: they pledge before the red flag that they will be loyal sons and daughters of the people and socialism. After this they put the red scarf round their necks.

From that day on they are called members of the organization of young pioneers. The day of the founding of this organization, April 21, is celebrated every year by school age children.

This organization came into being in the stormy years of our people's National-liberation day of the founding of this organization, led by the Albanian Communist Party. In Tirana this organization was called DEBATIK.

meaning THE UNION OF BOYS UNITED BY COMMUNIST IDEAS. Its members, though of very tender age, made a valuable contribution to the struggle against the Italian and German occupationists and their lackeys; they carried out all sorts of sabotage against the enemy and distributed leaflets. Indeed many members of this organization even went to the partisan fighting formations, in which they fought arms in hand. The list of the martyrs of our country includes the names of young pioneers.

Today, this organization is run by the Labour Youth Union of Albania under the guidance of the Party of Labor. Its ranks are made up of children of from 9 to 14 years of age. Its aim is the communist education of the children. It relies on the principle of initiative and independent action. In this direction, this organization has written brilliant pages. It has

become a true school for the education of its members in love for the homeland, for work and for school, in love for other peoples. What strikes the eye is the contribution of the organization of young pioneers in support of the school, therefore, in the center of its activity stand the three components: lessons, work and physical training.

In our country the State spares nothing for the all-round education of the children taking part in this organization. In every district Pioneer Palaces or Pioneer Houses have been set up with all-round equipment for developing young talents in the fields of art, sport and so on, so that they can spend their free time in the most cultured way. In these institutions there are scores of different circles in which, without paying any fees, the pioneers can learn the rudiments of any profession they like. It must be said that as in other fields, in



**Variegated is the life of children in our country. All the conditions have been created for them, so that they grow up healthy, cheerful, capable of taking into their hands the torch of revolution in the days to come.**



those of art and sport the first talents show up in the palaces and houses of the young pioneers. One of the interesting aspects of these institutions are the various festivals and sports contests at Republic level.

During the summer vacation, the doors to holiday homes for young pioneers are opened in the most picturesque spots all over the country. For the whole period the children spend in these holiday homes their parents pay only one-third of the cost, the remainder being paid by the State.

The young pioneers spend their vacations happily here in games and recreation.

Thus, through these means and forms, the young pioneer organization trains its members for admission to the Organization of the Labor Youth Union of Albania, which is an anvil on which the youth are tempered and educated with finest qualities and virtues.





Parentless children are growing up and being educated at the Children's Home in Saranda. They are under the constant care of our People's State Power. For each five children there is one trained educator to care for them. In the picture: One of the teacher-educators talking to the children in their free time.

## «THEY ARE NOT ORPHANS»

KRISTO NDRICO

In Saranda there is a big and beautiful house. It is called the Children's Home. The town's biggest family lives there.

As soon as you enter the well ordered grounds, with a fountain in the middle of the concrete court-yard, shaded with grape vines and decorated with flowers, the small children, who are the greatest beauty of this happy home, crowd around you with cries of:

«Welcome, please come inside!»

When you meet and talk with the children, the educators, with all the personnel and go through the dormitories, the study rooms, the room of the Party, the library, the kitchen, the games rooms, the lounge you are immediately aware of the care for these boys and girls from the Party which like a great mother has taken these children to its bosom, to bring them up and educate them in an atmosphere of warmth and love. «Children, left without parents and support are brought up and educated by the state», says the new Draft Constitution.

This year, 145 children without parents are being brought up and educated in this home, 86 of them girls from 6 to 15 years of age. They want for nothing. They are well clothed and fed, in rosy-cheeked good health. In the dormitories, as everywhere else, the tidy beds, spotless floors and fresh cleanliness of the walls, are a pleasure to see. All those jobs are done by the young children themselves. This

love for work has been instilled in them already, when they are still young. How careful they tend the gardens, how well they prune and take care of the trees around the house.

One of the girls said to us, «Here we learn to do beautiful embroidery, to wash and sweep, to sew and cook», and she pointed to some embroidery which we thought really lovely.

Caring for these children, who are growing up so fine and healthy at every moment are the educators, Vangjeli, Irini, Lefteria, Anastasia..., a staff of thirty, that is one educator for every five children. «The Party is that great mother whom no-one can replace», said Comrade Enver Hoxha, at the 8th of November Children's Home in the capital, «but in the teachers, the educators, and all the others, you, dear children must see your mothers and fathers, whom some of you have never known. Therefore, it is a duty as humanitarian as it is essential, that the staff here work even better than in all other institutions and work centers, and take even greater care of you than of their own.»

And truly, here these children find a warm family environment. The study rooms have been turned into family type rooms. Each of them has three or four tables, one or two couches, cupboards and shelves for books, a stove and other household appliances, while the carpeted lounge has a radioset, sofas and arm-

chairs, ordinary chairs and a T.V. set. In preparing the meals, the opinions and tastes of the children are always taken into consideration. Here the birthdays of the children are always celebrated together and their friends from outside are invited. On such occasions a warm and enjoyable atmosphere is created and the children sing and dance, recite and tell stories. The children wrote in a letter to Comrade Enver, «Here we feel ourselves part of a big family, we live like brothers and sisters of the one mother, of Mother Party, which the whole world knows, which has a generous heart and which cares not only for us but for the whole people.»

The children grow up and set out on the different paths of the Homeland. And where can they not be found. In the North and the South. But wherever they go and wherever they are, they never forget their Home, their childhood, and their collective life. They send letters to the younger comrades they left behind, to their «brothers» and «sisters», as they call them, to their educator parents. «You, younger brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of this home», their «brother» Vangjel Guxo, now a teacher in Laç wrote to them some time ago, «are the pride of our life. Your elder comrades are worthy people of the Party. Where do you not find the sons and daughters of our great home. In the four corners of the Homeland, in all the sectors of work and



The State has placed this beautiful home, with many rooms and halls, with a spacious courtyard, fountain, flowers and other ornamental plants, at the disposal of orphans.

Study rooms of the family type with tables, couches, cupboards or book cases and other household furniture have been set up for the children. They have a sitting room for their friends, visitors and relatives, a library and the necessary environment for rest and recreation.

Everything is clean and tidy. The children are brought up to love work. In the picture: Three members of this big family doing embroidery.



construction. But even though we are far away, our hearts are there, among you, in our Home, where we spent the happiest years of our lives». We also saw another letter which came from Fieri. Among other things we read, «Dear Father, dear brothers and sisters, I have missed you all so much... I can barely wait for the summer holidays so that I can come and see you all. Your daughter and sister Sofi».

There are many things in this big home which make you rejoice and move you.

These healthy boys and girls are enjoying today and look to the happy future full of optimism. They are exemplary in lessons, and in behaviour. This is how the Party and the people bring them up. «These children are from the Children's Home», said Comrade Enver Hoxha at the Children's Home in the capital, «but they are the sons and daughters of the Party and people. All the others have a mother and father who work for them, whereas a Party and an entire people work for these ones».

# THE FESTIVAL OF ALBANIAN FILM

LUAN DIBRA



Excerpts from the film «At the Beginning of Summer».

«The Happy Couple».

«Rivers of Light»



The first festival of the Albanian artistic film was held recently in Tirana. It marked an important occasion for our national culture, an outstanding success of the cinematographic art and an enjoyable event for all the Albanian art lovers and audiences.

Albanian cinematography is an art which came into being and grew up only during the years of our People's State Power. It inherited nothing from the past.

Only 29 years have elapsed since the production of the first Albanian documentary film. For an art such as cinematography, this does not comprise a length of experience such that great achievements could be expected. However, since May Day 1947, when our working masses saw themselves portrayed on the screen for the first time, such progress as could scarcely be imagined, has been made.

The «New Albania» Film Studio, which at first turned out only newsreel and documentary films, was inaugurated in 1956. Later, when the material possibilities were created and the cadres trained, it became possible to turn out the first feature film.

Within a very short period, this beautiful popular art successfully outgrew its «infancy», and now, in full dignity, it is militating in the socialist construction of Albania.

Our cinematography turns out twelve feature films annually in addition to many documentary films and newsreels. What is characteristic is that in our country there are no professional artists specialized in cinematography. The players in our films are artists of the dramatic theaters of the country and distinguished artists from groups of amateurs. Many of them have won the admiration of the spectators and have become famous in our country.

Up to now hundreds of newsreel and documentary films and tens of worthy feature films have been produced. They deal with the most varied problems of the life of our people. Albanian films have consistently drawn their themes from the active life of the people. In them one finds the strivings, sacrifices and successes of the broad masses, in struggle against everything alien, reactionary, in the revolutionary battle to build the new society — socialism. Therefore, our spectators see themselves in them. With its ever richer ideological content, the Albanian film makes a major contribution to the education of the working masses with the moral virtues of our new society.

Many films stand out for their artistic, emotional, ideological value, for their realistic progressive thought, their profoundly human character. They are now bought also by a large number of countries of the world. Our films took part at the festival which was organized in Thessalonica in 1975. In addition, weeks of the Albanian film have been organized in some countries abroad.

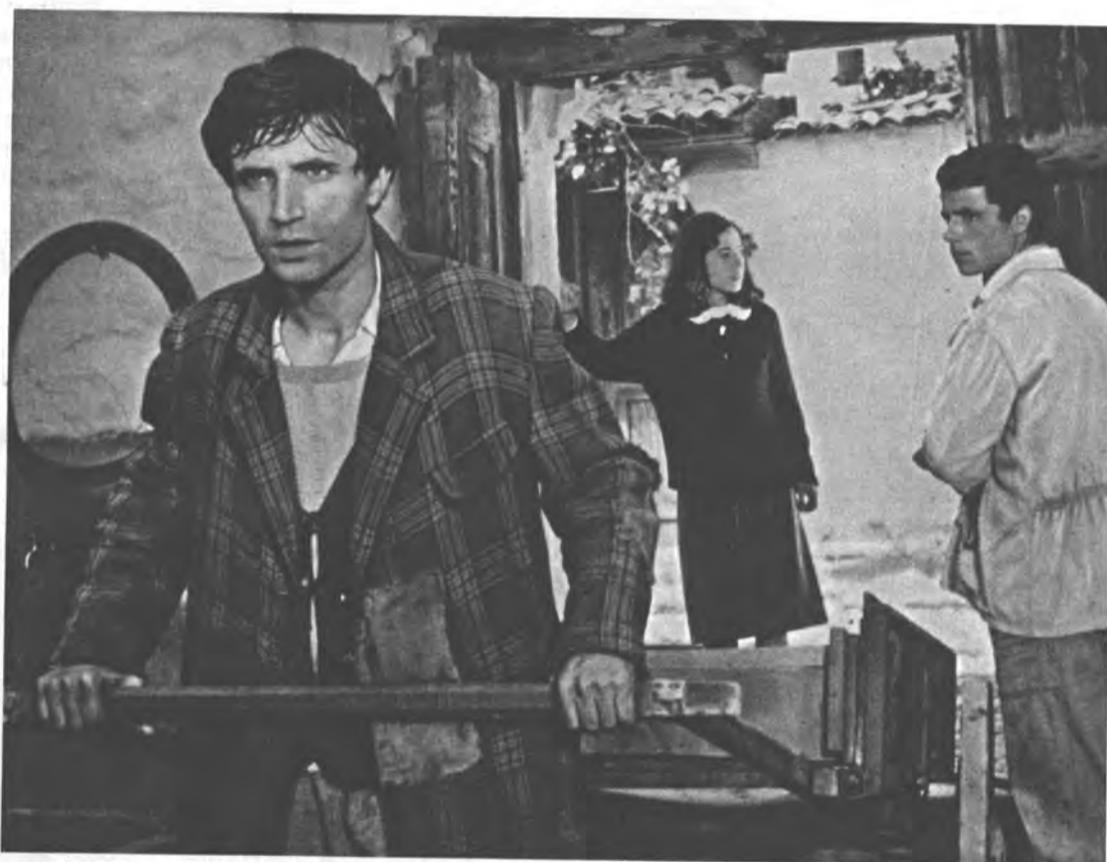
The first festival of the Albanian film demonstrated very well that many more worthy productions have been added to this fund. Competing in it were 9 feature films of different lengths and genres as well as 17 of the best documentary films. The festival testified to the real ideo-artistic and emotional values of cinematographic productions, to the rich experience accumulated by the Albanian film producers in so short a period of time, and to the ceaseless growth of the creative forces.

The first festival of the Albanian artistic film also saw several «firsts», the first musical film, the first cartoon films, the first feature film in two parts, which were all put on the screen at this festival, while the first successful steps were taken for the production of feature films in colour.

The first film festival was rightly called by the people themselves the festive celebration of the Albanian film. It testifies to the great possibilities of Albanian cinematography and to the brilliant prospects opened to cinematographic art in Albania, alongside literature and all other arts.



«Beni Walks By Himself».



«Alleys That Sought the Sun»

«Journey in Spring»





These Dropulli girls in national costume are members of amateur groups. The groups of amateur artists from Dropull are regular participants in national and local festivals.

# THE DROPULL OF OUR DAYS

THOMA KËRKESHI

Dropull is a region in the south of the Gjirokastra district. Its villages stretch, one after the other, along the mountain slopes bordering a fertile plain. All the villages of the region have united in two big socialist economies.

Prior to the triumph of the people's revolution in Albania, the people of Dropull were oppressed and exploited to the bone, by the rich merchants and land owners. Unable to ensure even the minimum necessities of life, they were obliged to abandon their birthplace and relatives and go abroad in search of work. From the village of Sotira alone, more than 650 men were obliged to emigrate. Many of them died in poverty and alone, leaving their bones in foreign soil. As a Dropulli folk song puts it, their mothers, sisters and wives shed black tears.

The revolution brought freedom and restored real dignity to the people of Dropull. The Dropulli people as a Greek national minority enjoy all the rights that every citizen of the People's Republic of Albania enjoys. The preservation and development of the popular culture and traditions, the use of their mother tongue, which is taught in the schools, and equal opportunities in all spheres of social life are guaranteed to them.

First and foremost the People's State Power liberated the people of Dropull from economic exploitation. The feudal land owners were expropriated and the people became masters of the land on which they had poured out their sweat and blood. The plain has been completely drained and protected from flooding. All of it has been brought under irrigation. Hundreds and hundreds of kilometres of main and secondary irrigation channels, which run like arteries through the whole plain, have been built. Important water storage projects have been built. The State has spent nearly 43 million leks in improving the water system of the Dropulli plain.

All cultivation is done by mechanized means. Seeds of high yield varieties, artificial fertilizers and preparations to fight plant disease and weeds are being used on an extensive scale. Crop yields have greatly increased as compared with the past. Before liberation the yield of maize and wheat was 10 quintals per hectare, while in 1975 the yield of wheat in the Dropulli region was 29,2 qt. per hectare and that of maize 38,5 qt. per hectare over the whole area planted to these crops. The cooperative members of Lower Dropulli took 33,3 qt. wheat and 54 qt. maize per hectare. There were good

yields also from tobacco, sunflower, and vegetables. This economy has 1.100 pedigree and cross-bred cows and about 18 thousand sheep and goats. Last year the monthly income per worker increased to 630 leks as against 595 leks the year before, and the workday to 20 leks against 18,2 leks last year.

These incomes are very good taking into account that each family has more than two persons working. On the other hand, the cooperative members pay no taxes, schooling and health services are provided, free of charge by the State. In the whole region there are 16 out patient clinics, 16 consultation centres and tens of medical cadres. Five doctors work in the villages of Lower Dropull. All cases of childbirth have medical supervision and assistance. In every village there are kindergartens and crèches catering for all the children of the cooperative members.

The Dropull district was one of the first regions of Albania to which the People's State Power brought drinking water and electric light to all the villages. In the cooperative of Lower Dropull there are 50 shops catering for all needs, 13 dressmaking, tailoring and bootrepair shops, and about 11 other service units.

All these things have brought about a considerable rise in the standard of living. We went into the home of Julia Xhumba, a former laborer for the landowner. Six months after she was married, her husband emigrated, never to return. He left her 3 months pregnant. Julia gave birth to a boy. Her life was full of suffering. After liberation the People's State Power gave her the land on which she had poured out her sweat, while to her son, Thanas, it gave higher education. Thanas completed his studies in agronomy, and now works in the cooperative. Her son's wife also works in the cooperative while she herself retired on a pension a few months ago. The family earns all told over 1.800 leks a month. The young couple have two children, a son and a daughter, Jorgo and Julia. They have built a new house of three rooms and a kitchen. It is well equipped with all the necessary furniture, a radio, refrigerator, TV set and a washing machine.

During the years 1972 to 1975 the cooperative members themselves built over 250 new houses in Dropull. There is no family without its own radio and TV sets are becoming more and more common.

The greatest victory in Dropull is the formation of the man with lofty moral virtues. Today work is considered an honour for every resident of Dropull. Men and women work together like brothers and sisters ready to contribute all their strength and knowledge for the cause of the people. Hundreds of cadres from Dropull work all over the country, on various fronts of socialist construction as gifted and capable technicians, engineers, doctors, agronomists, zootechnicians, teachers and officers. For instance there are nearly 280 cadres with higher training from Dropull, working in various sectors of the country. The high title of «Hero of Socialist





Labour» was awarded to the young teacher from Zervat, Ilia Qiqi, who laid down his life in the performance of his duty.

Today, employed in the two cooperatives of Dropull, there are 262 cadres of higher and middle training, there are 23 elementary, 13 eight year, and 2 agricultural secondary schools functioning, as well as 33 kindergartens and crèches. In the elementary schools, all the teaching is in the Greek language, while in the eightyear schools, this subject is taught as part of the cariculum. The newspaper «Llaiko Vima», goes regularly throughout the region. In the Greek language tens of sons and daughters of Dropull continue their studies to become teachers in the Greek language at the Teachers' Training school in Gjirokastra.

Very favorable conditions, are created for the Dropulli people to further their cultural traditions. Today there are 31 cultural centers, 26 museums and house museums, over 80 artistic groups and artistic circles with hundreds of amateur participants. At many festivals these groups have taken the main honours.

The Dropull of our days is not only a living testimony to the socialist transformation of the Albanian countryside as a whole, but also a testimony to the practical application of the Marxist-Leninist policy of the Party of Labor of Albania towards national minorities.



1 The Dropull plain has been drained and fully systematized, and all of it is under irrigation. The State has spent nearly 43.000.000 leks.

2 During the years of our People's State Power the village of Goranxi has grown and become incomparably more beautiful than in pre-liberation times. During the period from 1972 to 1975, the members of the cooperative have built themselves 250 new houses.

3 The young writer, Ksenofon Koka, reading one of the works he has recently written, to some of the cooperative members.

4 Dropull was one of the first districts of Albania in which the People's State Power built water supply systems to villages and completed the electric reticulation throughout the district.

In the picture: Nasho Mullo's new house at Der-  
viçan.





# THE MAY CONCERTS



Dhurata Partise në 35-vjetorin e saj



The «May Concerts» given during the latter part of the month have already become a tradition in our capital, Tirana. They turn into a beautiful manifestation of art for ten days in succession. The concerts are transmitted directly from the stage through television attracting the admiration of our art lovers not only in the capital but also throughout the country.

The «May Concerts» stand out for the large number of artistic groups which take part in them. In addition to all the professional artistic groups concerts are given during these ten days also by the amateur groups of the bigger work and production centers of the capital as well as artistic groups of pupils and students.

There were more participants in this year's «May Concerts» than in those of last year. The amateur artistic collectives of certain workshops, secondary schools as well as of the villages round Tirana showed a qualitative improvement in their programs.

The photographs reproduced on these two pages of the magazine have been taken during the performances of the various artistic groups on the stage of the Opera and Ballet Theater.

## ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ALBANIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY

The new Albanian historiography began its existence under very adverse conditions, since the foreign and local historical baggage inherited had many gaps and pronounced shortcomings.

Just as in every other field, the new socialist order created very favorable conditions for the development of historical sciences, too. Appropriate research institutions with specialized cadres were set up as organizing centers for truly scientific historical work within the country. Important results have been achieved during these years of People's Power. The historical baggage inherited from the past was re-examined in the light of Marxism-Leninism, and the anti-scientific and anti-Albanian concepts and views which had taken root in local and foreign historical literature were discarded. Meanwhile, a large quantity of previously unknown historical documents were discovered and put into scientific circulation. On the basis of these documents three volumes of the History of Albania, from ancient times down to our own days for the higher schools, and the History of the Party of Labor of Albania, the History of the Anti-fascist National-liberation War, as well as special history textbooks for the other categories of schools have been prepared. In addition, a series of deeper studies on special problems from the fields of ancient, mediaeval, modern and contemporary history have been carried out accompanied by volumes of documentary anthologies and volumes of local and foreign documents.

The results of the new Albanian historiography have been presented in a number of national and international scientific sessions, conferences and congresses organized within the country and abroad. The most important of these have been: the First Conference of Albanological Studies held in November 1962, the Second Conference of Albanological Studies held in January 1968, in which studies about the figure of the National Hero George Castrioti—Skanderbeg and his epoch occupied an important place; the National Conference of Social Studies on the Problems of Socialist Construction, held in November 1969, the First Convention of studies on the Illyrians (ancestors of the Albanians) and Their Culture held in September 1972, the National Conference of Studies on the National-liberation Anti-fascist War of the Albanian People, led by the Communist Party of Albania, held in November 1974, and others. In addition, the Albanian historians have taken part and contributed to the congresses of the International Associations of Balkan Studies in Sofia, Athens, Bucharest, and elsewhere.

A merit of the new Albanian historiography is that, firmly based on historical materialism and on the teachings of the

Party of Labor of Albania and comrade Enver Hoxha, it has treated historical processes, not as dependent on or the consequences of factors of influences from abroad (geopolitical factors, great empires, world culture and so on) but as consequences, first and foremost, of the development of the economic-social and political-cultural forces of the country, without denying the role of foreign social, political and cultural influences and their reciprocal effects. Differently from all former studies, this has given the history of the Albanian people its own autonomous axis and has recognized the contribution of its original cultural values to the heritage of progressive world culture.

The main problems which are and will become subjects for ever more profound study by the workers of the historical sciences of Albania, are the problem of the Illyrians and the genesis of the Albanians, an important scientific and political problem, which is being studied in an all-round way by the Albanian archaeologists, historians, anthropologists and linguists. Another objective of our workers in historical sciences is the study of the people's movements for national liberation and social emancipation in all epochs, in order to bring out the role of the popular masses in the history of Albania. Special attention in these studies will be devoted to our national renaissance, as well as to the migrations of the Albanians, which began from the XIV century to Greece and Italy, and later, to other countries for economic reasons, in the XIX and the beginning of the XX centuries, which will be studied by the united forces of the workers of history, ethnography, linguistics, literature, folklore and the arts.

The study of Albanian-Balkan relations in the Mediterranean region is being extended and deepened in order to form and complete the international context in which political events have taken place in Albania, in order to provide clearer evidence to their influence in these events, as well as to define the place of the Albanians in the history of the peoples of this region.

Albanian ethnography, about which a National Conference was held in June this year, is also an object of special study. In the coming years, an ethnographic atlas will be completed. This will serve to present the rich ethnographic material systematically and as completely as possible.

Following the triumph of the people's revolution, an entirely new field of studies has come in to being, namely, the History of the Anti-fascist National-liberation War and that of the socialist construction, which are characterized by a broad, active, and conscious participation of the popular masses led by the Party of Labor.

# THE INSTITUTE ENGAGED IN PREVENTION OF DISEASES

Our correspondent asked the Director of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, **Myftar Muço**, to speak of the achievements of this Institute in the field of prophylaxis. This is what he said:

Considering man as the most precious capital, our socialist order made the protection of the health of the people a duty of all the organs of the State, and the organizations of the masses, a concern of all the people.

An important place in the wide network of health institutions is occupied by the sanitary anti-epidemic service, a specialized service engaged entirely with the problems of prophylaxis.

The establishment of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in 1969 was an important event for the development and the further intensification of prophylactic activities, for putting the problems in the field of hygiene, epidemiology and the production of immunological preparations like vaccines and serums on a more correct and scientific basis.

The activity of this Institute has grown steadily broader from year to year, the labo-

ratory material base has been extended, cadres have increased in number, and in theoretical knowledge, and, as a consequence, the standard of work has been improving.

In the field of hygiene, among other problems, special attention has been devoted to the study of the danger of silicosis in our mines, of noises and vibrations in industry and city environments, of temporary incapacity for work, to the study of drinking water from the physical, chemical and bacteriological standpoint, of the physical development of children, of the micro-biological assessment of foodstuffs, and so on. The conclusions reached from these studies have assisted in improving hygienic conditions and making them healthier.

The complex studies which have been undertaken on contagious diseases have thrown light on the epidemiological situation

of the country and in taking organizational-antiepidemic and prophylactic measures to reduce them further.

An important place in the activity of this Institute is that of producing immunobiological preparations (vaccines and serums) which, together with the other prophylactic and epidemiological measures, help reduce the incidence of contagious diseases. The use on a basis of sound criteria of immunobiological preparations accounts for the fact that contagious diseases tend to decrease from year to year.

The production of immunobiological preparations has steadily increased in quantity and improved in quality. As against one vaccine produced in the early years after liberation, today there are about twenty kinds of vaccines and serums being produced such as anti-rabies serum, diphtheria antitoxin, diphthero-tetanus antitoxin, vaccine against measles, vaccine against tuberculosis, trivaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis, anti-cholera vaccine, and others as well as many antigens and diagnostic serums in quantity and good quality.

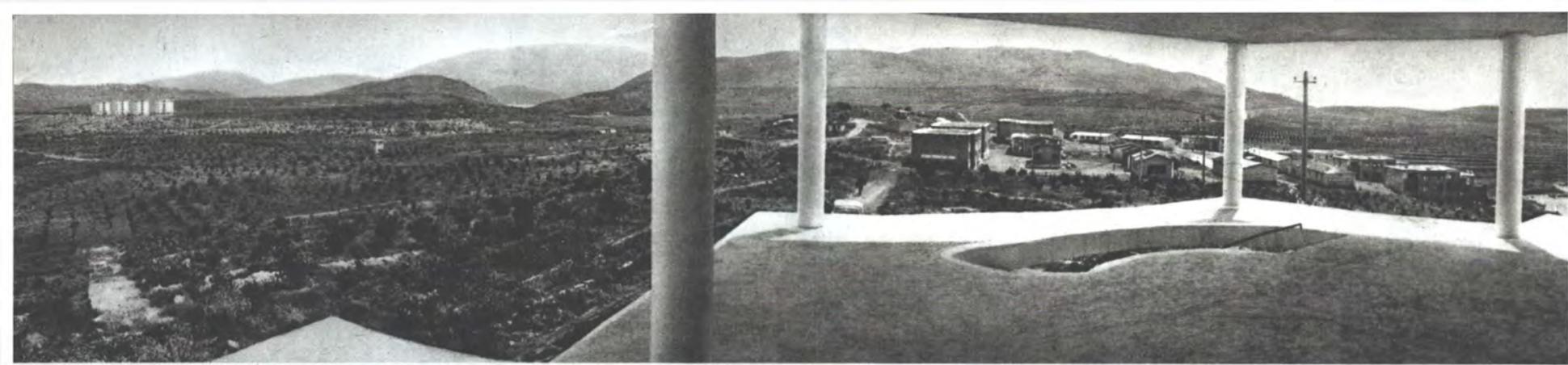
Local production of vaccines and serums, which used to be imported, created conditions for them to be used at the proper time.

Parallel with increasing the production of immunological preparations, importance is attached to their quality. The analysis carried out by the producers themselves and the controlling laboratory, show that the vaccines and serums are of a high quality. Their effect has been fully verified by practice.

In the future, the studies in the field of hygiene, epidemiology and immunology will tackle more complicated problems, problems dictated by the further development of our socialist society, our concern for the life and well-being of the working-people.



The production of immunobiological preparations occupies an important place in the activities of the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology. Today about twenty different vaccines and serums are produced in quantity and of high quality.



This is the new village of Ksamil which has been built in recent times to the south-west of the town of Saranda, among countless terraces which stretch row on row down to the shore of the Ionian sea and planted with orange, lemon and olive trees.

## A NEW VILLAGE ON THE SHORES OF THE IONIAN SEA

Southwest of the town of Saranda, on the road to the ancient city of Butrint a new center of habitation, the village of Ksamil, is being built beside an inlet of the Ionian sea. Up to recent years, on this inlet dotted with small islets clad in perennial green, with its mild, Mediterranean climate and covered with various subtropical plants, the hand of man had not been felt. It was mentioned only as a place for hunting wild game.

Today Ksamil presents a different tableau.

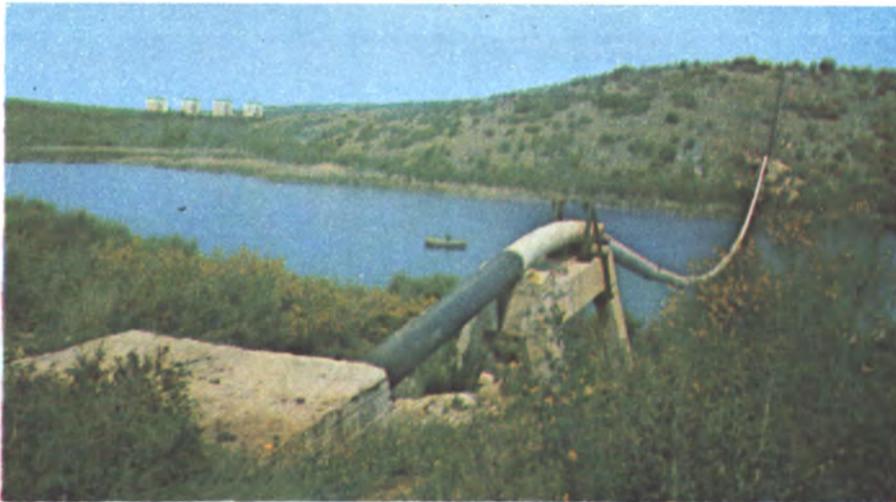
The transformation of Ksamil began a few years ago. Many young people from all corners of Albania went there, and through their combined efforts opened up and systematized an area of over 370 hectares of virgin land and planted over 103.000 orange, lemon and olive trees.

Many of these young people decided to become permanent residents of Ksamil. Thus a new center of habitation sprang up with 150 families and about 700 inhabitants. Beautiful commodious houses, various shops, kindergartens and crèches, institutions of the health service, an eight-year school and a part-time agricultural secondary school have been built there.

In future years it is envisaged that some hundreds of hectares more land will be opened up and planted in oranges, lemons and olives.



Many young men and young women have made their contribution to the transformation of the hill-sides of Ksamil which used to be covered with scrub and brambles. They have opened up and systematized more than 370 hectares of virgin land and planted orange, lemon and olive trees. In the picture: A group of young volunteers.



Young volunteers at work on the orange plantations.



# ALBANIAN CASTLES

In Albania there are over 70, big and small castles built on the plains and in the mountains, along the coast and in the interior of the country. They belong to different periods, ranging from antiquity to the XIXth century. They testify that the Albanian people have had to defend their life and freedom sword in hand, throughout their history.

One of them is the majestic castle of Berat (fig. 1). Its foundations were laid by the ancestors of the Albanians, the Illyrians, before the present era.

On a picturesque rocky peak stands the castle of Petrela built 1500 years ago (fig. 2). It has served as a strategic point and has played an important role in various historic events especially during the wars of the Albanian people under the leadership of George Castrioti-Skanderbeg against the Ottoman invasion in the XVth century.

Lezha castle (fig. 3) is from the period of antiquity. During the Middle Ages it is mentioned as the site of great events. Here, the Albanians pledged their word to one another to fight to the end against the Turkish armies which were swarming over the Balkans and Europe.

Photo 4 presents a view of the Plumbi Mosque in Shkodra, seen from the walls of the castle of this city. The castle, according to popular legend, is known by the name of Rozafat and is linked with the Illyrian civilization.

The mosque belongs to the period of Ottoman domination. It is a unique monument from its architectural form and decoration. It was ruined by the earthquake of 1968.

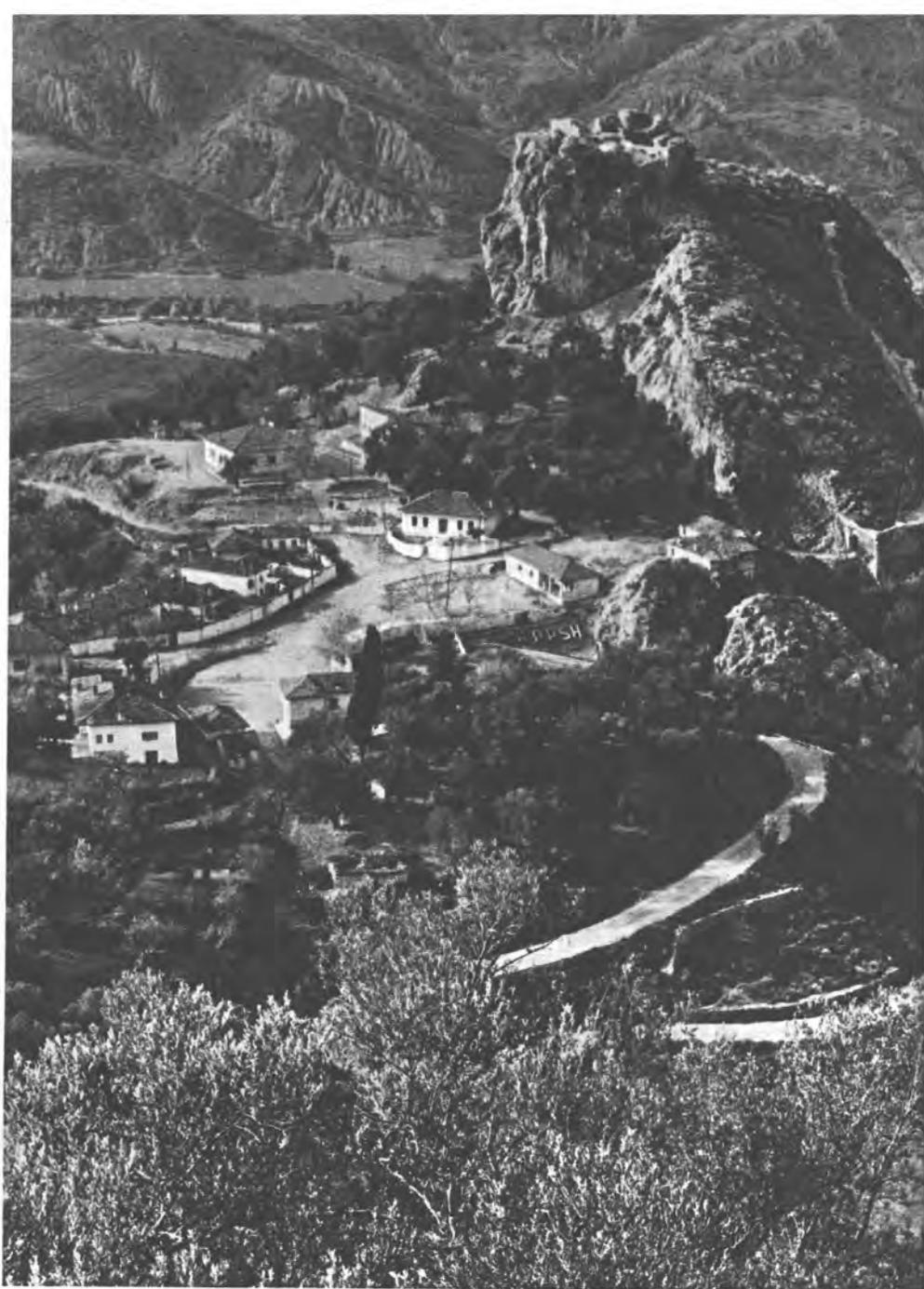
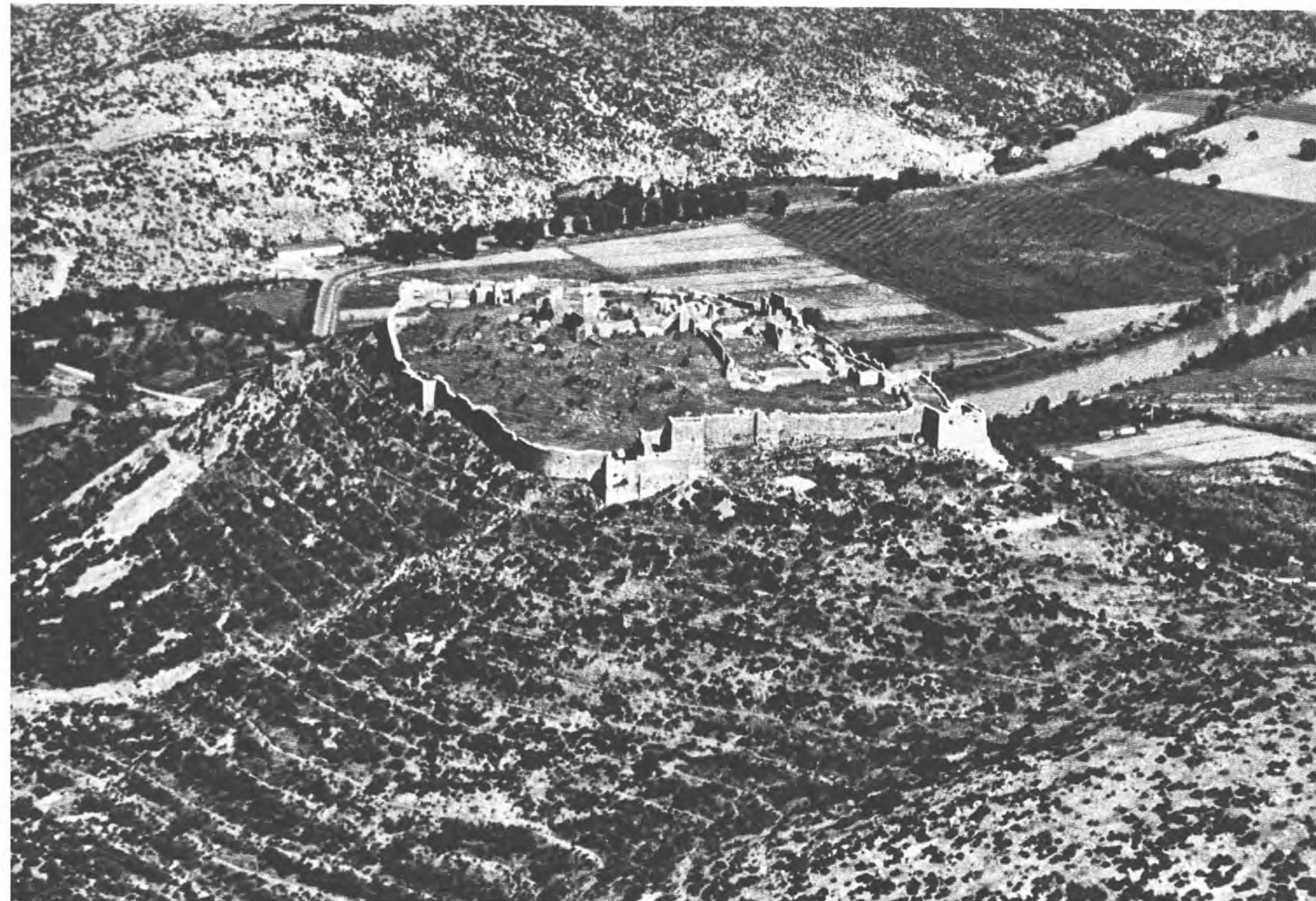
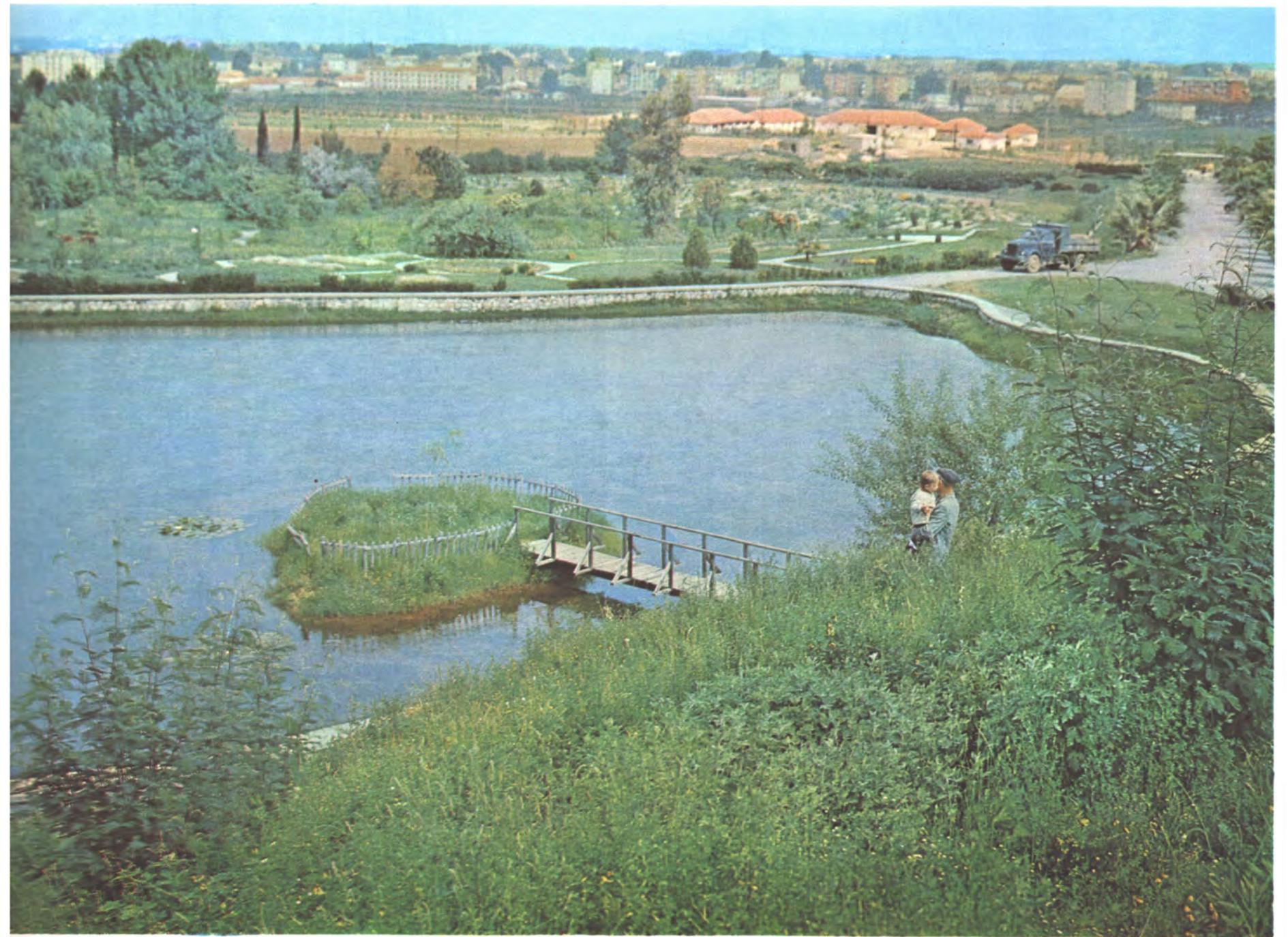


Photo by R. Veseli.





*On these pages we publish some pictures taken at the botanical garden of the Chair of Botany of the Department of Natural Sciences of Tirana University. It is a natural laboratory of great value in concretizing theory. This botanical garden was established in recent years by the teaching staff and students themselves. The students of the Department of Natural Sciences carry out their practical work there.*

**Photos by S. Xhillari**



# COOPERATIVE MEMBERS AS AMATEUR ARTISTS



About 30 amateurs take part in the dance group at the house of culture of Shijak.

In the picture:  
One of the amateur dancers of this group.

Between Tirana and Durrës lies the small town of Shijak. It is an agricultural town with about seven thousand inhabitants. The Shijak agricultural Cooperative is of the higher type.

We went there to learn about the cultural life of the cooperative members.

In the centre of the town stands the House of Culture. It is a beautiful building with all the necessary installations and equipment. From this standpoint it vies with the cultural institutions in the cities. During these last ten years beautiful buildings of this type have been set up in many agricultural cooperative and workers' centers.

The funds spent to build and equip this house of culture exceed the annual budget of the whole Durrës district before liberation. Just the cost of equipping artistic groups with national costumes and for buying other accessories alone are bigger than one year's budget of the Shijak region during the pre-war period.

The inhabitants of this town are art lovers. This can be seen in all the cultural-artistic activity of the house of culture. Hundreds of devotees to amateur art are activated here. They have set up a song and dance ensemble, a theatre group, a variety theatre, a group orchestra and so on.

By day these amateurs are working in the fields, in various service sectors, or teaching in various categories of schools. In the evenings they come here and bring this institution to life. Already singers, dancers and actors who have won popularity with the audiences have emerged from their ranks. Ridvan Maltezi, for instance, always took part in the theatre group. He became one of the outstanding amateurs. On this account, facilities were created for him to complete his studies in drama art at the Higher Institute of Arts in Tirana. Ridvan is now a director of drama at this house of Culture.

The artistic groups are constant-



The dancers on stage... The various groups of amateur dancers are made up of cooperative members, workers of the Service Sectors and teachers.

ly preparing and presenting new programs for the local people in the concert hall. This hall is big enough to seat one person out of every nine who live in the town.

With the performances which prove the most popular with the audiences, these groups compete not only within the Durrës district but also all over the Republic.

Some time ago the festival of the ensembles of the agricultural cooperatives of the region was organized here. Over 500 amateur artists, who are cooperative members, took part in it, while in the festival of the ensembles and variety show groups of the Shijak work centers about 400 amateurs took part. During these festivals the Shijak public enjoyed rich and varied programs night after night.

This house of culture has also become a school for all those who want to learn to play musical in-

struments. There are a number of circles functioning for this purpose. After work the cooperative members and workers come to these circles and learn how to play the instruments they choose, free of charge. This is how the members of the orchestra and the town band were trained.

The painting and literary circles are also very active. The new talents in the field of figurative arts recently organized an exhibition, while those of the literary circle relate aspects from life in their stories and sketches. At their meetings the members of this circle engage in lively discussions about their works.

The current year is full of events. Activities in commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor of Albania are taking place all over our country. Recently a competition of the cultural acti-

vities of the masses in the Shijak region was held in this house of culture and many artistic activities followed the public discussions of the new draft-Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

The Director of the house of culture, Seit Alia, informed us about the plans for future cultural and artistic activities which will take place at this center. The Director has been engaged in work of this nature for about twenty-five years. He came here from Shkodra in 1962. With his long experience, devotion and enthusiasm for such work, he has made his contribution to invigorating the life of this institution.

In broad outlines such is the function of this house of culture, which, like many other similar ones, is an educational and cultural center, where the workers spend their free time happily.

**Shu Chi Fu** — The People's Republic of China.

I like «New Albania» magazine very much. It gives a very good picture of the great successes achieved by the Albanian people and is a factor of friendship between China and Albania. To reach me the magazine has crossed mountains and rivers and has brought from afar the warm feelings of our dear Albanian comrades. I am very enthusiastic about the incomparable successes you have achieved in the struggle to build socialism under the leadership of the Party of Labor of Albania, led by comrade Enver Hoxha. I hope that the friendship between the Chinese and Albanian peoples inspired by our two Marxist-Leninist Parties and our dear leaders, Chairman Mao Tsetung and comrade Enver Hoxha, will grow ever stronger.

**R. D.** — Italy.

I have been receiving your magazine «New Albania» and other publications for a number of years. I also follow the broadcasts of Radio Tirana. In my cultural and political experience (I am 73 years old) I have never come across another phrase with such profound content and which responds to the truth, as «**The formation of the new man**», an expression which I find in your magazine. By forming the new man, one destroys the thousand year old jesuitical bourgeois-clerical society. I dedicate my fullest admiration to Enver Hoxha.

**H. L.** — The German Federal Republic.

What has impressed me most deeply is the solidarity which all the Albanian people expressed during the days following the heavy earthquake which damaged fifteen villages in the Saranda district on November 22 last year, about which you informed the readers of your magazine in a two-page article appearing in the final issue last year. It is almost unbelievable... How is it possible that the aftermath of the earthquake could be liquidated in so short a time...

I have read with attention nearly all the issues of your magazine published last year, as well as its «sister» magazine «Shqipëria e Re», of course always in Albanian, because this is, at the same time, a good

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

means to improve my knowledge of the Albanian language. I liked the articles and photographs you published last year very much, and I want to say that, in my opinion, «New Albania» is truly one of the best means for any one who wants to learn about life in your country, because it gives a perfect reflection of the reality of present day Albania. Through «New Albania» magazine, any unbiased person can learn that the Albanian people have proved that the creation of a new world is not an empty dream, a vain mirage, but, on the contrary, a convincing reality. It is a fact that here, in my country, there are more than a few, who believe that the Albanian people still live in backwardness. Do not feel badly about these words, but this is truly the case. How is this possible? Who is to blame? In my opinion, the ordinary people are never to blame, they are not bad, but they are influenced by shameless and insidious propaganda. I want to add, that at one time I was of this opinion, too. I used to believe the lies of this insidious propaganda. But now I know that it is piffle. Sooner or later the truth always triumphs.

**T. A.** — Algeria.

The common interests and aims of our peoples, the liberation and prosperity of all mankind, unite Albania and Algeria. Your eagerly awaited magazine, «New Albania» has helped me to gain a better

knowledge of everything that is taking place in Albania. The varied and attractive content of your magazine portrays the Albanian reality or, to put it better, socialism in action. I also like its format. I appreciate especially the variety and profound treatment of the central themes of each issue which constitute a mine of information and knowledge.

**E. M.** — Switzerland.

I have often heard the programs broadcast by Radio Tirana and I am deeply interested in the system of Albania, in the language and culture of Albania. I have heard a lot about Ali Pasha and have also read about him in a book by Byron in which the Albanian people are described. My interest has steadily increased, and now in recent times have I begun to read your magazine and knowledge.

**D. H.** — The Federal German Republic.

For nearly three years I have been a subscriber to the magazine «New Albania». On this occasion I want to express my congratulations. You have succeeded in giving a powerful and faithful portrayal of the reality of new Albania.

In my opinion, the wonderful photographs are very beautiful. For instance, those accompanying the article «The Balcony of the Adriatic» in issue N° 3/1975 as well as those of the article «The Emancipation of Women As We Understand it». In issue N° 5/1975, I especially liked the articles «Our Socialist Society and the individual», «Fiery Youth», and «Those Who Never Grow Old».

In June 1975 I had the opportunity to visit your beautiful country, Albania, for the second time. First of all I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the hospitality which was extended to us in Albania. In Albania I have seen, heard, and learned many things about how one lives in socialist society. I am enthusiastic about the friendly atmosphere that reigns in the work centers in your country. The culminating point on our trip was a visit to the youth actionists' camp at Pogradec. The young people greeted us with joy, and put actionists' scarfs around our necks. The youth cadre responsible for the zone told us the history of this mass action.

## Subscriptions to «NEW ALBANIA»

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# VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS

Kreshnik Tartari — trainer

On these pages we publish two photographs of the «Dinamo» Women's Volleyball Team, which took first place in the championship matches of the first category for 1975-76.

Before the liberation of Albania, the Albanian woman took no part in sport and physical culture. She was a victim of the religious bigotry and conservative prejudices of the regimes in power.

Today, thousands of young women take part in all kinds of sport. Volleyball has become very popular. There is no school or work center without its own volleyball court, while many cities have beautiful modern stadiums.

In the 8 year schools special classes have been established for sport, including volleyball. They are run by specialist teachers who, discovering the aptitudes of the children, work with them in a qualified manner. Often the afternoons, the competent trainers of the sport clubs, which have these schools under their patronage, work with these children. The work continues afterwards in a more organized way in the clubs. Every town in Albania has its own sports club. In the capital there are five of these clubs. The young pioneers and girls take part in a number of national and local activities such as the National Championships of the first and second categories, the Junior Championships and so on. Contests are organized every year for the Cup of the Republic. Volleyball matches also feature in the sport festivals of the young pioneers, the agricultural cooperatives, and the University.

Any girl who likes can play volleyball, whether she is a worker, a student, a teacher, a doctor or what have you. In the morning they are at work and in the afternoons they train regularly.

The «Dinamo» Women's Volleyball Team, which has been the national champion for three years in succession, includes students, teachers, workers, doctors, and so on. One of them, the captain of the team, is a mother with children, but she is a very keen sportswoman and always feels young. Another is a distinguished worker at the porcelain factory, and sport helps keep her permanently fit. Another, only 15 years of age, is a pupil in the eighth class.

A number of special conditions have been created to encourage girls to take part in sport regularly. They enjoy a reduced workday and free supplementary diet.

They are trained by qualified coaches on scientific lines.

Albanian volleyball teams have taken part in international tournaments.

The «Dinamo» Women's Team made its debut in the first category in 1972. In 1974, it won the title of champion, as well as first place in the Cup of the Republic. The players wrote a letter to the beloved leader of the Party and the people, comrade Enver Hoxha. In his reply, comrade Enver Hoxha, said among other things: «Dear comrades of the «Dinamo» Sport Club, let the example you have set be an incentive to all our workers, especially our youth, to impart a still greater impetus to the physical culture and sports movement. Without a mass physical culture and sports movement, there can be no improvement in the quality of our sport.»

