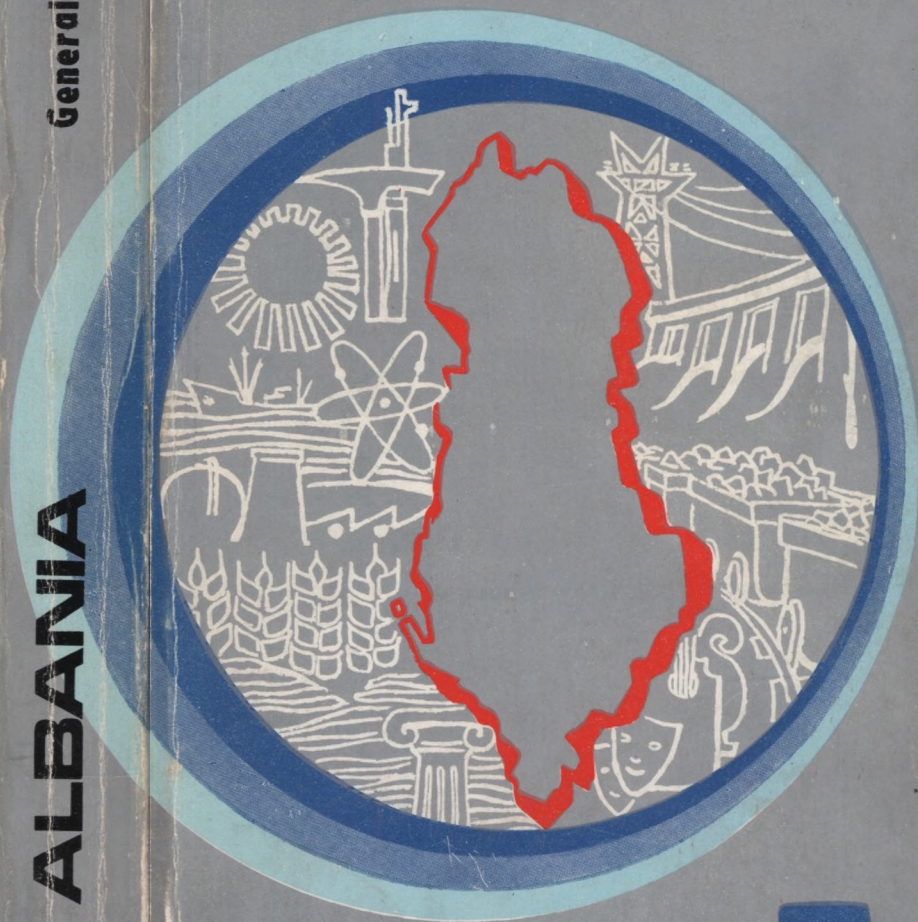


General Information

ALBANIA

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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**THE NATIONAL FLAG OF THE PSR
OF ALBANIA**



THE EMBLEM OF THE PSR OF ALBANIA

The map of the Balkans



*View of the centre of Tirana,
the capital of the PSR of Albania
In the foreground,
the Museum of National History*



**THE COUNTRY
AND
THE POPULATION**

THE COUNTRY AND THE POPULATION

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania lies on the West side of the Balkan Peninsula.

It is situated between latitude 39°38' — 42°39' North and longitude 19°16' — 21°4' East.

To the North and Northeast Albania is bounded by Yugoslavia, and to the South and Southeast by Greece. To the West and Southwest it is bordered by the Adriatic and Ionian seas.

The PSRA extends over an area of 28,748 square kilometres, while its population is 2,594,600 (January 1979).

The Karaburun Peninsula in the Albanian territory lies at the shortest distance from the Appenine Peninsula (Strait of Otranto, 72 km in width). A series of valleys, which lie across the country, link its coasts not only with the interior of the country, but also with the interior of the Balkan Peninsula. All these have led to the country being traversed from ancient times by several roads, including some of an international character, such as Via Egnatia which connected Rome with Byzantium.

Albania has a wide opening into two seas of the Mediterranean, which was the cradle of

the birth and development of European civilization. Albania's sea border is 470 km long. From ancient times a number of important cities flourished along the sea coast of Albania.

RELIEF

Albania is mainly a mountainous country in which 76.6 per cent of the territory is mountains and hills, while the plains above 200 metres above sea-level occupy only 23.4 per cent of it. The average altitude of Albania (708 m) is about twice the average altitude of Europe.

The mountains are not very high; the majority of them do not exceed 2,000 metres. The hills lie mainly in the western part of the territory. Their average height does not exceed 400 metres. The plains below 200 metres above sea-level are also in the western part of Albania. However, there are also some plains in the interior of the country, either in the form of valleys (the plains of Elbasan and Dropull), or in the form of depressions formed during the Quaternary (the Korça Plain).

On the basis of the geological features of the territory and the structure of its relief, we distinguish four well-characterized natural regions, namely, the Alps of Albania, the Central Mountain Region, the Southern Mountain Region and the Western Lowlands.

Most of the Alps of Albania exceed 2,000 metres above sea-level (the highest mountain being that of Jezerca, 2,694 m). There is a striking contrast between the pyramid-shaped mountains and the deep valleys between them, which have the form of narrow gorges or deep hollows (the Theth gorge, the Boga hollow, and so on). Roads have been opened along the principal



View of the Alps in Northern Albania

Theth, situated in the region of the Northern Alps, is one of the most attractive tourist centres of Albania



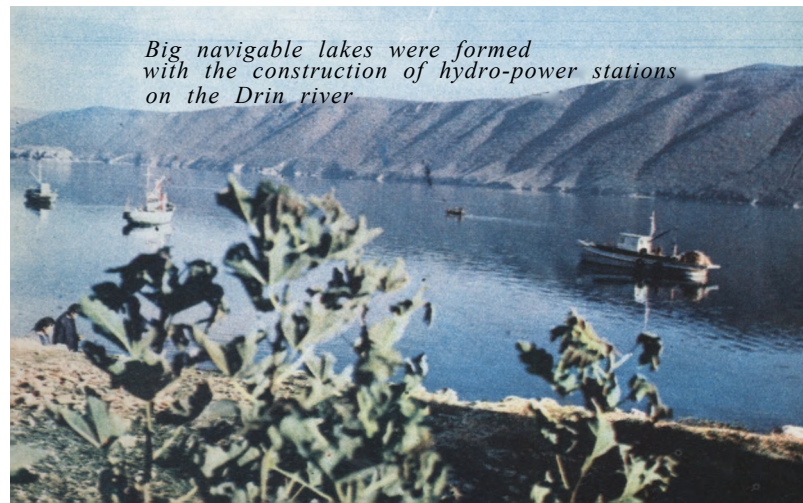
Landscape of Northern Albania



Sunset on the artificial lake of the «Karl Marx» Hydropower station on the Mat river



Big navigable lakes were formed with the construction of hydro-power stations on the Drin river



valleys leading to the heart of the Alps. From the point of view of nature, the Alps make up an important scenic region with typical alpine landscapes.

Tall forests and alpine pasture lands make up the principal surface resources of this region.

The Central Mountain Region, which lies between the valley of the Drin River in the North and the central Devoll and the lower Osum valleys in the South, is quite different. Its relief is less rugged. Like the Alps, the mountains of the Central Mountain Region, the highest being Mount Korab (2751 m), are also covered with dense forests, but because of some wider valleys, here agriculture is of greater importance than in Alpine region. It is characterized by its great underground riches with minerals like chromium, iron-nickel and copper. The Central Mountain Region is rich in larger lakes of tectonic origin (the Ohri and Prespa lakes) and in smaller glacial lakes (Lura, Martanesh and other lakes, etc.), as well as in impetuous streams which impart special beauty to this region.

The Southern Mountain Region, lying south of the Central Mountain Region, has a more regular tectonic form. Most of the ranges rise over 2,000 metres above sea-level, with some of them nearly 2,500 m high (the Paping Peak 2,489 m), but there are also valleys coming down to sea-level (the Delvina basin). Towards the West, the ranges of the Southern Mountain Region run right down to the Ionian coast, forming the Albanian Riviera.

In the western part of the territory, along the Adriatic seaboard, lie the Western Lowlands. This area extends over a distance of nearly 200 km from north to south and eastward up to 50 kilometres into the interior of the country. It is characterized by a slight slope. For this

reason the subsoil waters are near the surface and the rivers meander widely along shallow courses. Along the seaboard there are many lagoons, sand belts and dunes. The sand belts form beaches which extend for many kilometres along the coast and are frequented more and more by the country's working people (Durrës, Shëngjin, Velipoja, Vlora, Saranda, Seman, Divjaka, Patok). Extensive pine forests have been planted along the sandy coastal strips which not only hinder the movement of sand, but have also formed big national parks of rare beauty.

Before Liberation the lowlands of the Adriatic seaboard were covered with marshes and swamps and were little used for cultivation. Now they have been turned into arable land. The following comparisons will give a clear idea of the great work carried out in Albania for land reclamation: the amount of earth shifted for this reclamation would have been sufficient for the construction of a railway bed which would encircle the whole Albanian borders five times, whereas the concrete used would have been sufficient to build a wall 3 m high and 1 m wide which would encircle all the coastline of Albania (470 km). The construction of an extensive network of irrigation canals and reservoirs has solved the problem of irrigating the land under cultivation. Four hundred kilometres of protective fences and dams have been built along the lower section of the riverbeds, putting rivers under control and avoiding floods. Lands have been completely systematized, and to a person flying in a plane over the Albanian territory they give the impression of a colourful carpet in which the artificial reservoirs look like dazzling mirrors, while the many terraces on hillsides look like stairs which climb towards the sky.

The hills are now being increasingly covered with olives, vineyards, citrus and fruit trees.

Thanks to the great work carried out under the people's state power, the Western Lowlands region is now the granary of our country and the most important region for industrial plants like cotton, sunflower and tobacco. Minerals, like petroleum, bitumen and coal, as well as the geographical position and communications, have favoured industrial activity here. For these reasons the Western Lowlands is the most densely populated region in Albania.

THE CLIMATE

Albania is situated in the Mediterranean climatic belt, with a hot dry summer, strong sunshine, a generally mild winter and abundant rainfall. But because of the mountainous character of the territory and especially of its many divisions, the climate varies from region to region. It is warmer in the western part of the territory which is mainly under the influence of the warm air masses from the sea. Here the winter is moderate with the temperature rarely falling below zero. The summer is hot and, on some occasions, very hot (the maximum July temperature recorded is 44°C). Whereas in the eastern part of Albania, which is mainly under the influence of continental air masses, the winter is cold. Minus temperatures in winter are frequent and the minimum recorded is —26°C. The summer is hot in the valleys, where the maximum July temperature is up to 35°C.

Rainfall in Albania is abundant (1,300 mm a year), 40 per cent of the yearly precipitation falls in winter. Summer droughts are more pronounced towards the South-west. Most of the

precipitation is in the form of rain. As a rule, snow falls in the interior of the territory and in the mountains. Because of the division of the territory, the geographical distribution of rainfall is unequal. Average annual rainfall is over 2,000 mm in the Alps in Northern Albania and 650-700 mm in the valleys of the interior. Typical of Albania is the small amount of clouds for most of the year, with the sky almost always clear.

THE RIVERS

The territory of Albania is rich in rivers and streams. Rivers spring from the high mountain regions and run down through narrow gorges and sloping beds, open out into the plains and flow into the Adriatic Sea. Because of the irregular rainfall and the very rugged relief, they are torrential with high erosive power. The normal river flow is an average of 36 litres per second per sq. km. The longest rivers are the Drin River, on the eastern coast of the Adriatic (285 km long), the Buna, Mat, Shkumbin, Seman, Vjosa and other rivers. The rivers of Albania constitute an important source of hydro-electric power. During the years of the people's state power they began to be utilized with the construction of a number of hydro-power plants of varying capacities. On the Drin River two hydro-power stations have been built, and work is under way for the construction of another even bigger hydro-power plant. Its first two turbines will be commissioned in 1985. In the future, the whole Drin River will be turned into a series of lakes which will supply water to the hydro-power plants which have already been constructed, or which will be constructed on it. Hydro-power plants have also been built on

the Mat and Bistrica rivers. The rivers of our country are also of major importance for irrigation purposes. At present 55 per cent of the land under cultivation is irrigated mainly with the water from rivers and reservoirs.

THE LAKES

In the territory of Albania there are a number of lakes of varying origin: lakes of glacial origin in the highlands, karst lakes in the hills, and tectonic lakes (the Shkoder, Ohri and Prespa lakes), which are the largest and most important for fishing, and lakes of the lagoon type, which make up large fishing reserves. The lakes of the highlands and hills are used for irrigation purposes, too.

In addition to these natural lakes, hundreds of artificial lakes have been built for irrigation and hydro-power purposes, such as those of Ulza, Shkopet, Vau i Dejës, Gjanç, Thana and others. With the building of the «Light of the Party» Hydro-power Plant on the Drin River, a new artificial lake, the largest artificial lake in our country, was formed.

In addition to their economic importance, the lakes of Albania are also important tourist attractions.

THE FLORA AND FAUNA

The variable conditions of the relief, climate, hydrography and soil of Albania account for the variety of its plant and animal life.

More than 3,221 kinds of plants grow in the territory of Albania, representing most of the flora

of the Balkan Peninsula. In the book «Survey of the Flora of Albania», published in 1983, there are descriptions of these kinds of plants, classified in 894 genres and 148 families. In our country there are 32 kinds of endemic and 160 kinds of subendemic plants.

The flora of Albania is made up of two main groups of plants: first, typically evergreen Mediterranean plants which are grown in the western part of the country and constitute about 35 per cent of all the flora. The second group consists of plants which grow further north than Europe's Mediterranean belt. They constitute 65 per cent of the country's flora. In the inland regions broad-leaved trees predominate.

Forests cover nearly 40 per cent of the surface of the territory. This great wealth began to be utilized rationally after Liberation, and feeds one of the most important branches of the country's industry — the timber and paper industry.

The fauna of Albania is rich and varied. It includes wild animals (the hare, fox, lynx, otter, bear, wolf, jackal, boar, wild goat, deer, and others); wild birds (the partridge, grouse, eagle, snipe, woodcock, pheasant, and others); and water birds (ducks, geese, divers, pelicans, and others). The many waters of the territory abound in waterfowl.

UNDERGROUND RICHES

There is a wide range of metallic and non-metallic minerals. Among them, the principal ones are the reserves of oil, natural gas, bitumen, lignite, iron-nickel, chromium and copper. Thanks to these riches, the mineral extraction and processing industry occupies an ever more important

position in the structure of the country's industry. In chromium mining, Albania holds third place in the world.

HISTORICAL SURVEY

Albania is a country with a very ancient civilization. The beginnings of human life in the territories of present-day Albania belong to the period of the Middle Paleolithic Age, a fact which is proved by a wealth of archaeological material which has been found in the regions of the Ionian coast (Xara, Finiq, Butrint in the Saranda district), Nepravisht in the Gjirokastra district, at the foot of the Dajti Mountain in the Tirana district, in Gruemira and Dukagjin in the Shkodra district, etc. The artifacts discovered during excavations in the pre-historic centre of habitation at Maliq in the Korça district are especially enlightening. This centre, which was found some years ago, has provided materials the significance of which goes beyond the borders of Albania.

The ancestors of the Albanians were the Illyrians who were an autochthonous population. This opinion is based on the continuity seen between the civilization of the Bronze Age and that of the Iron Age, a continuity which is evident in the artifacts discovered at pre-historic and Illyrian centres. This very numerous autochthonous people spread over a very wide territory, from the Danube River in the North down to the Gulf of Arta in the South, from the Adriatic Sea in the West to Morava, Vardar and the Varnos mountains in the East. Illyrian tribes also inhabited some parts of the Appenine Peninsula and Asia Minor. They played a significant role in the main political events which

took place in the Mediterranean world of Antiquity. The earliest traces of the Illyrian civilization go back to the beginning of the second millennium before our era.

The frequent wars forced the Illyrian tribes to establish alliances with one another and these alliances later turned into tribal federations. The most important was the federation of the Taulants, or Illyrians, which became a powerful state in the 5th century before our era. The rapid increase in the strength of the Illyrian kingdom aroused the concern of the Greek states and Rome. Rome aimed to have the Adriatic Sea under its control. Thus, the Illyrian-Roman wars broke out in the year 229 and ended in 167 before our era with the triumph for the Romans. Those wars brought catastrophic consequences for the Illyrians. Whole cities and villages were plundered and destroyed. Hundreds and thousands of people were enslaved. For the Illyrians a long period of more than five and a half centuries of heavy Roman bondage began.

Faithful to its traditional policy of «divide and rule», Rome broke up the country into small administrative units to avoid possible unification of the Illyrian tribes against it. Together with this it started a whole process for their Romanization, but without success, because the Illyrians, who were always outstanding as fighters for freedom, put up active armed resistance to the regime of oppression and exploitation which Rome imposed on them. Especially famous is the uprising of the years 6-9 of our era, which had a great echo at that time. The mountain tribes, in particular, successfully withstood the influence of Romanization. They preserved the traditions and priceless spiritual values of the people with stubborn resistance which is mentioned by many ancient historians.

When the Roman Empire was split into two parts in 395 of our era, Illyria remained in the Eastern Empire. The oppression and exploitation continued as before. However, the fact that it «moved» from the centre of the Roman Empire to its periphery, certainly had some positive influence in regard to the economic and social development of the country. Its coastal cities, which linked the East with the West, became important trading centres. This advantage was only temporary, however, because later the Illyrian provinces, which were the Western extremity of the Byzantine Empire, were the first to suffer the furious onslaught of the barbarian tribes which came from the Appennine Peninsula and down the Dalmatian coast.

The barbarian invasions came in in several waves. In the year 395 the hordes of Visigoths, headed by Alaric, descended upon Illyria, Macedonia and Greece, which they plundered and devastated. Later, Dardania (Kosova today) was overrun by the Huns, while the Ostrogoths came in 461. The barbarian invasions continued during the late 5th century and early 6th century. One century later, another danger threatened the Illyrian tribes — the Slav migrations. The Slav invasions continued until the mid-7th century and brought grave consequences. Like the barbarians, the Slavs attacked and wiped out the big slave-owning estates together with their owners. This period marked the beginning of the decline of the slave-owning system in Illyria. These results of historic importance cost the local population dear, because, despite their great resistance, the people were massacred, driven from their land and reduced in numbers. This had ethnic repercussions. Alongside the indigenous population, there was now a considerable Slav population which

accelerated the Slav take-over of Illyrian regions, especially in the North. In the South, in New and Old Epirus, in Prevalitania and Dardania, where the Slavs were unable to establish themselves as they did in the North, this phenomenon did not develop in the same way and with the same consequences. While the Illyrians of the North disappeared from the stage of history, the Illyrians of the South successfully weathered the storms of the times. Several centuries later, this population appeared in the history of the Middle Ages with a new name, Albanoi. A series of arguments of historical, linguistic and ethnographical character prove that the Albanians are the direct descendants of the Illyrians and are autochthonous on their territory.

During the 10th and 11th centuries the slave-owning system was in complete collapse. In its place, elements characteristic of the period of feudalism appeared. Without doubt, this process would have developed normally had it not been hampered by a series of factors. At the end of the 10th century and the beginning of the 11th century the Albanian territories became the arena of wars between Byzantines and Bulgarians. On the other hand, the increased taxes, the despotism of local functionaries and the whole conservative policy of the Byzantine Empire constituted a second impeding factor. The ceaseless invasions of foreigners must be added to the above factors. At that time, the Bulgarians, the Normans and the armies of the First Crusade descended upon the Albanian territories. Despite the great difficulties, the feudal system became established in Albania. In the 12th century, a crystallized feudal system existed in the remote mountainous regions. A feudal nobility of Albanian origin was created in these zones and, when it felt sufficiently strong and consolidated, it did

not hesitate to come out openly against the power of the Byzantines and Slavs.

Taking advantage of the weakening of the Byzantine Empire, which was immersed in a deep political crisis at that time, the Arbëresh¹ feudal chiefs broke away from dependence on Byzantium and set up the first Albanian mediaeval feudal state known in history as the Principality of the Arbëri. Initially the Principality included almost half the northern part of present-day Albania. Later its borders were extended to include all the territory between the Drin and the Shkumbin rivers. Kruja was its capital.

The first mediaeval feudal state in Albania — the Principality of the Arbëri — could not be consolidated. Caught up in the violent political events which took place in the Balkan Peninsula during the first half of the 13th century, it became partly or wholly dependent, sometimes on the Despotate of Epirus of the Byzantine Empire of Nikea, and sometimes on the kingdom of Bulgaria, which were in fierce contention with each other over the heritage of the lands of the Byzantine Empire.

At the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th century Arbëria fell under the domination of the Anjauins who created the «Kingdom of the Arbëria» in Albania. The Anjauin occupation continued in Albania with some interruption, until the second half of the 14th century, when Arbëria was occupied by the Serbian Empire of Stephan Dušan.

Only in the second half of the 14th century, when the Anjouins had been ousted from Arbëria, and Stephan Dušan's Serbian Empire had col-

¹ The root of the word is linked with the name Arbër, Arbëri.

lapsed after the death of its ruler (1355), were the Albanian feudal chiefs able to break away completely from foreign domination and to create their independent feudal states. Starting from the middle of the 14th century, several Albanian feudal principalities were set up, such as that of the Balshajs in the North of Albania with Shkodra as its centre, that of the Topiajs in Central Albania with Durrës as its centre, that of the Muzakajs centered on Berat and that of the Shpatajs in the South with Arta as its centre.

The creation of Albanian feudal principalities came about through subjugation of the less powerful feudal families. However, their rulers frequently fought one another to secure absolute domination over the whole country. At this period, the normal process of overcoming the feudal fragmentation for the creation of a single centralized state was taking place in Albania, but this was interrupted by the Ottoman occupation.

Each principality had its own court, an administrative apparatus and its own seal and emblem. Thus, the seal of the Balshajs presented the head of a wolf, the emblem of the Topiajs a lion wearing the royal crown, the emblem of the feudal family of the Dukagjinis presented the single-headed eagle, while the emblem of the Kastriotis the double-headed eagle.

Albania ranked with the other countries of the Adriatic and Balkan zone during the 14th century, from the viewpoint of its socio-economic development. The mediaeval Albanian cities such as Ulqin, Tivar, Shkodra, Lezha, Durrës, Berat, etc., developed markedly at that period. For a time some of them won the right to independent administration as free urban communes (*comuna civitatis*), with elected organs, their own Con-

stitutions, etc., which gave them the appearance of republics of the mediaeval type.

The economic and political development of the country was interrupted at the end of the 14th century, when the protracted war of the Albanian people against Ottoman invasion began, a war which lasted nearly 100 years.

Starting in 1388, the Ottoman Empire gradually occupied all the Albanian territory. Its advance was facilitated by the divisions among the feudal class which was engaged in internal wars and did not properly appreciate the new danger. Meanwhile the Republic of Venice seized the opportunity to occupy some of the main cities of Albania such as Ulqin, Tivar, Drisht, Shkodra, Lezha and Durrës.

In the first stage of the occupation the Ottomans turned the Albanian feudal lords into vassals of the Sultan, compelling them to pay a fixed tribute and imposing other obligations of a military character. Later, in the years 1419-1421 and 1431-1432, the Ottoman occupiers carried out a general registration of the Albanian lands and established there their detested military feudal regime known as the «timar regime». All arable and other lands were proclaimed the property of the Ottoman Empire and distributed to its feudal owners.

With the establishment of the timar regime, the Albanian feudal nobility was deprived of the right to ownership of the land which it formerly possessed. However, the timar regime was a heavier burden on the broad masses of the people, especially the peasantry, which was liable to be mercilessly hunted down, plundered and killed by an occupier alien in language, religion and customs, and subjected to exploitation of unprecedented savagery. Therefore, during that period, a series of uprisings of the masses of the

people, led by the Albanian feudal chiefs such as Gjon Kastrioti, Gjergj Araniti and others, broke out all over Albania.

Outstanding among the feudal families of the 15th century was the feudal family of the Kastriotis. Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg, the National Hero of Albania, came from this family. He was taken hostage by the Ottomans when he was a child. For a time he was kept in their army where he distinguished himself for his outstanding ability in the military field, won rank and the title bey, and was given the Muslim name Skander. In 1443, taking advantage of the defeat of the Ottoman army by the Hungarians in the battle of Nish in which he took part, Skanderbeg at the head of 300 Albanians returned to Albania, where he gave the signal for the armed uprising against Ottoman rule. The masses of the people, who had been living under the terror of this occupation, immediately joined him and within a short time ousted the Turkish armies and liberated the greater part of the country. As a result of the triumph of the general uprising the former feudal principalities were created as independent state formations. The principality of the Kastriotis, headed by Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg, occupied the main place among them.

Following the temporary liberation of Albania from the Ottomans, Skanderbeg organized a national convention of the Albanian princes in Lezha (1444). This meeting is known in history as the Covenant of Lezha. It decided to unite the political-military and economic forces of the whole country in struggle against the Ottoman Empire. To this end the Albanian League of Lezha was set up as a political-military alliance of the Albanian feudal lords, headed by Skanderbeg; the joint Albanian army of the League was set up under the general command of Skan-

derbeg, and a common fund was created to cope with the war expenditure. The principality of the Kastriotis bore the main economic and military weight.

The first battle of the Albanians with the Ottoman occupiers after the return of Skanderbeg was waged on the Torvioll Plain, between present-day Librazhd and Pogradec. The Ottoman army of 25,000 was completely routed by an Albanian army of 10,000 men under the leadership of Skanderbeg. The victory at Torvioll increased the confidence of the Albanian fighters in their own strength and in their outstanding leader Skanderbeg. The Torvioll battle caused a sensation abroad, too. Feudal Europe, which up till that time had experienced only defeat at the hands of the Ottoman army hopefully hailed the Albanian resistance which directly assisted its defence.

Skanderbeg led the great wars of the Albanians against the Ottomans for 25 years on end, until his death in 1468. Twice a year regularly throughout this period, the Ottoman Empire sent huge powerful armies equipped with the most modern weapons of the time and led by its most outstanding pashas. All those armies were smashed, one after another, by the heroic resistance of the Albanian people.

Of all the victories of the epoch of Skanderbeg, undoubtedly the most brilliant were the routing of three sieges of Kruja, in which the main forces of the army of the Ottoman Empire, led by the two most renowned sultans of Turkey, Sultan Murat II and Mehmet II, called «Fatih» — the conquerer of Constantinople, were concentrated against a single city. In this was Skanderbeg relied on the broad masses of the people who were interested more than anyone else in defending the country against the Ottoman occupation.

During the great wars of the Albanians against the Ottomans in the 15th century, the process of the creation of a single centralized Albanian state under the leadership of Skanderbeg began, but could not be completed. Feudal separatism, as well as the vacillating and sometimes treacherous stand of some Albanian feudal lords, damaged the interests of the liberation war and unification, despite this Skanderbeg succeeded in uniting some of the feudal families around his own principality, thus creating a single centralized state. The territory of this state was more or less that of the Principality of Arbëria, with Kruja as its capital. The flag of the Kastriotis, with the black double-headed eagle on a red background, became the flag of the centralized Albanian state. With the passage of time this became the national flag of Albania.

The heroic fight of the Albanian people against the Ottoman occupation continued even after the death of Skanderbeg (1468), until Kruja and Shkodra fell in 1478 and 1479 respectively. But even after that, the resistance of the Albanian people continued in the mountains in the form of uprisings which shook this occupation time after time. Such were the uprising led by Skanderbeg's son Gjon Kastrioti during the years 1481-1485, and the uprising led by Skanderbeg's grandson Gjergj Kastrioti in the years 1494-1506.

After the fall of the last fortresses, a great number of Albanians emigrated to Greece, and especially to Italy, where they have preserved the customs and traditions of their ancestors, as well as the ancient name Arbëresh, through the centuries.

The memory of the great war of the Albanian people against the Ottoman occupation and

its outstanding leader Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg was kept alive in the consciousness of the Albanian people for centuries and served as an inspiration for the continual uprisings which never ceased throughout the long Ottoman occupation of our country. The name of Skanderbeg was remembered not only by the Albanians, but also by the other peoples of the Balkans and Central Europe, and found a place in their folklore, too. He was the symbol of resistance to and victory over the foreign occupier. The brilliant deeds of the Albanians and Skanderbeg in the 15th century have inspired many writers, artists, historians, and others through the centuries, who have embodied them in painting, sculpture and literary and scientific works.

The occupation of Albania by the Ottomans after a war lasting nearly 100 years brought about the economic ruin of the country and the decline of its culture. The cities and fine architectural works, such as the castles, churches, the palaces of the nobles, as well as the public buildings of the past, paintings and sculptures, documents and manuscripts, etc. of irreplaceable value were destroyed.

After the Ottomans occupied the whole country, they finally established their military feudal regime — the timar regime. In this way Albania became a source of income for the Ottoman Empire and of manpower for its army. Besides this, it pursued the policy of the Islamization of the Albanian population through force or through economic pressure in order to bind it to the Ottoman Empire politically and ideologically. However, this process could not be carried through to the end and in many cases the conversion to Islam was only formal for the broad masses of the people.

Some regions of Albania, such as Himara,

Dukagjin, Malësia e Madhe, Mirdita, etc., thanks to the resolute resistance to the occupiers, won the right to self-administration, on the basis of traditional canon law, and paid the Ottoman occupiers only a symbolic tribute.

The resistance of the Albanian people to the Ottoman occupation was never completely extinguished. During the 16th and 17th centuries a series of uprisings of a local character broke out in Albania. In order to organize the resistance against the enemy better, in the 17th century, Albanian assemblies of a regional and inter-regional character were held on several occasions, while later Balkan assemblies were organized with the aim of uniting and co-ordinating the struggle of the Albanian people against the Ottoman occupation with the struggle of the other peoples of the Balkans and Europe.

The Ottoman occupation plunged Albania into great cultural backwardness. Right from the start, along with the conversion of the population to Islam, the Islamic culture began to be spread, with mosques and religious schools being built to train cadres for the Muslim religion. But the influence of this reactionary religious culture in the service of the occupier was restricted. It was alien to the broad masses of the people who remained illiterate.

From the first centuries of Ottoman bondage, the Albanian people resisted the foreign occupation in the field of culture, too. To avoid the danger of Ottoman assimilation, efforts were made for the publication of Albanian books.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the Ottoman Empire began to decline, and the timar system fell to pieces. The feudal class, which until then was linked with the timar and military service, began to expand its estates which were not linked with any military obligation and, at the same

time, ensured a bigger feudal rent. The extension of the estates led to the strengthening of separatist tendencies, the weakening of the central administration and more severe exploitation of the population.

The weakening of the central administration created possibilities for the Albanian feudal class in the service of the Sultan to further strengthen themselves economically, politically and militarily. In time they became semi-autonomous rulers of their feudal estates which were called pashalics. Amongst the big Albanian pashalics created at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, two are outstanding; the Shkodra pashalic under the rule of the Bushatllis and the Janina pashalic under the rule of Ali Pasha Tepelena.

The Shkodra pashalic included Central and Northern Albania. Its creation marks the transition from feudal separation to the domination of a single feudal lord and the organization of a semi-autonomous state within the framework of the Ottoman Empire. The state structure within the pashalic remained unchanged, but the state apparatus served the feudal class of the pashalic and not the central administration in Constantinople. Thus, the Shkodra pashalic came into conflict with the central government of the Sultan.

The Janina pashalic, with Ali Pasha Tepelena as its ruler, included Southern Albania and part of Greece. He was in conflict with the Sultan for about 20 years. The aim of Ali Pasha Tepelena was to create a state independent from the Sublime Porte in that part of the Empire.

Neither the Bushatllis in the North nor Ali Pasha Tepelena in the South were able to create an independent Albanian state. However, they ensured the rule of the Albanian feudal class,

autonomous or semi-autonomous, from the Ottoman Empire. In 1822 the central government of Constantinople overthrew the Janina pashalic by force and in 1831 it finally suppressed the Shkodra pashalic, too.

After their suppression, the Sublime Porte undertook the implementation of some centralist reforms, such as the Tanzimat reform, in Albania. In 1831 the Ottoman Empire abolished by law the Ottoman military feudal system (the timar regime), which had prevailed in Albania for four centuries (1432-1831), and sent functionaries, who were directly dependent on the centre, to Albania. The Tanzimat reform encountered the resolute opposition of the broad masses of the people in Albania, because it made the burden of taxes and levies on them even heavier, opened the way to numerous corrupt practices by the rotten Ottoman bureaucratic administration and established the system of long-term military conscription. For this reason, throughout Albania, from North to South, a series of people's uprisings against this reform broke out.

From the 1840's a qualitative change can be seen in the Albanian national movement: the masses of the people began to come out with more and more new demands for political and cultural rights and, later, with demands for the national liberation of Albania. From that time until the proclamation of independence in 1912, that great democratic revolutionary movement, which has gone down in history as the **Albanian National Renaissance**, developed in Albania.

At the second half of the 19th century, the movement of the Albanian people for freedom and independence marked another success — the **Albanian League of Prizren** was founded. The birth of the League was a necessity prepared

by the entire former development of events in Albania and abroad. There were three main factors which, acting together, created the conditions for its founding: the anti-Ottoman movement of the Tanzimat period, the new ideology of our National Renaissance and the Eastern crisis of the 70's, which once again raised the question of the future of the Albanian nation, of its territorial integrity and liberation from centuries of Ottoman bondage, with special force.

Shaken by the Balkan crisis of 1875-1876, the Ottoman Empire had accepted the formation of autonomous regions and vilayets within its imperial territories in the Balkans. Later, after its defeat in the war with Russia, under the terms of the Treaty of St. Stephan (March 3, 1878), it was forced to agree to hand over many regions inhabited by the Albanian population to the Slav states of the Balkans. According to the St. Stephan Treaty, Montenegro was to annex Gucia, Plava, Vermosh, Kelmend, Kraja, Anamal, Hot, Gruda, Tivar, Ulqin; Serbia was to take a part of the Sandjak of Prishtina up to the vicinity of Gjilan and Mitrovica; Bulgaria was given Kumanova, Kaçanik, Tetova, Kërçova, Gostivar, Dibra, Struga, Pogradec, Korça, etc. This decision, which jeopardized the very existence of the Albanian nation, aroused great indignation which was expressed in the powerful protest manifestations throughout the country. Quite spontaneously the people mobilized themselves for self-defence. Now the Albanian national movement had to fight in two fronts: against the Ottoman Empire, which remained the ancient enemy of the Albanian people, and against powerful new enemies, and this could not be done successfully without the organizing of the forces

of the people and without a single national leadership which would unite and co-ordinate the political-military actions of the administration, a leadership which would be able and worthy to represent the will of the entire Albanian nation in the international arena. To this end, on June 10, 1878, the Albanian League was founded in Prizren with representatives from all over Albania. This organization was founded on the initiative of the «Central Committee for the Defence of the Rights of the Albanian Nationality», which had been founded in Constantinople in 1877 by outstanding patriots, such as Abdyl Frashëri, Pashko Vasa, Sami Frashëri, Jani Vreto, Zija Prishtina and others. Very soon it was transformed into an independent political and military organization which, in the name of the Albanian nation, presented three fundamental demands: a) recognition of the Albanian nation as one and indivisible and respect for the principle of nationality towards it in all directions; b) the preservation of the inviolability of the territorial integrity of the Albanian territories; c) the unification of the territories of Albania in a single unit with an Albanian administration using the official Albanian language and its own capital.

These demands were made known through decisions and memorandums addressed not only to the Sublime Porte, but also to the imperialist Great Powers, which at that time had convened in Berlin to revise the Treaty of St. Stephan. However, the Congress of Berlin ignored the demands of the Albanian people. It denied the existence of the Albanian nation and decided to partition its territories in favour of the neighbouring states. The Albanian League of Prizren rejected the decisions of the Congress of Berlin and declared that no one had the right to lay a

hand on the Albanian territories. Through a series of concrete actions, the League demonstrated that the Albanian people were the indisputable masters of those territories. The struggle for the defence of the Albanian territories, both in the South and the North, showed Europe the determination of the Albanians to defend their Homeland.

The League carried an energetic activity for the autonomy for the Albanian regions. Autonomy was to be an essential condition for the successful waging of the struggle for the defence of territorial integrity and for national unification. The concept of the League on autonomy was expressed clearly and fully in the Assembly of Gjirokastra of July 23, 1880. The program it approved, presented by Abdyl Frashëri, demanded the creation of an autonomous Albanian state with its own provisional government, with the capital a city in Central Albania, with an entirely Albanian administration made up of Albanian officials without religious discrimination, and which would have the task of using the national assets and income for the needs of the country. The League strove to have these decisions widely applied in the life of the country. Acting «in the name of the Albanian people», its organs were transformed into organs of government which, in fact, replaced the Ottoman administration in the internal and external planes. It started to discharge the Ottoman officials and replace them with Albanians, created voluntary military formations and detachments of the gendarmerie, dispersed the Ottoman courts and set up Albanian courts, with members of different religious beliefs. The League proclaimed military conscription for the defence of the country. It implemented an economic policy in keeping with the conditions of war. The Albanian League also

acted as an organ representing the interests of the Albanian nation in the international arena. It formulated and pursued its own foreign policy in compliance with the interests of the Albanian people. The self-governing activity developed very vigorously and in January 1881 the «Provisional Government» was proclaimed. This represented the beginning of the formation of the autonomous Albanian national state.

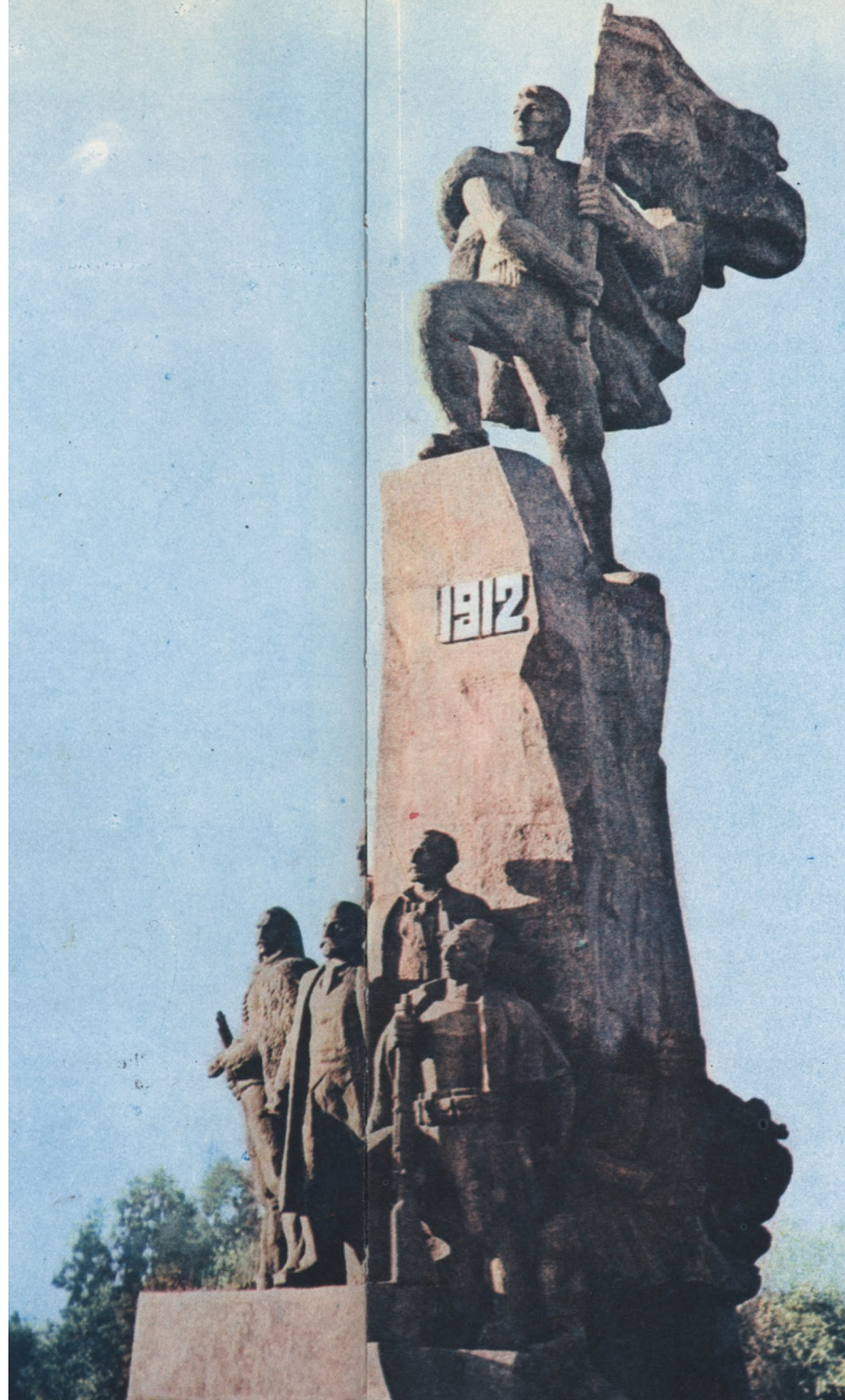
This all-round activity of the League turned the tense situation in the relations with the Ottoman Empire to an open military conflict. The Ottoman army tried to suppress the Albanian resistance by force of arms. The people fought valiantly. The heroism of the forces of the League in their resistance to the big Ottoman armies, which were sent to crush Albania, was outstanding. Sulejman Vokshi, Mic Sokoli and many other popular commanders were distinguished for their great abilities as leaders and organizers, as well as for their valour and daring. Although the League was suppressed by the occupiers, it had considerable consequences in the international arena. A new factor, the Albanian factor, which was to make the Eastern crisis more grave and profound, came on the scene of the Balkan and European policy. As such it could not fail to be taken into consideration in the policy of the European powers.

The cultural movement, one of the main elements of the Albanian National Renaissance in the stormy years of the Albanian League of Prizren, assumed vigorous development which continued in the subsequent decades. Books in the Albanian language were printed abroad in Rumania, Bulgaria, Egypt, Italy and elsewhere. The publication and illegal distribution of newspapers and magazines, which dealt with Albanian problems, commenced. On March 7,



*The helm of the National Hero,
Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg (1405-1468).
The original is
displayed in the Museum of Vienna*

*The Monument of
Independence in Vlo-
ra symbolizes the
struggle and efforts
of the Albanian peo-
ple for freedom and
independence*





The Communist Party of Albania, today the Party of Labour of Albania, was founded in complete illegality in this simple house in a back-street of Tirana, on November 8, 1941



Painting representing the formation of the Communist Party of Albania by Comrade Enver Hoxha on November 8, 1941

1877, the first Albanian school was opened in the city of Korça. In this important activity such patriots as Naum Veqilharxhi, Kostandin Kristoforidhi, Thimi Mitko, Spiro Dine, Jeronim De Rada, Zef Jubani, Pashko Vasa, the brothers Abdyl, Naim and Sami Frashëri, Andon Zako Çajupi and others were prominent. The broad patriotic and cultural movement of the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries brought the fresh, living echo of the wars of the Albanian people for freedom and independence through the centuries. Evoking the past, and especially the period of Skanderbeg and the Albanian League of Prizren, it revived the sense of national pride among the masses of the people. The appeal to the consciousness of the nation, which at the end of the 19th century found itself once again facing new dangers (the «Macedonian question»), undoubtedly played a part in giving a fresh impulse to the national movement. A wave of uprisings spread all over Albania. Among the demands they raised was the idea of autonomy, which had to be achieved through an organization like the Albanian League of Prizren. To realize these aspirations, the League of Peja was formed in 1899 in the town of Peja. In the following years it spread the idea of autonomy which was expressed in armed revolts and uprisings which occurred in Albania, and especially in Kosova, and were aimed both against the chauvinistic acts of the neighbouring states and against the Ottoman occupier. In the heat of these struggles, a new generation of revolutionaries grew up. New patriotic figures began to emerge. Under the leadership of one of these patriots, Bajo Topulli, the Secret Committee for the Liberation of Albania was formed in Manastir (Bitolje) in November 1905. Its branches or sub-committees in many towns and regions carried out a great deal

of propaganda work to mobilize the people to undertake military activities to win independence. Meanwhile, the «Young Turks» movement broke out within the Ottoman Empire, and this compelled the Sultan to draft and proclaim a new Constitution in great haste. The «Young Turks» movement and the proclamation of the Constitution by Sultan Abdyl Hamid was exploited by the Albanian patriotic circles to extend the movement for the opening of Albanian clubs and schools. Precisely at that time, in November 1908, the National Congress to decide on a common alphabet for the whole country was convened in Manastir. On November 21, the Congress endorsed the alphabet which is used in Albania to this day, while on December 1, 1909, the first teacher training school, the Normal School, was opened in Elbasan. These were important victories in the field of Albanian culture and education.

The proclamation of the Constitution created some illusions among many Albanian patriots. It was regarded as the end of the age-old autocracy of the Sultans and the beginning of the epoch of freedom, equality and civilization. But very soon the reprisals and police terror started and to these Albanian people responded with weapons. The revolt started in Prishtina in March 1910 and rapidly spread to Peja and the whole of Kosova. To put down the uprising the Ottoman Empire dispatched a special expeditionary force under the command of Shefqet Turgut Pasha. This force, 16,000 strong, clashed with the insurgent forces led by Idriz Seferi at the Kaçanik Pass, in April 1910. On this occasion, too, the insurgent forces fought with rare heroism, though much outnumbered by the enemy and badly armed. Even later the insurgent movement never ceased for a moment. The Ottoman Empire

was forced to dispatch other troops, this time under the command of its minister of war in person. The Ottoman army overran Kosova, Shkodra and Central Albania, spreading death and destruction everywhere. Faced with the determination of the Young Turks to put down the Albanian national movement at any cost, the patriotic circles considered it necessary to unite their forces in a single national movement and seize the initiative by launching an offensive. However the attack started prematurely. For his own expansionist aims King Nicholas of Montenegro forced the highlanders, who had sought refuge from the terror in his kingdom, to attack the Young Turk forces. Thus, on April 6, on the call of Dedë Gjo Luli, an insurgent leader from the Shkodra Highlands, the revolt was launched. The highlanders fought heroically and forced the Young Turk government to change its tactics. The Sultan made the insurgents a series of promises. In response, the Albanian patriots, headed by Ismail Qemali and Luigj Gurakuqi, gathered in Gërçe of Montenegro and on June 23, 1911 sent the Sultan and the Great Powers of Europe a memorandum in which they demanded the territorial and administrative autonomy of Albania. The Ottoman Empire accepted only some of the demands of the memorandum and only for the vilayet of Shkodra. This aroused discontent and revolts, especially in the South of Albania. During 1912 the insurgent movement burst out with fresh vigour.

Meanwhile another danger was threatening the Albanian people, the partitioning and annexation of Albanian territories by the chauvinist Balkan monarchies. The danger became extremely acute at the time of the Balkan wars. In October 1912 the armies of the Balkan coalition crossed the borders of the Albanian territories

and continued their incursions into the country. Faced with this situation the Albanian patriots acted with wisdom and determination. They summoned the National Assembly in the city of Vlora, at which they decided to separate Albania completely from the Ottoman Empire and proclaim its independence. On November 28, 1912 the patriot Ismail Qemali, who presided over the assembly, raised the national flag and publicly proclaimed the decision of the Assembly. After nearly five centuries of protracted struggles and bloody battles the Albanian people shook off the Ottoman yoke once and for all and emerged on the international arena as an independent state. The Assembly of Vlora formed the first Albanian national government and elected Ismail Qemali, the great Albanian patriot and diplomat, Prime Minister.

The proclamation of Albania's independence, the majestic deed of the Albanian people and patriots, foiled the plans of the Great Powers and the neighbouring chauvinist states. Therefore, they ignored all that had been achieved by the internal forces and dealt with the Albanian problem at the Ambassadors' Conference (December 1912 — August 1913) in their own interest. The Conference, which became an arena of inter-imperialist rivalries and clashes, defined the status of Albania as an independent state, undertook and carried out its internal organization and defined its borders, arbitrarily amputating about half its territories and population. The partitioning of Albania by the imperialist powers and the subjection of half the population to the Serbian-Montenegrin yoke, was a great injustice imposed on the Albanian people.

The Ambassadors' Conference also took the decision to place a foreign prince at the head of the mutilated Albanian state and on March

7, 1914 a German feudal aristocrat, Wilhelm Wied, came to Albania in this role.

In order to run the affairs of the country, the Great Powers forcibly imposed on our people, as a kind of «xenocratia», an international mechanism called the International Control Commission (ICC), designed and set up by the same Great Powers. Meanwhile, the Government of Ismail Qemali, which had undertaken a series of actions in both international and foreign policy and which, among numerous difficulties, was striving to consolidate the position of the country, was obliged to withdraw, leaving its place to this commission and the government of Turhan Pasha set up by Wied. This government composed of feudal elements did nothing to regulate the life of the country or to liberate and regain the territories left outside the borders of the Albanian state, and thus it was hated by the masses of the people who rose in revolt against Wied.

On top of all this, at that time the Greek chauvinists, with disguised acts of occupation, in the name of the movement for the autonomy of Vorio Epirus, had seized control of some regions of Southern Albania.

Meanwhile, Esat Pasha Toptani, an ambitious and unscrupulous feudal lord from Central Albania, who dreamt of coming to the head of the Albanian state, provoked disturbances. The masses of the people, who hated the anti-national, anti-people regime of Wied's, launched a powerful uprising against him, the feudal class and Esat Pasha. Moreover, the hatred of the people forced Esat Toptani to depart to Italy. A little later, Wied and his government also left Albania.

The outbreak of the First World War brought new complications. Esat Pasha returned to Albania, and this aroused dissatisfaction and revolts against

him. A great number of peasants, especially from Central Albania, joined in the anti-feudal, anti-imperialist movement which scored great successes. At these critical moments Serbia came to the aid of Esat Pasha, and its armies saved him from the drive of the insurgents.

Taking advantage of this chaos, Greece and Italy occupied the southern regions of Albania. The Austro-Hungarian armies invaded the North. These operations and those which were undertaken in the course of the First World War, were the concrete outcome of the Secret Treaty of London of April 26, 1915, which violated the neutrality of Albania decided at the Ambassadors' Conference in London about two years earlier, and turned Albania into a token for barter. In this Treaty, the Entente Powers partitioned Albania and divided its territories between Greece, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro.

After the First World War the big imperialist powers were for partitioning Albania. The Peace Conference in Versailles did not solve the Albanian problem. Therefore, at the beginning of 1920 the Albanian patriots organized a Congress in the town of Lushnja. The Congress formed a government which, among other things, demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Albania. But Italy deployed its armies in the region of Vlorë, seeking to annex it. In these circumstances, thousands of armed volunteers from all over Albania attacked the Italians occupying Vlorë. The war of Vlorë went on throughout the summer of 1920, until the Italians were thrown into the sea by the freedom fighters.

After the foreign troops of the imperialist and chauvinist neighbours had been driven out, the struggle for the establishment of the democratic order, and especially for the solution of the agrarian problem, became the burning issue

in political and social life. The masses of the peasantry and the urban population, including the workers, took part in that struggle. From all over the country, protests were sent to the Parliament and the government demanding the abolition of the payment of tithes and the high tariffs on grain imports. In March 1923 thousands of citizens and peasants in Korçë demanded bread for the people and the distribution of grain held in merchants' stores. Likewise, about three thousand people from the city of Vlorë and the surrounding district protested against the anti-people policy of the government, attacked the grain stores of the speculators, seized the grain and distributed it free to the people.

The struggle for land became very fierce and, on many occasions, took the form of open attacks to seize it from the landowners and the state by force. However, the fundamental demand of the peasants for the abolition of the big estates and the distribution of their lands to the landless peasants was not supported by the bourgeois political groups. These groups gave the land reform a narrower meaning. Their aim was to reconcile the interests of the working peasants with those of the landowners and improve the situation of the peasants without hurting the landowning class. Some members of the Albanian bourgeoisie were also landowners. As a class the bourgeoisie was not for radical changes. In inciting and organizing the democratic movement, the revolutionary democrats, united in the «Bashkimi» society, played the most important role. «Bashkimi» gathered in its ranks and organized the youth, especially the school youth, who were especially prominent in the democratic movement.

The growth of the movement led to the creation of a revolutionary situation in the spring

of 1924. The assassination of Avni Rustemi, one of the leaders of the Albanian democratic movement, by the landowner reaction served as the signal for armed uprising.

The bourgeois-democratic revolution which burst out in May 1924, ended with the triumph of the revolutionary forces on June 10 of the same year. A bourgeois-democratic government, headed by Fan Noli, came to power.

The program proclaimed by the government was intended to put Albania on the road of bourgeois-democratic development. In the political field, it envisaged the establishment of democracy through free elections. In the socio-economic field it envisaged the eradication of feudalism and the economic liberation of the peasants, the establishment of a new system of taxes, the repair of roads and bridges, the creation of facilities for the penetration of foreign capital and for the development of local capital. Education would be placed on new bases. The government would pursue a policy of friendly relations with all the states, especially with the neighbouring states.

The masses of the people supported this program and demanded its full implementation. But it encountered the frenzied opposition of the local landowners and imperialist reaction, while the revolutionary drive of the masses terrified the chiefs of the local bourgeoisie. In these circumstances the bourgeois-democratic government, headed by Fan Noli, vacillated and proved incapable of carrying the revolution through to the end, because it did not base itself on the masses of the people who brought it to power.

In these circumstances the Albanian landowners and reactionaries, supported by the imperialists and the reactionary governments of

the neighbouring states, made preparations to crush the revolution. On December 24, 1924, the Albanian counter-revolutionary forces, led by Ahmet Zog, coming mainly from Yugoslavia and with the direct support of the imperialists and reactionary Serb and White Russian emigrant troops, entered Tirana and overthrew the Fan Noli government. The Zog regime came to power in Albania. Later Zog declared himself a king.

From start to finish the Zog regime remained a savage antidemocratic dictatorship of the landowners and the reactionary bourgeoisie. The internal support for this regime came from the reactionary forces of the country, the big landowners and merchants, the rural bourgeoisie and the chiefs of the Highland clans. These forces served as the social basis of this regime during the 15 years of its existence. The Zog dictatorship preserved the remnants of feudal relations, intensified the landowners' and capitalist exploitation and created a whole system for plundering the masses of the people.

Zog did away with all democratic institutions and freedoms. Feeling itself insecurely in power, the Zog clique sought the help of the imperialist powers. First, it repaid the Yugoslav government for the aid it had given by ceding it parts of the Albanian territory. Then, it linked itself with Italy and Britain, two of the big imperialist powers most interested in the Balkans in general, and in the exploitation of the underground riches of Albania, in particular. Towards the foreign capitalist powers Zog pursued the policy of «open doors». Gradually this policy was centred on the close economic and political links with fascist Italy which made many efforts to get Albania completely under its influence. These links opened the way to the fascist occupation. The Italian financial groups

created the «National Bank of Albania» and SVEA (the Association for the Economic Development of Albania) as powerful means for the economic and political enslavement of the country. They took over those few existing mines, the bulk of the construction of public works, the customs service and almost all the country's foreign trade. Italian capital also penetrated into light industry. The high interest-rate loans, which the government in Rome granted the Zog clique and which were used primarily for the personal enrichment of the King and his family, also served the predatory aims of the Italians. Thus, Italian capital became the real master of the economy of Albania. It transformed the country into a market for the sale of Italian industrial goods and a source of raw materials.

The economic agreements, which paved the way to the penetration of Italian capital, were accompanied with agreements such as those of Tirana in 1926 and 1927, which gave Italy the right to defend the Zog regime from any internal and external attack with arms. These agreements harnessed the Zog clique to the chariot of fascist Italy. Thus, Albania was being transformed into a semi-colony of Italian imperialism.

During the Zog regime Albania remained the most backward country in Europe. In 1938 about 87 per cent of the population that engaged in material production were engaged in agriculture, while only 13 per cent of the population worked in industry and the other branches of the national economy. Industrial and artisan production made up only 9.8 per cent of the total production, while the income created in industry represented only 4.5 per cent of the total national income.

The economic backwardness also brought pronounced cultural backwardness. About 90 per

cent of the population was illiterate. The number of schools was very limited, while there were no higher education and scientific-cultural institution at all. No care was shown for the health of the people. Various diseases wrought havoc among the population. The average life expectancy did not exceed 38 years.

The anti-popular and anti-national policy of the Zog regime aroused general dissatisfaction among the masses of the people. The struggle for the attainment of anti-imperialist democratic objectives became an immediate task. The resistance of the democratic forces was expressed, especially, in the revolutionary actions of peasants and workers. The peasants of many regions fought back against the violence of the big landowners who wanted to drive them off the estates or to seize the lands, as well as against the heavy taxes imposed on them. In some cases this struggle assumed the character of bloody clashes with the gendarmerie of Zog. Although the working class was small in numbers and unorganized, its revolutionary actions were particularly important. The workers protested about their grave economic situation, demanded higher pay and the regular payment of wages, which were often delayed for months on end. Strikes over such issues took place against the Italian employers (1925), and the British employers (1927) in the oil industry, at the Selenica mine, etc.

During the years 1925-1927 some worker organizations were set up. Such were the «Workers' League» in Gjirokastra, the «Përparimi» association of the tailors in Tirana and the «League of Tailor Workers» in Korça. These organizations were unable to play an important role in the organization of the workers' movement, because their main aim was the organization of mutual aid among workers.

The revolutionary actions of peasants and workers, and the hatred of the masses of the people for the Zog regime created conditions for the emergence and development of the organized Albanian communist movement. A significant role in this direction was played by the Marxist publications which circulated among the workers, artisans and intellectuals. These publications were brought into the country by Albanians who were at school or working abroad, who had embraced communist ideas and tried to disseminate them in our country. The first communist cell was formed in the city of Korça in 1928. Within a short time other communist cells were formed in Korça. In June 1929, the meeting of the representatives of the communist cells was held. This event marked the creation of the Communist Group of Korça, with a leading committee, with the craftsman Miha Lako elected at its head. The creation of this group, as the first revolutionary political organization of the Albanian working class, marked the beginning of the organized communist movement in Albania.

The work of the Communist Group of Korça entered a new phase of development thanks to the great assistance of the outstanding Albanian communist militant Ali Kelmendi who returned to Albania in 1930, sent by the Comintern to develop revolutionary work and assist the communist movement here.

The «Labour» association, was formed in 1933 under the leadership of the Communist Group of Korça, composed mainly of building workers. Its aim was to defend the rights of the workers and fight against the Zog regime for freedom and democracy. During 1934, on the initiative of the communists and the example

of the «Labour» association, other workers' associations were set up in the Korça district, such as that of the shoemakers, the drivers, the tailors, cafe-owners, etc. The influence of the Communist Group of Korça also extended to the secondary school students of Korça.

In 1934, the Government in Rome, without warning, sent some of its naval units to Durrës to force Zog to capitulate and accept the dictate of Rome. Zog's surrender to this pressure gave an impetus to the anti-Zogite movement. In these circumstances, the task of organizing an armed uprising against the Zog regime was placed on the agenda. To this end, a secret organization made up of anti-Zogite elements was set up in Tirana. The branch of the Communist Group of Korça in Tirana joined this conspiracy. Pursued by the Zog government, the heads of this movement were forced to start the uprising in Fier on August 14, 1935, but the government forces very quickly overran it, because the insurgents lacked a revolutionary leadership. Nevertheless, this uprising was the baptism of fire and a touch-stone to prove the mettle of the Albanian communists.

During the years 1935-1936 further steps were taken for the organization of the working class, to involve it and the masses of the people in the struggle against capitalist exploitation and the fascist danger. In 1935, the «Labour» association was formed in Kuçova (today the Stalin City). It was transformed into a revolutionary anti-Zogite and anti-fascist workers' organization which was led by the communists.

On February 11, 1936 the «Labour» association organized a strike which was brutally suppressed after three days, through the intervention of big forces of government troops and police, under the personal command of the Mi-

nister of the Interior. Ten days after the general strike of the «Labour» association in Kuçova, the people of Korça staged an anti-Zogite demonstration, known as the «demonstration for bread», in which the secondary school students also took part. The demonstrators clashed with the forces of the Zogite gendarmerie who opened fire on them. The demonstration for bread in Korça was the first anti-Zogite people's action organized and led by the communists.

At that time, in Shkodra, another important centre of the Albanian communist movement — the Communist Group of Shkodra, was formed. This group lacked a clear political line and a definite organizational platform.

Proceeding on its course of capitulating to fascism, the reactionary Zog government took stern measures to prevent Albanian volunteers from going to Spain. Right from 1936 the Albanian communist groups sent their members to assist the Spanish people, who fought heroically, shoulder to shoulder with the communists and anti-fascists of Spain and other countries. Many of them laid down their lives on the battlefield.

Beginning from November 1938, the fascist Government in Rome took a series of measures in preparation for the military occupation of Albania. The Italian Legation in Tirana stepped up its efforts to set in motion its «Fifth Column» made up of ministers, deputies, senior officers of the Albanian army and gendarmerie, big landowners, clan chiefs and clergy, all of them sold out to fascism, with the aim of paralysing any resistance by the Albanian people to the fascist aggressor.

Likewise, the Italian enterprises in Albania were stepping up construction work of a military character such as airfields, ports, roads, which

would facilitate the landing and movement of the fascist army.

The concentration of fascist military troops on the Western shores of the Adriatic continued, at the beginning of 1939 their numbers reached over 100,000.

The preparations for the fascist aggression against Albania were an integral part of the general plan which the fascist states had started to apply to establish their domination over the world.

The Zog clique tried to come to terms with the Italian fascist government by making one concession after another. It used every means to hinder the organization of national unity and the resistance of the masses of the people against the fascist aggression. Likewise, Zog strove in every way to conceal the tense situation between Albania and Italy.

However, the Albanian people became aware of the aggressive fascist plans in the first days of April 1939, and a wave of anger swept the country. The Albanian communists became the organizers of powerful anti-fascist demonstrations which burst out all over Albania. For days on end, the voice of the Albanian people roared its opposition to the imminent aggression, condemning the betrayal, expressing readiness to defend the Homeland and demanding weapons for this purpose. A large number of men set out for the main ports, where the fascist aggressor troops were expected to land. But the people were unarmed, betrayed by the ruling classes, the government and the King, and without external aid or support. Zog personally, with part of his clique, fled the country after plundering the state treasury.

On April, 7, 1939 the Italian fascist troops attacked Albania. The Albanian army, paralysed

by the Italian military instructors and pro-fascist officers, disintegrated. But the people, although betrayed by the Zog clique, put up a courageous stand against the fascist aggression. Groups of Albanian patriots fought heroically against the aggressors at Durrës, Saranda, Shkodra, Vlora etc. But the enemy forces, superior in numbers and armaments, suppressed this resistance and overran the whole country in a short time.

Right after their occupation of the country the Italian fascists took a series of measures of a political, military, economic and administrative character. Their aim was to perpetuate this occupation, to make Albania completely Italian and fascist, to plunder its wealth above and below the ground and to turn Albania into a base from which they could launch further aggressions in the Balkans and towards the countries of the East.

To conceal their real intentions, the fascist occupiers immediately after their landing in Albania, gathered together in Tirana the most reactionary elements, the representatives of the big landowners, clan chiefs and reactionary bourgeoisie, all of them tools of fascism, and formed the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly proclaimed the «unification» of Albania with Italy and «offered» the crown of Albania to the King of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III. The Albanian puppet government approved by the assembly, obediently carried out the orders of the government in Rome.

The Italian government abolished the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania and transferred its rights to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other ministries were, in fact, run by Italian «advisers».

Under a special law promulgated by the occupation organs, the Albanian armed forces

were merged with the Italian armed forces and placed directly under the Italian command.

The Italian fascists gave great importance to converting the country to fascism. To this end they founded «the Albanian fascist party» as a branch of the Italian fascist party and directly subordinate to it. The occupiers took control of the press, radio, etc., introduced fascist education and the Italian language as compulsory subjects in the schools. Thousands of Italian skilled workers, teachers and merchants were brought to Albania for the Italianization of the country. The government leaders in Rome envisaged that the number of the Italians settled in Albania would be double the number of the Albanian population.

Every facility was provided to enable the Italian capitalists to freely exploit all the riches of Albania and take complete control of the economic life of the country. Customs barriers between Italy and Albania were lifted. In fact, Albania was transformed into a province of the Italian Empire under the fascist dictatorship.

The consequences of the establishment of the fascist occupation regime very quickly made themselves felt. The people lost their freedom and national independence. Hundreds of patriots were imprisoned or sent to concentration camps. The economic situation became worse. Albanian workers were compelled by law to work in very difficult conditions, more than 10 hours a day, and were paid only one tenth of the wages of the Italians for the same work. The fascist occupation weighed heavily also on the peasantry who were being robbed of their land for the construction of barracks, airfield and other military objects. The interests of the Albanian handi-

craftsmen were also hard hit by the fascist occupation and they started to close down their businesses en masse due to the competition of goods made in Italy. The constant price rises, the increase in speculation, the many shortages, especially in food-stuffs greatly worsened the life of the broad masses of the people.

In implementing their occupation plans, the Italian fascists encountered the resistance of the Albanian people, who never accepted the fascist occupation regime and fought against it. The factories and big work sites became hot-beds of the struggle against the fascist occupiers and the capitalist exploiters. The communists, though not yet organized in a single party, placed themselves at the head of the movement. During the second half of 1939 there were about 700 conflicts between workers and capitalist employers. To sabotage production, the workers in Kuçova left the oil valves open, destroyed drilling rigs and oil wells, while at Rubik the haulage way in the mine was destroyed, etc. The workers organized powerful strikes and demonstrations against the fascist regime.

The school youth gave the anti-fascist movement assistance by writing anti-fascist slogans, tearing down Italian flags and participating actively in the anti-fascist demonstrations.

The peasantry also took an active part in the anti-fascist resistance, opposing the payment of taxes, the expropriation of lands, etc. Armed groups existed all over Albania. Outstanding among them was the Çeta of Peza, commanded by the great patriot Myslim Peza (1897-1984), which carried out armed actions against the fascist occupiers.

The deep hatred of the Albanian people for the fascist occupiers was expressed in the courageous act of the young worker Vasil Laçi

who, in May 1941 fired shots at Victor Emmanuel III in one of the main streets of Tirana. Vasil Laçi was hanged in prison by the Italian fascists.

The more the anti-fascist resistance extended and deepened, the more the uniting of the communist groups and the forming of a single communist party became a necessity. The Tirana branch of the Communist Group of Korça, headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, became the real organizing centre of the whole communist and anti-fascist movement in Albania. In August 1941 an agreement was reached between the communist groups on their merging into a single communist party.

The meeting of representatives of the communist groups of Albania for the founding of the Party was held in Tirana, from 8th to 14th of November 1941, in profound illegality. Fifteen representatives of the communist groups, including Enver Hoxha, Qemal Stafa, Vasil Shanto, Pilo Peristeri and others, took part in the meeting. On the first day, November 8, 1941, the meeting took the historic decision to merge the communist groups and found the Communist Party of Albania (CPA) — the only revolutionary party of the working class of Albania (today the Party of Labour of Albania).

At the Founding meeting of the Party it was decided that the ideological and organizational bases for the construction of the Party would be the Marxist-Leninist norms and principles. The Founding meeting of the Party clearly defined the principal aim of the program of the Party for the Anti-fascist National Liberation War, which was: «To fight for the national independence of the Albanian people and for a people's democratic government in an Albania free from fascism».

The meeting of the communist groups for the founding of the Party elected the Provisional Central Committee composed of seven persons. Comrade Enver Hoxha, the founder of the Party, was appointed head of the Central Committee.

The founding meeting took the decision to found the organization of the Communist Youth of Albania. On November 1941, at a special meeting organized by the Central Committee of the Party and chaired by Comrade Enver Hoxha personally, the organization of the Communist Youth of Albania was founded in illegality in Tirana. Qemal Stafa was appointed its political secretary.

Immediately after the founding of the Party the Central Committee issued an appeal to the people, in which it pointed out that the only road of victory was that of uniting the broad masses in uncompromising armed struggle against the Italian occupiers and the local traitors. At the beginning of 1942, on the instructions of the Central Committee of the Party, guerrilla units were set up in almost every town, while by July 1942 the partisan detachments had carried out many fighting operations against the fascist occupiers and the traitors. One of the more important operations of that time was the nation-wide action to cut the enemy's telephone and telegraph communications during the night of July 24, 1942. At that time there were many demonstrations, protests and acts of sabotage. Many enemy ammunition dumps were blown up, enemy offices and other buildings were set on fire, scores of fascist officers and spies were killed, and some regions were liberated.

The newspaper «Zëri i popullit», central organ of the CPA headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha the first issue of which appeared on August

25, 1942, played a significant role in the political clarification of the people and mobilizing them to fight in the Anti-fascist National Liberation War.

The fascist occupiers and traitors continued the mass arrests, the killings, the death sentences, the internments of the families of comrades working underground and partisans, etc. with even greater ferocity. But neither terror nor any other measure could stop the vigorous upsurge of the anti-fascist struggle led by the Communist Party of Albania.

At a meeting held in July 1942, the Central Committee of the Party analysed the existing situation and decided to convene a nation-wide national liberation conference.

This conference was held at Peza (a village near Tirana) on September 16, 1942. It adopted the platform worked out by the Communist Party of Albania for the National Liberation War of the Albanian people. This platform included the following main issues: to fight for a free, independent and democratic Albania, to strengthen the basis for a real fighting unity of the Albanian people through armed struggle against the occupiers and traitors, to organize all the patriotic forces of the country in a joint national liberation front without distinction as to class, political conviction, religion or region, to set up everywhere national liberation councils which would be organs to unite and mobilize the people in the war, as well as representative organs of the people's state power. This platform also envisaged the preparation of the general armed uprising of the people.

By the end of 1942, national liberation councils had been set up in the majority of the villages of Albania, and the number of freedom fighters in the partisan detachments amounted

to 2,000, besides several thousands fighting in the guerrilla units in the towns.

In the circumstances of the extension of the Anti-fascist War and the ever greater recognition of the Communist Party as the sole leader of this war, Albanian reaction, urged by the occupiers, tried to find a means to destroy the unity of the people in the National Liberation Front under the leadership of the CPA, to eliminate the Communist Party as the leader of the National Liberation War, so that the bourgeoisie and the big landowners could remain on top, sabotage the war and keep state power in their hands. For these purposes, the reactionary bourgeoisie and the big landowners, in connivance with the occupier, formed the reactionary political organization, the Balli Kombëtar, in November 1942. All the dregs of Albanian society gathered around it. By means of demagoguery and force, the Balli Kombëtar managed for a time to win to its side some politically backward peasants. To attain its goal, the Balli Kombëtar chose the road of collaboration with the occupier. In these conditions, the Communist Party acted with great wisdom and foresight. First of all, it strove to expose the traitorous character of this organization. The political line followed by the National Liberation Front, under the leadership of the Communist Party, in regard to the war enabled misled people to see the pseudo-patriotic and reactionary character of the Balli Kombëtar. When that organization came out openly as a tool of the Italian and German occupiers the insurgent people fought and destroyed it.

The First National Conference of the CPA was held at Labinot of Elbasan from 17 to 22 March, 1943. It took important decisions on the preparation and organization of the general people's uprising and, in connection with this,

on the setting up of the National Liberation Army as a genuinely revolutionary army of the Albanian people.

The intense political activity of the communists for the preparation of the general armed uprising of the people found a wide response among the people and especially the Albanian youth. Workers, peasants and students joined the partisan detachments. During April, May, June and at the beginning of July 1943 the partisan forces struck powerful blows at the Italian occupation troops in the vicinity of Selenica of Vlora, Leskovik, along the Struga-Dibra road, at Përmet-Kuqar, on Këlcyra Pass and at Pojska of Pogradec. In the battle of Përmet the enemy lost more than 500 men killed. On July 6, 1943 the partisan forces carried out their first attack on the German army at Barmash of Kolonja.

In such a situation the National Liberation General Council meeting at Labinot of Elbasan on July 4, 1943, took the decision to form the General Staff of the Albanian National Liberation Army (ANLA). Comrade Enver Hoxha was appointed political commissar of the General Staff.

On the basis of the instructions of the General Staff, the brigades would initially be the biggest formations of the National Liberation Army and gradually incorporate most of the partisan çetas, battalions and groups operating in the regions. The brigades would be under the direct command of the General Staff. The 1st Brigade of the ANLA was formed on August 15, 1943 at Vithkuq of Korça.

The main source of supplies of weapons and ammunition for the partisans remained the enemy, from whom they were captured.

Supplies of food and clothing came from the population of towns and, especially, country-

side, and the partisans were housed in the homes of the peasants and townspeople.

When fascist Italy capitulated on September 8, 1943, the General Staff called on the command of the Italian army in Albania to surrender its weapons or join in the fight of the ANLA against the Germans. The Italian command did not respond to this call but surrendered to the Germans. However, 15,000 Italian officers and soldiers surrendered to the National Liberation Army, of whom only 1,500 fought in the ranks of the partisan detachments. The peasants of the liberated zones gave the remainder refuge till the end of the war, despite the very great economic difficulties they were experiencing.

After the capitulation of fascist Italy, the German nazis replaced the Italian occupiers in Albania. About 70,000 German soldiers were stationed in Albania. The aim of the Hitlerite regime was to put down the Anti-fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian people by force, to secure men as cannon-fodder and as labour force, and to plunder the wealth of our country.

The German occupiers were met with bullets everywhere. In the autumn of 1943, bloody battles were waged between the forces of the ANLA and the German occupiers and the reactionary forces united with them, as a result of which the occupiers sustained considerable losses.

The Zogites joined the nazis and put themselves in their service. In November 1943 they formed their organization, Legaliteti, with the agent of the British imperialists, Abaz Kupa, at its head. Legaliteti was a traitor organization with the same anti-popular and anti-national character as Balli Kombëtar.

In 1943 representatives of the Anglo-Ameri-

can Mediterranean Command were sent to the General Staff of the ANLA allegedly to assist the fight against fascism, but in fact they tried to eliminate the leading role of the Communist Party of Albania, to prevent the victory of the revolutionary people's forces, and to assist the strengthening of the reactionary forces with the aim of establishing Anglo-American control in Albania after the war.

The Anglo-Americans also sent liaison officers to the traitor organizations which collaborated with the German nazis, such as Balli Kombëtar, Legaliteti and the reactionary clan chiefs in the North.

During the winter of 1943-1944 the German occupiers, together with the local reaction, carried out a large-scale military operation with the objective of wiping out the National Liberation Army and hindering the anti-fascist war in Albania. In this operation 45,000 German and traitor troops, with the best of equipment were employed. At that time the National Liberation Army had in its ranks 20,000 partisans, organized in battalions and brigades, and another 15,000 organized in territorial çetas and battalions. The occupiers and the local traitors created a very grave situation. They employed savage terror all over the country. On February 4, 1944, in one night they killed 84 people and imprisoned over 500 others in Tirana. During this operation the ANLA, the people and the Party went through the most difficult test and came out victorious over the enemies and reaction. The partisan forces continued their attacks against the enemy. They were not destroyed but, on the contrary, grew in strength and numbers. During the operation another 3 partisan brigades were added to the 3 existing ones. In the fierce fighting against the enemy during this operation more than 1,000 partisans gave their lives, while the

ANLA and the people killed 3,000 of the enemy and captured 2,000 others.

In the spring of 1944, the National Liberation Army, on orders from the General Staff, went over to the general offensive against the German fascist occupiers and the local traitors and liberated almost all the regions south of the Shkumbin River, while in Central and Northern Albania the partisan liberation war was further stepped up. The ANLA, which then numbered 35,000 fighters, was in a position to continue the general offensive until the whole country was liberated.

In these conditions on May 24, 1944, the First Antifascist National Liberation Congress was held in, the liberated town of Përmet. The Congress took decisions of exceptional importance for the future of Albania. It solved the problem of the political power in the interests of the insurgent people and founded the new Albanian state of people's democracy. The Congress elected the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council (ANLC) composed of 121 members as the supreme legislative and executive organ and formed the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee made up of 13 members, with all the attributes of a provisional democratic people's government. Comrade Enver Hoxha was elected President of the Committee. The Congress decided «to build the new people's democratic Albania according to the will of the people...», «to ban the return of Zog to Albania», «to recognize no other government which might be formed inside or outside Albania», «to continue the struggle against the German occupiers and their lackeys more fiercely». The Congress decided to review all the agreements reached with foreign states and to cancel the economic and political agreements entered into with them by the Zog go-

vernment, as agreements which ran counter to the interests of the Albanian people.

The Commander-in-chief of the ANLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha, basing himself on the decision of the Congress of Përmet to continue the war even more fiercely until the complete liberation of Albania, issued the order for the newly created 1st Shock Division to start the offensive for the liberation of Central and Northern Albania. Already at the same time, the Hitlerites and the local traitors, who had placed themselves in their service, launched a new largescale operation against the National Liberation Army, which was called the June Operation. The Germans hurled into fighting the forces of four divisions of the Army Corps 21 and 22. With this operation, the occupiers aimed to hinder the convening of the Anti-fascist Congress of Përmet, to liquidate the Albanian National Liberation Army and the Communist Party of Albania.

The June Operation of the German army caused great suffering to the Albanian people. Entire regions were put to the torch and ravaged. Old people, children and women were killed. Fire was set to harvests and livestock was robbed. Despite heavy losses the people resisted bravely and faced up to the enemy.

According to the plan of the General Staff, after foiling the enemy operation, the National Liberation Army launched a general offensive for the complete liberation of Albania. On June 26. the 1st Shock Division crossed the Shkumbin River and thrust into Central and Northern Albania. By the middle of July the forces of this division powerfully supported by the people who swelled its ranks with thousands of volunteers liberated the regions according to the order of the Commander-in-chief, Comrade Enver Hoxha.

Precisely at that time the Anglo-American Mediterranean Command tried by all means to hinder this offensive. The Anglo-Americans also strove to land their troops in Albania with the aim of backing the reactionary forces. These hostile plans failed to be carried out thanks to the determined and far-sighted policy of the Communist Party of Albania and the General Staff of the National Liberation Army, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head. The Communist Party described the Anglo-American interference as a threat to the victory, revolution and the national independence of Albania.

As a result of the general offensive of the ANLA, by the end of October 1944 the whole of Southern Albania was liberated, while north of the Shkumbin only the towns of Elbasan, Tirana, Durrës, Kukës and Shkodra were still occupied by the enemy. Even within these towns, the enemies were under the constant attacks of the ANLA.

At the beginning of October, two brigades of the ANLA, the 3rd and the 5th, crossed the Albanian state border to fight the German fascists in the region of Kosova.

During the general offensive of the ANLA, apart from the liberation of most of the territory of the Homeland and the heavy casualties inflicted on the German occupiers, another major victory was achieved — internal reaction, the Balli Kombëtar, Legaliteti and their armed bands were completely smashed. The quisling government was completely paralysed and unable to function.

With the liberation of most of the territory of the country the activity of the organs of the people's state power — the anti-fascist national liberation councils and Anti-fascist National Li-

beration Committee, was further extended. This activity found the full support of the broad masses of the people all over the country, who expressed their trust in the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee and demanded that it should be turned into the Democratic Government of Albania. From 20 to 23 October 1944, the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council held its second meeting in the liberated town of Berat and decided to transform the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee into the Democratic Government of Albania. Comrade Enver Hoxha was appointed Chairman of the Democratic Government of Albania.

While the second meeting of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council was being held in Berat, the ANLA, which had now been transformed into the regular army of the new Albanian state and numbered about 70,000 fighters organized in brigades, divisions and army corps, was waging the final battles with the German occupiers and the remnants of reaction on Albanian territory.

The most important battle of the general offensive of the ANLA for the complete liberation of Albania was that for the liberation of Tirana, which raged for 19 days, until November 17, when the banner of victory was hoisted in liberated Tirana.

On November 28, 1944, the Democratic Government of Albania entered liberated Tirana amidst the indescribable enthusiasm of the people of the capital. On November 29, 1944, the liberation of Shkodra marked the complete liberation and the triumph of the people's revolution in Albania.

Immediately after the liberation of Albania, on the decision of the Central Committee of the Party and the orders of the Commander-in-

-chief. Comrade Enver Hoxha, the 5th and 6th Shock Divisions continued the pursuit of the Hitlerite troops beyond the state borders of Albania, into Yugoslavia. These divisions fought shoulder to shoulder with the Yugoslav partisans and the Kosova brothers for the liberation of the peoples of Yugoslavia. The sons and daughters of the Albanian people shed their blood in the territories of this country.

During the whole heroic struggle against the common antifascist enemy relations of comradeship in arms were established between the Albanian people and the peoples of Yugoslavia. However, the Titoite leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia made great efforts to exploit these relations created during the antifascist war in order to realize its own chauvinistic ambitions: Through the network of agents which it had created at that time aimed to seize control of the leadership of the CPA, the leadership of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian people and, later, turn Albania into a province of Yugoslavia. Thanks to the resolute stand of the Party, Comrade Enver Hoxha and the other members of the Central Committee of the CPA, who powerfully defended the Marxist-Leninist line of the Party, the ambitions of the Titoites were not realized.

The National Liberation War (1939-1944) is the most heroic and bloodiest war the Albanians have waged during their history. The Albanian people, 1 million strong at that time, nailed down more than 15 Italian and German divisions and put out of action about 70,000 enemies killed, wounded or captured. During the Second World War about 700,000 fascist soldiers invaded the 28,000 sq. kms territory of Albania causing extremely heavy losses and devastation: 7.3 per cent of the population was killed or crippled, 21 per cent

of the houses was burnt or destroyed, more than one third of the livestock was taken away or slaughtered; bridges, the few existing factories, workshops, mines and ports, and means of communication were either totally destroyed or heavily damaged. In proportion to its population, Albania is one of the countries that suffered the heaviest losses in men, and especially in material values, during the Second World War. During this war 28,000 martyrs gave their lives.

With the complete liberation of the country, for the first time in their history the Albanian people won genuine national freedom and independence, abolished all enslaving dependence of their country on the imperialist states, took the state power in their own hands and today, under the leadership of Party of Labour of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, are marching confidently towards the complete construction of socialism.

POPULATION

The first general census after the Proclamation of Independence in 1912 was taken in 1923. In that year Albania had 803,900 inhabitants.

Full periodical censuses of a scientific character have been conducted only since the liberation of the country. Beginning from 1945, 6 censuses have been taken in Albania. According to the general census taken on January 7, 1979, the population of the PSR of Albania at that time was 2,594,600 — more than double that of 1950. At the end of 1983, the population of Albania was reckoned at 2,870,000 inhabitants of which 51.6 per cent males and 48.4 per cent females. The population of Albania grows at a yearly rate of about 60,000 inhabitants.

During the whole post-Liberation period the average annual growth rate of the population was 2.5 per cent, or 1.5 times higher than before Liberation. This numerical increase of the population is entirely the result of the raising of the well-being secured by the Party and our people's power and its natural growth.

The density of population is about 100 persons per square kilometre. The greatest density of population is found in the western part of the territory, where the biggest towns are concentrated. But as a result of a correct economic policy, which aims at a harmonious and proportional development of the entire country, the density of population has increased in the remote mountain regions of the country, too. Mountainous districts such as Mirdita, Skrapar, Puka and Tropoja now have a density of population 2.5 times greater than in 1950. Today, the remote mountain zones of Dukagjin and Kelmend, situated in the Alps of Northern Albania, have 2.5 times more inhabitants than the 15 per sq. kilometre they had before Liberation.

The relatively high level of birth (28 per 1000 inhabitants) and the low level of deaths (6 per 1000 inhabitants) is characteristic of the demographic development of Albania. Albania stands out for its high marriage rate. In 1982 the number of marriages reached 9 per 1000 inhabitants.

The average life expectancy is 70 years, as against 38 years in 1938. This means that the average life expectancy has increased about 10 months for each year of the existence of the people's power. Life expectancy shows that in 1980 as against 1950, the average life expectancy for males grew 27.4% while for females it increased 32.4%. Today the average life expectancy for females is 72 years. The 1979 census showed

that 6,660 people are between 85 to 90 years of age, and about 5,000 between 90 to 100 years of age.

Albania's population is young. The mean age of the population is 26 years, the youngest in Europe. About 35 per cent of the population is under 15 years, 43 per cent between 15 to 39 years, 15 per cent 40 to 59 years, and only 7 per cent is over 60 years.

The structure of age-groups of the present population of Albania will permit the future replacement of the generation at relatively high rates. It is estimated that in 1985 the population will reach about 3 million, and in 1990, 3 million 300 thousand. Consequently, the density of population will rise to 115 inhabitants per sq. kilometre.

At the present time the average family comprises 5-6 members. The table below is a clear picture of the structure of the family according to its number of members.

	In percentage	
	1969	1979
Total number of families	100.0	100.0
of these:		
with 1 to 2 members	10,3	9,5
with 3 to 4 members	22,7	28,1
with 5 to 7 members	42,5	42,3
with 8 or more members	24,5	20,1

Today the families of 1 and two couples account for 96% of the total number of families.

Characteristic of the class structure in Albania is the existence of two friendly classes, the working class and the cooperative peasantry, from

which the stratum of the people's intelligentsia has emerged.

The working class is the leading class of the country. Its leading role has not only been preserved, but has also been strengthened and will be strengthened in the future, too. The proportion of the working class total in our population has constantly increased. Now worker families make up 45 per cent of the total.

Females make up more than 46 per cent of the total number of the active population. The development of education, culture and science has sensibly raised the level of education of the population. From a country with almost 90% of its population illiterate in the past, after Liberation, Albania is characterized by high rates of schooling. During the decade 1969-1979, there has been a 30% growth of the population of 7 and more years of age, while the educated part of its increased by 46%. As for the female population, this increase has been 51%. While in 1950 the population with 7 or 8 years of schooling, with a medium or higher education accounted for less than 1/6 of the whole population, today it accounts for 2/3 of it. One of the main features of the development of education in Albania is the gradual narrowing of differences between town and countryside. A comparison with the year 1960 shows that these differences have now been reduced three times over.

There have been changes also in the ratio of urban to rural population. According to recent data, today about 33.7 per cent of the population lives in towns and 66.3 per cent in the country. The socialist industrialization of the country and the vigorous increase of the working class in Albania has not been accompanied by the ruin and abandonment of the countryside. On the contrary, thanks to the measures which the people's sta-

te power has taken for the continuous development of the countryside on the road to socialism, and the progress achieved in reducing the distinctions between the ways of life in towns and countryside, the village has always remained populated.

THE LANGUAGE

Albanian is an Indo-European language. The Indo-European character of the Albanian language has been convincingly proved by comparative linguistics since the last century. The Albanian linguistics, together with other Albanological sciences which underwent vigorous development in the years after the triumph of the people's revolution in Albania, have made a considerable contribution to the study of both the history of the Albanian language and people, as well as its structure and development. This was made possible when favourable conditions were created for the development of our sciences and culture in general.

Albanian comprises a separate branch in the family of the Indo-European languages. When comparing the structure of the Albanian language with the structure of the other Indo-European languages, scholars have placed Albanian closer to the Balto-Slavic (Eastern), as well as to the Germanic (Northern) Indo-European languages.

Albanian has an Indo-European structure, which in the course of centuries has developed in an original way.

In the course of time, through constant contacts with the languages of other peoples, Albanian has borrowed many words from them just as it has also loaned to them from her

word-stock. However, all these borrowings have not influenced its grammatical and phonetic system. The foreign elements have been integrated into the system of the Albanian, adapting themselves to the laws of its development.

Proceeding from the fact that the number of foreign loanwords in Albanian is relatively large, some foreign Albanologist of the past century concluded that the Albanian language is of a mixed nature. Such an erroneous conclusion was due to superficial knowledge of the word-stock of the Albanian language, overemphasizing the vocabulary of minor language zones and insufficient study of the structure of the Albanian language.

Another problem which has long since aroused the interest of scholars is that of the origin of Albanian. What is the ancient language Albanian comes from? Naturally, the question of the origin of the Albanian language is closely related to the question of the origin of the Albanian people.

In connection with the origin of the Albanian language, as is known, three different theses have long been advanced: the thesis of its Illyrian origin, that of its Thracian origin, and that of its Illyro-Thracian origin. The thesis of the Illyrian origin of the Albanian language is gaining ground thanks to the studies of many Albanian and foreign Albanologists coupled with the results of studies in archaeology and other fields. More and more convincing proofs are being advanced in favour of this thesis. First and foremost this thesis is based on firm historical grounds. The fact that the present Albanians live in the territory inhabited formerly by the Illyrians supports the fact that the Albanians are the descendants of the Illyrians and the Albanian a further development of the Illyrian language.

Thus, on the historical plane the origin of the Albanian language and the Albanian people is closely linked with the problem of the autochthonous character of the Albanian people i.e., are the Albanians the indigenous population of the regions which they inhabit today, or have they come there in later times? In general, it is accepted that the Albanians are autochthonous in their present-day territories. A wealth of finds made in the course of archaeological excavations after Liberation shows that there is a continuity of culture from the Illyrians to the Albanians, which proves the autochthony of the Albanians in their territories since pre-historic times.

Moreover, the thesis on the Illyrian origin of the Albanian language is backed up by strong and sound linguistic arguments. Those linguistic elements, which modern science has at its disposal about the Illyrian language, find their explanation through the Albanian. The Albanian historical toponymy is of particular importance for proving the autochthony of the Albanians and consequently, the Illyrian origin of the Albanian language. The comparisons between the ancient forms of place names (Dalmatia, Dardania, Dimallum, Ulcinium, etc.) and the present forms shows that the latter are the uninterrupted continuation of the former, in line with the historical phonetics of the Albanian language.

A number of works and studies carried out during these years in various fields of Albanology have refuted many erroneous theses of foreign Albanologists on the origin of the Albanian people and language and have, thus, scientifically backed the truth about many important questions relating to the history of the Albanians.

The Albanian language is among the later documented Indo-European languages. The earli-

est written document of the Albanian we possess is one belonging to the 15th century (1462) — a brief formula of baptizing written in Latin alphabet by the archbishop of Durrës, Pal Engjëlli, a contemporary of Skanderbeg. The first book in Albanian we know of is Gjon Buzuku's «Meshari» («The Missal») published in 1555.

A rapid glance over the history of the Albanian language can not fail to bring out this contradictory aspect. On the one hand, a language documented in writing very late, in the 15th century, and on the other, an ancient people autochthonous in these regions of the Balkans since pre-history. Historically it is a well-known fact that the Albanians are among the most ancient peoples of the Balkan Peninsula. Archaeological data prove that the Albanian people have been living in these parts for well over three thousands years. From one generation to another they have spoken their own language which they have preserved and developed as the most precious thing, to our days. Thus, we have the Albanian — a language so ancient as a spoken language and so recent as a written language. Hence, it is only reasonable to think that the Albanian must have been written long before the 15th century. Historical documents testify to a much older tradition of the Albanian writing. In a description of our country in 1332 attributed to the French monk Brockard, but which was in fact written by the archbishop of Tivar, Guilielmus Adeae, it is stated: «Though the Albanians have a language which is utterly different from that of the Latin people, they use Latin letters in all their books.»

We learn about the existence of written works other than those of a religious character from what Marin Barleti, the historian of the

15th-16th century from Shkodra and the biographer of Skanderbeg, tells us. Among other things he mentions some chronicles written in vernacular, that is, in Albanian. In his book «The Siege of Shkodra» he writes: «Of late I got hold of some annals which are in fact fragments of writings rather than annals. These fragments, based on legends of our forefathers, tell us more about the reconstruction than about the construction of this city. From them we learn in the language of the people that a man named Rosa and his sister are those who first founded the city of Shkodra.»

Gjon Buzuku's book, like the later works by other old authors, are proof of the existence of an older tradition of the written Albanian. The language in which the first Albanian book we know of has been written, is a rich language which flows smoothly. It has a comparatively well-established graphic and orthographic system. It is elaborated to such a degree that it cannot be a language which has just started to be written, or more so, a language written for the first time. For this simple reason the five hundred-year period of the written Albanian language should be viewed only as a small part of the history of the Albanian language, as the recent stage of its historical development.

Buzuku's «Meshari» («The Missal») marks the first stage of the literary Albanian language. The literary Albanian of that period, which stretches to the turn of the 19th century, existed as a system of unequally developed sub-systems. There existed then an asymmetrical development between the written and spoken language. The written language did not reflect all the lexical and phraseological wealth of the spoken language. In this period the Albanian language existed in three

main literary variants with a strongly dialectical basis: the Geg*, the Tosk* and the Arbëresh** literary variants. One cannot speak about a unified literary norm at that time. The language itself must have performed very limited social functions. From the earlier centuries up to the 19th century the literary Albanian language, could not make such a qualitative leap as it did during the second half of that century, which marks the beginning of the second stage of the literary Albanian and the formation of the Albanian nation with its literary movement of the Albanian National Renaissance. There existed in those days very backward feudal socio-economic relations, a very low cultural level and religious dissension. The Albanian was officially forbidden to be taught at school and its teachers were persecuted by the occupiers, by the clergy, etc. Insurmountable obstacles and difficulties were put on the road of the free development of the literary Albanian language.

In the 19th century, with the beginning of the strong movement for national liberation and, along with it, of the Albanian National Renaissance, the efforts for the development, learning and dissemination of the Albanian at school, the publication of various literary and artistic books, etc., were placed at the centre of the attention and of the struggle of our people for freedom, education and culture. As Comrade Enver Hoxha has stressed, «The rifle and the ABC book, like twins, have always been carried by the Albanian people in their trenches fighting for freedom, independence, land, rights and progress».

* Geg, Tosk — dialects of North and South Albania respectively.

** Arbëresh — dialect of the Arbëreshi (Albanians who have emigrated to Italy in the 15th century).

The opening of the first Albanian school on the 7th of March 1887 in Korça, along with other schools in different districts of the country, the establishing of the unified Albanian alphabet at the Manastir Congress in 1908, the further elaboration and development of the Albanian language were among the main achievements in the language field scored during the first stage of this period. During the second stage of the National Renaissance, which begins with the year 1912, when Albania's independence was proclaimed, up to the eve of the country's liberation, the process of the convergence into a literary language and the efforts to unify it made further progress. Nevertheless, this process was badly obstructed by the backward socio-economic situation, by the then obscurantist regimes, religious division, as well as by the foreign intervention of the imperialist and chauvinistic forces.

During the period of the National Liberation War the national literary language gains new quantitative and qualitative features which, in turn, prepared the ground for and enabled the transition into a new stage of the literary language after Liberation. This period is characterized by the emergence of as big mass of people speaking, reading and writing the literary language. These factors gave the Albanian literary language an activity and scope, a truly national character.

In the period after Liberation, in the conditions of the construction of the socialist society, of great national unity in the economic, political and cultural fields, of uninterrupted development of all the creative living forces, of unprecedented development of education and publications in the mother tongue, and a correct policy of the socialist state in the field of language, we witness

the final crystallization of an Albanian literary language with clear structural and functional features — as a single language which is common and one and the same to the whole Albanian nation. Two scientific sessions may be regarded as crucial moments in the process of the formation and development of the Albanian national literary language: the Scientific Session of 1952, when the first attempts were made at clarifying and elucidating the problems related to the road of the formation of the national literary language from the positions of dialectical and historical materialism. The Congress of Orthography of 1972, which not only sanctioned the unification of the orthography of the Albanian language, but also confirmed with scientifically grounded arguments that **the Albanian people have now a unified literary language**, the literary norm of which has already been crystallized in all its main links: phonetic, morphology, vocabulary and word-formation.

After Liberation, the development of the language in a convergent manner brought about new qualitative changes also to the dialectal basis of the literary Albanian at the foundations of which lie today the common elements of the two principal dialects or the two former literary variants.

The Albanian linguistics has scientifically demonstrated that the present-day literary Albanian is formed not on a simple and narrow one dialect basis, but on a wider basis which includes the basic common elements of the two dialects — that of Toskëria and that of Gegëria, or the corresponding literary variants in almost equal proportions.

The lexical structure of the present-day literary Albanian is characterized by a rich vocabulary, the core of which is made up of words

of the basic autochthonous fund. It is an open-ended structure which continues to grow richer not only through the contribution of the dialects existing in the territory of the PSR of Albania, but also through the contribution of the sub-dialects existing beyond the boundaries of our state, which are linguistically valuable and serve the present-day lexical structure. The lexical structure of present-day literary Albanian is the result of a fight for the purity of the language from more advanced positions than that of the people of the National Renaissance. It makes a distinction between old and new borrowings, between unnecessary foreign words and those international words which are more often than not necessary, especially in the technical and scientific terminology. The care shown to clear the vocabulary of the present-day literary Albanian from unnecessary foreign words is an expression of the concern to preserve the purity of our language, which is one of the most important features of a nation and of a national culture. In the present lexical structure there is a tendency to bring the written literary language closer and closer to the language spoken by the people and to further enrich it as a language of a rich culture, the language of literature, science and technique.

The present literary Albanian language has now entered a high stage of its functional development. The social functions of the literary Albanian have grown in scope, just as its communicating and expressive value has gained in strength. It was only after Liberation that it began to serve as the language of the higher school and science. Today it has developed its four principal functional styles: the socio-political style, the literary style, the scientific style and the official style. The linguistic means cha-

racteristic of each of these styles, have become properly differentiated. The spoken Albanian, as a form of literary Albanian, has developed its own language means which are different for, and characteristic of, the various styles of the spoken language. Thus, we may say our literary language has assumed a fully polyvalent character only in the period of the complete construction of the socialist society.

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The Albanian linguistics has a tradition of well over 300 years. It begins with «A Latin-Albanian Dictionary» by Frank Bardhi (1635). But the problem of the study and development of the Albanian language came to the fore only during the second half of the 19th century, together with the whole cultural activity carried out by the Albanian National Renaissance movement.

Despite the work done by a number of generations of Albanian and foreign linguists up to the period before the Liberation of the country, it had not yet been possible to achieve a comprehensive study of the language structure of the Albanian in all its aspects, nor had there been written such works as would synthesize and sum up studies on the diverse aspects of the Albanian language. Thus, for instance, there was neither a scientific grammar of the contemporary Albanian, nor a historical grammar. There was not an Albanian dictionary with word explanations, be it even a small-size one.

The triumph of the people's revolution, the establishment of the new social order of the dictatorship of the proletariat opened up for the Albanian linguistics new vistas and unprece-

dent possibilities for its development. The necessary foundations were laid for an organized scientific work by setting up specialized institutions of scientific research. The numerous profound and many-sided studies on the fundamental problems of our language, carried out during the years of the people's power, have been based on a new material which was collected throughout the territory of the Albanian language. They made it possible for the system of the Albanian language, its dialects and history to be known and studied in a comprehensive and scientific manner. On this basis a number of fundamental works of a general character were compiled.

One of the most important achievements made so far is the theoretical study of the morphological and syntactical structure of the contemporary Albanian in its main aspects. There began, on an unbroken ground, the scientific study of the Albanian phonetics. All these studies made possible the compiling of «**The Scientific Grammar of the Albanian Language**».

New trails were blazed in the study of the lexical structure and phraseology of the Albanian language. For the first time in the history of the Albanian vocabulary there are now well over 150 thousand files of Albanian words which reflect Albanian life in town and country in its all-round historical development. On their basis were compiled «**The Albanian Language Spelling Dictionary**» (32,000 entries) and «**The Dictionary of the Presentday Albanian Language**» (over 41.000 entries). Work has also begun for compiling a dictionary of Albanian words and their explanation in many volumes.

A large amount of work has been and is being done for defining and unifying the terminology of various sciences, technique and pro-

duction. For this purpose more than 20 terminological dictionaries of Albanian words with their equivalents in several languages have been compiled.

The studies which have been carried out in the realm of the word-formation have shown that Albanian has one of the most flexible word-formation structures among the family of the Indo-European languages, with great creative ability — both real and potential. This is how our language has been able to cope with the ever-increasing demands of our socialist society by making use mainly of its own material and not by borrowing from foreign languages.

The study and research work in the realm of dialectology have thrown light on the peculiarities of the dialects and spoken variants of Albanian. They show the present status of the spoken Albanian and show the ways the formation of the national literary language has gone through, its links with the dialects, as well as the history of the Albanian language. This purpose will be better served by the publication of **«The Dialectical Map of the Albanian Language»**, a work which will push further ahead our research work in the field of dialectology.

The concentrated efforts and activities carried out in the process of the formation of the common literary language were crowned with success especially with the Congress of Orthography (1972) and a series of informative works published in its wake.

The Albanian scientific thought dominates today also the field of the history of the Albanian language. The Albanian linguistics has given many new answers and solutions to the question of the genesis and evolution of the main elements of the Albanian phonetics and morphology. It has also made big strides forward in the study

of Albanian etymology. The important work **«Studies On the Etymology of the Albanian Language»**, by Prof. Eqrem Çabej, is a landmark in this field.

After Liberation, the Albanian linguistics placed at the centre of its research work the study of the living language of the people, the contemporary Albanian language, without leaving aside the study of some problems relating to the history of the language but also having special significance for the history of our nation. It is precisely this close connection with the living processes of the spoken and written language of the people that makes the Albanian linguistics a truly living science. Such a science is able to properly meet the present and future needs of our national school and culture. It helps inculcate among the labouring masses, especially among the younger generation, the love and veneration for the mother tongue — this irreplaceable means which links the members of our nation through a thousand threads with their native land, its past, and with the glorious epoch of socialism.

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In addition to the Albanian-speaking population of the PSR of Albania, Albanian is spoken beyond its borders. It is the mother tongue of the Albanians living in Yugoslavia and Greece, and in other countries of the world Albanian is also spoken in many settlements of Albanians abroad. Most of them have emigrated from their country some centuries ago, with the remainder having left Albanian in the end of the last century and the beginning of the present century.

In Yugoslavia, Albanian is spoken in North-western Macedonia and Kosova; in the regions of Peshter, Presheva and Bujanovc, as well as in Montenegro, in the regions of Plava, Gucia, Triepsh and Gruda; in the mountain region of Kraja, in Ulqin and its environments. Today the Albanians of Kosova, Macedonia and Montenegro speak the common, unified literary Albanian. In Greece, the Albanian language is spoken in the region of Çamëria. It must be said that the Albanian spoken in both Yugoslavia and Greece cannot be distinguished from the Albanian spoken in the present-day Albania, as they have not undergone separate development.

The Albanian language has been preserved and continues to be spoken in ancient Albanian settlements in Greece, Italy and elsewhere. In the islands of Hydra, Paros, Spetcia, Salamina and Eubea, in Peloponnesus, and in the region of Athens Albanian is spoken as far back as the 4th century. Somewhat of later date is the Albanian spoken in the regions of Molise, Capitanata, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily, etc. Most of the Albanian settlements there date back to the 15th and 16th centuries.

More recent is the Albanian spoken in Dalmatia (the village Arbanas near Zara) founded towards the beginning of the 18th century, the Albanian spoken in Mandrica in Bulgaria and the Albanian spoken by the Albanian settlers in the Ukraine, (the districts of Melitopol and Odesa) who went there at the beginning and the middle of the 19th century.

Having been separated for a long time from the motherland, the Albanian spoken in these settlements has come under the influence of a foreign milieu, but most forms of it especially of the Arbëreshi in Italy, have been very well-preserved. On the basis of this language has

been created an artistic literature represented by well-known poets and writers like Jeronim de Rada, A. Santori, G. Dara, Z. Serembe, V. Stratigo, V. Dorsa and many others.

In our days the new generation of Arbëreshi are following the path of their enlightened forefathers, striving to defend the Albanian language and folklore from extinction.

Outside the Homeland, the Albanian language is spoken also by the Albanians who have emigrated in the past century and the beginning of this one to Egypt, the USA, Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Rumania, etc.

THE CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION

On December 28, 1976, the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania adopted the new Constitution. The former Constitution had been adopted in 1946.

The drafting of the new Constitution was dictated by the profound social and economic changes that had taken place in our country. In the first place, these were changes in the new economic base. The liquidation of the capitalist sector of the economy and the establishment of a unique system of economy, the creation of the socialist ownership of the means of production and the collectivization of agriculture, brought about the establishment of the socialist relations in production, both in town and countryside, thus abolishing the exploitation of man by man once and for good.

By reflecting the socialist reality in our country, the new Constitution represents an important Marxist-Leninist document which shows the features of a true socialist state. By summing up our revolutionary practice, the Constitution — our fundamental law, clearly defines that our state is the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat (Article 2). The sanctioning by Constitution of the proletarian class character of our state is of great significance, both for the present and the future of socialism and communism in Albania. It serves to bar the road, even

in a legal way, to the usurpation of power by the anti-socialist, bourgeois and revisionist elements, so as not to allow the degeneration of the dictatorship of the proletariat and to ensure the complete and final construction of socialism and communism in our country.

In the Constitution it is stated, «The Party of Labour of Albania, the vanguard of the working class, is the sole leading political force of the state and the society.» (Article 3).

The Constitution states that Marxism-Leninism is the dominant ideology according to the principles of which the entire socialist social order is developed (Article 3).

The Constitution lays down that the goals and the basic tasks of the state of the proletarian dictatorship, are the uninterrupted development of the revolution abiding by the principle of the class struggle, so as to ensure the final victory of the socialist road of development over the capitalist road and to achieve the complete building of socialism and communism.

The Constitution also sanctions such important principles as that on people's sovereignty, democratic centralism, socialist legality, the struggle against bureaucracy and liberalism, mass line, the direct worker and peasant control, the harmonization of the personal and general interests, the combination of the material stimuli with the moral ones, by giving priority to the latter, the maintenance of correct proportions in remuneration so as not to allow the creation of privileged strata, etc.

The Constitution defines the general lines of the foreign policy pursued by socialist Albania. It proclaims that the borders of our Republic are inviolable prohibits the setting up of foreign military bases and the stationing of foreign troops in its territory and recognizes no one the

right to sign or accept, in the name of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the capitulation or occupation of the country (Article 90).

In order to bar the road to any kind of infringement of national and economic independence, the Constitution prohibits the granting of concessions to, and the creation of, foreign economic and financial companies and other institutions, or ones formed jointly with bourgeois and revisionist capitalist monopolies and states, as well as obtaining credits from them (Article 28).

Our Constitution reflects the principle of self-reliance as a general course of socialist construction in Albania.

Our fundamental law states clearly and explicitly that it does not recognize any restriction or privilege on the rights and duties of citizens on account of sex, race, nationality, education, social position or material situation (Article 40).

Article 42 of the Constitution guarantees the rights of national minorities, stating:

«Protection and development of their people's culture and traditions, the use of their mother tongue and teaching of it in school, equal development in all fields of social life are guaranteed for national minorities.

«Any national privilege and inequality and any act which violates the rights of national minorities is contrary to the Constitution and is punishable by law.»

Citizens who reach the age of 18 years have the right to elect and be elected to all the organs of state power. The only persons excluded from electoral rights are those deprived of them by decision of the court and those who are mentally incompetent and declared as such by the court (Article 43).

The Constitution of the PSR of Albania devotes an important place to questions related to work. Work, which is guaranteed by the state, is a duty and honour for every able-bodied citizen. Citizens have all the rights to choose and exercise their profession according to their capacity and personal inclinations. At the same time, the basic interests of the society, the interests of the socialist construction make it a must that, when choosing and exercising the profession, proper regard should be shown so that they are in conformity with the needs of the society (Article 44). In close relation with the right to work, the Constitution declares that citizens enjoy the right of rest after work; to this end a vast network of rest homes and other recreation centres has been created. Citizens of town and countryside are guaranteed the necessary material means of livelihood in old age, in case of illness or loss of ability to work. Special care is devoted to the invalids of the National Liberation War, those of the struggle for the defence of the Homeland and invalids from work, and conditions are created for their rehabilitation. The citizens are guaranteed the right to education, medical service and medical treatment in the health institutions of the country, free of charge.

The Constitution sanctions the equal rights between man and woman. Article 41 reads, «The woman, liberated from political oppression and economic exploitation, as a great force of the revolution, takes an active part in the socialist construction of the country and the defence of the Homeland. The woman enjoys equal rights with man in work, pay, holidays, social security, education, in all social-political activity, as well as in the family».

The Constitution guarantees the inviolabi-

lity of the person. Nobody can be arrested without the decision of the court or the approval of the prosecutor. Nobody can be sentenced penally without the verdict of the court or without being present at court apart from when it has been legally proved that he is missing.

In the PSR of Albania the home is inviolable.

The secrecy of correspondence and other means of communication cannot be violated except in the cases of the investigation of a crime, a state of emergency, or of war.

Parallel with the rights of citizens, the Constitution sanctions also their duties. The citizens are obliged to respect and implement the state laws, to preserve and strengthen the social order and the rules of socialist coexistence, to protect and strengthen socialist property. The defence of the socialist Homeland is the supreme duty of and the greatest honour for all citizens.

**STATE
ORGANIZATION**

STATE ORGANIZATION

Albania is a People's Socialist Republic.

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania is the state of the dictatorship of the proletariat which expresses and defends the interests of all the workers. It is based on the unity of the people and has at its roots the alliance of the working class with the cooperativist peasantry, under the leadership of the working class.

The Party of Labour of Albania is the sole leading political force of the state and society. Marxism-Leninism is the dominant ideology. On the basis of its principles, the entire socialist social order is run.

The alliance of the working class with the peasantry, which makes up the overwhelming majority of the country's population, constitutes the social basis of the socialist state in our country. Its political basis are the representative organs and the general line of the Party of Labour of Albania for the construction of socialism and the defence of the Homeland. Its economic basis is the socialist social property which has been established both in, town and countryside; its ideological basis is Marxism-Leninism — the revolutionary ideology of the working class, its organizational basis is the De-

mocratic Front led by the Party of Labour of Albania.

In the People's Socialist Republic of Albania the entire state power emanates from and belongs to the working people. The working class, the cooperative peasantry and the other working people exercise their power through their representative organs and directly. The representative organs, as principal organs of the state, direct and control the activity of all the other state organs, which are responsible and render account before them. They are elected by the people by general, equal, direct and secret ballot. The electors have the right to recall their representative at any time when he has lost the political trust of the masses or when he fails to fulfil the tasks assigned to him or when he acts in contravention of the laws.

The working class as the leading class of our society, the cooperative peasantry as well as the other working people, under the leadership of the PLA, exercise direct organized control over the activity of the state organs, the economic and social organizations and their working people in order to defend the victories of the revolution and to consolidate the socialist order.

In the system of the state organs, the representative organs which consist of the People's Assembly, at the centre, and the People's Councils, at the base, are the only organs which realize the sovereignty of the people. Throughout their work, they rely on the creative initiative of the working masses, draw them in running the country and render account to them. All other state organs are subordinate to the representative organs. The latter render account before the elected organs.

THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

The People's Assembly is the highest organ of state power, which bears the sovereignty of the people and the state, and the only law-making organ. It is elected by the people directly, by general suffrage, for a term of four years. In conformity with the general line and directives of the PLA, the People's Assembly defines the main directions of the internal and foreign policy of the state, approves and changes the Constitution and the laws, decides on the compatibility of the laws with the Constitution and interprets laws, approves the plan of the economic and cultural development of the country and the budget of the state, proclaims the general and partial mobilization, the state of emergency and state of war in case of armed aggression against the PSR of Albania, ratifies and denounces international treaties of special importance, gives amnesty, decides on the people's referendums, elects, nominates and discharges the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and vice-Attorney generals, the Chairman of the General Investigation Office and its vice-chairmen, defines the territorial-administrative structure and decides on the setting up and closing of ministries.

Of special importance for the carrying out of the tasks of an organizational character by the People's Assembly is the activity of its Chairmanship. This is elected from the ranks of the People's Assembly and engages chiefly with its internal life. It represents the People's Assembly in its relation with the representative organs of other states. However, in any case, the activity of the Chairmanship, in complete distinction

to that of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, does not extend to the field of the realization of state power.

Elections to the last legislature (the 10th) of the People's Assembly were held on 14 November 1982. In this legislature the People's Assembly was comprised of 250 deputies, 113 of whom (or 42.2 per cent) were elected for the first time. Of the deputies, 95 come from the ranks of the working class, 73 from the ranks of the cooperative peasantry. In the ranks of the People's Assembly there are 76 women, who make up 30.4 per cent of the deputies, and 192 deputies (or 76.8 per cent) have finished higher schools.

On the basis of the law in force, Albanian citizens who are 18 years on the election day have the right to take part in the elections and be elected deputies to the People's Assembly.

The only persons excluded from this right are the citizens deprived of it by decision of the court, and those who are mentally incompetent and declared as such by the court.

The candidates proposed enjoy the respect of the masses for their exemplary conduct in society and attitude towards work.

Their candidature is subject to open discussion in meetings by the electors, where they express their opinions.

Elections take place in one of the off-days.

Voting centres are set up in every election precinct and each of them has a special voting room or booth, in which, apart from the voters, nobody, not even the members of the commission of the voting centre, are allowed to enter.

Every elector goes to the voting centre to vote individually.

No propaganda is allowed during the voting. Every citizen enjoys this right during the election campaign, when every organization and every

citizen is free to boost the candidate registered at meetings, through the press, etc.

The deputy receives only the wage at his work centre. Being a deputy is a title of honour.

THE PRESIDIUM OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

The Presidium of the People's Assembly is a superior organ of the state power with permanent activity. It is comprised of the President, 3 vice-presidents the secretary and 10 members. The President also carries out the function of the head of state.

The Presidium of the People's Assembly is elected from the ranks of the People's Assembly at its first session and continues its activity till the election of a new Presidium.

Between sessions of the People's Assembly, the Presidium controls the implementation of the laws and decisions of the People's Assembly, the activity the Council of Ministers, the Supreme Court, the Attorney General, the General Investigation Office and any other state organ, and summons them to report, it issues decrees and decisions, makes interpretations of laws, etc. Besides this, it has other permanent powers — it convenes the sessions of the People's Assembly, sets the date of elections to the People's Assembly and the people's councils, accords Albanian citizenship, awards decorations and titles of honour, exercises the right of pardon, appoints diplomatic representatives, accepts the credentials and the letters of recall of the diplomatic representatives of foreign states, etc.; it directs and controls the activity of the people's councils, abrogates the unlawful or incorrect acts of the

Council of Ministers, of the people's councils and of the executive committees.

The Presidium of the People's Assembly is a collective organ and renders account before the People's Assembly.

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

The people's councils also are organs of the state power, which carry out their activity in the respective territorial administrative units. They are elected by the people directly for a term of three years and like the People's Assembly they carry out their activity in sessions and not permanently.

The people's councils have important competences in all matters of socialist construction, within the territorial-administrative unit where they exercise their activity. The people's councils direct all social life in the political, economic, social-cultural fields, the defence of the country and the protection of the socialist juridical order, reconciling the local interests with the general state interests.

THE ORGANS OF THE STATE ADMINISTRATION

The executive and legislative activity is a special form of the state activity, which is carried out by the organs of the state administration. All the organs of the state administration are under full and effective dependence of the People's Assembly and the people's councils of various levels.

The Council of Ministers is the supreme organ of the state administration. It carries out executive and legislative activity on a national

scale, co-ordinating and directing all this kind of state activity. The Council of Ministers is appointed and revoked by the People's Assembly and renders account to it; between sessions of the People's Assembly it renders account before the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

The Council of Ministers directs the activity for the realization of the internal and external policies of the state, promulgates decisions, ordinances and instructions on the basis of the Constitution and the laws, directs and controls the activity of the ministries and the other central organs of the state administration and the executive committees of the people's councils; it works out the draft-plan for the economic and cultural development of the country, the draft budget of the state; it organizes and controls the finances of the state and the monetary and credit system, it takes measures for the security, protection and strengthening of the socialist juridical order and the rights of citizens, etc.

The ministries, as central organs of the state administration, specialized in particular branches of activity, which are directed by members of the Council of Ministers, carry out executive and legislative activity. The ministers are responsible for the activity of their respective ministries and of the Council of Ministers; they direct and control the organs, enterprises, institutions and economic organizations of their sector.

The Defence Council is instituted to direct, organize and mobilize all the forces and resources of the country in defence of the Homeland. The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania is the Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and Chairman of the Defence Council. The composition of the Defence Council is defined by the Pre-

sidium of the People's Assembly on the proposal of the Chairman of the Defence Council.

In order to carry out their executive and legislative activities in different territorial administrative units, the people's councils of these units elect respective executive committees. They depend both on the people's councils which have elected them and on the higher executive and legislative organs. Specialized organisms attached to them are dependent on the people's council, the Executive Committee and the higher organs of the state administration.

THE PEOPLE'S COURTS

The people's courts are the organs which administer justice.

The people's courts protect the socialist juridical order, fight for the prevention of crimes, educate the masses of working people to respect and implement the socialist law.

At the head of the organs of justice is the Supreme Court, which directs and controls the activity of the courts. It is elected at the first session of every legislature of the People's Assembly. The other people's courts are elected by the people directly and pass their decisions in the name of the people. Judgement is given with the participation of assistant judges who are elected directly by the people. Through their decisions they exert major educative influence, not only on the persons brought before court but also on all others.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

The duty of the Attorney General's Office is to control the precise and uniform implementa-

tion of the laws by the ministries and other central and local organs, by the courts, the organs of investigation, enterprises, institutions, organizations, officials and citizens.

The Attorney General's Office has the right to protest against every illegal act and to demand from the respective organs its abrogation or amendment.

The Attorney General and his deputies are appointed by the People's Assembly.

THE INVESTIGATION OFFICE

The Investigation Office is the organ of the People's Assembly which investigates into penal acts. The duty of the Investigation Office is to protect the socialist juridical order, to discover and prevent penal acts from being committed to educate the working masses to implement the socialist law. The investigation organs are comprised of the General Investigation Office and the investigation office branches in the districts.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The PSR of Albania is divided into 26 territorial-administrative districts. The geographical and economic compatibility of the territory of each unit, as well as its historical, political and other factors, have been considered to define its respective area.

The districts are divided into smaller units, into towns and united villages, while the towns are divided into city-quarters and the united villages into villages. The area of the territory of the united village, the latter comprising several villages, depends on the capacity of economic

organization of the state farm, the highertype cooperative or the united agricultural cooperative.

All these territorial-administrative units have their respective organs of local power which carry out their activity in the given territory.

On the basis of the territorial-administrative division, in 1982 there were 65 towns, and 438 united villages, comprising 2664 villages in the territory of the PSR of Albania.

The territorial-administrative units (districts) are as follows:

Shkodra district

Area — 2528 sq.km.; population 206 200; density — nearly 82 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population lives in the town of Shkodra (70,000 inhabitants), which is the centre of the district, and in 181 villages.

From the point of view of its area, Shkodra district is the largest in Albania, and makes up 9 per cent of the area of the country. In regard to its population, it occupies fifth place, after Tirana, Durrës, Fier and Elbasan.

Shkodra district lies in the northeastern part of the country, and comprises a good part of the Alps. This is the most mountainous region of the country and is renowned for its beauty. Rest homes for the working people have been set up in Theth and Razma.

This district has a developed industry and agriculture. Industrial production accounts for 67 per cent of the economic tasks of the district, whereas agriculture 33 per cent of them.

In 1982, as against 1970, industrial and agricultural production was 2.3 and 1.5 times greater, respectively.

The industry of Shkodra district accounts for nearly 8 per cent of the total industrial produc-

tion of the country, thus ranking in the fifth place.

According to their production value, the main branches' of the industry are food-processing — which accounts for 1/4th of the district industrial production and stands out for its multibranched structure; non-ferrous metallurgy (copper-processing and the production of copper wires and cables) which accounts for 1/5th of the district industrial production, and then metal-working light industry, electric power, wood-working and paper-making, etc.

Agriculture, too, stands out for its multibranched structure. Cereals, especially grain, occupy the main place among other crops. Industrial crops, vegetables and fruit-growing are also important. The district is renowned for the production of tobacco, which is planted especially in the Upper-Shkodra Plain (Koplik), as well as for vine-yards, especially in the plain of Shtoi. In Lower Shkodra there are blocks of fig-trees, peaches and olive-groves. The plain of Lower Shkodra is the most important agricultural and livestock region of the district, with the biggest agricultural economies, state farms and higher-type cooperatives. It is distinguished for the high intensification of field crops production, as well as for livestock raising.

In 1979 the Presidium of the People's Assembly awarded the lofty title of «Hero of Socialist Labour», to the Shkodra district for its socio-economic development and the work done to liquidate the consequences of the April 15, 1979 earthquake.

Tropoja district

Area — 1043 sq.km, population — 39 800 density — 38.3 inhabitants per sq. km.

This district, with its centre in the town of

Bajram Curri, with more than 5000 inhabitants, and 56 villages. In regard to its area, Tropoja has an average size as compared to the other districts, whereas in regard to its population it ranks among those with a small population.

Tropoja lies on the northeastern part of Albania, on the blocs of the Alps, so its relief is mountainous. Here the Valbona valley is famous for its natural beauty.

The inhabitants of this district are engaged in industry, and agriculture. Livestock raising is highly developed in the alpine pasture lands of this zone.

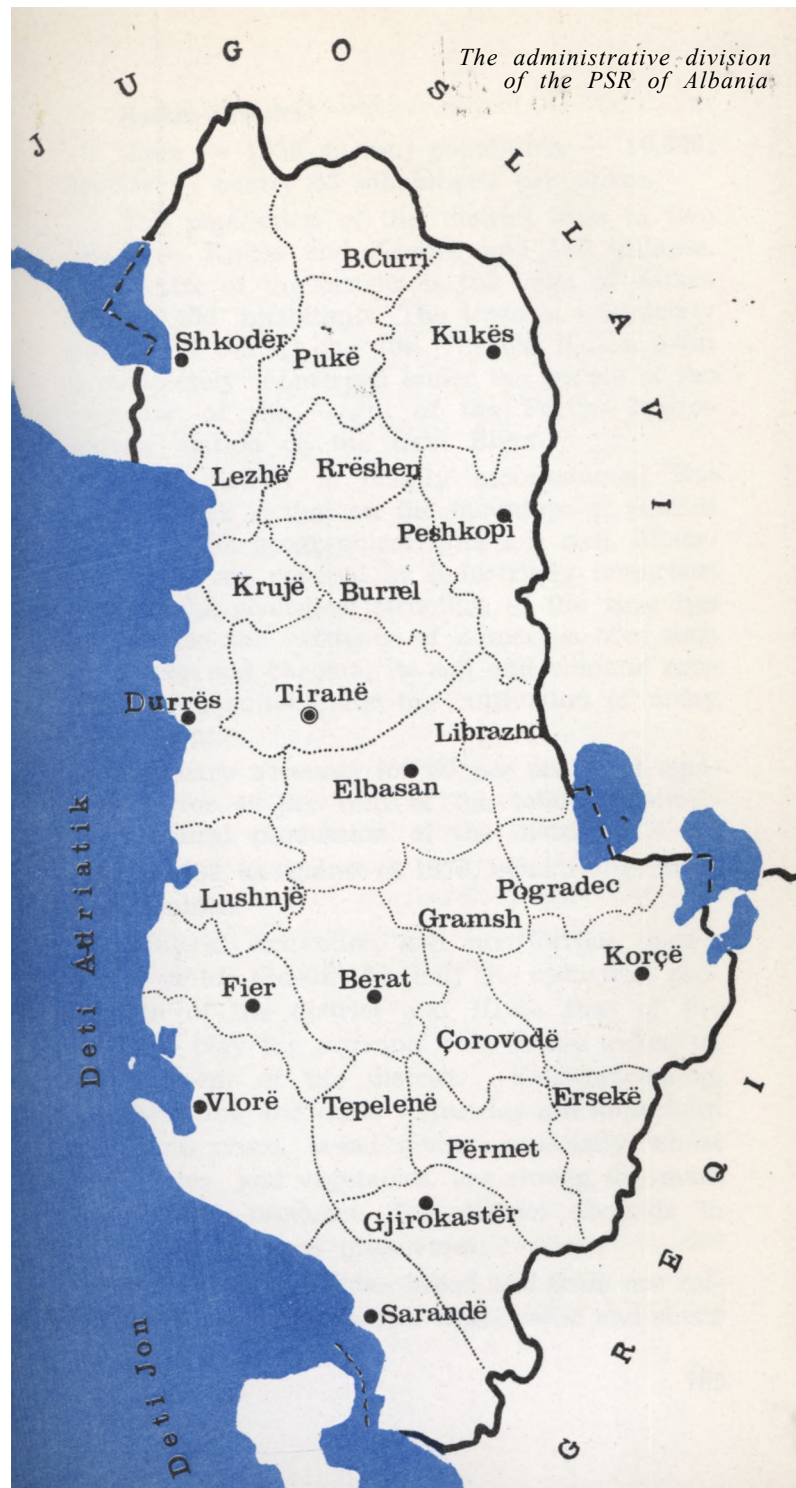
Industry accounts for 76 per cent of the district total production, whereas agriculture 24 per cent.

In 1982 industrial production was 22 times larger than in 1970.

Its water resources are a major reserve for the electric power industry, which occupies a principal place — accounting for 3/4 of the district industrial production and 30 per cent of the gross electric power production of the country. The «Light of the Party» hydro-power station, one of the biggest projects of our hydro-energy so far, with a generating capacity of 500,000 kW, has been built in Fierza, on the Drin River.

The food-processing and mining industries play an important part in the district economy.

The field crops, especially bread grains and vegetables account for the greater part of the total agricultural production. Large tracks of land are planted with chestnuts (the biggest plantation of the country) and black, or as they call them there, Tropoja plums.



Kukës district

Area — 1330 sq.km.; population — 86 000, density — nearly 65 inhabitants per sq.km.

The population of this district lives in two towns — Kukës and Kruma, and 100 villages. The centre of the district is the town of Kukës with 10,400 inhabitants. The town is completely new, built during the 70s. The old Kukës town is completely submerged under the waters of the reservoir of the «Light of the Party» hydro-power station on the Drin River.

This district is mainly mountainous. The highest peak is that on the mountain of Gjalica (2480 m). Its geographical milieu is rich. Mountain zones are covered by industrially important forests; the geological structure of the zone has determined the existence of numerous ores such as copper and chrome; its soil and climatic conditions are suitable for the cultivation of many field crops.

Industry accounts for 60 per cent and agriculture for 40 per cent of the total industrial-agricultural production of the district.

In 1982, as against of 1970, industrial production doubled.

Mineral extraction and non-ferrous metallurgy, which account for half the industrial production of the district and 1/10th that of the country, play the principal role in the industrial development of the district. Food-processing, woodworking and other industries are important.

Field crops, bread giving, especially wheat and barley, and vegetables, are among the main agricultural products. The district abounds in plums, apples and grapevines.

Sheep of the «Ruda» breed and goats are raised in the mountain areas, while cattle and sheep

are raised in the rivers valleys and in the Has Highlands. The Has Highlands, where the state farm of Kruma has been set up, is an important agricultural area.

Dibra district

Area — 1568 sq.km.; population — 134 800; density — 86 inhabitants per sq.km.

The population of this district lives in two towns, Peshkopi and Bulqiza, and 182 villages. Peshkopia is the centre of the administrative unit with 9,000 inhabitants. Bulqiza is a new miners' town.

This district lies on the eastern part of the Republic, on either side of the Black Drin River. The Drin valley is the lowest part of the district. The Korab peak (2751 m.), the country's highest peak, is situated in this district. Mineral ores such as chrome, sulphur, marble, etc., have been discovered in this district in the years of socialist construction. The thermal-mineral water springs are situated in the vicinity of Peshkopia and have important curative values.

The forests in the mountain regions, especially Lura with its 7 glacial lakes, are famous for their natural beauty.

Agriculture, which supplies 53 per cent the district's total production, occupies the main place in the district economy.

Agriculture stands out for its multi-branched structure. Principal place is occupied by bread grain (wheat, maize and barley), vegetables, especially dry-beans, and fruit-growing.

Fruit trees are represented by plums, apples, cherries and nuts.

The Black Drin River valley in the most important agricultural region, where the state farm has been set up. Cattle raising is concentrated here.

The rest is accounted for by industry, in which the mineral extraction together with the chromiun ore-dressing industry, come first, to be followed by the food-processing and other industries.

Mat district

Area — 1028 sq. km.; population — 67 000; density — 66 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of the district lives in 4 towns (Burrel, Klos, Ulëz and Krasta) and in 69 villages. Burrel is the centre of the district, with 7,500 inhabitants. Ulza is its centre of electric power industry, Klos of food-processing industry, and Krasta of mining industry. Mat district lies on a mainly mountainous terrain, in the central part of the country, on both sides of the Mat River valley. The highest peak (over 2240 m.) is on the Deja Mountain.

Industry, which accounts for 65 per cent of the total production of the district, occupies the greater part of its economy. Mining and the ferro-chrome metallurgy, which turn out 2/3 of the total industrial production of the district, account for 1/10 of the national production of these branches. The district has its food-processing, timber and other industries.

The industrial production realized in Mat in 1982 was 2,6 times greater than in 1970. In this district two hydro-power stations, the «Karl Marx» and «Friedrich Engels» hydro-power stations, have been set up on the Mat River.

Field crops especially bread grain, play the main role in agriculture which accounts for 35% of the total industrial agricultural production of the district. Livestock raising and fruit growing

are the main pursuits of the population in the hilly regions on both sides of the Mat valley.

A state farm has been set up in the Mat valley engaging also in cattle raising. Sheep and goats are raised on the hilly and mountainous zone. The Martaneshi goat is famous in this district.

Mirdita district

Area — 867 sq. km.; population — 45 000; density — 52 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of the district of Mirdita lives in three towns (Rrëshen, Rubik, Kurbnesh) and 60 villages.

The centre of the district is the town of Rrëshen with 4000 inhabitants. Rubik is its centre of the non-ferrous metallurgy (copper), while Kurbnesh of the copper extraction and dressing. The three towns have been set up only about 20 years ago.

The Mirdita district lies north of Mat district, and includes the whole of the Fan River basin (the Big Fan and the Small Fan). It is a hilly-mountainous district and a considerable part of the area rises up to 400 metres above the sea level.

Industry accounts for 8/10 of the total industrial-agricultural production of the district.

In 1982, industrial production was 2,3 time greater than 1970. The principal branch of industry is the mining and processing of copper, which realizes 9/10ths of the total industrial production of the district, or 17 per cent of the country's mining and metallurgical industry.

Field crops (especially cereals) represent the main direction in agriculture, vegetables are concentrated in the Fan valley, fruit-growing in the hilly zone, and cattle raising in

the valleys and sheep and goats in the upper part of the district.

The Fan valley is its most important agricultural region where the state farm of the district has been set up.

Puka district

Area — 1034 sq. km.; population 45 000; density — 44 inhabitants per square kilometre.

The population lives in two towns and 73 villages. The centre of the district is Puka with over 3000 inhabitants. Fushë-Arëz is an industrial town for the processing of timber and upgrading of copper.

This is a mountainous district. Puka district is rich in forests and minerals. Here are the biggest saw mills of the country. The district has copper, kaolin and magnezite desposits.

Industry counts for 60 per cent of the total production of the district. The main branch of industry is the mining and enrichment of copper, which account for 4/10th of the industrial production followed by wood-working, which accounts for 1/3th of its production. Puka is among the districts which ranks top most in the wood-working of the country.

In 1982, as against 1970, industrial production increased 1.7 fold.

With the construction of the «Enver Hoxha» hydro-power station in Koman, with an installed capacity of 600.000 kW, Puka district will contribute a great part to the electric power production.

The cultivation of field crops, especially bread grain, livestock raising and fruit-growing, occupy the main place in agriculture. In the vicinity of Puka there is a state farm which engages in cattle-raising and vegetable-growing

Lezha district

Area — 479 sq. km.; population — 53 000; density — 111 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population lives in two towns (Lezha and Shëngjin) and in 56 villages.

The centre of the district is the town of Lezha, with over 8000 inhabitants, an early Illyrian settlement, famous since ancient times and known as Lissus. The April 15, 1979 earthquake destroyed the only ancient quarter of Lezha, and two new quarters were built in its place.

Most of this district lies on a bottom land on the northern part of the Western Lowlands. Mountains rise to the east of it, and seldom exceed 1000 metres high.

The coastal plain of Lezha, formerly a marsh land, today has been reclaimed and transformed completely into arable area with an intensified agriculture. Now it is the centre of important agricultural economies of the district such as the state farm, the higher-type cooperative and the livestock-raising complex. Bread grain, vegetables, rice and sunflower are extensively cultivated here. Blocks of fruit-trees and vineyards cover most of the hilly areas. In the lowlands, they raise cattle especially «Friesian» pedigree cows, as well as pigs, sheep, whereas in the higher areas goats and sheep are raised. The agricultural production of the district accounts for 60 per cent of its total production and in 1982 it was 1,6 times greater than in 1970.

The district has its food-processing and paper industry.

In regard to the development of timber and paper industry on a national scale Lezha ranks fifth among the districts which have such industries. In 1982 the total industrial production was 3 times larger than in 1970.

Kruja district

Area — 607 sq. km.; population — 93 000; density — 153 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district (about 34 per cent) lives in 5 towns (Kruja, Laç, Fushë-Kruja, Milot and Mamuras) and in 60 villages. The district has as its centre the Hero City of Kruja, was Albania's capital under Skanderbeg. Laç, a new industrial town with 4000 inhabitants, set up in the 1960s, is the centre of the industry of pyrometallurgy, phosphate fertilizers, acids, food-processing timber, etc. Fushë-Kruja is also an industrial town with a developed cement industry. Milot and Mamuras are industrial and agricultural towns.

Kruja district lies mostly in the lowland area. It is only to the east that the mountain range of Skanderbeg rises higher than 1000 m. with its highest peak, Maja e Liqenit of 1724 m.

Industry, which holds principal place in the total industrial-agricultural production of the district, accounts for 68 per cent of it. In 1982, as against 1970, industrial production grew 3.6 fold; non-ferrous metallurgy accounts for 1/3 of the industrial production of the district, realizing 1/10 of the national production of the mining and metallurgical industry. The chemical and cement industries account for more than 1/10 of the national output of the chemical and building materials industry. In the field of agriculture, the main place is occupied by field crops (bread grain, sun-flower, rice, vegetables). Fruit-growing is developed in the hilly area. The highlands around the town of Kruja down to the town of Milot are covered with olive-groves.

The plain close to the Adriatic, especially the Thumana Plain, is the most important agricultural region. Before Liberation this plain was marsh-land. After reclamation and systematiza-

tion work it was transformed into one of the most important agricultural centres of the country, specializing in the production of bread grain, vegetables and milk. It is the centre of the most important agricultural economies, two state farms, a higher-type cooperative and some united cooperatives.

Durrës district

Area — 848 sq. km.; population — 217 000; density — 256 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district, with the highest density in the country, is distributed in four towns (Durrës, Kavaja, Shijak and Rrogozhina) and the rest in 119 villages.

The centre of the district is the city of Durrës (72 000 inhabitants). This city, 2,700 years old, founded in the 7th century before our era, is the largest sea port of Albania.

Kavaja is an industrial town with over 22,000 inhabitants, while Shijak is an industrial and agricultural town with over 8000 inhabitants. Rrogozhina is a motor-and rail-road juncture and an industrial and agricultural centre.

The district of Durrës lies in the Western Lowlands, along the Adriatic Sea.

Industry plays the main role in its economy, turning out 75 per cent of its total production. In 1982 it produced 2.2 times more than in 1970 and realized over 1/10 of the country's industrial production. Food-processing, as the main branch of industry, accounts for 1/3 of the total industrial output of the district. It stands out for its multi-branched structure and wide range of products; it processes vegetables and fruit, produces beverages, cigarettes, etc. The engineering industry accounts for 3/10 of the industrial production of the district and realizes 1/5 of the production of the engineering industry on a na-

tional scale. This industry is represented by the ship-yards for light-tonnage ships, production lines of radio and TV-sets, industrial plants for farming machinery and equipment, etc., which are concentrated in Durrës, and the production of glassware, nails, screws and bolts, in Kavaja. The light and food-processing industry and the chemical industry (for the production of pesticides, rubber plastics) occupy an important place.

Durrës district is an agricultural area of a national importance. The lowlands of this district, formerly marsh-land, is the most important agricultural zone with a high level of intensification. The large agricultural economies comprising four agricultural enterprises, four higher-type cooperatives, the complex of raising calves, poultry station for eggs, milk cows, etc., have been set up in this district. Cereals, vegetables, sun-flower, cotton and rice are some of the field crops cultivated in this region. Fruit trees especially grape-vines, have been planted on hill sides. Durrës district ranks fourth in the Republic for the production of cereals second for the production of rice and vegetables, third for the production of sun-flower and cotton.

Tirana district

Area — 1238 sq. km.; population — 310 000; density — 250 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district is distributed between 3 towns (Tirana, Vora and Kraba — 66.2 per cent of the whole population) and 150 villages. Tirana, the capital of Albania, is the centre of the district with 202,000 inhabitants. It was proclaimed the capital of the country by decision of the Congress of Lushnja in January 1920. Tirana is a «Hero City». All the supreme organs of the Party and the central departments of the state, the mass organizations and the

scientific and educational institutes, such as the Academy of Sciences, the University, the Higher Institute of Arts and the Higher Institute of Agriculture, etc. have their seat in Tirana.

Comrade Enver Hoxha, at the head of the Albanian communists founded the Communist Party of Albania (today the Party of Labour of Albania) on 8 November 1941, in Tirana.

The district of Tirana extends on the Pre-Adriatic lowlands and a hilly and mountainous area. The highest peak in the district's relief exceeds 1,800 m.

Industry realizes more than 85 per cent of the total output of the district, or over 17, per cent of the country's total industrial production and in 1982 as against 1970, its production increased two fold. The engineering and machine building industry which accounts for 23 per cent of the district's industrial production and 1/3 of the national production of this industry, occupies first place. The principal role here is played by the «Enver Hoxha» automobile and tractor combine and the «Dinamo», «Dajti», «Tirana» and «Partizani» plants, the electro-mechanical plant, etc. Next comes light industry, represented by the «Stalin» textile mills, which contributes a quarter of the industrial production of the district and 3/10 of the national output of this branch, food-processing industry with the «Ali Kelmendi» combine, the wood-working industry, with the «Misto Mame» combine, the building materials industry, with the «Josif Pashko» combine, etc.

The richest coal basin of the country with the biggest plant for the enrichment of coal in Valias lies in the plain of Tirana; the other large coal basin is that of Kërraba-Mushqeta.

The district has a multi-branched agriculture as well as sectors specialized in the production

of vegetables, grapes, eggs, milk and meat, etc.

The plain of Tirana is the most important agricultural and livestock region of the district. Beside other pursuits it is famous for cattle raising, for milk and meat, for the industrial cultivation of vegetables and the raising of poultry for eggs and meat. The hills around Tirana are planted with grape-vines, olives and other fruit trees. Three big state farms, the higher-type cooperatives and the largest united cooperatives have been set up in the district.

Tirana holds first place in the Republic for the production of vegetables, eggs, milk, grapes and cattle raising.

Lushnja district

Area — 712 sq. km.; population — 115 400; density — 162 inhabitants per sq. km.

Although this district, like that of Lezha, Durrës, Gramsh, Tepelena and Kolonja, is among the smallest units, in regard to the density of population, it ranks fifth in the country. The population lives in the town of Lushnja, which is the centre of the district with 24,000 inhabitants, and in 116 villages.

The largest part of the territory of this district lies on the plain in the central part of the Myzeqeja, which before Liberation was covered by marshes. The Tërbufi swamp, which extended over a tract of more than 8,000 hectares of land, has been drained and improved through a system of dykes and barriers, and today is one of the country's major agricultural regions. This zone, with the biggest agricultural economies, state farms and higher-types cooperatives, is part of the area with priority intensification of agriculture. In these fields are cultivated cereals, especially wheat, for the production of which Lushnja occupies second place in the Republic in

proportion with its area, cotton, sun-flower for the production of which it occupies first place, as well as vegetables. Cattle raising for meat and milk, and good breeds of sheep, are important branches of the economy of this district.

The hilly area of the district, which stretches from the south of the Shkumbin River down to the town of Lushnja is planted with fruit trees.

Agricultural production has gone up 1.5 times as against 1970, and accounts for 56 per cent of the total agricultural-industrial production of the district, while the rest is realized by the industrial production, which has increased 3.7 times as against 1970.

Elbasan district

Area — 1481 sq. km.; population — 208 900; density — 141 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district is distributed between 3 cities (Elbasan, Cërrik and Peqin) and 191 villages. Elbasan, the centre of the district, is as old as Skampin of the Antiquity. Elbasan is an important industrial city with 68,000 inhabitants. Cërrik (pop. 9,000 inhabitants) is the centre of the oil-processing industry of the district. Peqin is a small agricultural-industrial town, which traces its existence with the emergence of the town of Klodian, a town known in ancient times.

This district lies mainly on the plains, part of the Western Lowlands, and the Dumre plateau. To the north and southeast the terrain is hilly and mountainous.

Industry plays the main role in the economy of the district, accounting for over 75 per cent of its total industrial-agricultural production. In 1982, as against 1970, industrial production has increased 2.6 fold.

Industry comprises the ferrous metallurgy, with the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine which occupies a quarter of the industrial production of the district and over 1/5 of the national production of the mining and metallurgy industry. Important is the building materials industry (the production of cement), food processing industry, engineering industry, etc. Near the city of Elbasan is the station.

Elbasan is also an important agricultural district for the production of cereals, especially wheat, tobacco (mostly on the Dumre Plateau), sunflower, sugar beet, vegetables, etc. Fruit-growing is also extensive in the hilly zones. Attention is paid to raising of cattle, sheep and goats.

The lowland area and the Dumre Plateau are the most important regions for field crops and the raising of cows for milk. The biggest agricultural economies, the agricultural enterprises and the higher type cooperatives of the district have been set up there. Olive-groves and citrus plantations lie to the north of the city of Elbasan from the hilly zone of Labinot to Peqin.

Librazhd district

Area — 1013 sq. km.; population — 63 000; density — 62 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district is distributed between two towns (Librazhd and Prrrenjas) and 63 villages. Librazhd, the centre of the district, has about 4 000 inhabitants.

Most of this district lies in a mountainous zone, on either sides of the Upper Shkumbin River and in the Domosdova valley.

The subsoil of the district is rich in iron-nickel ore, which is exploited at several resources. The most important of them is that of Prrrenjas.

The forests of the district are industrially exploited.

Industry accounts for over 44 per cent of the total agricultural-industrial production of the district and in 1982 it has increased two fold compared to 1970.

Of importance for the economy of the district are the mining industry, the food stuffs industry, the wood-working industry, etc.

Agriculture accounts for 56 per cent of the agricultural-industrial production. The main crops are field crops especially bread grain. Livestock raising is also important.

The Shkumbin valley is its main agricultural region where the state farm has been set up. Livestock raising, the growing of bread grain, fruit growing (vine yards, walnuts, apples, plums, etc.), are concentrated in this area. The Domosdova Plain, as part of this agricultural region, specializes in field crops and fruit growing.

Pogradec district

Area — 725 sq. km.; population — about 62 000; density — 85 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is divided between the city of Pogradec and the 64 villages. Pogradec with 14 200 inhabitants is the centre of the district. Its origin, which dates back to ancient times, is connected with the town of Enkeliana.

Pogradec, which hugs the edge of the Ohri lake, is an important tourist city.

The district is situated in a zone of depression surrounded by mountains on all sides.

Important among subsoil riches under exploitation are: iron-nickel ore (at Guri i Kuq and Çermenika and is enriched at Guri i Kuq) and coal (at Alarup and Petrush, and the Mokra region which are included in the coal basin of

Pogradec). The forests are of industrial importance.

In 1982, as against 1970, industrial production increased 2.2 fold; it secures 55 per cent of the industrial-agricultural production of the district. Mining, the light and food industry (production of knitwears), the timber industry, etc. make up the bulk of the industrial production.

Agriculture also has advanced rapidly especially in bread grain, sugar beet, fruit growing. Livestock raising is an important branch, too.

The most important agricultural and livestock-raising region is the Buçimas Plain, where the cultivation of sugar beet, hops, bread grain, the raising of cows for milk, etc., have been concentrated, as well as the hilly system planted with apples, plums and vines.

Korça district

Area — 2181 sq. km.; population — 199 000; density — over 91 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between three towns (Korça, Maliq, Bilisht) and 188 villages. Korça (pop. 56 300), the centre of the district is a city patriotic traditions and a great love for schooling. Maliq is a centre of the foodstuffs industry, whereas Bilisht the centre of an agricultural area.

The district of Korça comes next to Shkodra for the size of its territory, (about 8% of the area of the country).

The district lies in the plain of Korça (more than 800 m above sea level) and the surrounding mountains. The highest peak is the Ostrovica Mt. (2 380).

The subsoil of the district is rich in mineral reserves of industrial value which have been brought into exploitation, such as coal which is

extracted at Mborja-Drenova, and in Gora, at Lozhan; nickel-silicate and copper in the Vithkuq mountains extracted at Rehova where it is also enriched.

Industry provides about 60 per cent of the total agricultural-industrial production. The light and foodstuffs industry play an important role in this direction, giving over 2/3 of the industrial production of the district, and over 1/10 of the national production for these branches. Also of importance for the economy of the district is the engineering industry which produces high precision instruments, etc.

Korça is an agricultural district of national importance, for the cultivation of bread grain, industrial crops (sugar beet, couplet and tobacco), and vegetables and for the raising of cattle for meat and milk.

Korça district comes second in the Republic for the production of wheat, and first for the production of sugar beet, couplet, fruit (especially apples and plums), milk and meat. The plain of Korça is its major agricultural region. Before Liberation more than 5 000 ha of this plain were covered by marshes, the main one being that of Maliq was drained and reclaimed during the years of the socialist construction of the country. Agricultural enterprises, livestock raising farms and higher type cooperatives of the more important in the country have been set up here

Gramsh district

Area — 695 sq. km.; population — 38 000; density — 54 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between the town of Gramsh and 73 villages. The centre of the district is Gramsh with 6 000 inhabitants.

The district is mountainous and lies on either side of the middle course of the Devoll river.

Agricultural production occupies the main place in the economy of the district, accounting for over 70% of its total agricultural-industrial production.

In the Devoll valley wheat, maiz and vine are grown. The raising of cattle is also important. The mountainous regions produce bread grain and fruit, as well as wool, milk and cheese from sheep and goats.

The food processing industry accounts for over 50% of the total industrial production of the district, with the timber industry taking up 25% of it.

Skrapar district

Area — 775 sq. km.; population — about 42 000; density — 54 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population lives in Çorovoda, the centre of the district, with about 6 000 inhabitants, and in 99 villages.

Skrapar is a mountainous region lying on either side of the Osum river.

Here, too, farming plays the main role in the economy, taking up over 66% of the agricultural-industrial production.

Bread grain and fruit (grapes) are cultivated and sheep and goats are raised. The Osum valley with an agricultural enterprise set up there, is the more important agricultural zone of the district.

The food processing industry accounts for about half of the industrial production and there is a developed timber industry.

Kolonja district

Area — 805 sq. km.; population — 22 300, density — 28 inhabitants per sq. km.

Kolonja district has two towns, Erseka and Leskovik, and 71 villages. Erseka, with a popu-

lation of 4 000 inhabitants, is the centre of the district.

The district is mountainous, with its lowest regions lying over 1000 metres above sea-level.

Agriculture plays the main role in the economy, securing over 60% of the total national production. Bread grain (wheat and rye), fruit especially apples, grapes and cherries (the region of Leskovik) are the main agricultural products and sheep and goats and in the lower regions cattle are raised.

Coal is extracted at Bezhan. There is a saw-mill at Germenji.

Industry is represented by food-processing and wood-working factories, mines, etc.

Përmet district

Area — 929 sq. km.; population — 36 400; density — 40 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between two towns, Përmet and Këlcyra, and 90 villages. Përmet, with about 6 000 inhabitants is the centre of the district.

This hilly and mountainous district lies on either side of the upper course of the Vjosa river.

Most of the population is engaged in agriculture, which provides over 63% of the total agricultural-industrial production. Bread grain, fruit trees, grapes (viticulture has an ancient tradition in this district) are the main agricultural products. Sheep and goats are also raised. The Vjose valley is the more important agricultural region. The agricultural enterprise set up there produces fruit, vegetables and develops livestock raising.

The light and food-processing industry, which is concentrated at Këlcyra, accounts for

the bulk of the industrial production of the district.

Tepelena district

Area — 817 sq. km.; population — 45 200; density — 54 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between two towns (Tepelena, Memaliaj) and 62 villages. Tepelena, with 5 300 inhabitants is the centre of the district. Memaliaj, with about 5 000 inhabitants is a centre of the coal industry.

Tepelena district is mountainous and lies on either side of the Middle course of the Vjosa and in the Kurveleshi highlands.

The district is rich in coal and phosphorite (in the Kurveleshi highlands).

Industry provides over 52% of the total agricultural-industrial production of the district, with the mining industry coming first and the food-processing industry second.

Bread grain and livestock raising provide the bulk of agricultural production. The more important agricultural region is the Vjosa valley where there is an agricultural enterprise producing fruit and vegetables as well as dairy products. In the mountainous regions bread grain is grown and sheep and goats are raised.

Berat district

Area — 1027 sq. km., population — 154 000; density — 145 inhabitants per sq./km².

The population is distributed between three towns (Berat, Stalin City, Ura Vajgurore) and 125 villages. Berat, with 36 000 inhabitants is the centre of the district. It is the continuation of the ancient city of Antipatrea. Stalin City, with 18 500 inhabitants, is a centre of the oil extracting and processing industry.

Most of the territory of the district is hilly

and mountainous. Mt. Tomorri (2416 m) rises as a protective wall to the east of the city. The plain is crossed by the Osum river and lies in the northwestern part of the district.

Industry accounts for 66% of the total agricultural-industrial production and agriculture 34%.

The textile industry (with the Textile Combine) accounts for over 1/3 of the industrial production of the district and 1/10 of the production of that industry on a national scale. The food-processing industry, the engineering industry (for the maintenance and repair of the machinery of the oil industry), the oil industry, etc., occupy an important place in the economy of the district. Industrial production in 1982 increased two fold compared to 1970.

Agriculture has a multi-branched structure, producing bread grain, especially wheat, cotton, sunflower, vegetables and fruit. The olives, grapes of Berat district are known all over the country. Its livestock-raising is also important with milk cows in the plains and sheep and goats in the mountainous regions.

The more important agricultural region is the lowland and hilly area where large agricultural enterprises and higher type cooperatives have been set up. In 1982 agricultural production was 1.7 times that of 1970.

Fier District

Area — 1 175 sq. km, population — 212 000; density — 181 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between 4 cities (Fier, Patos, Ballsh, Roskovec) and 138 villages. Fier an industrial city with 36 200 inhabitants is the centre of the district. Patos, with 13 000 inhabitants is the centre of the oil industry and the engineering industry for the maintenance

and repair of the machinery of oil industry. Ballsh is a centre of the oil extracting and processing industry, whereas Roskovec is an agricultural town.

The lowlands make up most of the area of Fier district, with the Mallakastra hills rising to its south-east. Fier district is one of the major industrial and agricultural districts of our country.

Industry provides about 73% of the total industrial-agricultural production of the district and over 1/10 of the industrial production of the entire country. The main role here is played by the oil extracting and processing industry, followed by the food-processing, electric power, engineering and other industries. The chemical industry of Fier district accounts for over 1/5 of the national production and the electric power industry for 1/4. The «Gogo Nushi» power and chemical complex in the city of Fier is made up of several plants such as those of ammonium nitrate and urea, a thermo-power station with an established capacity of 160 MgW, an oil refinery, etc. In 1982 the industrial production of the district has increased 2.6 fold compared to 1970.

Fier is one of the more important agricultural districts. It comes first for the production of bread grain and second for the production of cotton. Sunflower is also cultivated, especially in the lowland and hilly regions, as well as couplet, vegetables, etc. Livestock-raising (milk cows, pigs, sheep, etc.) is also important.

Plantations of fruit-trees, olive-graves and vineyards have been set up in the hills to the south-east and east of the district.

The lowland area of the district comprising the largest agricultural enterprises and higher

type cooperatives is included in the zone of priority intensification.

In 1982 agricultural production was over 1.6 fold that of 1970.

Vlora district

Area — 1609 sq. km.; population — 155 000, density — 96 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population of this district is distributed between four towns (Vlora, Selenica, Orikum and Himara) and 94 villages. Vlora, with 60 000 inhabitants, is the administrative centre of the district. It has been proclaimed a Hero City for the outstanding contribution of its people to the liberation wars and the National Liberation War of the Albanians. Vlora was known in ancient times under the name of Aulon. Selenica a centre known for the extraction of bitumen and Himara is the centre of an important agricultural region.

Vlora district is mainly hilly and mountainous, with the exception of a small lowland area — the Myzeqe of Vlora. The coastline of the district of Vlora makes up the greater part of the Albanian riviera.

Oil, bitumen, dolomite and other minerals are extracted. Industry plays the main role in the total industrial and agricultural production of the district, accounting for 70 per cent of it. The food-processing industry accounts for nearly 2/5 of industrial production, then come the chemical industry, the building materials industry (cement, bricks, lime, etenite tubes and slabs), the oil extraction industry etc. There is an electric bulb factory.

The district has a multi-branched agriculture and is making rapid progress towards its intensification especially in the lowland area, which, after the carrying out of land drainage

and irrigation projects, has been transformed into the principal agricultural zone. Here cereals, vegetables, cotton and sun-flower are raised. There are dairy farms specialized in milk production and a poultry raising complex. In the hills there are fruit-tree plantations, especially olive-groves and vineyards.

In regard to the extension of its citrus and olive-tree plantations, the district occupies the first and second place respectively on a national scale.

Gjirokastra district

Area — 1137 sq. km. population — 60 309, density — 53 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between two towns (Gjirokastra and Libohova) and 86 villages. Gjirokastra, a museum-city, with 21,000 inhabitants is the administrative centre of the district.

Industry plays the main role in the economy of the district. The food-processing light (footwear, knitwear) and engineering industries account for the bulk of the production of the district. In the village of Glina there is a mineral-water processing factory.

The valley of the Drino River occupies the larger part of the lowland region and is a major agricultural zone, producing bread grain, vegetables, cotton, sunflower, etc. Cattle and pig raising is also important.

The hilly region accounts for much of the fruit-growing of the district.

Recently Gjirokastra district has been awarded the title «Hero of Socialist Labour».

Saranda district

Area — 1097 sq. km., population — 76 700 density — 69 inhabitants per sq. km.

The population is distributed between three

towns (Saranda, Delvina and Konispol) and 93 villages. Saranda, with 12 000 inhabitants, is the centre of the district. It is a town which in ancient times was known under the name of Onchesmoi. It is also an important touristic centre. Delvina with over 7000 inhabitants, is an industrial agricultural centre. Industry and agriculture have approximately the same proportion in the economy of the district. The food-processing industry accounts for half of the industrial production of the district, followed by knitwear, electric power and other industries. There are two hydro-power stations: the «Stalin» and «Bistrica 2».

Cereals, rice, sunflower, cotton, and vegetables occupy the main place in agriculture, which is chiefly concentrated in the valley of Delvina. Fruit-growing is developed on the hillsides and along the coastline of the region. The fruit-tree plantations of Lukova and Ksamil are among the most renowned in our country. Saranda comes first in the Republic for citrus fruit, and occupies second place for olives. Livestock-raising, especially sheep and pigs has been given particular importance, too.

THE TWENTY BIGGEST CITIES

The number of cities and towns in Albania has increased during the years of socialist construction. Today there are 65 of them as against 19 in 1938.

According to their population, the 20 biggest cities (according to the 1982 census) are as follows:

Tirana, the capital of Albania, 202,000 inhabitants; Durrës 72,600 inhabitants; Shkodra

70,000 inhabitants; Elbasan 68,000 inhabitants; Vlora 60,000 inhabitants; Korça 56,300 inhabitants; Fier 36,200 inhabitants; Berat 36,000 inhabitants; Lushnja 24,000 inhabitants; Kavaja (Durrës district) 22,100 inhabitants; Gjirokastra 21,000 inhabitants; Stalin City (Berat district) 18,500 inhabitants; Pogradec 14,200 inhabitants; Patos (Fier district) 12,900 inhabitants; Saranda 12,000 inhabitants; Laç (Kruja district) over 11,000 inhabitants; Kruja 11,000 inhabitants; Kukës 10,400 inhabitants; Cërrik (Elbasan district) 9,100 inhabitants; Peshkopia (Dibra district) about 9,000 inhabitants.

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The intensification of agriculture and the improvement of socialist relations in the countryside have brought about an increase in the number of inhabitants of villages. Today the number of inhabitants per village nearly 700 as against 380 in 1955. About 20 per cent of the villages have more than 1,000 inhabitants.

**THE PEOPLE'S
ECONOMY**

THE PEOPLE'S ECONOMY

The centuries-long Ottoman occupation, its typical feudalmilitary character, the brutal national and social oppression and religious divisions had left Albania in a state of profound political and social backwardness. The capitalist relations which had begun to emerge in the first half of the 19th century in the Albanian towns, were then in their infancy. Albania did not go through the full cycle of the capitalist mode of production. The productive forces remained in an extremely backward state, whereas the relations of production were typically feudal-bourgeois relations.

This very backward technical, economic and social situation existed until the end of the Second World War.

The structure of the Albanian economy before Liberation was one-sided — typically agrarian. In 1938 the bulk of the population (84.6 per cent) lived in the countryside, the rest lived in the urban centres.

Eighty-seven per cent of the population engaged in agriculture and only 13 per cent in industry, transport, trade, finance and banking, etc. The pre-war industry turned out no more than 6.6 per cent of the total national product (at 1981 prices). Nearly 3/4 of the total industrial production was supplied by the light and

food-processing industries. Albanian industry consisted mainly of some primitive oil presses, small, tobacco, alcohol, soap and other factories, and handicraft shops, and supplied only 3.3 per cent of the national income.

With the natural assets it had, Albania became a field for investments of foreign monopoly capital which took over the principal assets of our country.

The occupation, of the country during the Second World War worsened the socio-economic situation. In proportion to population, compared with the other countries of Europe, Albania suffered the greatest damage. So, after the war Albania emerged with an economy badly damaged by the foreign occupiers and their stooges.

Immediately after Liberation and the establishment of the people's power on 29 November 1944, the question of the overthrow of old feudalbourgeois relations of production and the establishment of new socialist relations was placed on the order of the day. The people's power adopted important radical measures to take over control of the economy, and that small industry that existed. State and worker control on production and distribution was established, extraordinary taxes on war profits were imposed on merchants and various owners.

Of decisive importance for the socialist socio-economic transformations was the socialization of the main means of production by means of nationalization.

The mines and the property of political fugitives, the national bank and the other banks were nationalized or liquidated in December 1944. During 1945, 111 foreign capitalist companies and enterprises were nationalized without compensation. This measure marked the establishment of the sovereignty of the Albanian people over

the natural resources and the other assets of the country. The policy of open doors, of giving concessions, of allowing the penetration of foreign monopoly capital into our national economy, resulting in economic dependence on and indebtedness to capitalist countries, was liquidated. From the point of view of form, the nationalizations of 1945 were of an anti-imperialist democratic character, whereas their content was of a socialist character. These measures were taken in the interest of the working class and constituted the foundation stone in the development of Albania on the road to socialism.

With the implementation of these measures the key positions of the economy passed into the hands of the socialist state, the socialist state property was created in industry, agriculture, construction, transport and other branches of the economy, unlimited perspectives and horizons were opened up for the development of the productive force and progress was made in the construction of the economic base of socialism.

The process of socialist socio-economic transformations continued in 1946, when all industry, internal wholesale trade and foreign trade passed completely into the hands of the socialist state, the main means of production in the towns became social property, and capitalist industry was liquidated in general.

The most acute problem in agriculture had to do with the liquidation of the old feudalbourgeois agrarian relations. In 1945, seven landowner families possessed 3.70 per cent of the land, the wealthy owners, or 3 per cent of the population, possessed 23.16 per cent of the land, the state owned 12.71 per cent of the land, the middle estate owners or 83 per cent of the rural families, possessed 60.4 per cent of the

land, while 14 per cent of the peasantry had very little land.

The implementation of the Land Reform marked the first revolution in the socio-economic relations in the countryside.

The complete collectivization of agriculture, which was carried out step by step, was the second revolution which marked the most radical revolutionary change in the socio-economic relations of the countryside.

The liquidation of large-scale private capitalist property and the establishment of the socialist ownership of the main means of production brought about the rapid advance of the productive forces and the completion of the socialist cooperation of small producers in town and countryside (craftsmen, poor and middle peasants). As a result in 1960 the construction of the economic base of socialism in town and countryside was completed.

The construction of the economic base of socialism, i.e., the establishment of the new socialist relations of ownership and production, distribution, exchange and management, marked the end of the first phase of the socialist construction in Albania. The new socialist relations of production boosted the development of productive forces in industry, agriculture and the other branches of the economy. The economy emerged from its profound centuries-long backwardness on to the broad road of socialism.

Today Albania is a country where private ownership of the means of production, the exploiting classes and the exploitation of man by man have been abolished.

With the construction of the economic base of socialism, Albania entered a new historical phase, that of the complete construction of socialist society, in which the fundamental tasks

are the rapid development of the productive forces, the construction of the material-technical base of socialism, the continuous improvement of the whole system of new socialist relations of production and the deepening of the revolution in the field of ideology and culture.

The Albanian economy is now a socialist economy, which is based on the socialist social ownership of the means of production, on the internal sources of development, which is organized and run in a conscious and proportional manner, on the basis of a unified overall plan of socio-economic and cultural development, by a single centre — the socialist state. It is a stable economy with great prospects for development. Our socialist economy does not experience anarchy and spontaneity, the periodic economic crises of over-production, currency and energy crises, inflation, price rises, unemployment, etc., which are typical ulcers of the capitalist economy.

The liquidation of unemployment and the drawing of all the active human forces of the nation into useful social work, mainly in the sphere of material production, is **a major victory** of our social order and our socialist economic system.

The socialist social order has guaranteed work and good working and living conditions for the working people, and these things are sanctioned in the Constitution of the PSR of Albania, the Labour Code and the other laws of the people's state power.

The people's state power has put an end to unemployment and emigration of the labour force, this great evil of the capitalist and revisionist countries. The Constitution guarantees the working people the right to work and remuneration for the work done. Labour power

is no longer a special commodity. The relations of the employment of the able-bodied population have changed radically. The overwhelming majority of it works in the sphere of material production. In 1980 the total number of workers was 3.6 times greater than in 1960 and 10 times more than in 1950. Today two or three persons in each family of 4-5 persons are employed.

In the socialist accumulation industry occupies first place and income from it constitutes the chief means for financing fundamental investments and construction. Accumulation from agriculture, transport, internal and foreign trade, etc., also plays an important role in increasing socialist accumulation. In 1969, taxes and levies on the population were abolished. The income and sources of socialist accumulation are centralized in the state budget which finances the development of the economy and the social-cultural sectors, and the strengthening of the defence capacity of the Homeland.

During the 40-year period of socialist construction the Albanian economy has developed rapidly.

In 1982 total social product increased 4.1 times more than in 1960 and 12.5 times more than in 1950. It nearly doubled against 1970. In the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985), the directives of which were endorsed at the 8th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania, total social product is envisaged to increase 34-36 per cent, at an annual average rate of 6.4 per cent.

INDUSTRY

In the years of the people's state power Albania created its own multi-branched industry, including heavy and light, extracting and pro-

cessing industries. Now it exploits its own natural assets with its own forces. The Albanian industry extracts and processes oil, copper, chromium and iron-nickel ores, and processes agricultural and livestock raw materials.

The socialist industrialization of Albania, which remains one of the fundamental tasks of the people's state power in the economy, has been carried out at rapid rates. During the period 1944-1980 the volume of total industrial production has increased at a higher rate than the production in the other branches of the economy. The rapid development of industry has increased the production and the range of products, the means of production and the mass consumer goods, extended the power of man over the natural assets, ensured the development of industry over the whole territory of the country, made possible the systematic improvement of the material well-being and the cultural level of the broad working masses, and further strengthened the defence capacity of the country.

In 1982 the volume of total industrial production was 37.1 times greater than in 1950, 6.1 times greater than in 1960 and 2.3 times greater than in 1970. In 1984 the volume of total industrial production is envisaged to increase 8.5 per cent as against 1983.

The productive forces in industry have developed in close and harmonious connection with the agricultural development.

This period is characterized by the priority development of heavy industry, which precedes the whole process of socialist industrialization. The production of the means of production is developing at rapid rates. This will continue in the future, too, because the aim in, our country is to gradually achieve the creation of a multi-branched, heavy and light, extracting and proces-

sing industry which is based on the utilization of the natural assets of the country and the processing of agricultural and livestock products.

In the early 70s mining occupied the principal place in the development of heavy industry. Now the heavy processing industry, the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, the industry of mineral enrichment, organic and inorganic chemical industry, the energy industry, the engineering industry, etc. are gaining priority of place. In 1982 industry processed more than 55 per cent of the industrial raw materials and 45% of primary materials from agriculture. In the framework of the total industrial production, the production of means of production (Group A) has increased at more rapid rates.

Nearly 46% of the state investments have been used for the development of industry.

Besides this, special attention has been paid to the harmonious development of all regions of the country, to increasing the economic potential of districts and cities that were less developed in the past to ensure the geographical distribution of industry in the best possible proportions. Most effective forms of the organization of production, such as centralization, specialization and cooperation raising the level of mechanization and automation of work and production have been used in order to lighten people's work and to increase the productivity of their labour.

Despite the hostile anti-Marxist and anti-Albanian activity of the Chinese revisionists, in 1980, as against 1975, the total volume of industrial output increased 35.1 per cent.

The contribution of industry to the creation of national income has been as follows: in 1950 — 7 per cent, in 1960 — 18,6 per cent, in 1970 — 28.2 per cent and in 1982 (at 1981 prices) — 44 per cent. Today industry the other non-agri-

cultural branches of material production supply 68.6 per cent of the national income of the country.

The rapid socialist industrialization has been accompanied with the increase of the social product, the productivity of social labour, the national income and the systematic raising of the wellbeing of the people.

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER

In the years of the people's state power, the electric power industry has preceded the development of industry and the whole economy.

Albania ranks among the countries which produce more energy than they consume. From 1972 Albania has become an exporter of electric power.

In 1982 the electric power industry accounted for 4.3 per cent of the total industrial production, as against 2.4 per cent in 1970 and 1.4 per cent in 1960 (at 1981 prices). A unified electric power distribution system with 220 kv. power lines, extends to the most remote corners of the country.

In 1982 the production of electric power was nearly 18 times greater than in 1960 (at 1981 prices).

Hydro-electric power plants, which exploit water-power resources, generate nearly 80 per cent of the electric power.

On 25 October 1970 the electrification of Albania was completed. Electric light reached even the remotest village.

In 1978 the «Light of the Party» Hydro-power Station on the Drin River began production. Its total installed capacity is 500,000 kW. In the 7th Five-year Plan work is continuing on

other hydropower stations with still greater generating capacity, amongst which the hydro-power station at Koman, also on the Drin River, with a capacity of 600,000 kW.

In 1985, as against 1980, the production of electric power will increase 16 per cent, and 14 per cent of it will be secured from hydro-power stations. Along with the construction of big hydro-power stations, small hydro-power stations will be built and commissioned to meet the growing needs of the people and the economy.

THE OIL, NATURAL GAS, BITUMEN INDUSTRIES

Albania produces oil for its own needs and for export from its own resources. In recent years prospecting for oil has been concentrated around recognized fields and in new regions which have a perspective for future five-year plans. Plants have been set up for the refining and deep processing of oil, for the extraction of its derivatives such as high-octane petrol, Diesel oil, kerosene, lubricating oil, furnace oil. etc. In 1978 the deep oil-processing plant was completed and began production.

Oil and gas occupy the main place in our energy resources. In 1985, as against 1980, oil extraction will increase 58-60 per cent.

The energy industry occupies a considerable place in the volume of our export and the hard currency income for our country.

Another valuable source of energy is natural gas, which is extracted not only as associated gas in the oil-producing zones, but also as methane gas from other fields.

Natural bitumen, which is known for its good qualities, is also extracted in our country.

In 1982 coal extraction increased 2.6 fold against 1970 and nearly 5.5 fold against 1960. In 1985 coal extraction will increase 48 per cent more than in 1980.

Work is going on to find other deposits of coals with a higher calorific power and coking coal. With the great development of this branch of industry, the country's energy balance from mineral fuels has been improved. The mines already built in our country are electrified and operate with modern means and methods.

THE METAL MINING INDUSTRY AND FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALLURGY

Among the various mineral extracted in our country there are important industrial reserves of chromium, copper and iron-nickel ores. These constitute a reliable base for the rapid development of our heavy extracting and processing industry in the future. Geological data show that our subsoil is rich in deposits of bauxite, phosphorite, polymetals and other minerals.

In 1975, the extracting industry increased its production 3.4 fold against 1960 and in 1982 5.2 fold against 1960. In 1982 the proportion of the extracting industry in the total industrial production was 9 per cent as against 7.2 per cent in 1970.

During the 6th Five-year Plan (1976-1980) the average annual rate of chromium ore production was 9.7 per cent, that of copper ore 11.1 per cent and iron-nickel and ferrous metallurgy 26 per cent.

In the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) the extraction of minerals from the recognized resources of chromium, copper and iron-nickel

will continue to increase even more, from 30 per cent to two fold as against the previous 5-year plan. Conditions have been created to increase the extraction of other useful minerals, such as phosphorites, quartzites, rock salt, dolomites, olivinites, bauxites, magnesite, nickel-silicate, alabaster, etc.

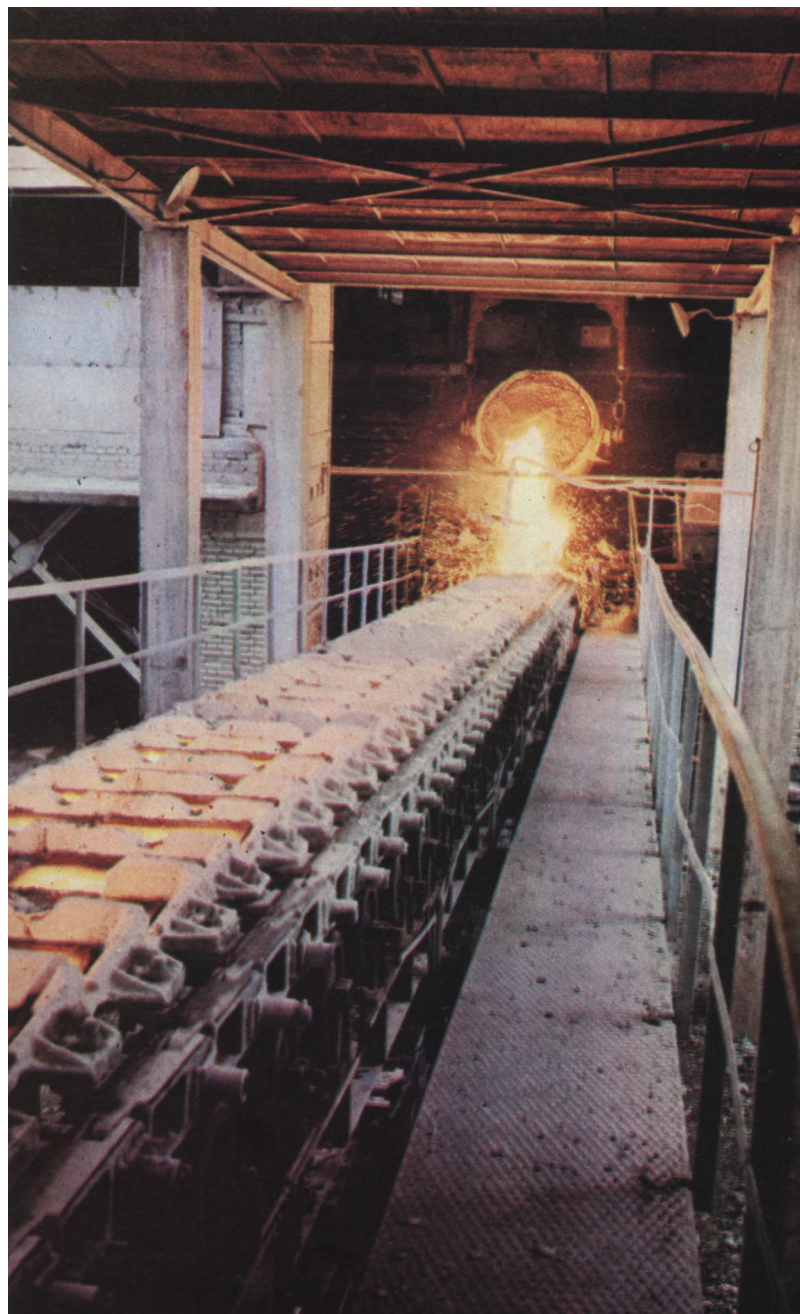
Along with the big increase in the extraction of mineral ores, special importance is attached to processing them at home. Powerful combines and plants for the smelting and further industrial processing of ferrous and non-ferrous metals (chromium and copper) are set up. The Albanian copper industry now completes the full cycle of production from mining, enriching, smelting the ore to its metallurgical processing the preparation of the finished products — electrical wires and cables for internal consumption and export.

In 1978 the first phase of the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine at Elbasan was commissioned. It produces more than 50 types of steel from our iron-nickel ore and in the not-too-distant future it will turn out nickel, too. New metallurgical projects commissioned in 1979 were the ferro-chrome plant and the pyrometallurgy plant, etc. During the 7th Five-year Plan work is continuing for the extension of the metallurgical combine with the plant for the production of various kinds of tubes, the production of rolled steel sheets and carbonic steels. In 1985, as against 1950, the production of rolled steel will increase nearly 76 per cent, carbonic ferro-chrome about three times, blister copper 28 per cent, etc.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

Our engineering industry is capable turning out spare parts, machinery and complete sets of technological equipment for the needs of indus-

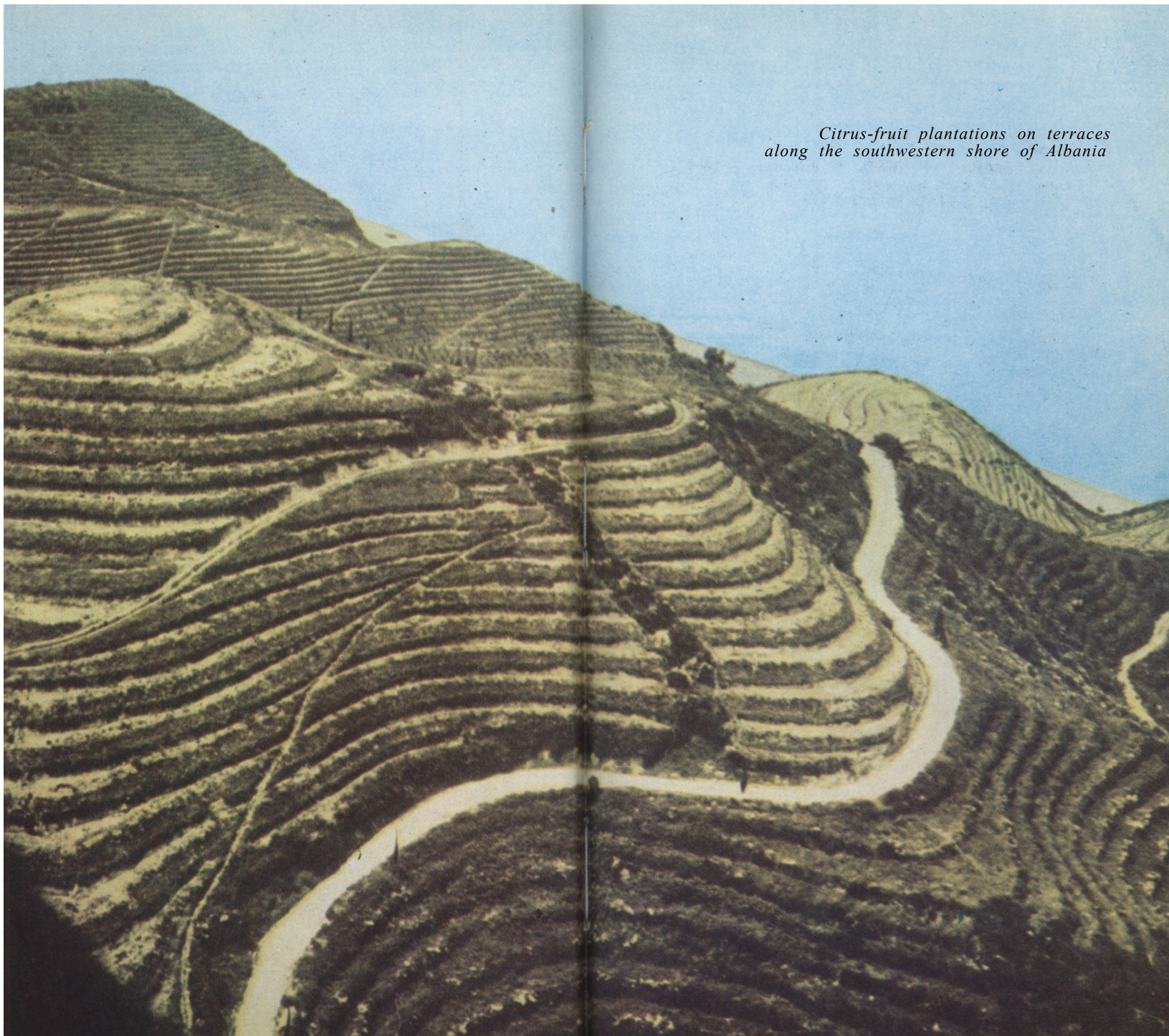
*At the casting shop
of the metallurgical Combine at Elbasan*



*The Deep Oil Processing Plant of Ballsh,
Fier district*



*Citrus-fruit plantations on terraces
along the southwestern shore of Albania*



*Before the triumph
of the people's revolution in Albania in 1944.
these lands were covered by swamps,
Today they produce plentiful crops*



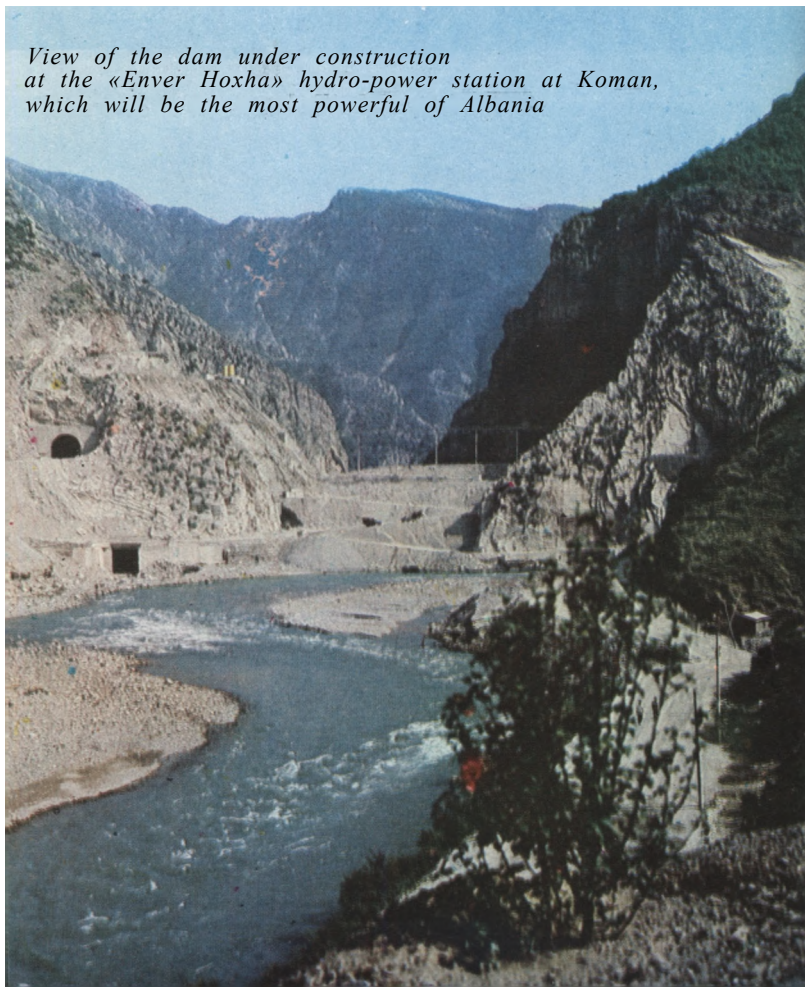
*One of the many livestock
raising complexes*



The turbine room of the «Light of the Party» hydro-power station on the Drin river



View of the dam under construction at the «Enver Hoxha» hydro-power station at Koman, which will be the most powerful of Albania



try, agriculture, construction and the other sectors of the economy. During the years 1970-1980 the engineering industry increased its production more than 3.4 fold and today meets 95 per cent of the needs of the country for spare parts. In 1982, the engineering industry accounted for 15.1 per cent of the volume of the overall industrial production of the country.

In 1978 a new engineering plant at the «Enver Hoxha» automobile and tractor combine was commissioned. The first Albanian-made tractor, 75 Hp engines, deep-drilling rigs for the oil industry and geology, ball bearings, etc., have been produced. This has created the possibilities for our country to go over, on a more extensive and organized scale, to the production of complete machines and sets of machinery for the mines, agriculture and the other branches of the economy, and the construction of complete technological lines and plants with our own forces.

At the end of the 7th Five-year Plan the production of the engineering industry will be 43-45 per cent more than in 1980. In 1985, as against 1980, the production of machinery and equipment will increase 56-58 per cent.

THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

This is an entirely new branch of our industry. Its foundations were laid especially during the 60s. Today the chemical industry produces nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers, sulphuric acid, ammonia, nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, soda ash and caustic soda, pesticides and herbicides, etc. Recently opened plants include the Urea Plant, which means doubled production of nitrogenous fertilizers with a higher nitrogen content,

and the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and caustic plant, while the existing plants of the chemical industry have been extended.

The chemical industry now supplies agriculture with nitrogenous and phosphate fertilizers in quantities, on a large scale: more than 145 kg active substance per hectare.

The chemical industry for the production of rubber, plastic, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products has also made great progress.

In 1982 the production of the chemical industry increased 53.3 fold against 1960, nearly 4 fold against 1970 and nearly 3 fold against 1975.

In 1982 the chemical industry realized 5.5 per cent of the volume of overall industrial production.

In 1985, as against 1980, the chemical industry will increase its production 62-65 per cent with the aim of creating a large source for export.

GLASS AND CERAMIC INDUSTRY

This industry, which also is entirely new in our country, has rapidly increased its production in the last years and greatly extended the range of its products. Now it is able to meet the increasing needs of the economy and the people. In 1982 this industry increased production 4.6 fold against 1975, realizing 6.2 per cent of the total industrial production.

THE BUILDING MATERIALS INDUSTRY

The most important branch of this industry is cement production. Big cement plants have been built at Vlora, Elbasan and Kruja. Pro-

duction of asbestos, cement pipes and sheets and pre-fabricated sections for apartment buildings has developed well. Factories producing silica and hollow bricks have been built in the main cities of the country. The new industry for cutting marble slabs, which is based on the many beautiful marbles found in our country, is also part of the building materials industry.

In 1982 the volume of production of the building materials industry was 2.9 times greater than that in 1970 and 1.5 times greater than in 1980, accounting for 7.7 per cent of the total industrial production of the country. In 1985, as against 1980, this industry will increase production by 20-22 per cent.

THE TIMBER AND PAPER INDUSTRY

Forests are exploited rationally through a system of saw-mills and timber-processing combines and factories for the production of plywood, veneer, and seasoned timber, chemically treated posts and sleepers and paper. The timber-processing combine in Tirana is the biggest producer of furniture in the country.

Paper production is an entirely new development of the timber industry. Apart from the paper factories in Shkodra, Kavaja and Lushnja, recently another big new paper factory has come into production at Lezha. The range of products from all these factories includes printing paper, packing paper, paper sacks, cardboard and fibre board.

In 1982 the timber and paper industry realized 5.7 per cent of the total industrial production. In 1985, as against 1980, the timber and paper industry will increase production 22-24 per cent

LIGHT INDUSTRY

In the development of light industry priority has been given to the production of the most essential, widely used goods, which meet the needs of the people and can be produced on the basis of the local raw materials of agricultural or industrial origin.

From the pre-Liberation light industry, consisting of a few primitive factories in which almost everything was done by manual labour, such as the tanneries and some handicraft workshops weaving cotton and silk, today powerful combines and plants for the production of the cotton and woollen textiles, knitwear and footwear, have been built in many parts of the country. Among the most important contributors to light industry are two powerful combines for the production of the cotton, woollen, synthetic and silk textiles. With the construction of the knitting combine and the underwear factory in Korça, production of knitwear and underwear has greatly increased. Another important branch of light industry is garment production. The products of the textile and clothing industry fulfil the needs of the population of town and countryside and also make a valuable contribution to Albania's export trade.

In 1982, the volume of production of light industry was 1.8 times greater than in 1970 and supplied 16.6 per cent of the total industrial production. There has been excellent development of the production of artistic handicrafts, especially carpets, organized on the basis of big enterprises.

In 1985, as against 1980 the production of the light industry will increase 38-40.

THE FOOD-PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The food-processing industry, with its factories and plants all over the country, occupies an important place in the structure of industrial production. Although the food-processing industry before Liberation produced 44 per cent of the total industrial output, it had only a limited number of factories and workshops.

Food-processing industry is now represented by the sugar industry, the oil, macaroni, tomato paste industries, livestock products — fruit and vegetable preserving, fish canning, the wine industry, etc. An important part of the production of the food-processing industry is exported to various countries.

In 1982, the food-processing industry increased the volume of its production 1.9 fold as against 1970 (at 1981 prices), and more than 1.2 fold as against 1975 thus accounting for 24 per cent of the total industrial production of the country.

The mass consumer goods industry, together with agriculture, is now able to fulfil nearly 90 per cent of the needs of the people for these products.

In 1985 — as against 1980 the food-processing industry will increase its production by 23-25 per cent.

AGRICULTURE

Albanian agriculture is organized completely on a socialist basis. All the peasant economies, in the plains and the mountainous areas have been organized as collective economies, in agricultural cooperatives.

In the past Albania had the most backward

agriculture in Europe. After the establishment of the people's state power two tasks were laid down simultaneously: the socialist transformation of the countryside and the all-round development of agriculture. Agriculture must secure the food of the people and make its major contribution to the country's industrialization and the development of the national economy. The realization of these fundamental tasks called for its socialist development on the basis of largescale modern production, closely linked with all the branches and other sectors of the economy. This was an absolute necessity to open the way to development of the countryside and the creation of the premises for the construction of socialism there.

The first step in this direction was to implement the slogan the «land belongs to the tiller». This slogan was launched by the Communist Party of Albania (CPA) during the National Liberation War.

THE LAND REFORM

The first measure taken to put into practice the revolutionary program of the Communist Party of Albania for the socialist transformation of the countryside was the Land Reform. It was the first revolution in the socio-economic relations in the countryside. The characteristic feature of this revolution was the democratic transformation of the property relations in the countryside, the complete elimination of the remnants of feudalism, the liquidation of the class of big landowners. At the same time, the Land Reform had a pronounced anti-capitalist character, because it was carried out by the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The law on the Land Reform was proclaimed

on August 29, 1945, only 9 months after Liberation and the establishment of the People's Power.

The fundamental principle of the Land Reform law was to distribute the land to the peasants who worked it.

The land, the vines, the olive groves and draft animals that had belonged to the big landowners, merchants and other exploiters were expropriated. The state distributed them to the peasant families which had no land or little land, giving each separate family 5 hectares. At the same time the buying, selling and alienation of the land were prohibited. The old debts of the peasants were cancelled.

In November 1946 the Land Reform was fully implemented all over Albania.

The forms in which the Land Reform was applied also had a revolutionary character. The committees of poor peasants gave concrete assistance in registering the lands of big landowners, enemies of the people and all those who were expropriated on the basis of the law of the Land Reform. They uncovered and combated the hostile activity of the big landowners, kulaks and other reactionary forces who rose against the implementation of the Land Reform from the very beginning.

By transforming the peasant from a semi-serf to the true master of the land he had been working generation after generation, the Land Reform created the necessary premises for all the economic cultural and social transformations which were to take place in the countryside subsequently.

The Land Reform laid the foundations also for the creation of the socialist state sector in agriculture. On part of the expropriated land the

first state farms were set up, while the forests and waters became the common property of all the people.

COLLECTIVIZATION

The Party of Labour of Albania saw clearly that with its fragmented small-scale economies, agriculture could not emerge from the great backwardness it had inherited from the past and the harmonious and rapid development of all branches of the people's economy could not be ensured. The People's Power had to have its advanced socialist economic base in both town and countryside.

The Land Reform strengthened even more the alliance of the working class with the labouring peasantry on an economic basis, strengthened the people's state power set up on the foundations of this alliance. The working peasants closed their ranks still more tightly round the Communist Party of Albania and created even more profound convictions in the correctness of its political line. All this was a very powerful support for the Party to embark on the road of the socialist transformation of the countryside step by step.

The collectivization of agriculture was essential and the only way to ensure the victory of socialism in the countryside. Therefore, along With the extensive work for land improvement, the mechanization of agriculture, the livestock raising, etc. a great struggle was waged for collectivization which, according to the consistent and well-considered orientations of the Party, gradually covered the whole of the countryside. In this context agricultural cooperatives were

set up, the first being that of Krutja in Myzeqe, in 1946.

The collectivization of agriculture was carried out in several stages.

The first stage lasted about 10 years, from 1946 until 1955. During that period the slogan was «On the question of collectivization we must not be hasty but neither must we mark time».

The period from 1956 until 1960 was characterized by the mass movement into cooperatives not only of poor peasants, but of almost all the middle peasants in most of the villages of the country, except those of the high mountainous areas.

On the basis of the socialist transformations which took place in agriculture and the all-round development of the country, the political-economic-social conditions were created for the process of collectivization of the countryside to be completed in the mountainous areas, too. Summing up the accumulated experience and taking into consideration the creation the socio-economic conditions, the Party issued the directive for the completion of the collectivization of agriculture.

This directive was carried out enthusiastically and consciously by the working peasantry of the mountainous areas, and within a very short time, less than three months, the collectivization was completed successfully in the mountainous areas, too.

The collectivization of agriculture in Albania developed as an uninterrupted revolutionary process, which was built up steadily and regularly. It was always accompanied with increased activity by the working peasantry itself, which took an active part in the socialist transformation of the countryside and the country in general. The political consciousness of the peasants and their

ideological level rose. Agricultural production immediately marked an unprecedented development, eliminating the destructive consequences of foreign invasions and overcoming the backwardness inherited from the anti-popular regimes.

From its experience of life and thanks to the great ideopolitical work of the Party, the labouring peasantry was convinced of the superiority of the cooperativist order which alone could raise it from poverty and save it from exploitation. The psychology of individual work, small-scale private property and narrow personal interests were gradually supplanted by the consciousness of common property, the united work and extended socialist production.

The successful completion of the collectivization of agriculture in 1967 has rightly been called the second revolution in the socio-economic relations in the countryside.

The program of the socialist transformation of the countryside was carried out through a fierce class struggle against the kulaks and the other enemies of the people's power. In this struggle the labouring peasantry enjoyed the powerful support of its ally, the working class.

The amalgamation of the cooperatives set up was carried out prudently, step by step, first. This process was necessary because it created new possibilities to strengthen them organizationally and economically, to use the state investments and other aid more correctly, to concentrate production and to make use of the superiority provided by the large-scale collective property, to place agriculture more firmly on a scientific basis.

Today the agricultural cooperatives have an average area of more than 1,200 hectares each. In the lowland zones the agricultural cooperatives have an average area of 2,000-3,000 hectares or

even more. The unification of the smaller cooperatives into bigger ones provided possibilities for a more harmonious development among the villages of the same cooperative, thus further narrowing the differences in the field of production and in the socio-cultural field.

THE HIGHER-TYPE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE

Experience has shown that the construction of socialism in the countryside does not end with the completion of collectivization and the unification of cooperatives. The property of the cooperative, as the property of the group, has a transitional character. Gradually it must be transformed into the property of all the people. This is a relatively long process and it will pass through several phases, such as the phase of narrowing the differences between the two forms of property, and then the phase of the transition of the property of the group to the property of all the people, thus forming a new form of property, the property of the whole society.

In the conditions of our country, the correct definition of the roads for the first phase of this process is of great importance at present.

The setting up of higher type cooperatives in the lowland areas served this aim. This is an original way defined by the PLA to accelerate the development of the productive forces and production in agriculture, to proceed gradually towards narrowing the differences between the property of the group and the property of all the people.

The main distinguishing feature of the higher type cooperatives is the participation of the sta-

te in the development of production with non-repayable investments, something which is not done in the ordinary cooperatives.

Another difference of these cooperatives is the change from payment on the basis of work days done to payment according to the norms completed. The rate of pay for each cooperative is determined according to its economic power, linking this with the results achieved in production.

The experience of the consolidation of the higher-type cooperatives served to extend them to the hilly and mountainous regions. In some higher-type cooperatives of the lowlands conditions were created for their transformation into state farms, a process which started in the Korça and Fier districts.

The collectivization of agriculture and the work for its intensification and modernization created a new revolutionary situation in our countryside. At work and in life our cooperative peasantry is being educated and tempered with the features of communist morality, with the socialist attitude towards work and the collective property.

The increase of mechanization, the big land improvement and irrigation projects, the extensive use of chemicals, the ever better application of advanced agrotechnology, the extension of the communications network, etc., the increase of the number of cadres and specialists and the general rise in the educational level of the peasants have created the material conditions for an intensive advanced agriculture, for raising the cultural level and the standard of living of the cooperativists, and making production and life in the countryside more and more like production and life in the town.

Our country has achieved stability in agri-

cultural production, with an average annual increase of more than 5 per cent. In 1976 our working peasantry achieved a great victory: all the bread grain required to fulfil the needs of the people was produced locally and this historic achievement is being repeated with ever greater production from year to year.

The year 1983 marked important advances in increasing productivity rates. Compared with 1982, the overall agricultural production increased 9 per cent. There were considerable increases in wheat, sun-flower and olive production, with all planned tasks overfulfilled. The highest ever recorded average yield — 31 quintals per hectare, was taken in from all the area planted to wheat (75 per cent of the territory of Albania are mountains). In the lowlands, the area of priority intensification, an average of 45.8 quintals of wheat per hectare has been taken in from an area of thousands of hectares, and in certain economies and sectors 50-60 and over 70 quintals of wheat per hectare were taken in. High yields were taken in maize, too. In Shkodra and Saranda an average of 80 quintals per hectare was taken in from vast tracts of land. The year 1983 recorded the highest figure in olive production since Liberation.

A broad network of agricultural scientific institutions has been set up throughout the country. With their assistance, within a record time, a series of studies of great importance for the modernization and intensification of agriculture have been carried out. They include the completion of the soil survey and the compilation of pedological-agrochemical maps for each cooperative, the study of the climate of the country and the types of crops most suitable to it, the local production of selected seeds of all agricultural crops, including wheats with yields of more

than 60 quintals per hectare, maize hybrids with a capacity of 100-120 quintals per hectare, virus-resistant tobacco, etc.

Now there are two higher agricultural institutes and 260 agricultural secondary schools functioning in Albania. Ten central scientific-research institutions and 26 agricultural stations are engaged in scientific work in different regions of the country.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The big agricultural economies have created very favourable conditions for the development of livestock farming. Now a modern, complex animal husbandry based on correct technical-scientific criteria has been established and is developing. The main characteristic of the achievements in this field is the harmonious and proportional development of breeds and the organization of specialized units. A number of agricultural enterprises have big herds of cows and ensure regular supplies of dairy products for the towns. Important investments have been and are being made to set up modern livestock complexes for the production of meat and eggs, for the industrial processing and silaging of animal feed. At the same time many cooperatives of the hilly and mountainous regions have been transformed into agricultural cooperatives engaged mainly in livestock raising.

In 1985 as against 1980, the production of milk will increase 30-32 per cent, meat 53-55 per cent, eggs 50-52 per cent, etc.

Good results have been scored in increasing milk production from cows over the last few years. Over 4500 litres of milk per cow have been taken in at the cattle raising complex of the

«Red Star» state farm at Kamëz and over 4,000 litres at those of Bushat and Sukth without mentioning several advanced sectors which take in 6000-7000 litres per cow. The productivity of sheep and goats has considerably increased, too.

FRUIT TREES

A great deal of work has been done to plant fruit trees, including pip, stone and citrus fruit, olives and grapes. In 1982 as against 1952, the number of the pip and stone fruit trees has increased more than 5 fold, olives nearly 4 fold, citrus fruit about 9 fold and grape-vines 8 fold.

They are being planted in big blocks, such as the block of figs in the Berat district, which covers 2,000 hectares and has 200,000 trees; the block of apples, plums, cherries and peaches in the districts of Korça, Dibra, Kukës, Kolonja, Pogradec, Skrapar and Librazhd; the block of chestnuts in Tropoja, with 300,000 trees; the blocks of citrus trees at Stiar, Lukova, Vrina and Ksamil in the Saranda district, as well as at Jonufër in the Vlora district; the blocks of grapes in the districts of Tirana (1,500 hectares), Shkodra, Berat, Lushnja, Durrës, Fier and Vlora; the blocks of olives on the hilly regions along the 17 coastal districts which occupy 100,000 hectares.

Thousands of hectares of land have been cleared and terraced for these plantings. The younger generation has made a great contribution to this work, and has planted many of these massive blocks through organized actions.

To improve the varietal structure of the fruit trees model orchards, with collections of the best varieties, have been established in all districts. Each year their nurseries produce millions of young pip and stone fruit trees and grape-vines,

as well as hundreds of thousands of young olive and citrus trees.

In the process of implementation of the 7th Five-year Plan work is going on to improve and increase fruit varieties as well as to set up new blocks of fruit trees on the hills surrounding the cities.

NARROWING OF DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN TOWNS AND COUNTRYSIDE

Today the Albanian socialist countryside is undergoing vigorous development and transformations in the field of production as well as in the social and cultural field. This revolutionary process of the development of productive forces in agriculture and the perfecting of socialist relations in the countryside has led to the gradual narrowing and the elimination of the essential differences between town and countryside, between the peasantry and the working class. This has been and still is one of the fundamental questions of the general line of the Party for the construction of socialism in our country. To this end, the PLA has applied a broad program of measures of a profound ideological, political, economic, social and cultural character. The continuous aid of the state for the countryside in agricultural machinery, chemical fertilizers, credits, higher cadres, as well as the setting up of a complete education and health service network in the countryside, the construction of a broad network of social-cultural objects and the granting of pensions to the peasantry, the expansion of the scientific work, the electrification of

all the villages, the extension of motor roads and the telephone network and many other measures of the kind are important steps towards achieving this great objective of the PLA with regard to the countryside.

During the period 1960 to 1970, the real incomes per head of population increased in the countryside 1.4 times more rapidly than in the town, while from 1971 to 1980 this increase was 2.4-3 times greater. In the development of productive forces, improving the wellbeing of the people and raising their social-cultural level, the PLA has been guided by the Marxist-Leninist orientation that socialism is not built only in the town and for the working class alone, but also in the countryside and for the peasantry.

The implementation of such a line has brought about that the countryside in Albania has not been abandoned and ruined, but on the contrary, is developing uninterruptedly, both in the plains and in the mountainous zones. Responding to the call of the Party, «We must take to the mountains and hills and make them as fertile as the plains,» the peasantry, helped by the state and the youth volunteers from the cities, has set up huge plantations of fruit trees and other crops on the hills, mountain slopes and along the coast where previously there was only shrub covered barren land. The creation of new villages planned on modern lines and farms on newly broken-in land has altered the map of Albania and has set agriculture on the road to rapid development and prosperity.

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THE COLLECTIVIZATION OF AGRICULTURE IN ALBANIA HAS ITS OWN DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

It was carried out in specific social and economic conditions. First of all, it was carried out in the conditions of the existence of the small-scale private land property. The experience of our country shows that where the dictatorship of the proletariat has been established, the collectivization of agriculture can be carried out successfully, even when the nationalization of the land has not taken place, provided the land reform has been applied with profoundly revolutionary criteria. This experience constitutes a creative development of Marxist-Leninist science. It shows that the nationalization of the land is not an objective necessity for all countries prior to the collectivization of agriculture.

Another characteristic is that, from the very beginning, we applied only one form of collectivization, the highest form, that of agricultural cooperatives of production, and this, in the conditions of our country, has justified itself as the most suitable form.

Another distinguishing feature for the socialist transformation of our countryside is that we did not wait for the development of the productive forces first and then collectivize agriculture, but we began with the building of new socialist relations of production, without neglecting the development of productive forces. Had we waited for the development of the productive forces and then begun the collectivization, this would have

been a loss of time to the benefit of capitalism and to the detriment of socialism, because the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry would have been seriously damaged.

The experience of the socialist construction in our countryside proves that collectivization must not be artificially delayed until a vigorous development of the productive forces has been secured, just as it must not be artificially pushed through before the necessary political, ideological and economic premises have been created.

The collectivization of agriculture in our country was carried out by following a correct policy in waging the class struggle: the political isolation, the economic isolation and the elimination of the kulaks as a stratum.

In general, in setting up the agricultural cooperatives in our country we did not wait for all the peasants to join at once but cooperatives were set up even with a relative minority of the peasants. As a result, the collectivization was not postponed artificially.

During the four decades of the people's state power agricultural production in Albania has grown and continues to grow nearly twice as rapidly as the population.

In the 7th Five-year Plan agriculture occupies a particularly important place; total agricultural production in the 7th Five-year Plan will increase 30-32 per cent as against the 6th Five-year Plan. Nearly 29 per cent of all investments of the 7th Five-year Plan are being used in agriculture. About 60 per cent of the new labour force are employed in agriculture and a broader technical material base continues to be placed at its disposal.

As Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, «The development of agriculture and the experience of socialist construction in our countryside prove

the importance and universal value of the teachings of Marxism-Leninism according to which the only road for the construction of socialism in the countryside, in the countries of fragmented peasant economies, is the collectivization of agriculture. Any other way apart from collectivization leads only to the development or the re-establishment of capitalism in the countryside.»

ELECTRIFICATION

On October 25, 1970, the electric light went on in the last Albanian village which had remained without electric power. In a symbolic way and to commemorate that day, this village in the Fier district took the name «Agim» («Dawn»). From that day on, Albania entered the ranks of those few states which have achieved the electrification of all the villages.

Up to 1945 no villages in Albania had electric power. To bring light to all the peasant homes was a difficult and a very costly job. Nevertheless, the Party did it because it placed the interests, well-being and happiness of the people above everything. The electric reticulation of the countryside was done entirely with the expenses of the state. The peasants assisted in the work to carry this project through.

The electric reticulation of our villages paved the way to a profound revolution in the all-around development and transformation of the countryside. Together with the electric light, radio, television and many other household devices were introduced into the peasant homes.

The use of electric power in the countryside has made possible a perceptible rise in the level of mechanization of agriculture, which is increasing productivity of all agricultural crops and making the work of the peasants easier.

TRANSPORTATION

In the system of the Ministry of Communications motor transport performs about 52 per cent of the total goods transport and 77 per cent of the total passenger transport. Now the length of motor roads is about 3 times greater than in the pre-Liberation period. A good part of motor roads are sealed. The number of goods and passenger vehicles has multiplied. Motor transport now goes deep into the mountainous zones which were isolated in the past.

Of special importance is railroad transport which will increase the volume of goods transport, thanks to the new railways to be built in the future.

The first railway in Albania was built in 1947. Since that time railway transport has continually increased in length of line and number of locomotives and wagons.

In 1983 railway transport accounted for more than 46 per cent of the volume of goods transport. In 1985 as against 1980, the total volume of goods transport will increase 34-36 per cent. In this context railway transport will be given priority and grow 80-84 per cent.

The Laç-Hani i Hotit railway, which will link Albania with the International railway system, is under construction. During the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) new lines and sidings are being built which make up 37 per cent of the total length of the existing railway lines.

Today our merchant fleet is known in all the seas and oceans. The shipyard in Durrës (the main harbour of the country) now builds ships up to 2700 tons.

FOREIGN TRADE

The foreign trade of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania has become an important lever for the extension of relations with foreign countries. The PSR of Albania has always shown willingness to develop trade relations with various countries on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. It has trade relations with more than 50 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The trade relations with other countries have been steadily extended, together with the economic development of the country. As against 1938, they have been extended as follows: in 1960 7 fold, in 1970 about 13 fold, in 1975 about 23.5 fold, in 1980 about 35.8 fold.

The export-import structure has radically changed. Today Albania exports chromium ore and concentrate, ferro-chrome, electric power, iron-nickel, petrol, Diesel oil, Bitumen, copper and copper wire, rolled steel, pyrite ore and concentrate, nickel-silicate, concentrate, bauxite, dolomite, olivinite, products of the light and food-processing industry, of the chemical industry (soda ash, hyposulphite, fluor silicate, selenium, acids), building materials (cement, marble facings), ready-made garments, knitwear, leather and plastic articles, carpets, rugs, crafts products, aromatic oils and essences, tobacco, fresh and preserved fruits and vegetables, cognac, wines, etc.

Minerals (chromium, iron-nickel, copper, bitumen, etc.) occupy a considerable place in our exports. Among the minerals exported chromium ore provides the greatest volume. Our country holds the second place in the world for chro-

mium exports. Our chromium contains 42 per cent of Cr_2O_3 and the chromium-iron ratio is 3:1.

The continuous improvement of the structure of our exports is shown by the fact that in 1980 the exports of processed goods made up 70 per cent of the total volume of exports. This qualitative leap forward of our exports in the years of the People's Power can be understood better, if we only mention that before Liberation, Albania exported only a very small quantity of products of animal or plant origin.

With the rapid development of industry the number of new articles for export is increasing steadily, and their quality and packaging is improving. Exports of fresh vegetables, especially early tomatoes, which are in great demand on the markets of many countries on account of their excellent flavour, are increasing at rapid rates.

Whereas before Liberation Albania imported almost everything, today radical changes have taken place in the structure of imports, too. Beginning from 1976 our country is totally self-sufficient in bread grain and meets nearly 90 per cent of the needs for other mass consumer goods.

Albania imports machinery and some kinds of raw materials which serve the development of production in the country.

In the 7th Five-year Plan the foreign trade will develop even further. In 1985 as against 1980 the volume of circulation of foreign trade goods will increase 57-59 per cent. Priority will be given to exports, so that the export-import balance guarantees the increase of the hard currency reserves of the country. The exports of goods in 1985 will be 58-60 per cent higher than in 1980.

PRICES POLICY

A unified, centralized and planned prices policy is applied in Albania. The price is an important economic lever in the hands of the socialist state for the increase of production, the improvement of the quality and the raising of the material well-being and the cultural level of the working masses of town and countryside. The unified level of retail prices has placed all consumers on an equal footing. Fixing of prices is not influenced by the spontaneous supply and demand of the market. The level of retail prices directly influences the level of the real wage of the working people, which is on a fair ratio with the index of retail prices of consumer commodities and the services tariffs.

Price is the monetary expression of the value of a commodity in money. But this does not mean that the specific price of a commodity always expresses its value, that is, the necessary social work done for its production. There are commodities such as pharmaceuticals, clothing and other articles for children, which are sold at prices below their value. And this is done for the purpose of favouring certain groups of society such as families with many children, etc. At the same time, there are articles which are sold at prices higher than their value, the usage of which is not indispensable. In the same way, the prices of cotton and woollen fabrics, as well as of garments, are established in such a way as to direct the demand of the consumer more to ready-made garments rather than to bolt material. This is done for the purpose of extending the demand for ready-made garments, because it is a well-known fact that the organization of series production discloses new and greater possibilities for saving raw materials, for raising the qualifi-

cation, specialization and productivity of labour, factors which tend to reduce the cost of production.

The aim of production in our country is not profit but fulfilment of the material and cultural needs of the working masses, the economy and the defence of the Homeland. Between production and prices there is reciprocal connection. The lowering of prices leads to increased demand and, together with it, consumption. And this impels the producers to find new ways and possibilities to step up production in order to meet the needs of consumers. In our planned economy, crises of over-production, inflation and uncontrolled price-rises are unknown.

The workers of our country do not feel the effects of the world economic crisis in the field of prices, because the state covers the fluctuations of the prices of imported goods with its own expenditure. Thus, the prices of essential goods like sugar, vegetable oils, medicines, coffee, and so on, have not changed at all, although the prices of these goods on the international market have increased many times over in recent years.

In our country retail prices have only one course, that of stability or steady reduction, whenever our economy creates the conditions for this. There has not been a single instance of a price-rise in any commodity. On the contrary, prices have been steadily reduced, benefiting the working masses to the extent of millions of leks. Of course, this is not the only way to increase the real wages of the working people. Along with the lowering of prices, the policy of raising the lower nominal wages of the workers is followed, too. As to the increase of the real income the fund of social consumption is highly influential. This fund represents a sinew of communist dis-

tribution, because it is distributed free according to the needs. The social fund of consumption has a tendency to increase faster than the wages fund and the income of the peasantry. This includes state expenditure for the social-cultural needs (education, culture, health, etc.) Today the social fund of consumption makes up 15 per cent of the overall consumption of the people. It is created by part of the national income which is utilized to meet the common needs of the working people.

THE RATIO BETWEEN LOWER AND HIGHER WAGES

In Albania the working people have been recognized and guaranteed a series of rights such as: abolition of the exploitation of man by man, the right to work, establishment and implementation of the principle «equal wage for equal work», etc. The revolutionary movement towards social equality, which started in our country with the liquidation of the private ownership of the means of production and the exploiting classes, is further developed in the process of socialist construction towards the narrowing of the distinctions in the standard of living of the working class and cooperativist peasantry and the different groups of working people. In connection with this Comrade Enver Hoxha has said that the Party is fighting and will continue to fight to constantly improve the standard of living of the people, of everybody, being guided by the correct principle of not having equalitarism in wages, nor favouritism for anyone. Every wage must correspond to the quality and quantity of work of everybody and the differences in wages between the working people must steadily narrow.

The Party of Labour of Albania has always been careful to maintain as correct a ratio as possible between the pay of the cadres and the income of the workers and cooperative members, which avoids flagrant differences in income and the emergence of privileged strata which directly endanger the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism. At the same time, the PLA has always fought against tendencies towards petty-bourgeois equalitarism in the field of remuneration which is also alien and harmful to socialism.

In accordance with this revolutionary Marxist-Leninist line the wage system of the workers and employees and the system of the remuneration for work for cooperative members have been set up and systematically improved, always based on the socialist law of distribution according to work.

Beginning from 1976 some improvements have been made in the system of wages: the wages of the technical-administrative personnel within the same economic branch were unified; the evaluation of the qualification of the working people was made on the basis of their cultural level and professional skills; work places were classified according to working operations; wages were better linked with the quality and quantity of the work done and the direct expenditure for production; difficulties at work and the qualification of the working people were better taken account of; fairer rations were established in the formation of income, giving priority to wages over supplementary material remuneration, etc.

Today in Albania the ratio between the average wages of the workers and the salary of the director of the same enterprise is 1:1.7; the ratio between the average wages of the workers in general and the salary of a department head in

the ministry is about 1:2; the ratio between the lowest and highest wages of the workers within the same branch is about 1:1.5-1.65 etc. These ratios are set by law.

This is an unprecedented concrete, implementation of Marxist-Leninist theses in practice, a great reality of the proletarian justice in socialist Albania where a post is not a privilege but a duty and where cadres are integrated with the masses.

The lowering of higher wages, together with the measures to reduce fees and emolument of the working people of literature and arts, education and science above their basic wages, through a better harmonization of material stimuli with moral stimuli, is an expression of the treatment of the problem of wages from the class standpoint. This is done for the purpose of further revolutionizing the material relations between the masses and the cadres, and among the cadres themselves, a condition of vital importance to protect people, especially the cadres, from harmful influences. Experience shows that bureaucracy is fostered by higher wages. Bureaucratic elements always lean towards altering through many ways and means the ratio in wages in their favour.

The working class, under the leadership of its Party, has always combated these tendencies through maintaining a clearcut revolutionary class stand. It has constantly seen to it that a correct system of wages is applied, and that tariffs of remuneration, work norms and ratios between lower and higher wages are such as to promote production, raise its quality and not allow pronounced differences in income among various categories of workers.

THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PEOPLE PAY NO TAXES

In the structure and application of its whole policy of taxation on the population, the Party of Labour of Albania has always been aware that taxation is a temporary historical category. Therefore, step by step and with great care, it prepared the necessary conditions for eliminating it. On November 8, 1969, the decision was taken for the total abolition of the system of direct taxation on the population.

This measure is connected with the extension of socialist relations in production and with the rapid development of the productive forces of the country. Thus during the 1945-1946 financial year (the first year after Liberation) the proportion of taxes from the population in the total income of the state budget was 92 per cent; in 1950 it fell to 12.6 per cent, in 1960 to 2.7 per cent and in 1969 to 0.1 per cent.

As can be seen, taxes were abolished not all at once or merely by administrative decree, but step by step, parallel with the development of the socialist sector of the economy and the change in the class structure in the country. This constitutes a major victory achieved by our people and is a brilliant example of the consistent implementation by our Party of Labour of its general line for the construction of socialist society and the constant raising of the standard of living of the people.

Article 31 of our Constitution says explicitly: «The citizens pay no taxes or levies whatsoever».

The complete abolition of taxes is of major economic, political and ideological importance. With the elimination of taxes, the personal incomes which all the working people of our country, including the cooperativists peasantry, achieve through their work, are intangible.

SELF-RELIANCE

The Albanian economy develops relying completely on its own forces, its own material and financial means without credits or aid from abroad. The persistent, selfabnegating work of the Albanian people has always been the decisive factor of the revolutionary transformations and achievements in the construction of socialism of the stability and ceaseless development of our economy.

The principle of self-reliance emanates from the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, according to which the internal factor is the decisive one, and the external factor is only of auxiliary, complementary importance.

Ever since the Anti-fascist National Liberation War, by relying entirely on their own forces, the Albanian people won their freedom and the independence of their country through armed struggle. Likewise, they have made the construction of socialist society, the development of the economy and culture and the defence of the victories achieved unconditional on external aid.

The experience of Albania shows that every people, big or small, can carry forward and develop their economy independently when relying on their own forces.

Applying the principle of self-reliance, much has been done in the PSR of Albania for the tapping and rational exploitation of the mineral and water resources of the country. A heavy, extracting and processing, industry has been developed and the industrial reserves of minerals constantly increased. The development of the economy is being based more and more on local raw materials

and energy resources, like oil and natural gas, coal and electric power. The export-import ratio and the balance of payments has improved from one five-year plan to the next. Albania has no foreign debts and does not base its plans of development on any kind of external aid.

Self-reliance has never been a temporary policy dictated by external circumstances. It is not a policy of autarkic development of the national economy. All the peoples, big or small, make their contribution to the cause of the revolution and construction of socialism. They give each other internationalist aid and support. Hence, the application of the principle of selfreliance does not negate disinterested internationalist aid from the world proletariat and the socialist countries, on the contrary, it presupposes it.

Albania exchanges on the world market part of its national product with the goods it needs. Our socialist state carries on trade relations with various countries of the world on the basis of equality, respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit.

Albania has based its 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985) for the development of the economy and culture entirely on its own forces, without any kind of economic, financial and material aid or credit from abroad, despite its high rates of development and its tasks which are greater than in any other five-year plan.

In 1985 as against 1980 the total social product will increase 34-36 per cent, industrial production 36-38 per cent, agricultural production 30-32 per cent (for the five years taken together), fundamental investments (for the five years taken.

together) 22-24 per cent, the national income 35-37 per cent, state financial income 34-36 per cent and real income per capita 8-10 per cent, etc.

Our economy does not know such negative phenomena as decline of production, unemployment, inflation, prices-rises and other evils typical of the capitalist and revisionist countries.

FOREIGN POLICY

FOREIGN POLICY

The foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is an open, independent and consistent policy of principle, based on proletarian principles free from narrow bourgeois nationalism or underrating of other peoples. As the policy of a socialist state, it is a profoundly internationalist policy which supports the revolutionary movement of the working class and the struggle of the peoples for freedom, national independence and social progress.

The foreign policy of socialist Albania is not restricted by political pacts, military treaties or exclusive economic organizations. Albania does not base its economic and political development, its defence and its future on credits, loans or aid from other states, but only on its own forces.

Albania is for the development of relations and collaboration with all those states which abide by the principle of equality, non-interference in internal affairs of others, respect for sovereignty and reciprocal benefit. It is for the right of every people to self-determination and full sovereignty and for equality of all countries in international relations.

Socialist Albania is opposed to all imperialist and neocolonialist practices of inequality, discrimination and great-state dictate in international

relations. It holds that relations between states, whether big or small, should be free from any kind of economic, political or military pressure and dictate. Albania is opposed to and exposes the aggressive and warmongering policy of the two imperialist superpowers-the USA and the Soviet Union, which are the greatest and most dangerous enemies to the freedom and independence of the peoples, socialism, genuine peace and security in the world. They protect and guarantee the existence of reactionary regimes, help them keep their peoples in bondage to foreigners and instigate feuds and conflicts between nations. Their policies pose a direct threat for mankind to be hurled into a third world war.

Adhering to these principles, the government of the PSR of Albania is constantly extending its diplomatic, trade and cultural relations with other countries. Socialist Albania devotes special attention to her relations with the neighbouring countries in particular and with the European countries in general. Actually, Albania maintains diplomatic relations with 99 states. It is for the expansion of these relations with all these countries that wish Albania well and maintain a correct attitude towards it.

Our socialist state has been and is for the normal and free development of international trade on the basis of equality and reciprocal benefit. Our country is for balanced trade exchanges, without discrimination or limitation, hence, it has repeatedly, expressed its opposition to unequal relations in trade exchanges, the manipulation of prices, and in general, machinations and attempts on the part of any state to exploit trade relations as a means of pressure for dictating its own political will and views to another state.

We do not confuse trade exchanges with fo-

reign aid and credits. These are two separate, unconnected things. The Constitution of the PSR of Albania, in order to bar the road to any threat to the national and economic independence of the country, prohibits the granting of concessions to, and the creation of foreign economic and financial companies and other institutions, or ones formed jointly with bourgeois and revisionist capitalist monopolies and states, as well as obtaining credits, from them (Article 28).

Our country has concluded a series of cultural agreements with many countries and carries on regular exchanges in the fields of art, culture, science, sports, etc., on the basis of reciprocal benefit and non-interference, and without discrimination or prejudice. These exchanges, which are steadily being expanded, make the peoples acquainted with one another's achievements and progress and strengthen the friendship between them. We have always held in high esteem the progressive, both ancient and modern culture of other countries, considering it property and treasure of all mankind. On the other hand, we make efforts to acquaint other countries with the treasury of the ancient and modern culture of our people, while always considering the desires and interests of their peoples.

Likewise, Albania is for all-round exchanges in the field of science and technology and profit from modern science, technique and technology, while always preserving and safeguarding our independence and freedom of action in this field.

At all times and in every situation, the aim of the foreign policy of Albania has been to contribute as much as possible to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe, and the broadening of collaboration amongst its peoples. The PLA and the government of the PSR of Albania have openly declared their stand towards the po-

litical and military blocs of the superpowers which are the source of divisions and splits in Europe, of recurring tensions and conflicts between the countries of the continent. The view of socialist Albania is that only resolute opposition to American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, the liquidation of military blocs, the removal of atomic weapons and foreign troops, the dismantling of foreign military bases in the countries of both Western and Eastern Europe can ward off the danger of war and strengthen peace in Europe. The PSR of Albania prohibits the establishment of foreign military bases and the stationing of foreign troops in its territory (Article 91 of the Constitution).

THE PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

THE PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

One hundred and thirty newspapers, magazines, scientific bulletins and other periodicals are published in our country.

The most important newspaper is «Zëri i popullit», organ of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, the first number of which came out on 25 August 1942, in the days of fascist occupation, in the heat of the National Liberation War. «Zëri i popullit» soon captured the hearts and minds of the Albanian people, became the voice that inspired mobilization. It carried the word of the Communist Party of Albania, its revolutionary thought, the battle cry for the freedom and independence of the Homeland. It struck terror to the enemies, who worked hard to discover its printing base and destroy it, but their efforts failed, because the people defended it.

During the period of socialist construction, too, «Zëri i popullit», like all our people's press, has been the close and loyal aid of the Party of Labour of Albania, for the promotion of revolution in all fields. It has always made a valuable contribution to the continuous strengthen-

ing of our socialist order, the unity of the people round the Party, the education of our new man with the Marxist-Leninist world outlook and the spirit of socialist love of country, the loyal implementation of the correct line of the Party, the defence of the lofty interests of the people and the Homeland, in struggle with the internal and external enemies.

Reflecting the correct stands of our Party and socialist state on the international issues and events, «Zëri i popullit» has gained recognition in the world. At a time when the bourgeoisie and the revisionists spread all kinds of slanders, falsifications and humbug in order to confuse and mislead the peoples, and make many efforts to put them off the correct revolutionary struggle, «Zëri i popullit» has always been a tribune of the staunch support for the proletariat and the peoples, has condemned the policy of aggression and war pursued by American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism and their tools, has always raised the banner of the Party of Labour of Albania, the banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, high and kept it unsullied.

The day of the appearance of the first number of the newspaper «Zëri i popullit», August 25, 1942, marks the founding of the Albanian people's press.

Apart from «Zëri i popullit», illegal organs were published during the National Liberation War such as «Bashkimi», organ of the National Liberation Front, (today the Democratic Front of Albania), «Kushtrimi i Lirisë» organ of the Communist Youth, (LYUA), as well as other organs in the districts and military units.

While preserving and further developing its revolutionary traditions of the war years, during the years of socialist construction our people's press has grown in quality and quantity. The

number of newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals has increased, as well as the programs of the Radio and Television and the bulletins of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency.

«Zëri i popullit» and «Bashkimi» are dailies. Other newspapers such as «Puna», organ of the Central Council of the Trade Unions, «Zëri i Rinisë», organ of the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Union of Albania; «Luftëtari», central organ of the People's Army, are bi-weeklies. The newspaper «Drita» and the magazine «Nëntori» are organs of the Writers and Artists' League. Other important organs are the theoretical magazines «Rruga e Partisë», organ of the CC of the PLA, the illustrated magazine «Ylli», the magazine «Shqiptarja e Re», organ of the Women's Union of Albania, etc. Six newspapers and magazines, with a circulation of 180,000 copies, are published for the youth and children.

Local newspapers are published in 17 centres of administration districts and in major industrial centres.

To have an idea of the development of our press suffice it to mention that only 6 newspapers, and these were completely in the service of the anti-popular regime in power, were published in pre-Liberation Albania. «Drita», the main newspaper of that time, had a daily circulation of only 4000 copies, while today «Zëri i popullit» has a daily circulation of 100,000 copies.

THE RADIO AND TELEVISION

The Albanian Radio and Television is a state institution occupying an important place among the mass media.

It prepares and broadcasts radio and television programs of the most varied forms and for all age groups.

The Radio and Television has its own symphonic orchestra which was created in 1962. It makes its contribution to the development of Albanian music and the high-level interpretation of the works of Albanian and foreign composers.

The first radio service in our country commenced on 23 November 1938, with the setting up of a 3 kW short-wave station.

Regular radio programs began only on 27 November 1944, on the eve of the liberation of the country. On November 28, 1944, Radio Tirana broadcast live the speech of the primeminister and commander-in-chief of the National Liberation Army, Comrade Enver Hoxha, at a big popular rally on the occasion of Independence Day and the arrival of the Democratic Government in Tirana. During the first years all broadcasts were live, as there was no recording equipment.

From 1947-1950 radio programs were made up of 7.5 hours of service and four hours of external service in five languages for listeners abroad.

The first 50 kW medium-wave radio station was set up in 1952, to be followed later by other powerful radio stations broadcasting on short and medium waves. Now the broadcasting power of Albanian radio stations has greatly increased and the voice of Albania is heard on all the continents. Today our broadcasting has a modern equipment and special studios for political, informative, social, cultural and artistic programs.

Radio programs have increased steadily from year to year. Today Radio Tirana broadcasts uninterruptedly 18 hours a day and 82 hours

(world service) in 20 foreign languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, German, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Portuguese, Arabic, Chinese, Polish, Hungarian, Czech, Serbo-Croatian, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Indonesian, Persian and Swedish.

The Albanian Radio diffusion is comprised of four local radio stations in the cities of Shkodra, Korça, Gjirokastra and Kukës, which broadcast 4-5 hours of local programs everyday.

The Albanian television commenced its first experimental broadcasts on 29 April 1960. Until 1965 it had two-hour broadcasts three days a week and its signals could be received only in Tirana and Durrës. Later our television programs reached also some other cities of the country in the lowland and coastal areas.

Our Television began its regular daily programs in 1971. Since that time it has constantly grown in quality and quantity. It broadly reflects the life, activities and creative work of our working masses.

Programs are prepared in modern stationary and mobile television studios. Albanian television has its correspondents in every district of the country and their task is to reflect the activities that are carried out in all fields there. Apart from its different sections which prepare programs on a broad range of themes and for all age-groups, the Albanian television also has a section producing television feature films. The television makes ten such films per year.

In 1981 the Albanian television began its colour broadcasts which in 1983 account for nearly 70 per cent of all its programs.

Today there is a TV-set for every 15 inhabitants.

In our country there are no taxes on radio- or TV-sets.

Our Radio-Television maintains regular contacts with a number of Radio-Television centres of different countries of the world with the purpose of exchanging programs, on the basis of mutual interest.

PUBLISHING HOUSES

Books are published by three main publishing houses.

The «**8 Nëntori**» Publishing Houses publishes political and scientific books. Its activity has steadily increased from year to year. It has published the most important works of the classics of Marxism-Leninism. This publishing house devotes a special place to the publications of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha, prepared by the Institute of Marxist-Leninist Studies of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania. Worth mentioning among them are the volumes of Principal Documents of the PLA, the forty-two volumes of the series of Works and the series of Selected Works of Comrade Enver Hoxha in foreign languages. In recent years it has published a number of Works by Comrade Enver Hoxha, which have been translated in some foreign languages: «Yugoslav' Self-administration — A Capitalist Theory and Practice», «Imperialism and the Revolution», «Reflections on China» in two volumes, «With Stalin», «Eurocommunism is Anti-communism», «The Khrushchevites», «The Anglo-American Threat to Albania», «The Titoites», «Reflections on the Middle East», etc.

A great number of books of a political, philo-

sophical and scientific character of different fields, bilingual and plurilingual dictionaries of different branches of natural sciences have been published.

The «**Naim Frashëri**» Publishing House publishes literary works, — novels, collections of stories, short stories, poems, plays, etc.

The **Textbooks** Publishing House publishes all kinds of textbooks for the various categories of schools, from elementary to higher schools.

Besides these publishing house there are also other publishing organizations such as, for example, the Academy of Sciences of the PSRA, the University of Tirana, etc.

MAGAZINES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

At present 6 magazines in foreign languages destined to various categories of readers are published in Albania:

«**ALBANIA TODAY**» — a political informative magazine. It is published bimonthly in French, English, German, Spanish and Italian. It acquaints the readers with the Albanian reality and Albania's stands on important international problems.

«**NEW ALBANIA**» — an illustrated bimonthly magazine. It is published in Albanian, French, English, German, Spanish, Russian, Italian and Arabic. Through its articles and pictures it informs the readers of various aspects of life in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania.

«**LES LETTRES ALBANAISES**» — a quarterly magazine of selections from classical and

contemporary Albanian literature published in French, organ of the Writers' and Artists' League of Albania.

«**STUDIA ALBANICA**» — a bi-yearly magazine in French with summaries of Albanian studies in the field of history, philology, etc. published by the Academy of Sciences.

«**Puna**» — a trimestral magazine published in English and French, organ of the General Council of the Trade Unions of Albania. It carries articles on various aspects from the life of the Albanian working class, as well as materials expressing the attitude of the Trade Unions of Albania towards problems of the international worker movement.

«**Foreign Trade**» — a bimonthly magazine published in English and French by the Chamber of Commerce, with information on Albanian foreign trade and advertisements of Albanian export goods.

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The Albanian people's press is characterized by a high ideopolitical, scientific, and cultural level and a militant revolutionary spirit. It is a powerful means in the hands of the broad masses for the education and mobilization of the working people for the construction of socialism and the defence of the country. It devotes special attention to international affairs; it consistently reflects the principled struggle of the PLA and the Albanian people against imperialism, revisionism, and the oppression and exploitation of peoples in the world.

A characteristic of our people's press in Albania is that it is based firmly on the broad mas-

ses of the people. This is expressed in the fact that our press, radio and TV and various publications are not only property of the masses, tribunes of their revolutionary thinking, but also the product of the masses and a direct expression of their revolutionary line. Through their contributions to the press organs, the radio and television, the working masses bring their thoughts, experience and beautiful language of the people to the mass media. With us it is not just the professional journalists that bring out the paper or the magazine, nor is the work at the radio and television done by a permanent staff of editors alone. Large numbers of people of different walks of life, from city and country, people intimately acquainted with life, production and the daily struggle of the working masses for the socialist construction of the country, write for the press and speak on the radio and TV.

Matters of the press, like all other matters in the life of the country, are regulated on the basis of special laws. Our Constitution sanctions the right of any citizen to have his say freely in the organs of the press, in the radio and television. All the conditions have been created for the actual implementation of this right. The masses are urged and encouraged by every means to exercise it.

In socialist Albania, the profession of the journalist is an honoured one. Journalists are esteemed and respected by the masses for their objectivity, honesty, and lofty moral figure. On the basis of the law, the journalists enjoy all authors rights. The people working in the press and the Radio and Television have their own organization — the Union of Albanian Journalists and their organ — «Tribuna e Gazetarit».

SOCIAL LIFE

SOCIAL LIFE

SOCIALISM AND THE INDIVIDUAL

Freedom of the individual! The harmonious and all-round development of the human personality. An ideal both ancient and new-from remote antiquity to our days.

But it was and is unable, for this ideal to make a headway in a society with exploiting classes. Oppressed politically, dependent and exploited to the bone economically, benumbed mentally and spiritually — this is the general picture of man, especially the working man, in this society. Above him — the state, the church, the employer, the many kinds of institutions in their service, the enslaving ideology, customs and traditions.

At the dawn of its existence, the bourgeoisie unfurled the banner of the emancipation of the individual, together with the famous slogan of «freedom, equality and fraternity». But its ideals, too, were abortive. From the historical standpoint, they were just a flash in the pan. True, formal juridical freedom of the individual, was won, but as Marx says, it was freedom to sell oneself, to sell one's labour power. Man was turned into commodity. And he remains a commodity. His enslavement was prettified perfect-

ed, but remained enslavement, even for those who create outstanding spiritual values — the writers, scientists, etc., because, as Lenin put it, they too, are tied to the capitalist's purse-strings.

Only communism can eliminate these age-old contradictions of human society. And the conditions for communism are prepared during its initial stage — socialism.

The hired apologists for capitalism, slandering the socialist social order, accuse it of oppressing the individual, ignoring and violating his interests. According to them, socialism reduces all individuals to the one level, «trims them all with the same shears», and lumps them all together in an «amorphous mass», a collective. Unable to tolerate the collective social discipline, the bourgeois and petty-bourgeois individual with anarchist tendencies, like the aristocrat of the past, regards the human collective as a force which gobbles up the individual. Even if they admit that socialism brings progress (only in the initial stage of its development, according to them), the partisans of bourgeois individualism declare that this is achieved at the expense of human rights. Truly a paradoxical logic: progress in the life of man at the expense of his rights!

The theory of scientific socialism and the practice of socialist life in our country totally refute these falsifications by bourgeois theoreticians. According to the Marxist concept, in every society the individual is formed and developed in a given collective. Therefore, the development of the individual is conditioned by the development of all other individuals, with whom he enters in- to direct or indirect relations. Only in the collective does the individual have at his disposal those means which enable him to develop his gifts and abilities in all directions. And precisely in the collective the free development of each individual

is a condition for the free development of all. This dialectical relationship between society and the individual finds the most favourable soil for its practical embodiment precisely in our socialist society.

Proof of this is the new free life of the people of socialist Albania today. The example of Albania is a complete confirmation of Lenin's thesis that socialism emancipates man from all aspects, enables all the energies and potential of mankind, all the talents suppressed and inhibited in society with exploiting classes to burst forth freely and vigorously; that it educates and teaches all, from the cook to the minister, to govern the country jointly, themselves; that it creates possibilities for them to enjoy all the blessings created by them in the new social order; that it opens the way to genuine, all-round, harmonious development.

Through free elections with equal suffrage for all and the right to be elected to every state and social post, through active participation in the various mass social organizations of a political character, through the implementation of the worker and peasant control over the entire life of the country, through the line of the masses and socialist democracy, popular discussions on various vital problems, of the development of the country and other means and forms of this nature, the individual affirms himself as an active participant in the political life of the country, from the base to the highest levels. And it is not the elite, but rank and file people, in the first place workers and peasants, who climb to these peaks.

The political emancipation of man is cemented through the economic mechanisms of the new socialist order, thus assuming a broad social aspect. The effective right to work, and work for

all, work according to one's abilities and qualifications; pay according to the work done, according to its quantity and quality — this is the basis for effective social for all the individuals, to avoid that great differentiation and social-class polarization, characteristic of the present capitalist and revisionist world. Here there are no taxes, the health and education services are free of charge, rents are only symbolic, enslaving «credits» and debts to pay. Is all this not a guarantee that the individual will be genuinely free, that he can enjoy and make use of this freedoms?

And what about the equality of all in education, and on top of this, in the possibility to engage in the active and creative process of the assimilation of cultural values, in the mass scientific experimentation, in creative work in all fields, in the ceaseless all-round development of the spiritual world of the new man of socialist society? A country that only four decades ago was steeped in illiteracy has given all individuals possibilities to climb to the highest levels of education, so that now almost all the youth of the country get all kinds of schooling, including secondary schooling. And it is struggling to overcome the crippling of human education expressed in one-sidedness, especially in the separation of lessons from work, of theory from practice.

The practice of socialist construction in Albania is an extremely eloquent proof of the mass outburst of human talents and individual abilities in all fields of life — from politics to creative scientific and artistic work. We see the vanguard workers, of agriculture and industry are also deputies in the People's Assembly. Ordinary working people are, at the same time, social activists up to the highest organs of the Party and the state, while the ranks of the literary, artistic, cultural and sports organizations are augmented

from year to year with many new forces of an ever higher level, and steadily increasing skill. Although a small country, socialist Albania is proud that outstanding personalities already known to and esteemed by the international public have emerged from these ranks.

It is interesting to examine how these indications of major revolutionary socialist transformations in the life of the individual are expressed in certain social strata and place, where they stand out with special force. Take the personality and individuality of the Albanian women of today. An unimaginable emancipation within four decades. From confinement in the house and domestic slavery- to an impetuous outburst of forces. Participation in work completely equal with men. The same in education, including higher education. Equal with man in every field of life. This is the soil for the unprecedented flowering of female individuality.

Extremely interesting phenomena can be seen also in the current development of the Albanian youth, in the personality of boys and girls. Through the mass education of the youth, their total emancipation in work, their active participation in the life of the country, the youth have proved to be a major revolutionary force, a driving and revolutionizing force in all fields of life. That is why the young people do not see «individual freedom» in spiritual emptiness, in degeneration, hooliganism, in anarchic protest with a anti-social content.

The ceaseless narrowing of the distinctions between town and countryside and the principles of the organization of our socialist life have enabled the peasants, young and old, men and women, to be included actively step by step, in all those social processes, which have guaranteed the development of their individualities, just as with the townspeople.

Socialism and the individual — two notions closely linked with one another. Not just in theory, but as we have seen, in practice, too. So much so, that sometimes it is difficult to separate the one from the other, because the flowering of the human individuality is inconceivable and unrealizable apart from the joint socialist life.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The aim of Labour legislation in Albania is to ensure the full implementation of the socialist principles **«work is a duty and an honour»**, and **«from each according to his ability, to each according to his work»**. Work for all and the implementation of these principles are guaranteed by the socialization of the means of production and the planned organization of the economy. In Albania there are no economic crises or unemployment. Work has become the source of the well-being of everyone and the basis of our social system.

In the past many Albanians had to emigrate in order to earn a livelihood. You would find them employed where the work was the hardest and most difficult in France and the United States of America, in Australia or the Argentine. Most of the families of the emigrants experienced many family tragedies. That is why the places where the emigrants were farewelled were called by the people the «meadows of tears». Many songs of grief have been composed about the cursed migration, about the young brides left without their husbands, the children who did not know the fathers who had been forced to go abroad to earn their daily bread.

In the Constitution of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania we read: «Work is the foun-

dation of the entire economic social life of the country. Work constitutes the main source from which every citizen ensures the means of livelihood.» Thus, as has been the case up to date, the state has put the guarantee of work for every citizen at the foundation of the whole life of the country, as a right and duty for every citizen. This is guaranteed by the political, economic and social conditions of the socialist order. It is based on the existence of the political state power of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the socialist ownership of the means of production.

The principal laws dealing with the work and life of the working people, with employment, the conditions of work, wages and social insurance are drawn up with the active participation of the workers and trade unions. This has made it possible for the labour laws to reflect as fully as possible the policy of the Party, and to divest the labour laws of unnecessary or complicated formulations and make them simple, clear and understandable to the masses, thus enabling them to check up on their application in practice.

The workers are guaranteed an 8-hour work-day by law. For certain categories of workers engaged in difficult jobs the working day is reduced to 7,6 or 5 hours, without any reduction in wages. Overtime work is not allowed except in special cases which are sanctioned. When the worker works overtime, he is paid an increase of 25 per cent of his wage.

In addition to the weekly day off and official holidays, the workers and employees enjoy the right to a paid annual vacation. A good number of workers, like those working in mines, metallurgy, chemical works, the oil industry, tobacco factories, the health service, education and culture, etc. are entitled to supplementary leave of

up to 36 work-days a year. In order to enable the workers to spend their vacations and relax in a pleasant environment, holiday homes have been set up which are frequented by tens of thousands of workers every year.

In order to make it easier for all the working people to raise their education, cultural and technical level, the law envisages facilities for them to attend courses while continuing with their jobs. The hours of work for those who are studying are reduced and supplementary leave with up to 100 per cent of the pay is granted them to prepare for and sit their examinations. This supplementary leave is from three to six hours a week for part-time school attendance.

The law gives equal rights to men and to women on the basis of the principle «**Equal pay for equal work**». The state gives special protection to women and minors. Pregnant women, nursing mothers and people with medical certificates are not allowed to work night shifts or overtime, or do heavy work. Working women also enjoy other facilities which enable them to take part en masse in production work and to carry out their duties as mothers.

In line with the principle that «**man is the most precious asset**», the **Labour Code** and other dispositions on safety at work attach special importance to protecting the health and life of the workers. Thus, their workshops, factories, enterprises and establishments, where work goes on, are designed, built and utilized according to the rules of technical safety, sanitation and hygiene. The use of machines, mechanisms and installations which present a danger is permitted only after they have been equipped with protective devices and when the workers have been given sufficient training in the use of these devices. The workers and employees on jobs liable to en-

danger their health are provided, free of charge, with protective clothing and equipment (goggles, masks, helmets, gloves, boots, and so on). In the branches of production in which emissions of dangerous gases and vapours occur, in addition to other protective devices, the workers are given antidotes. Such steps for the prevention of occupational diseases and accidents are a major factor which has helped in preventing temporary disability and invalidity from constituting a disturbing problem in our country.

In addition to the free medical service, all workers and employees and members of agricultural cooperatives are guaranteed social insurance. The necessary funds for social insurance are provided entirely by the state and are a supplement to workers' wages and salaries. Social insurance provides for all eventualities, covering the working people before they are born, throughout their lives, and their families after their death. Social insurance provides aid for the workers in case of temporary inability to work, ranging from 70 to 85 per cent of their wages and payable from the first day of this inability. In case of inability, because of injury at work or occupational disease, the compensation payment ranges from 95 to 100 per cent of average earnings. Women workers and cooperativists are entitled to paid maternity leave of about 6 months before and after childbirth, paid at the rate of 80 per cent of their average earnings.

Old age pensions for workers are differentiated on the basis of the difficulty of their job. Full old age pensions are available to men who have reached the age of 50,55 or 60 years with 20 or 25 years at work and the women at 45,50 or 55 years of age with 15 and 20 years at work. The pension is paid at the rate of 70 per cent of average earnings. Pensions are also paid to invalids,

to those who lose the family breadwinner, and to those who have displayed special merits in the struggle for the freedom, independence and socialist construction of the country.

Maternity leave before and after childbirth for women cooperativists as well as pensions are paid in a centralized way by the State Social Security organs. On the decision of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour and the Government, which came into effect on April 1, 1976, the proportion of normal earnings payable in town and countryside in maternity, child-birth and age benefits was equalized, and the minimum age benefit payable in the countryside was increased.

State control over the application of the Labour Code and the laws ordinances, decisions and instructions on social insurance is exercised by the supreme organs of the state, the social insurance organs, inspectorates of labour, safety at work and health. The trade unions, the organizations of the working class, also perform a very important function in this direction. They are extensively engaged in making the workers familiar with the laws so that they are rigorously applied in fighting manifestations of bureaucracy and technocratism and in enforcing discipline on everybody.

Under the Labour Code the masses take an active part in drafting of laws, decisions and other legal dispositions which bear on work, wages, safety at work, the living conditions of the working people, in the drafting of the state plan and its application.

THE HEALTH SERVICE

In the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, medical services, visits, analyses and treatment at home, in outpatient clinics, in hospi-

tals, etc. are provided free of charge. Our state spares nothing in running a qualified health service established on scientific bases and covering the entire population. There is an extensive network of health institutions reaching the remotest villages. This network is comprised of hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes, day nurseries, institutes of hygiene-sanitation and medical research, stomatological clinics, pharmacies, enterprises of the pharmaceutical industry, and so on.

Today there is one doctor or stomatologist for about 600 inhabitants. In comparison with 1938 the number of hospital beds has increased more than 20 fold. Constant organizational and planning work is conducted for the proportional development of the health service, the creation of the necessary conditions for its normal work and the training and specialization of its cadres.

A systematic struggle is waged against various diseases not only by treating them, but especially by preventing them. As a result of these prophylactic measures, Albania, the most malaria-stricken country in Europe before Liberation, now has not a single case of malaria and other diseases which were rampant in the past, such as syphilis, tuberculosis, etc. are very rare.

The self-denying work of our health cadres, the constant raising of their level of qualification, the political understanding of the problems of prophylaxis and hygiene and sanitation, and the establishment of close contacts between doctors and their patients — all this has produced notable results in recent years. Bearing always in mind the teachings of the Party and the instructions of Comrade Enver Hoxha, the health cadres are striving to educate the people to see the doctor or go to the clinic time and again not only when they are sick but also when they just do

not feel well so that any disorder in the organism may be detected by means of timely consultation and examination before making itself felt through disturbing symptoms and pain.

Thanks to the major work done in the years of the people's state power for the improvement of the health of the people, the average life expectancy in Albania rose from 53.3 years in 1950 to nearly 70 years in 1983, as against 38 years in 1938.

Some facts about how the health of mother and child is looked after speak on the important results achieved by our health service.

Conditions have been created for all expectant mothers in both town and countryside to deliver in maternity homes. Every village, however small it may be, has its midwife; there are day nurseries in every city and village in which a very high percentage of our children are growing up. The provision of all medicines for children under one year of age and the supply of vitamins to expectant mothers and their children after childbirth free of charge, the subsidizing of nurseries, etc. by the state are important factors exercising an influence on the constant improvement of the health of mother and child.

The state creates the best possible conditions for the broad masses so that they may spend their vacations, which are guaranteed by law, in a cultured way at our many attractive mountain and seaside resorts where comfortable holiday homes have been set up. Facilities on our beaches are expanding from year to year.

The working people of town and countryside are guaranteed the necessary means of livelihood in old age, in case of illness or loss of capacity for work. Likewise the state takes under special care the invalids of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War, of the struggle in defence of the

Homeland and the invalids from work, and creates conditions for their rehabilitation.

The protection of the health of our people should be viewed in all its aspects.

Our state compels all enterprises to carry out all the measures that should be taken in order to protect the environment from pollution right from the first stages of work on new projects, and so on. But in addition to enterprises the law also charges social organizations, as well as every citizen with duties so that he himself may protect the environment from pollution, and take a stand and make it a problem when he notices any violation of this law, which is related directly to the protection of the health of the working masses.

When a child is taken ill, the working mother is given nine days of paid leave in every three-month period or up to thirty six working days a year. If the doctor deems it necessary, the mother may be given supplementary unpaid leave to nurse her child through a long illness. If the child has to be hospitalized, the mother, particularly if she is breastfeeding the child, can stay there to assist the child for as long as the doctor recommends it. For the whole of this period she is paid on the basis of the regulations of social insurance.

According to the sanitary legislation of our country, it is compulsory for every work centre to take measures for the prevention of professional diseases of the workers, in accordance with the work centre and the material handled by the workers. The work centre must secure the respective installations for ventilation or the suction of harmful gases, smoke and dust during production processes and to remove in good time all waste and left-over harmful to the environment. The work centre must supply the workers

with individual means and clothing for protection during production. The workers must also utilize these means during work. They are subjects to periodical medical examinations to make the necessary analyses at the laboratory, and so on. No new worker is accepted at work without having a medical report which proves the condition of his health.

Recently there has been a mass check-up and filing of certain diseases like heart-ailments, tumors, etc.

Every pregnant woman reports to the women's consultation rooms which are both in town and countryside. The consultant keeps the expectant mother under constant control, follows the normal development of the child, and when any difficulty arises, immediately sends the woman to the respective specialist. The expectant mother is given 6 months of paid leave before and after childbirth. The pregnant women prepare themselves to receive their children following the advice of the midwife or the doctor who is in charge of them. They go through a health education course called the «school of mothers» where they learn how to bring up their babies.

Our state spares nothing for the life of the handicapped children. It makes huge expenditure to return them to normal life. Special institutions have been set up to correct several congenital malformations. There is also a central institution for mentally handicapped children, where they are submitted to psychological, pedagogical and other special treatments. The results are very satisfactory; many of these children have entered life as all the others.

The revolutionary triangle of our school system — lessons, production work and military and physical training — operates in the Faculty of Medicine as well. Besides lessons according to

teaching programs and plans, the students do also practical medical work, beginning with the first year at the Faculty. For instance first-year medical students do one month's practical work of a nurse or sanitary worker. In accordance with their subjects, the practical lessons are done in the laboratories or at the patient's bedside and under the direct supervision of the assistants. The relations between practical and theoretical work are harmonized so that the student is as capable as possible of meeting the requirements to properly treat the patient.

The doctor-patient relations, being disinterested (in our country, the doctor has no financial ties with the patient), are based on mutual respect and socialist humanism.

THE ROLE OF THE WOMAN IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

The progress of the Albanian women, under the guidance of the Party of Labour of Albania, is one of the finest examples of emancipation. The linking of the problem of women with national liberation and the treatment of this problem by the Party of Labour of Albania as an integral part of the uninterrupted socialist revolution not only ensured real conditions for the solution of all the problems of the women, but at the same time made a contribution of great generalizing value in this field.

Before Liberation the situation of the Albanian woman was appalling. Not only did she suffer oppression and poverty, as all the people, but she also suffered from discrimination, inequality

with man, feudal moral norms, backward customs and religion. Often she was treated as a chattel — her father and her relatives sold her, her husband and his relatives bought her. In some zones where the Muslim code prevailed polygamy was permitted. A young woman could be married off to an elderly man for the interest of the clan or for money. The birth of a girl was considered a misfortune and a burden on the family. In certain regions the woman was compelled to cover her face with a yashmak. Under these conditions the participation of women in state employment was something quite extraordinary. Before Liberation throughout Albania there were only twenty-one women teachers, two or three women doctors, not a woman engineer, agronomist or chemist. No woman sat in parliament or did any more or less important job in the state apparatus. In the secondary schools girls made up only 2.4 per cent of the students. Illiteracy, which kept the overwhelming majority of the population in darkness, weighed even more heavily on the women.

During the National Liberation War, the Communist Party of Albania attached major importance to the activization and mobilization of the women. There are many examples in the history of Albania which show that women have fought, arms in hand, against foreign invaders, but their participation in the National Liberation War was a mass phenomenon and with an entirely new content. The Party called on the women to rise and smash the shackles of fanaticism with their own hands, to line up shoulder to shoulder with their menfolk in the struggle for national liberation and their own emancipation. For the Albanian women their participation in the armed struggle was a sound guarantee for their complete emancipation in the future. The

Party had made it clear in its program that after the establishment of the people's state power the struggle for the emancipation of the women would continue both in breadth and depth. In this program, the Albanian women saw the way to their salvation, therefore they rose in wholehearted struggle. About 6,000 women and girls joined the ranks of the National Liberation Army and many of them were leaders of partisan detachments. Thousands of others took part in the underground work in the cities, in the demonstrations and clashes with the invaders. Women and girls gave the National Liberation Army massive assistance with food and clothing, provided shelter and treated the wounded, transported arms and ammunition. During the war, the councils of anti-fascist Albanian women were set up in villages and cities to conduct organized political and cultural work with the masses of the women, courses against illiteracy, and so on. The Anti-fascist Union of the Albanian Women (AUAW), which was set up in 1943, played an outstanding role in the liberation war and in the socialist construction of the country.

After the establishment of our people's state power, a revolution in the economy was carried out, and this required the conscious efforts of men, women and the entire people to fight with self-denial to carry out the collectivization and the socialist industrialization of the country, to safeguard, administer and continuously strengthen the common property. Men and women were trained at work, in schools, qualification courses and political and ideological study groups to see the emancipation of women, among other problems, as a problem of the socialist revolution. Special laws were proclaimed and conditions were created to guarantee the rights of women, old norms and customs were replaced

with new norms and customs based on higher respect for and greater dignity of the woman in our society. These great victories in the life of the woman are sanctioned in the Constitution which says, among other things, that the woman is a great force of the revolution, who takes an active part in the socialist construction of the country and the defence of the Homeland.

The Albanian woman plays an important role in the whole life of the country. At the 7th Congress of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha said, «Without the participation of the woman the socialist revolution cannot be carried out successfully, and without the socialist revolution her complete emancipation cannot be achieved.» Today in Albania, the work of the woman is seen and her word is heard in every sector of life. She takes part in the struggle for the construction of socialism full of dignity, she distinguishes herself for her lofty revolutionary spirit, for her determination and patriotism, she distinguishes herself in work and life. Let us refer to some figures: at present 46 per cent of the working people employed in our Republic are women and girls, while in certain sectors such as the light and food-processing industry, education, health and trade this figure rises from 58 to 80 per cent; 52 per cent of the working people of agriculture are women. Women make up nearly 30 per cent of the deputies to the People's Assembly, 30 per cent of the members of the Party of Labour of Albania, about 30 per cent of the members of the Supreme Court, 41.2 per cent of the leaders of the organizations of the masses. Great transformations have taken place in the field of education, too. The females account for 52 per cent of the pupils in secondary schools and 50 per cent of the students, and 42.4 per cent of the cadres of medium and higher training.

The people's state power abolished capitalist exploitation, established a new legislative code and opened the way to the operation of the objective laws of socialist society. Under the people's state power a new man has been formed, armed with the Marxist-Leninist ideology, with new concepts about work, property, the family, the woman, etc. The creation of these conditions has brought about a situation in which a girl is no longer treated as a slave, in which love must be the basis of every marriage. Young people now guide themselves by lofty socialist motives in the creation of the family, and not by material interests, career-seeking and other motives which humiliate the woman. Regardless of the great results achieved in our country, the struggle for the emancipation of the woman continues and will continue for a long time. To this end, educated by the teachings of the Party of Labour of Albania, the women of our country fight to uphold and further develop the spirit of their own emancipation and of society as a whole, so that the role of the woman as an active builder of socialism, a staunch defender of the Homeland, a careful mother and educator of the younger generation, is steadily enhanced.

Our women are aware that the perspective of the socialist development of Albania envisages and requires that the woman participates in all the fields of the productive activity, because the creative and innovative thinking of a woman striving and fighting for her further qualification is called for everywhere and always in order to respond to the demands of our present and future five-year plans.

The emancipation of the woman in Albania is not a «feminist» movement as it is in the capitalist countries. It means the advance of the woman towards full equality with men, their

progress hand in hand, in harmony of feelings, aims and pure ideals their march towards communism.

CADRES ENGAGE IN PRODUCTION WORK

Wherever you go in Albania, in town or countryside, you are liable to come across leading cadres of all levels, workers of the administration, people of intellectual pursuit who are working directly in production, shoulder to shoulder with the workers and peasants. It is a principle in the social life of socialist Albania that, with the exception of the elderly or those whose health or physical condition does not permit it, all the cadres of administration of the state, Party or economic apparatuses and organs and social organizations, cadres of the army, the intelligentsia, state enterprises and agricultural co-operatives take part regularly for definite periods in work directly in production. In addition to classroom lessons and physical and military training, direct participation in production work is an essential component in our school curriculum, too.

The participation of leading cadres and all the people of mental work directly in work in production is an aspect of our social life which is of vital importance to the cause of socialism and firmly based on principle.

Above all, it has to do with the establishment, maintenance and perfecting of genuinely socialist relations in society. In order to establish such relations it is not enough just to establish the socialist ownership of the means of production. It is also essential to establish correct relations between the leading cadres and the broad

masses of working people in town and countryside. This requires that, on the one hand, the cadres, as representatives of the dictatorship of the proletariat, must manage, lead and supervise; while, on the other hand, they must consider themselves servants of the people, closely linked with the masses, and integrate themselves with them, must learn from and render account to the masses, and be constantly under their effective control. This means that centralism must be correctly combined with socialist democracy.

But in socialism there exists the danger that the leading cadres may become bureaucratic, detach themselves from the masses and become opposed to them, may turn from servants of the people into rulers over them, may degenerate and thus create a new anti-socialist caste or class — a thing which leads to the liquidation of the dictatorship of the proletariat and the restoration of capitalism. The existence of such a danger has already been confirmed by historical experience. Failure to take it into account is fraught with fatal consequences for the future of socialism. However, this is by no means inevitable and can be avoided if a correct Marxist-Leninist stand is maintained, and effective measures are taken to prevent it from turning into reality. Among the measures which the Party of Labour of Albania has taken to ward off this danger, of great importance are the circulation of cadres from leading posts to the base and from the administration to production, and vice versa, the bringing into the leading organs of more persons who work in production, especially from the ranks of the working class the reduction of higher salaries and putting the standard of living of the cadres in correct proportion to that of the masses, the further deepening of the line of the masses in appointing cadres, intensi-

fication of the Marxist-Leninist ideo-political education of the cadres and fighting against manifestations of technocracy, etc.

The participation of the leading cadres and the intellectuals in productive labour is a matter of great principle also because it leads to the further strengthening of the moral-political unity of the people in the struggle for the cause of the construction of socialism, averts the separation of theory from practice which, as Lenin points out, is one of the greatest evils and misfortunes inherited from the old capitalist society. It constitutes one of the concrete and effective ways of gradually narrowing the essential distinctions between physical and mental work.

HOLIDAY CENTRES

Holiday resorts for the working people and their children have been set up in almost all regions of Albania.

The tourist centre of Theth is located in the Alps in the North. Whoever has seen the beauties of this place has described it as a pearl of nature. The holiday home built in alpine style has been erected in a valley not far from the Shala River, surrounded by mountains more than 2600 m high.

To the West of Theth, but on a milder natural relief, is another holiday resort for the workers. This is Razma, which attracts people from all over the country because of its beautiful scenery.

Further south, on the shores of Shkodra Lake, is the pioneers' holiday home. This is one of the oldest centres of this character in our country.

Shëngjin is the northernmost holiday centre on the shores of the Adriatic. It is one of the

newest holiday centres in Albania. It is situated a few kilometres west of the ancient town of Lezha. The fine sand and pleasant scenery are very popular among beach goers. Thousands of children and workers spend their holidays there.

In the central part of Albania, behind Mt Skanderbeg which divides the Kruja district from the Mat district, amidst towering centuries-old pine trees, is Qafë Shtama. Here you can see many bungalows where the workers and their families spend their holidays in the months of summer.

Patok, on the shores of the Adriatic, not far from the new town of Laç, is the newest holiday centre in Albania.

A little further to the south, on Mt Dajti (1 612 m above sea-level) which we call the «Balcony of Tirana» is a children's summer camp. In winter this is one of the most popular centres of the ski amateurs. There are other buildings which constitute the workers' holiday camp.

West of Mt Dajti, on the shores of the Adriatic, lies the biggest holiday resort of our country. This is the Durrës beach, with holiday homes for the working people and their children, with villas and tourist hotels. Tens of thousands of working people and their families spend their holidays there every year.

Near this centre, on the coast a little further south, is Golem. A holiday centre for young pioneers has been functioning there for many years and there are also beach houses for the workers and their families.

Following the coast south, we stop at Divjaka, west of the city of Lushnja. Divjaka has its own characteristic scenery: here a belt of pine trees stretches right down to the sea. The beauty of the scenery and the tranquility of the site attract many working people to spend their annual

leave at the holiday home or in the little bungalows built for this purpose.

One of the oldest holiday resorts in our country is Vlora. There are several holiday homes on its beaches for the working people and their children. A new holiday home has been built here recently.

Dhërmi is another coastal holiday resort. Every year hundreds of working people spend their summer holidays at this resort on the shores of the Ionian. The big rocks off the beach serve as ideal spring-boards for swimmers.

Saranda is the southernmost Coastal holiday resort in Albania. It is built on the shores of the Ionian Sea and is famous for its beautiful scenery.

In the Korça district, in the South-east of our country, there are three holiday centres. There is the Voskopja resort with holiday homes for the workers and their children, and the scenic spot of Dardha. In winter, the thick layers of snow attract the ski amateurs.

The newest holiday home built a few years ago rises in the form of a natural balcony over the city of Korça.

We conclude this itinerary with Pogradec. This small city is situated on the shores of the lake of the same name. Seen from above, it reminds you of a huge crystal-clear mirror in which the blueness of the sky and the greenness of high stately trees are reflected. Pogradec is one of the most attractive centres both for the working people and for their children. Here, too, the state has built holiday homes for them.

For the period of their annual leave, the workers receive full wages, while at the rest homes they pay only one third of the expenditure, the state defrays the rest of the expenditure for them and their children.

SPORTS

In Albania all the younger generation is involved in sport. This is realized, first of all, at school, where physical training is one of the three main components of the teaching process. Apart from individual participation, the youth take part in sport also in an organized manner, according to a wide-ranging program which is the basis of sports activities and which is worked out in detail in every district, work centre, institution, cooperative and enterprise by the amateur sports organizations, in collaboration with the other mass organizations. This manner of organization ensures a wide variety and continuity of sporting activities. Besides the very popular sports such as football, athletics, gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, etc., school programs and sports calendars devote an important place to marches and excursions which are organized in such a way that the participants become closely acquainted with the nature of the Homeland — its mountains hills, forests, lakes, rivers, etc. These activities also greatly assist the physical training of the participants. Marshes and outings are organized on a school, work centre, agricultural cooperative or district scale. Shooting, physical culture displays and festivals of folk games, which are based on the centuries-old traditions of our people, enjoy great popularity. Three national festivals of folk games have been organized so far.

This broad movement is organized and directed by the organization of the Sports Union of Albania. The other organizations, from the basic unit — the sports collective, up to the centre, make their contribution to this mass movement. The mass organizations, especially the youth and the trade union organizations, make a major

contribution to carrying out these varied forms of the sports movement, in compliance with the desires and requirements of the youth, such as marches and outings, folk games, championships and spartakiads.

The numbers of the participants in the sports movement, which have been steadily growing from year to year, give a clear picture of the vigorous development of this movement.

From the 1st National Spartakiad in 1959 to the 4th in 1979 the number of participants increased from 150,000 to 500,000. The 5th National Spartakiad which was held in October 1984, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Liberation of the Homeland, had a record number of participants — 760,000, that is one out of every four inhabitants of Albania took part in it.

On the basis of the estimates of international organizations in proportion to its population, our country ranks amongst the states with a vastly developed physical culture and sports movement.

Our most highly qualified sports enthusiasts are organized in the teams of sports clubs on the basis of districts, schools, work centres, agricultural cooperatives and state farms, institutions and military detachments. These clubs carry out their activities by taking part in various championships. For instance, there are the National Football Championships (I, II and III divisions), the national championships in basketball, volleyball, athletics, swimming, shooting, chess, table tennis, amateur radio, classical and free style wrestling, weight lifting, cycling, etc. There are national events for junior teams — males and females, and children.

The participation of children in sport has developed extensively, especially in recent years.

The number of teams for children 7 to 8 years of age, organized by the sports clubs, is increasing from year to year. The children have their national activities in the form of a championship or a spartakiad. A very large number of children are trained in the sports classes in the 8-year schools. Along with their general physical training, the teaching program of these classes includes specialization in one particular sport. In recent years these classes are being opened in the village schools, too.

Before Liberation there were 27 physical education cadres for the whole of Albania. Today there is the «Vojo Kushi» Institute of Physical Training from which over 2,000 physical education cadres have graduated.

The people's state power has put considerable funds at the disposal of the younger generation for the development of these activities. Today there are 21 football stadiums and 366 football fields, 81 sports centres, 6 sports palaces, 36 shooting ranges for sporting purposes, 375 practice grounds, 27 halls for gymnastics, 339 basketball and 476 volleyball courts.

Even in the most remote mountain village, together with the school and the house of culture, you will also find the volleyball court and football field.

The Albanian sportsmen take part successfully in a number of international activities — football, volleyball and basketball, wrestling, shooting, weight lifting, etc., in which they have won a place of honour, and in certain sports also the title of champion.

In 1983 there were many beautiful sports events, such as the display on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the creation of our Peo-

pie's Army, the 20th Young Pioneers National Spartakiad, the National Spartakiad of the Working Class.

Today there are over 500,000 people taking part in the massive sports movements every year.



Thousands of boys and girls participate in the physical culture and sports movement. In the photo: The opening of a big sports manifestation in Tirana

*Manifestation of the closing of the National Spartakiad,
a magnificent pageant of our younger generation*



*An intensive care ward
in one of the hospitals of the capital*





*Hikers at the picturesque
lakes of Lura*

View of the Botanical Garden, Tirana



**EDUCATION -
CULTURE
SCIENCE -
THE ARTS**

EDUCATION-CULTURE- ART-SCIENCE

FOLKLORE

Albania has a rich and original folklore. The feelings, culture and vitality of the Albanian people are reflected in the wealth and diversity of the folklore. This national treasury has been constantly enriched through the addition of the experience of each generation; it has also been influenced by the social and historical conditions and the geographical position of the country.

MUSICAL FOLKLORE

«Variegated songs» — this is what the people call songs of the lyric genre. This description is a very good expression of the great diversity of this genre in Albanian folklore. All sorts of songs of various forms, content and themes have always accompanied the Albanian people from the cradle to the grave, at the most important moments of their lives, at work or at rest, in war or in peace, in joy or in sorrow. Through them the people have expressed their sentiments and opinions, their desires and dreams, and their ideal of beauty. The folklorist can

find all kinds of interesting motifs in various categories, of folk songs: lullabies with which the Albanian mothers rock their babies to sleep in their cradles, nursery songs and rhymes which bring the pleasant aroma of childhood, gentle love songs, satirical songs which show a keen eye for detail and pillory shortcomings through humour and satire, wedding songs, toasts raised in drinking bouts, elegies and dirges. Also of interest are the motifs of certain work songs of shepherds, farmers, artisans and others, which are replete with ancient elements both in their verse as well as in their archaic musical modes. Many ancient relics are to be found especially in ritual songs for yearly celebrations. Albanian folklore is rich in ancient songs and dances, an echo of the celebrations of our pagan forefathers. These songs, handed down from one generation to another, seem to be rooted deep in the hearts of our people, although the new conditions of life are making an impact even in this category of songs, putting aside some obsolete manifestations and developing certain new themes further.

Like the genre of lyric songs, the songs of the epic genre are rich in motifs, subjects and forms. Certain popular ballads and «Songs of the Warrior Knights» from the most important cycle of the legendary epic poetry, captivate one with the exuberant fantasy of their anonymous creators and their wide range of means of poetic expression. A testimony to the poetic and musical creativeness of our people, they are, at the same time, a reflection of their world outlook, optimism, generosity, hospitality, manliness, as well as many other noble virtues.

With regard to the historic epic, it can be said that every important event was commemorated by the Albanian people through songs. Lis-

ting epic songs of this kind in their chronological order, that is, beginning with the ballads of the period prior to the Ottoman occupation in the 15th century, going on to the epic songs during the time of the Ottoman occupation, which tell of the struggle of our people for freedom, for secession from the Ottoman Empire, of their uprisings or express their social protest against oppression or exploitation (the songs of emigrants abroad) or commemorate the mighty efforts of the patriots of our National Renaissance for national independence, we arrive at the songs of the National Liberation War. All these epic songs give us valuable information about the historic circumstances in which the Albanian people lived in the past. They testify to the heroic resistance of the people who fought for centuries on end for their freedom and independence. Finally, the songs of the period of socialist construction represent the further development of the historic epic, either in their elements of socialist ideology, or in their new means of artistic expression.

To this day, from the ranks of the Albanian people there continue to emerge rhapsodists who, along with old ballads, sing to the events of the day.

The various genres of folklore, their ancient motifs, their constant elaboration, as well as the new productions have enriched Albanian folk music with an extraordinary variety of artistic expressions. This music is composed in all kinds of sequences of simple measures (that is 2/2, 2/4, 2/8, 3/2, 3/4, 3/8, 4/2, 4/4, 4/8), or compound (that is, 6/2, 6/4, 6/8, 9/2, 9/8, 12/2, 12/4, 12/8), or mixed (that is, 5/4, 5/8, 7/4, 7/8, 8/4, 8/8, (4+5)/8, 10/8 reaching

higher measures up to 25/8). In addition to these,

we have irregular measures and «free» rhythms («ad libitum»), which are not divided into definite bars. Of special interest is the polyphonic combination of voices in characteristic parts. From this standpoint. Albanian folk music is divided into two main dialects which conform to the two language dialects: in regions north of the Shkumbin River we have homophonic (in unison) and heterophonic music, while on the other side of this river we have polyphonic music, both vocal and instrumental. The style of this polyphonic music varies according to the district, the number of parts (two, three or four), the age group (young men's and old men's songs), and the sex of the singers, and so on. The polyphonic combination of voices in songs sung by choral groups follows certain original rules set by local tradition. The study of this popular polyphony is of importance to musicology from many aspects.

In every village and city block, from time to time, one hears the sounds of music instruments without which no wedding parties or particular celebrations take place. The various instruments used by the people give our folk music all kinds of tonal shades. From the simplest instruments of the ideophonic genre to those used by adults to stress rhythm, we have a wide range of tone and timbre. While there are five folk instruments from the drum family: tamburine, drum, *qyp*, *tumbullac* and *poç*, it is in the wind instruments that the widest range occurs, first, instruments made from crops; then paramusical instruments like gourds, conches, shells and horns. Then we have real instruments such as the *bicula* with two pipes, the *pipëza* with one or two pipes, the *surlena* and the bagpipe. There is a wide range of string instruments, both simple paramusical string instruments and real string instruments

(*çiftelia*, *bakllama*, *sharkia*, *çyr*, *jongar*, *kalushun* and *saze*) and arch instruments (*lahuta* and *lauria*). But pride of place in our musical expression belongs to the human voice. Many interesting observations can be made about characteristic methods such as drawing the voice from the throat, as in the case of some folk singers from the south-western part of Albania (a kind of yodel which suddenly changes from the deep register to falsetto), or bursting out in powerful voices like in some kinds of songs by the northern mountaineers.

The creative ability, temperament, endurance, optimism, together with many aspects of life, are reflected also in our *folk dances* which are, without doubt, among the most beautiful and the most interesting expressions of Albanian folklore. Their beauty has also attracted the admiration of a number of foreign writers and artists, among whom Lord Byron's picturesque description of Albanian dances in his work «Child Harold» is worth mentioning.

In their forms and content, Albanian folk dances vary more or less according to districts, the sex and age of the participants, etc. Every district and, indeed, nearly every village has its own characteristic dances. The distinctive features of the dances of every district conform to the dialectical and ethnographic branches with which a number of variants are linked. But, in spite of the great variety of the dances of different districts, they also contain common elements emanating from the unity of the Albanian tradition. In the past the women and men of certain districts used to dance separately, while mixed dances were rare even within the one clan. As regards distinctions according to generation there are old men's and young men's dances (old women's and young bride's dances); there are even children's dances.

Viewed from the number of participants, there are also *solo* dances which are danced in Northern Albania and in the region of Kosova (Yugoslavia), while in Southern Albania, where polyphonic music prevails, there are no solo dances. *Duo* dances are danced in different ways throughout Albania while in Southern Albania they exist only as an integral part of collective dances.

As a rule *trio* dances are danced by two women and a man or, vice versa, by two men and a woman. Most of them are of a dramatic character.

Collective dances have more than four participants. These, too, differ both in form and content. The commonest form is a straight chain as, for instance, the humorous dances of *caps* or *coffee cups*, which are danced by peasants of Northern and North-eastern Albania. There are also dances in *ranks*, which interchange with twists and winding movements as, for instance, those danced by the Albanian settlers in Italy, in which all kinds of figures are formed. In addition there are also dances of two dancing rows which are accompanied by songs. The commonest form is the circular dance which has spread all over Albania, as well as among the Albanians living beyond the borders of our country. The circle may be an open one, like an arch, horseshoe, spiral, and so on, or a closed one, of big or small diameter, according to the number of participants. The circular dances of Southern Albania have two leaders as required by the parts in polyphonic songs.

It is difficult to describe in words the structure of Albanian folk dances with their movements, steps and figures accompanied by gestures and mimicry of facial expression. In general, the folk dancers dance not only with their feet, but with the whole of their bodies. Nor are

the acrobatic elements lacking as, for instance, in the dance of the «living tower» which is performed by a circle of dancers linked shoulder to shoulder, on which stands another circle of dancers.

The Albanian folk dances are not abstract performances but they express some lyric, epic or dramatic content through plastic movements, mimicry, song, and so on. Of interest, from many points of view, are the war-like dances which reflect strong character and manliness, the epic spirit moulded in the long resistance against every foreign occupation. Also interesting are certain dances connected with ancient habits and customs. The most complete dances are those danced to vocal music provided by the dancers themselves. In these dances poetry, song, choreographic and acrobatic elements, up to puppet shows and shadow pantomime, merge together.

The form and content of folk performances vary much or less according to generations, sex, region and social strata, etc. Each region of the country has its own characteristic performances and entertainments, almost every village has its own jesters and clowns who show themselves especially during family joys and celebrations. Their repertoire created during the centuries reflects at best the creative abilities of our people with their fantasy, taste and inclinations; at the same time, out of all that diversity of traditional performances one can witness many interesting motifs, remnants of myths and legends, pagan rites and ceremonies, ancient customs and habits, as well as reminiscences of historical events with a host of picturesque characters which reflect the characteristic features of our people themselves.

Popular prose is also a great heritage of Albanian folklore. Its subject matter and themes are varied.

The varied phenomena, which our popular prose deals with, form a reflection of our society in the past in many colours and from many angles. Our people have crystallized these phenomena into a number of types which, even though they often resemble one another, have distinctive elements among them. The basic theme of our popular prose is the struggle between good and evil. In building up the events on this basis the people have created figures who confront one another, locked in fierce struggle until the complete triumph of good and happiness has been achieved. Along with fables, conundrums and puzzles, filled with figurative expressions and metaphors created by the people as tests of ingenuity, continue to thrive. Likewise, proverbs and anecdotes with the profundity of their ideas music and dance merge into one whole. Very interesting are the *dances of the meadow* performed by the highlanders of Northern Albania in silence, without musical accompaniment, but according to the rhythm which stems from the bodies of the dancers themselves.

The diversity of rhythm and metre of our folk music enables the dancers to express all their spiritual ardour through all kinds of dynamic elements.

When one watches the Albanian dances in their own environment, with the picturesque costumes of the dancers which bring out their plastic movements better and under the accompaniment of their own characteristic music, one can not fail to be deeply impressed. All that diversity of forms and motifs handed down from one generation to another, with those myriads of movements, steps and figures of great expressive power, are convincing evidence of the creative fantasy, mastery, artistic taste and rich spiritual world of this people.

More than 500 types and variants of costumes of various sexes and age-groups, including those of the children, were presented to the National Folklore Festivals. Amongst them there were very interesting, beautiful exemplaries. Pleasant to the eye were especially bride's costumes, with the masterfully arranged forms and colours, as well as fine embroideries and decorations on them. The taste and fantasy of the people has manifested itself in all those varieties of costumes.

An ever lively and interesting branch of Albanian folklore is that of *dramatic performances* ranging from the simplest to the more complicated forms. There are certain categories of popular performances with or without a given fable such as humorous farces, stories, dramatized in monologues or dialogues, pantomimes, performances involving and the keenness of their observation, in which is concentrated the wisdom and age-old experience of the people themselves, are constantly being enriched.

The Albanologist Gustav Weigand has described the Albanian language as a Balkan language «par excellence» This description could be applied also to Albanian folklore in general, since, in addition to its national features, it has many motifs and characteristic elements in common with our neighbours. Of course, these are the consequences of contacts and relations over many centuries which have brought about many exchanges or borrowings also in folklore. By tracing the distribution of common motifs through comparative studies between Albanian folklore and the folklore of the neighbours, interesting observation can be made about a number of phenomena, indeed, we can arrive at their origin, that is, among the most ancient inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula. In this way the

continuation of the Illyrians in the Albanians is brought out. Of course, what the people's traditions inherit from the distant past is not petrified in unchanging forms, because folklore does not remain stagnant, but moves along, flowing like an inexhaustible stream into which is poured the experience of many generations. During its course through the centuries it has constantly undergone changes both in form and content. Thus, the motifs and means of expression of folklore develop in accord with the dynamic of life.

Here we must stress the unquestionable unity of Albanian folklore with all its diversity of sources; all that host of ancient or more recent motifs, borrowed or native, has been accumulated, layer upon layer, and merged into a single synthesis.

Their persistence in preserving their mother tongue, the habits and customs of their ancestors, their folk songs and dances, as well as all the branches of their folklore have protected our people from the process of denationalization during the centuries of oppression. Our folk tradition has always been of great value to our society. Formerly, in the dark ages, it compensated to a certain extent for the lack of schooling by educating the younger generations with the experience of their elders. For the patriots of the period of our National Renaissance folklore was a powerful weapon in their struggle for national independence. The important social, artistic, scientific and political function of this national heritage continues to this day.

The history of the recording of the Albanian folklore begins with a group of proverbs published in 1635 by Frank Bardhi in his Latin-Albanian Dictionary. From that time on, the study of Albanian folklore encountered the difficult conditions of the Ottoman occupation. Never-

theless, many patriots of the period of our National Renaissance, especially those who had grasped the importance of folklore, strove, heart and soul, to serve in this field, too, prompted by lofty patriotic aims. In Albania, as throughout all Europe, the collections of folk songs began with the verses, thus, for a time it was only the poetic side of folklore which was cultivated, while the musical side was left entirely fallow. The collecting and study of our folk music has been actively pursued, especially since the liberation of Albania. Under the care of the Party of Labour of Albania, characteristic groups of folk singers, dancers and instrumentalists were set up in the cultural centres established even in the remotest corners of the Homeland. Local and national festivals have been organized. These festivals have revealed previously unknown talents. At the 1983 National Folklore Festival in Gjirokastra, which is organized every five years, there were 1600 participants selected from among 70,000 folk singers and dancers in the 26 districts of the country. Thus 1/40 of the population took part in the Festival.

All this shows that folklore in our socialist Albania is not outdated and dying away but on the contrary, is ever alive and continues to flourish and develop both in form and content, together with the entire life of the country.

At the beginning of the 50's musical folklore was introduced into the teaching programs of the Lyceum of Arts in Tirana, as a separate subject of study. Meanwhile the Albanian musicologists have published a series of original studies about folk dances and instruments, the themes of folk songs and the morphology of folk music etc. These studies are the best proof of the rapid development of musicology which, although a new science in Albanian culture, has already achieved some obvious results.

In 1960, the Institute of Oral, Musical and Choreographic Folklore (later re-named the Institute of People's Culture) with its archive, its collection of recorded songs and music and popular instruments, was set up in Tirana. With the founding of this Institute more suitable conditions were created for the collection and study of folklore through properly organized research expeditions. The extension and deepening of the spheres of research, the adoption of advanced methods of work and the employment of modern technical means open wide prospects to the study of Albanian folklore. Many publications with folklore materials have come out, especially in the recent years.

In the course of the development of our culture, folklore continues to play an important role in the ideartistic education of the masses, that is why it occupies a prominent place both in the repertoire of the professional artists, as well as in that of the amateur groups set up in work centres or at the houses and centres of culture.

The radio and television broadcast regular folklore programs. Musical folklore has been introduced as a subject of study into the programs of the secondary schools of art, as well as of the Higher Institute of Arts. Besides its social, political, scientific and other values, this inexhaustible treasury also serves the further development of Albanian art and culture, national in form and socialist in substance.

EDUCATION

The struggle for the Albanian school begins as far back as the darkest years of the Ottoman occupation of the country. The Albanian has had to fight arms in hand for his educa-

tion just as for his freedom. He never separated his love for his country from his love for schooling and his mother tongue. The Albanian patriots linked education with the struggle for freedom and independence, the struggle for the very existence of the Albanian nation. In 1879 they compiled a standard alphabet for the Albanian language.

In the beginning of 1885, patriots from the city of Korça made a petition to the Turkish authorities to be allowed to open an Albanian Club which would have a number of Albanian language schools under its administration. After persistent efforts they succeeded in opening the first Albanian language school in Korça on March 7, 1887 (March 7 is now commemorated every year as the Teacher's Day).

In its first year the school had few pupils, but the following year their number increased to 200. It was a primary school in which all lessons were taught in the Albanian language.

The opening of the first Albanian language school aroused great enthusiasm among the patriots all over the country. It prompted the opening of other similar schools in the other regions of Albania.

But under the pressure of the Metropolitan of Korça and the Patriarch of Constantinople, the occupation authorities began to close down the Albanian schools. The efforts to open other Albanian schools failed in the face of this two-fold reaction. Those schools which were opened during 1888, were closed one after the other with the exception of that of Korça, which continued to function at a great sacrifice and in constant struggle with the church institutions and the foreign occupiers. In 1891 the first director of this school was murdered, while his successors were imprisoned.

In 1892 the first Albanian language elementary school for girls was opened in Korça. In the same year the Metropolitan of that town excommunicated the patriot teacher, Petro Nini Luarasi.

Nevertheless during the final decade of the last century, the number of Albanian schools increased, and at the beginning of this century even some villages had their schools, which were attended not only by children, but also by adults for whom special evening courses were run. Since the number of teachers was insufficient, giving lessons in Albanian became a question of honour and a lofty patriotic duty.

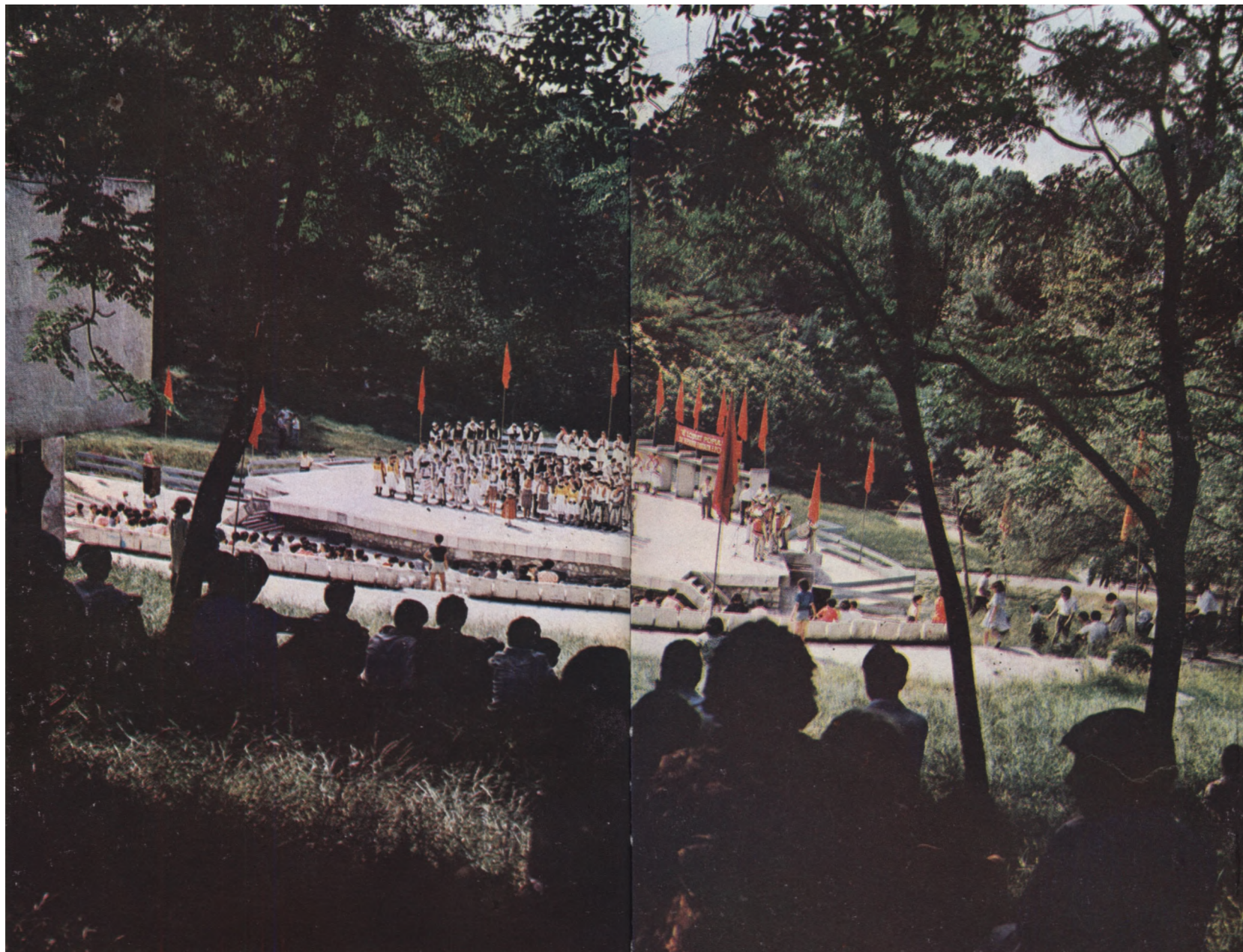
In 1912, after continuous struggles, Albania won its independence. But subsequent events, both national as well as international, made it difficult for our school to consolidate itself. This was a period of pronounced zigzags, of temporary ups and downs in the progress of the school.

The period of the reactionary regime of Ahmet Zog (1924-1939) plus the time of the nazi-fascist occupation of Albania (1939-1944) again remain very difficult periods for the development of education in Albania. The broad masses of the people were still illiterate. On the other hand, the establishment of a system of school fees meant that the doors of the few existing schools were open only to the children of the wealthy. During the period of the nazi-fascist occupation, the Italian and German policy of denationalization towards our people was stepped up. Hundreds of teachers were obliged to abandon their schools and to take up the rifle to fight in the ranks of the partisan units and brigades.

The foundations of our people's education were laid during the National Liberation War. Along with the organization of the war, the Com-



These elderly men are members of the Folk Ensemble of Kruja, which is now well known all over Albania



*A folk concert
at the Summer Theatre of Tirana*



Albania has an amazing variety of splendid folk costumes. At the National Folk Festival, which was organized in Gjirokastra in October 1983, over 300 kinds of folk costumes were presented





1.



2.

3.



1. Cover of the Codices of Berat, the oldest document in the archives of our country.
2. One of the study halls of the National Library, Tirana.
3. Amphitheatre, Butrint

The University of Tirana, created in 1957, is an important centre of scientific study in Albania. In the photo: View of the main building of the university



munist Party of Albania (today the Party of Labour of Albania) charged the National Liberation Councils with tasks for the people's education. Thus, they took up the opening of primary schools and courses against illiteracy in all the liberated districts.

The 1944-1945 school year (the first year after the liberation of Albania) was a record year for our education. Whereas during the 1938-1939 school year, Albania had 649 primary schools with 1349 teachers, during 1944-1945 (although the country was devastated by the war) there were 928 primary schools with 1743 teachers.

After Liberation, a revolutionary course was pursued in our country to make education truly the property of the working people, the workers and peasants.

In 1946 the school reform was carried out: education was proclaimed general, free of charge and equal for both sexes, the state and secular character of the school was guaranteed, etc. Elementary schooling was made compulsory. During the period from 1945 to 1955 a broad campaign was conducted to abolish illiteracy. This campaign was turned into a major social and national action bringing about the complete liquidation of illiteracy, this age-old ulcer of our people.

Albania was the only country in Europe without a university. This was set up in 1957. Later on, in Tirana and other cities of Albania many other higher schools, such as the Higher Institute of Agriculture, the Higher Institute of Arts, the «Vojo Kushi» Higher Institute of Physical Culture, higher teacher training institutes in the districts, etc., were set up.

Now socialist Albania has a complete education system with a wide network of full and part-time 8-grade and secondary schools and many

higher schools, without mentioning here many kindergartens for pre-school children.

The University of Tirana has 8 faculties which train specialists in 68 profiles. Every year this university and its affiliates train 6 times more higher cadres than Albania had in 1938. These cadres fully meet the ever growing demands of our country for higher cadres.

The state guarantees work to all those who graduate from higher schools.

In proportion to its population Albania ranks among the first countries in the world today as regards the number of persons attending different categories of school.

The Albanian school is constantly strengthening its socialist and national features, its revolutionary character both in its content and its structure. The education reform of 1969, which provides for the school to be run on the basis of three components — lessons, production labour, physical and military training — with the Marxist-Leninist ideology of the Party of Labour of Albania running through all of them, is being successfully carried out. This revolutionary transformation of our new school was carried out after a broad public discussion, in which all the broad strata of the people took part. This was a real revolution for our school.

Children start school when they are six or seven years old, both in cities and in the countryside. Pre-school education also has now become a component part of the school system.

The state pays full cost of the functioning of the school system in all its links. In our country there are no fees to pay in any category of school. The state pays for school buildings, their equipment, the salaries of teachers and the auxiliary personnel. The family pays only for textbooks, which are sold at very low prices. For a second-

dary school student, a year's textbooks may cost as much as a two day's average worker's wage.

The kindergartens for pre-school children are of two categories: kindergartens where meals are not provided (here the family has no financial obligations, and kindergartens where meals are provided. For the latter the family pays an amount of only about 30 per cent of the cost paid by the state.

The problem of bursaries for secondary and higher school students is solved in this way: the state pays full bursaries to students from families with many dependents, that is, with the lowest per capita income. Admissions are made according to the plans of the state organs and definite criteria which give priority to the education of the children of the workers and cooperativists.

To train an engineer it takes five years of study at the university.

As a rule, besides the towns, secondary schools are opened at the centre of the cooperative, which includes from five to ten villages. The schools of the upper cycle of the 8-grade schooling for ages ranging from ten to thirteen or fourteen years usually function in all the villages, or one school for two neighbouring villages, when the children have no difficulty in attending because of the distance. In many of these villages there are classes with ten to fifteen pupils.

The 8-grade school is compulsory in Albania and it is 20 years now that it is being fully realized in town and countryside. After this most of the pupils attend the 4-year secondary school (general or vocational) with about 65 profiles and specialities. Vocational secondary schools admit students on the basis of a plan which provides for the training of secondary cadres in compliance with the needs of the development of the country. Admission to secondary schools of general education is unrestricted.

Secondary schools in the rural areas train cadres in agronomy, zoo-veterinary, fruit-growing, horticulture, and other fields of agriculture. Peasant students are sent to the city schools to be trained for mechanics, electricians, midwives, agrarian economists, building technicians and other professions needed by the countryside.

In addition to secondary education, after completing the 8-grade schooling, the students can choose to attend 2-year courses called lower vocational schools with teaching programs based on a correct ratio between lessons and practical work. These schools are intended to teach students practical skills more quickly.

For the youth who have started a job after finishing the compulsory 8-year schooling and are 16 years of age (the lowest age to start a job), there are part-time vocational secondary schools in which they can complete their secondary education in their particular profiles. Textbooks for all secondary schools (general or vocational) are compiled by Albanian authors.

THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The first higher school in our country, the 2-year Teacher Training Institute, was opened in Tirana in 1946. It was intended to train teachers of the Albanian language and literature, history and geography, mathematics and physics, biology and chemistry. The Institute of Sciences was set up one year later, in 1947.

Another three institutions of higher education were opened in Tirana in 1951 — the 4-year Teacher Training Institute, the Polytechnical Institute and the Agricultural Institute. In 1952 another two institutions of higher education were

founded — the Institute of Medicine and the Institute of Economics; the Law Institute was opened in 1954. The number of students that year reached 1,200.

With the establishment of these higher schools the education system assumed a more complete physiognomy and was better placed in the service of the socialist construction of the country.

The University of Tirana, the biggest teaching and scientific centre of our country, was created on September 16, 1957, on the basis of the higher institutes already functioning, and with the concentration of such scientific and teachings forces as to enable the co-ordination and collaboration of different sciences taught in diverse chairs. This further raised scientific thought, the qualification of the cadres and teaching to a higher scientific and ideological level. In order to meet the ever growing needs of the schools, another Teacher Training Institute was opened in Shkodra the same year.

Today there are 84 chairs and scientific sectors at the University of Tirana.

The «Aleksandër Moisiu» Higher School for Actors, the Conservatory and the Higher Institute of Figurative Arts were opened on the basis of the many secondary schools of art created after the liberation of the country. In 1966 these three higher schools were merged into the Higher Institute of Arts which now trains specialists in music, drama and fine arts, such as composers, instrumentalists, conductors, singers, actors, and stage directors; painters, sculptors; scene painters; painters in the applied arts (glass and ceramics, etc.)

The «Vojo Kushi» Institute of Physical Training was founded in 1958. It trains teachers of physical education and trainers for different

sports. Today this Institute has become an important teaching, scientific and sports centre.

In 1971 another three higher institutes were added to the existing ones - the Higher Institute of Agriculture in Korça and the Teacher Training Institutes in Elbasan and Gjirokastra.

Part-time higher school courses have assumed a very extensive character. Affiliates of the University of Tirana and the other institutes function in a number of cities, such as Durrës, Korça, Elbasan, Berat, Shkodra and Gjirokastra, in which workers and cooperativists attend evening classes or follow correspondence courses while continuing with their jobs.

Courses in our higher institutes extend over 3,4 and 5 years.

LITERATURE

We find the beginnings of the Albanian literature in its first book (Gjon Buzuku: «*The Missal*») which belongs to the year 1555, and the earliest written document which has reached us dates back to 1462. A document of the year 1332 speaks of the existence at that time of Albanian books. At the end of the 16th century, the Arbëreshi in Italy, driven from Albania a century earlier, were still conducting their religious services in the Albanian language, while the great Albanian humanist, Marin Barleti, who wrote the «*History of Skanderbeg*», mentions chronicles in the popular language in 1504. However, nothing has escaped the ravages of time. A more or less extensive literary activity re-emerged under the Ottoman occupation with authors like Pjetër Budi, Frano Bardhi, Pjetër Bogdani (17th century) and others. Their works had a religious and didactic character, with religious books and a few poems,

dictionaries (the first published in 1635), grammar books (the first published in 1716), theological treatises, etc. At the start of the 18th century, after the mass conversion to the Islamic religion took place in the country, a whole literary trend began under the influence of Oriental literature, with a considerable number of authors and works in a number of genres, and this trend lasted for about two centuries. It is represented by poets in whose works there is an obvious stress on social protest (Hasan Zyko Kamberi — late 18th century) and anti-feudalism (Zenel Bastari — mid 19th century), who were the precursors of the critical realism which developed in Albania during the first 40 years of our century.

An Albanian literature of high artistic qualities began with Albanian romanticism, a contemporary of the European romanticism of the 19th century. Its earliest outstanding work was the poem «*Milosao's Songs*» (1836) by Jeronim de Rada (1815-1903), author of a number of poetic works, such as «*Serafina Topia*» (1839), «*The Unfortunate Skanderbeg*», (1872-84), etc.

But the writer who dominated Albanian literature in the 19th century was Naim Frashëri (1846-1900), author of lyric poetry («*Flocks and Farming*» 1866, «*Summer Flowers*» 1890), of a collection of philosophic and patriotic poems («*The History of Skanderbeg*», 1898, his masterpiece), as well as a series of other important works.

In Naim Frashëri, the Albanian language found a fiery poet who also gave fresh vigour to Albanian philosophic thought by waging a special struggle against mediaeval theological thought and by upholding and courageously spreading some of the more outstanding achievements of science. He remains the most beloved and most popular poet of our past.

Among the other authors of the time, let us mention Andon Zako Çajupi (1866-1930), lyricist, satyrst, as well as writer of fables, with his collection of poems «*Father Tomorrow*» (1902), from which our critical realism begins, the lyricist Ndre Mjeda, Asdreni, Zef Serembe Gavril Dara Jr., author of the well-known epic-lyric poem «*Bala's Last Lay*», the revolutionary novelist Mihal Grameno, and others.

The most favourite themes of this literature were those of the wars against the Ottoman invaders and especially during the time of Skanderbeg (15th century), the call for the liberation of the country, denunciation of feudalism, and so on. It was a literature closely linked with the national movement and with the ideas of illuminism, a literature which led that movement in struggle against the occupiers, who had banned the writing of the Albanian language, the opening of Albanian schools and the development of the cultural movement which took the name of the Albanian National Renaissance. During this time, from the middle of the last century, the Albanian press came into being, and later Albanian cultural societies were formed and managed to open a few schools teaching in the Albanian language.

The 19th century marked also the beginnings of Albanian linguistic science, with such authorities on Albanian linguistics as Dhimitër Kamarda and Kostandin Kristoforidhi (the author of a well-known dictionary), with so famous and encyclopaedist and thinker as Sami Frashëri, Naim's brother, who was also the principal ideologist of the Albanian national movement. His work «*Albania: what it was, what it is and what it will be*» (1899), rightly called the «Manifesto of the Albanian National Renaissance», is one of the most valuable works of political and social prose in the Albanian language.

Following the proclamation of Independence (1912) and under the continuous threat of the partitioning of Albania, or a new occupation (this was achieved by Italian fascism in 1939), Albanian literature developed along the lines of the literature of the Albanian Renaissance, as a patriotic literature with an ever stronger anti-feudal and revolutionary character.

The author who dominated that period, Fan S. Noli (1882-1965), leader of the 1924 bourgeois-democratic revolution, was one of the most outstanding citizen-poets, («*Album*», 1947, a collection of his poems) publicist, aesthete, translator of works by Shakespeare, Cervantes, Ibsen, and other world writers; historian (his masterpiece «*The History of Skanderbeg*» was first published in 1921 and then published in revised form in 1949), and musical critic (renowned for his study «*Beethoven and the French Revolution*», which aroused the admiration of Bernard Shaw, Thomas Mann, Sibelius, etc.) After Kristoforidhi, Naim and Sami Frashëri, before the Second World War, he made the most substantial contribution to literary Albanian, which achieved its complete unification during the years of socialist development in Albania. A well-known lyricist of the time was Lasgush Poradeci. Migjeni (1911-1938), with his collection of poems «*Free Verses*» (1935) and his short stories, marked the culmination of the development of Albanian critical realism with strong accents of social revolt. Among the prose writers of the time were the novelists Foqion Postoli and Haki Stërmilli author of the novel «*If Were a Boy*» (1936) on the oppression of the Albanian women during the time of feudal and bourgeois domination. A participant in the National Liberation War, he also left a «*Diary*» of the war which is noteworthy for its deep impressions from the life of the people who

were fighting in the general armed uprising.

A new epoch in the development of Albanian literature begins with the outbreak of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian people and the historic triumph of the People's Revolution (1944) which brought the country its national freedom, overthrew the old social order, and paved the way for the processes of the construction of socialist society and socialist culture.

The revolutionary literature of the war years, which came into being in the underground communist press, was an expression of the anti-fascist resistance of the Albanian people, a description of the patriotic spirit of the masses of the people and of their aspirations to a new world. These motifs were expressed mainly in the war poetry, in the patriotic lyric which was developed by such authors as the poet Memo Meto, who fell in the war, Kolë Jakova, Llazar Siliqi, Aleks Çaçi and the satyrist Shevqet Musaraj, author of the poem **«The Epic of the Balli Kombëtar»** (1944), a classic example of Albanian satirical poetry and the most outstanding work of the revolutionary literature of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War.

From the revolutionary literature of the anti-fascist resistance emerged, after the triumph of the people's revolution a literature of the new type, pervaded by socialist ideals and the spirit of communist partisanship. It developed the best traditions of the former Albanian literature, its civic character and the popular, democratic spirit of its realism and its close connection with the poetic tradition of the people's oral literature. Born on the basis of new ideas, the Marxist-Leninist materialist world outlook, the new literature adopted socialist realism as its method, which opened previously unknown

horizons to its constant enrichment and flowering.

The literature of the socialist epoch in Albania constitutes the highest stage of artistic development in Albanian society. This has found expression in the richness of content and motives, in the flowering of all genres, in the variety of styles and in the high level of artistic expression. The ideas of the revolution and progress, the aspirations of the masses of the people, liberated once and for all from any sort of material and spiritual bondage, form the true content of present-day Albanian literature. The source of its inspiration is the struggle of the masses for the thorough transformation of their life, for the construction of the new society, and the new man who has also become the central hero of this literature.

One of the most active genres in present-day Albanian literature is poetry which is taken up by a number of poets of outstanding artistic individuality, of various styles and methods of poetical expression among whom are Dritëro Agolli, Ismail Kadare, Llazar Siliqi and Fatos Arapi. They devote their efforts mainly to the lyric-epic poetry in which the motifs of building the new life, of freeing man from the old reactionary psychology and ideology, the ideas of the historic vitality of the Albanian people and their resistance to foreign invasions, and the historic destiny of the nation and revolution are expressed in vivid metaphoric language and with powerful poetic symbolism.

The most outstanding works of this kind are **«Prishtina»** (1949), by Ll. Siliqi, **«Of What Are These Mountains Thinking?»** (1964) by I. Kadare, **«Devoll, Devoll!»** (1964) and **«Mother Albania»** (1975) by D. Agolli, and others.

The epic-narrative poetry, developed on the

basis of the heroic folk epic, deals mainly with subjects from the historic past of the Albanian people, their wars and battles for freedom, and is represented by such works as «The Heroes of Vig» (1953) by Kolë Jakova and others.

The shorter genres of poetry, lyrics on civic and social problems, which are also based on the poets' personal reflections and their contemplation of nature, have undergone great development, too.

The best indication of the development of Albanian literature after Liberation as well as of the artistic level which the present-day Albanian literature has reached, is prose in its two most widely used forms, the short story and especially the novel.

The Albanian novel today has emerged as the leading genre and has met with world-wide recognition through Ismail Kadare's «The General of the Dead Army» (1964) translated in many languages, «Chronicle on Stone» (1971) and the «Great Winter» (1977). The present Albanian novel is a realist novel which portrays man's destiny closely connected with the circumstances of social life and the existing material and spiritual relations, but also under the light of the changes they will undergo in the days to come. The principal themes it treats are taken from the historical past as in «They Were Not Alone» (1952) and a cycle of novels on the National Renaissance by S. Spasse, «The Castle» (1970) by I. Kadare, «The Dead River» (1965) by J. Xoxe; from the anti-fascist resistance and the people's revolution as in «Before the Dawn» (1965) by Sh. Musaraj, «Three Colours of the Time» by A. Abdihojha, «The Bronze Bust» (1970) by D. Agolli, as well as from the building of the new life as in «The Swamp» (1959) by F. Gjata, «Again On His Feet» (1970) by Dh. Xhuvani,

«The Confrontation» by T. Laço, and others. The maturity of the Albanian novel with subjects taken from actual life was especially evident in the treatment of the great ideological and political struggle of the PLA against modern revisionism.

In the short story, the writers Dhimitër Shuteriqi, Naum Prifti, Anastas Kondo, Teodor Laço and several others are outstanding.

In the new Albanian literature, drama inherited a poor tradition from the past, but, through the efforts of the whole of literature to reflect the major conflicts of the time, especially that between the old world in decay and the new which is ever more affirming itself, this genre quickly set out on the road of realism and began to flower, providing plays for the national theatre which came into being in Albania only after Liberation. The plays «Our Land» (1954) by K. Jakova, «The Highland Girl» (1971) by L. Papa, or the comedy «The Carnivals of Korça» (1961) by Spiro Çomora, «The Lady from the City» (1976) by Ruzhdi Pulaha, etc. are constantly in the active repertoire of Albanian theatres.

Keeping pace with the development of literature are aesthetic thought and literary criticism, which base their analysis of artistic phenomena on Marxist-Leninist methodology. Outstanding in this field are Dalan Shaplllo with his collection of criticisms «Literary Expressions and Works» (1974), Koço Bihiku with his collection of studies «Literature and the Time» (1982), Razi Brahimi with his essay «Speaking of Poetry» (1972), Alfred Uçi with his book «Through the labyrinths of modernism» (1978), which criticizes the ideological and aesthetic base of modern decadent art, and several others.

The new Albanian literature is ceaselessly flowering and developing. It is rising on the ba-

sis of the finest traditions of the artistic culture of the Albanian people, while at the same time utilizing the progressive experience of world art and literature. The phenomena of the crisis, which decadent art is experiencing today, are alien to it, and all roads are blocked to the influence of this art through a ceaseless struggle, for a realist and humane art which sings to the strength of the free man and which is permeated by the finest ideals of mankind, social progress and the building of communist society.

As an artistic expression of Albanian life, present-day Albanian literature has a marked national character and a profoundly socialist content. Its development testifies to the vitality of socialist realism as a new artistic method which gives wide possibilities for the all-round reflection of life and for the flowering of creative artistic styles and individualities.

MUSIC

Albania has ancient musical traditions. Through their architecture, sculpture, ceramics, mosaics and coins with effigies of dancers and instrumentalists, the early centres of Southern Illyria show us that musical culture has flourished here for a very long time. Along with archaeological monuments, such as the arena at Bylis, the stadium at Amantia, the theatres at Butrint, Orik and Durrës, the odeon at Pojan and at other centres in which concerts and musical performances were given, further information is provided in the works by Greek and Roman classical authors. The cult of the muses, the legends and myths about some gifted Illyrian artists prove what importance was attached to music in the life of the Illyrians.

In the Early Middle Ages there is only one prominent musician in our tradition, Niketa of Ramesiana who, during the 4th century, composed a number of palaeo-Christian songs, the best known of which is the «Te Deum Laudamus».

In the 12th century we come across a musician like Jan Kukuzeli from Durrës, outstanding master of Byzantine music, who, through his broad and many-sided activity as a composer, singer theoretician and reformer, of music, opened new paths and gave fresh vigour to musical development.

Evidence is not lacking of the development of the art of music at the time of the State of Arbër, as well as of the contribution of the musicians of Arbër to the development of music in Dalmatia. The Arbëreshi who during the 15th century, following the death of Skanderbeg emigrated from Albania to Southern Italy, where they founded Arbëreshi colonies, took with them some old musical manuscripts which are an important source for the history of our music.

With the onslaught of the Ottoman Turks in Albania, the cultivated music lagged behind. When the Albanian cities gradually began to recover, music also began to be revived through the setting up of the odd society, fanfare or band. The evidence we have of the musical activity of that period is mainly connected with the Christian sphere, where certain composers of hymns, like Gjergj Papazino and Grigor Manasi (18th century) or Krisanth Maditi, former bishop of Durrës (the first half of the 19th century) were prominent, Krisanth Maditi was active in music and musicology, publishing a number of studies on Byzantine music, organizing choral groups and training many pupils.

During the second half of the 19th century, in addition to fighting for freedom and national

independence, Albanian patriots spared no efforts to promote art and culture. Overcoming many obstacles and hardships, a school for music was opened and a band was set up in Shkodra in 1878. From that period we have some vocal and instrumental compositions by Palok Kurti. On the eve of throwing off the shackles of five-hundred years of bondage, the national movement made rapid progress in all fields.

The national independence in 1912 found Albania with a few musicians and only a few brass bands in the main cities. At that time our country was really backward from every point of view. The lack of cadres with technical-professional training and the low educational and cultural level were of course not suitable conditions for the flowering of Albanian music. But even under such circumstances, some composers emerged from the ranks of the people, such as Frano Ndoja, Martin Gjoka, Thanas Floqi and others who, in addition to vocal songs and romances, composed some instrumental works like rhapsodies, fantasies, medleys and the odd symphony. But the proclamation of independence did not ensure the freedom and territorial integrity of Albania. The Balkan War and, later, the First World War had devastating consequences for Albania. In such adverse political economic and social circumstances, the necessary conditions for music to flourish did not exist.

During the period of Ahmet Zog's monarchic regime (1924-1939), art and culture were not encouraged and only with great difficulty did such composers as Martin Gjoka, Luigj Filaj, Kristo Kono, Pjetër Dungu and others, as well as such singers as Marie Paluca (Kraja), Jorgjia Filçe (Truja), Tefta Tashko (Koço), Mihal Ciko, Kristaq Antoniu and others develop their artistic talents. Some of the few technically and professionally

trained Albanian composers, like Fan Noli and Thoma Nasi, were obliged to emigrate abroad. Abroad, Fan Noli composed a number of symphonic poems based on Albanian themes and published his musicological study «Beethoven and the French Revolution».

In 1939 with the fascist occupation of Albania new misfortunes descended upon the Albanian people. By spreading their music the occupiers aimed at wiping out any trace of the national Albanian music. However, during the National Liberation War some clandestine artistic formations were organized with a repertoire of patriotic and partisan songs. In the heat of the war, in July 1944, the partisan ensemble of the National Liberation Army (today the People's Army) was set up.

Right after the Liberation of Albania, the State Choir was set up which was later (1949) to be incorporated in the Albanian Philharmonia.

In 1947 the Lyceum of Arts was inaugurated in Tirana. It would train middle-level cadres for many branches of music and ballet. Now, with the constant development of artistic education there are nine secondary schools of art and seventeen 8-grade art schools.

The Higher Institute of Arts, which includes the Conservatory, was opened in Tirana in 1961. It trains singers, instrumentalists, conductors, composers, musicologists, music teachers, etc.

The setting up of the Albanian Philharmonia stimulated stage performances. In 1950, a ballet group was organized and this was later (1956) incorporated in the Opera and Ballet Theatre. The first Albanian musical stage work to be performed after Liberation was the operetta «Dawn» (1954), composed by Kristo Kono. In December 1958, was staged the first Albanian opera, «Mrika», composed by Prenk Jakova. Later

on the Albanian repertoire was enriched by a number of new operas and operettas.

Meanwhile, the ballet did not lag behind. The genre of dances based on a particular theme was developed along other musical-choreographic forms. The first Albanian ballet «Halili and Hajrija» composed by Tish Daija on the basis of a play by Kolë Jakova, was performed in January 1963. Then came a number of new ballets.

The Albanian operas, operettas and ballets generally treat important problems of the life of our society or history — the heroism of our people through the centuries, their struggles for freedom and social justice and the Anti-fascist National Liberation War. The librettists have made an important contribution to the development of the above-mentioned genres; their ideological clarity was a great help for the realistic development of music in this genre.

During the years of the people's state power the Albanian composers have cultivated all the forms of the vocal genre, from songs and romances to cantatas and oratorios, they have also cultivated the forms of instrumental music, compositions for various instruments up to major forms of instrumental music like suites, overtures, ballads rhapsodies, symphonic dances, concertos for violin, flute, cello and piano with orchestra, symphonic poems, etc. The first Albanian symphony was composed by Çesk Zadeja — People's Artist (1956), and the first concert for violin and orchestra by Pjetër Gaci (1959).

In their creative activity the Albanian composers adhere to the method of socialist realism: national in form and socialist in substance.

The new Albanian culture carried on the tradition of the artistic past of the country. Musicology came into being and was developed,

which greatly assisted the flourishing of music through conferences, creative discussions and different publications.

In September 1957 the Ensemble of Folk Songs and Dances, with a vocal-instrumental and choreographic complex, was set up in Tirana. The Ensemble has often presented the beauties of Albanian folklore outside the borders of the country in many countries of Europe, Asia and Africa and won the highest awards. Apart from this Ensemble, the Ensemble of the People's Army and the Opera and Ballet Theatre extensive artistic activity is carried on by the Radio-Television Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Secondary Schools of Art, the Orchestra of the Higher Institute of Arts, as well as nine symphonic orchestras in the other cities of Albania (Shkodra, Korça, Elbasan, Durrës, Gjirokastra, etc.). To these must be added forty or more brass bands as well as the smaller orchestras of thirteen professional variety theatre companies in the different districts of the country. One of the distinctive features of musical development in socialist Albania is mass participation in scores of workers' clubs and houses of culture in the cities, which together with the cultural centres in the countryside, carry out a wide range of artistic activities. Every year festivals of new songs are organized by the Albanian Radio-Television service, as well as by the houses of culture and young pioneer's centres in the districts. Every year the May Concerts are organized in the capital, as well as national contests of variety show theatres, brass bands, workers' ensembles, groups from agricultural cooperatives, and national competitions of singers and instrumentalists. All these artistic activities contribute ever more to the enlivenment of the musical life of the country.

In these suitable conditions created by our Party and state power which devote special attention to the development of music in our country, talented singers, choreographers, conductors and instrumentalists emerged and affirmed themselves.

THE FIGURATIVE ARTS

The most ancient objects of artistic interest discovered in Albania date back to the Early Neolithic Age (the 6th Millenium before our era) and consist of painted ceramic fragments. The figure of the woman is at times worked on realistically, as well as in schematic form in the terracottas of Cakran-Dunavec (Middle Neolithic Age). Outstanding among them are the great pot ceramics with painted geometric decoration of the Minoic type found in Maliq and Kamnik (Late Neolithic Age). Rich in forms are the unpainted ceramics of Maliq (Neolithic Age). Vessels and cups with very pronounced handles on the sides began to appear during the Bronze Age. This is evidence of the appearance of the Illyrian tribes.

The art of the Illyrian tribes develops especially in the Iron Age. (the 11th to the 5th centuries before our era). The ceramic material found in the tumuli scattered everywhere within the borders of today's Albania and outside them, at the villages of Barç, Kuç i Zi (near Korça), Pazhok (near Elbasan), etc. is extremely varied in forms. The bronze weapons generally have geometric decorations. But there are also decorations with vivid anthropomorphic and zoomorphic images.

In the Illyrian cities (5th to 2nd centuries before our era) the walls made of huge quadrangular and polygonal stones are really imposing. The earliest gates have the form of a pointed

arch (the peak of Ajtoi near Saranda). The cities have majestic porticos (Dimal and Zgërdhesh), theatres and hippodromes (Amantia near Vlora), monumental tombs (Selca e Poshtme near Poçgradec), etc. Many little votive statues of expressive shapes and ornaments like the plates of a bronze belt (3rd century before our era) with engraved images of fine workmanship have been found.

The cities of the coastal colonies (6th century before our era to the 3rd century of our era) have monumental architectural buildings in the classical style, like the Lions' Gate and the Theatre (Butrint), the Nympheum and the Monument of the Agonothetes (Apollonia), etc. Among the finest works of sculpture found there are the head of the Goddess of Butrint (3rd century before our era), the portrait, in the Roman realistic style, of Agrippa (1st century before our era), the head of Demosthenes with a thoughtful expression of face in the Greek style (3rd century before our era). The stelae of Apollonia are rich in ornamentation and reliefs, sometimes with three layers one above the other. There is great variety in the many bronze statuettes, ceramics, mainly with red figures on a black background, and the terracottas. The most ancient mosaic is «The head of a girl» (3rd century before our era) found in Durrës. The Roman mosaics in Apollonia, Durrës and elsewhere are mainly in geometric designs of two or more colours.

The floors of palaeo-christian basilicas in Central and South Albania are paved in mosaic. In the baptistry of Butrint (5th century), in the basilica of Lin near Ohri Lake (6th century), the mosaics represent mainly birds, vines, fish, etc. Their colours blend in tonal effects. Of interests is the Byzantine wall mosaic (10th century) built

upon the foundations of the ruins of the Durrës amphitheatre.

From the 6th to the 8th centuries of our era, like the Illyrians, **the early Albanians** built burial mounds — the majority of them in North Albania (near Koman village and elsewhere). These people were outstanding in working metals and ornaments in bronze, silver and gold. On the ear-rings, clasps and pendants there are images of the woman, the horse, etc. They are the continuation, in a number of forms, of Illyrian ornaments.

The monuments of the **mediaeval** architecture of the **Byzantine** style are to be found in abundance in the South, while in the North they are less frequent. The **Roman** style predominates there. The church of Perhondi (11th century, near Berat), with elements typical of the Byzantine style, is a cathedral, with a bell-tower attached, like the Western churches. The church of Saint Nicholas in Mesopotam (13th century), which looks like a fortress, is rich in heraldic reliefs, capitals, etc. An outstanding monument in the typical Byzantine style of the 13th century is the church of Saint Mary at Pojan. The churches of Saint Michael, erected on a rock outcrop below the Berat Castle, and Saint Trinity within its walls, belong to the 14th century. The icons of the 12th century are of classical Byzantine style: Saint Mary Odigitria in the Bllashtonja cave above Prespa Lake, and others. In the icons of the 13th century, the religious stylization becomes more pronounced, whereas those of the 14th century express more intimate emotions like Saint Mary's Rest in the church of Saint Mary in Berat. **The mural paintings** of the refectory of Pojan Monastery (1261-1328) are of classic grandeur and with transparent colours. Saint Mary in the icons of Mborja (1380) and of

the island of Maligrad in Prespa Lake (1369) is remarkably expressive. The religious objects are rich in artistically executed ornamentation. The epitaph of Gllavenica, embroidered by Gjergj Araniti in 1373, is a document of great historical importance and a masterpiece of applied art.

The wars of the Albanian people against the Ottoman invaders during the 15th century hindered the construction of monumental buildings and the development of paintings. **After the Ottoman invasion**, in the 16th century, iconography, mural painting, etc. were revived within the religious buildings which are not distinguished by their outward appearance. The seven icons of the «great feasts» and the beautiful gates of the Berat evangelistries are of marvellous precision. These are thought to have been made by Onufri (the middle of the 16th century), the author of murals in a series of churches in Kostur (Greece), Berat and various villages of Elbasan. His paintings tend to be more realistic, have dramatic expressions and remarkably decorative colours. The icons and mural paintings of his son, Nikolla (the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century), have elongated and more aristocratic figures. There were a number of other distinguished painters, too. In the early 18th century iconography and mural painting took a new impetus, and realist elements of the baroque style were introduced into them. In 1726 David Selenicasi painted the interiors of Saint Nicholas' church of Voskopoja.

From the end of the 15th century, buildings of the Muslim religion, began to be constructed, too. The Lead Dome Mosque (18th century) in Shkodra imitates Arabic architecture, but in the Dervishes' Temple in Berat (1791) and the Mosque of Ethem Bey in Tirana (1791-1821) light and elegant elements of local folk architecture are included as well.

The revival of economic life and trade in the 18th and 19th centuries brought about a growth of the cities with a spontaneous but original and rational solution to the problems of the popular architecture. At this time emerged the Gjirokastra tower-house, rising three or four stories on the steep mountainous terrain. The houses with porches in Berat link their white façades with one another and stand out for their great number of windows. Shkodra's two storied house with a balcony extends horizontally amidst gardens surrounded by very high walls. The skilled trades and artistic peasant handicrafts developed greatly. Woodcarving reached a superb artistic level in the intricate three dimensional designs of iconostases. Notable examples are those of the seat of the Orthodox Bishop of Korça (late 18th century) and the Berat cathedral (1850). The interiors of dwellings were ornamented with wood carvings (the styles varying according to each district) and Albanian wood-carvers became renowned all over the Balkans. The fame of weapons, such as daggers, pistols, rifles etc., as well as ornamental buckles and other objects, decorated with various techniques, especially in filigree, produced in Shkodra, Prizren, Elbasan and elsewhere, spread far beyond Albania. The metal ornaments worn by the women of the Highlands of Northern Albania faithfully retained the tradition of the ornaments of the Albanian culture of the Early Middle Ages.

The art of the Albanian National Renaissance begins from after the year 1880, in the struggle for national independence and freedom from the Turkish rule. It is secular, breaking away from the religious iconography, and treats patriotic and ethnographic subjects. Kolë Idromeno (1860-1930) is a distinguished painter, architect and artist of this period. The portrait «Sister Tone» (1883) shows social-psychological depth

and a delicate artistic interpretation. Of particular interest for their portrayal of the life and customs of the country are «A Shkodra Wedding», as well as many realistic scenes in compositions on religious subjects, like «Two Roads». The main subject of the art of the Albanian National Renaissance is the figure of Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg. Spiro Xega (1863-1953), an amateur painter and patriot, produced eight variants of Skanderbeg's portrait. His most original work is «Shahin Matraku's Çeta», a subject from the life of patriotic insurgents.

After the proclamation of the independent Albanian state in 1912, the artistic creativity was still left to personal initiative. From 1932 a number of monuments were erected, among them works of the sculptor Odhise Paskali (1903) like «The National Fighter» in Korça, a realistic statue, with a strong expression and Albanian psychological characteristics. Paskali's bust of Skanderbeg (1939) has a legendary epic spirit. The painting of this period is realistic, but inclined towards lyricism. The motifs of Vangjush Mio (1891-1957) are mostly from the streets and milieus of Korça and Pogradec, joyful landscapes full of light and colour. «A street in Korça» is typical of his work in which, in his own way, he expresses his love for the Homeland. Varied, more demanding in its research for artistic thought and expression, is the work of Zef Kolombi (1907-1949), a strict draftsman. His portraits, like his «Self-portrait», have dramatic force, his landscapes, like «The Harvest», reflect his melancholy and stagnation of his time.

The people's state power, born from the National Liberation War, greatly encouraged and assisted the development of art in our country.

Year by year, artistic organizations and in-

stitutions have been set up and the creative activity and the number of artists have increased. According to the directives of the PLA art was placed in the service of the people and expressed their revolutionary aspirations. It embarked on the road of progress, while the socialist construction has been advancing in fierce struggle against the internal and external class enemy, resisting the imperialist-revisionist pressure. Our art has become more profound in its content and artistic expression and more firmly based on its own national experience.

In the early years after Liberation, a number of busts and statues were erected in different cities of the country. They are followed by a series of important works of monumental sculpture in the late sixties. Learning from the experience of the older generation, the sculptors created works of a new, revolutionary content, in a popular social and patriotic spirit. A great number of monuments and busts of a realistic style and of vivid expressiveness commemorate outstanding historical events or progressive revolutionary figures of the past and our times. Many sculptors, such as Odhise Paskali, Kristaq Rama, Muntaz Dhrami, Shaban Hadëri and others, have distinguished themselves in this field.

The 15th Plenum of the Central Committee of the PLA in 1965 reached the conclusion that **socialist realism** had proved itself as a method in Albanian realistic art and should play a still greater role in the communist education of the masses. Painting, sculpture and graphic art advanced parallel with the demands of the time. Along with the improvement of the material conditions of our people, the demands of the masses for art increased. Many important national and personal exhibitions opened. Many works of major genres

and proportions were created and the artistic expression was enriched.

The social and democratic character of our art has resulted in the vigorous development of all its genres, especially, in the greater genres, such as painting. This art has developed a historical expression with a particular epic and popular character. This painting is, in general, true to life, vividly drawn, with transparent and intensive colours, at times of a decorative conception.

Many painters, such as: Abdurahim Buza, Sali Shijaku, Guri Madhi and others have affirmed themselves in this field.

In order to encourage those who create in these fields, general exhibitions and exhibitions of individual painters and sculptors have been organized time and again to acquaint the broad masses of the people with the best works of the figurative arts.

The best works of our painters and sculptors are displayed at the Gallery of Arts in Tirana and in some of the main cities of the country. These exhibitions are constantly enriched with new works.

Admission to the Gallery of Arts is free.

THE THEATRE

The foundations of the present-day Albanian theatre were laid down during the period of the Anti-fascist National Liberation War.

Our first theatre was called «The People's Theatre». It was given this name because it was born as a partisan theatre, in the mountains, in the prisons, in the city quarters and villages, wherever the fight was waged against the fascist occupiers. On May 24, 1944, on the eve of the li-

beration of the whole country, at the town of the historic Congress of Përmet, the first professional theatre in the history of the country was set up.

Just as in music, dance, costumes, artistic craftsmanship, architecture, etc., in the field of theatre, too, the Albanian people have a rich tradition.

Best evidence of the ancient origin of the theatre in our country are many manifestations of a theatrical character which exist in the folklore traditions of the people. But it was only in the period of the Albanian National Renaissance, along with the development of the struggle for national independence, that the amateur theatre was developed, too. Just as they recognised the educative role of language and literature, the writers of the Renaissance also recognised the educative and mobilizing role of the theatre. Therefore, they gave great importance to the theatre, utilizing it as a weapon for the patriotic education of the people and for their mobilization in struggle against the Ottoman occupiers for the liberation of the country. This patriotic tradition was a significant factor for the development of the theatre later. For that reason, everywhere in Albania and in the places Albanians are living abroad amateur theatrical groups were set up, which played an important role in the history of the Albanian theatre. These groups functioned especially in the main cities of the country such as Shkodra, Korça, Gjirokastra, Elbasan, etc. as sections of various patriotic and progressive societies created by the workers, craftsmen, patriotic intellectuals and progressive youth. The progressive ideas expressed through a repertoire of Albanian plays or works of world progressive playwrights strengthened the patriotic and political consciousness of the people, and

supported the democratic forces in their struggle against reaction. The anti-popular regimes of that time not only did not give any assistance to the development of these groups, but, on the contrary, persecuted them, dissolving the groups and taking primitive measures against their members. Therefore, the enthusiastic efforts of many amateurs of the theatre were not crowned with the creation of a professional theatre.

From the end of the last century up to the forties of this century, the world-famous Albanian actor, Aleksandër Moisiu (1879-1935), was alive and performing. Finding it impossible to realize his ardent desire to set up a national theatre, he lived all his life abroad. The world progressive theatre considered Aleksandër Moisiu one of the greatest actors of the time.

But even in the difficult conditions of our country in that time, in the ranks of the amateur theatrical movement, too, a whole pleiad of talented actors emerged and, after Liberation, created the principal nuclei of professional theatres.

Today there are 8 professional theatrical troupes, 15 variety show and 26 puppet show companies. Apart from the «People's Theatre» in Tirana, the theatres in the other cities bear the names of outstanding artists of writers. The theatre of the city of Korça, for example, bears the name of the great poet and patriot of the Albanian National Renaissance, A.Z. Çajupi; that of the city of Shkodra, the name of the revolutionary poet of the thirties, Migjeni, that of the city of Durrës, the name of the great Albanian actor, Aleksandër Moisiu.

The number of amateur theatre groups has increased beyond all comparison with the past. Almost every work and production centre, village, military detachment, school and institution has its own amateur theatrical group, which pre-

pare performances and stages them for their fellow workers and the other working masses. Festivals both for the amateur and professional theatres are organized systematically on a district, regional and national scale. These theatres assist, influence and inspire each other. While the amateurs learn acting skills from the professional theatre, the professionals for their part, learn a great deal from the freshness, the natural acting, and the creative enthusiasm of the amateurs, and find new talents among them. The professional theatres carry out systematic work with the amateur movement. The most experienced actors are charged with this work.

In 1946, the first middle school for art, the «Jordan Misja» Lyceum, was opened, while in 1959 it was the turn of the «Aleksandër Moisiu» Higher School for Actors. This is one of the branches of the Higher Institute of Arts. In recent years producers have been trained at this school, too. Courses and other forms are organized for the training of directors of the amateur theatrical movement.

Although each theatre has its own premises, with all the necessary facilities, both for the spectators and for the actor, the theatre companies also go out to audiences at work and production centres, in town and countryside. Each year, every company stages 40 to 60 per cent of its plays outside its theatre.

The development of the theatre in breadth has brought about an improvement in its quality. Proceeding from the principle that there cannot be a truly national theatre without a national drama, today's theatre has completely solved this problem.

Hundreds of dramatic works have now entered the repertoire of the national theatre, such as «The Prefect» by B. Levonja, «Our Land» by

K. Jakova, «The fisherman's Family» by S. Pirtarka, «The Carnivals of Korça» by S. Çomora, «The Highland Girl» by L. Papa, «The Second Face» by D. Agolli, and many others.

Appreciating the values of the progressive drama of other peoples, our theatre has staged works from the treasury of world culture, such as Shakespeare's «Hamlet», «Othello», King Lear», «The Merry Wives of Windsor»; Moliere's «The Miser», «Tartuff», «The Noble Bourgeois»; Goldon's «Mirandolina»; Chekhov's «The Seagull»; Gogol's «The Auditor»; Gorky's «The Enemies»; Schiller's «Love and Intrigue»; Ibsen's «Nora»; Brecht's «Arturo Ui», etc.

During its 40-year long existence our theatre has produced from its ranks actors who, in regard to their ideoaesthetic quality of interpretation, may be rightly compared to the outstanding actors of the progressive world theatre.

The Albanian theatre is a theatre of socialist realism, which truthfully reflects the reality in its revolutionary development. It strives to be always an art with proletarian partisanship and a national and popular character against any influence of the bourgeois-revisionist ideology, and is a tribune for the treatment of great social problems for the education of the broad masses of the people with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism.

The main aim of our actors is the faithful characterization of the figures they interpret in their dialectical development. The principal concern of the directors of the Albanian theatre is to ensure that the actor represents the real living man, and that each of the components of the performance depends on him or the ideas he expresses. This is also the aim of the scene painter, composer, lighting operator, etc.

Naturalism, melodrama, theatricality etc., as

well as the ugly features of the so-called «modern» theatre, the formalist, absurd, abstract, and «anti-everything» theatre, which have nothing in common with the realist and progressive theatre are alien to the Albanian theatre, too.

As an indication of the care and esteem for the place and role of the theatre in our society, artists may be awarded the highly honoured titles, «People's Artist» and «Merited Artist».

CINEMATOGRAPHY

April 17, 1947 is the date when the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania endorsed the decree for the creation of the Albanian Cinematographic Enterprise marking at the same time the birth of this new art in Albania. It began its life in a modest way with the shooting of the first newsreel films about people's festivities and the construction of the first industrial projects and railways. With the creation of the «New Albania» Film-studio (1952) there started the regular production of newsreels and documentary film to pass later on to the production of feature films. The first medium length film, «**Her children**», was turned out in 1957, while the first full length feature film — «**Tanna**» was produced in 1958.

Today in Albania 50 newsreels, 40 documentary films and 12-15 feature films of various genres are produced annually.

More than half this production is occupied by colour films, but among them there are also widescreen films of cinemascope and vista-vision systems.

About 100 feature films produced so far, deal with diverse subjects from the life and construction work of the Albanian people. Films are based on novels, short stories, plays or comedies, or deal with topical problems concerning the common man, or the successes and efforts of the working masses in the socialist construction of the country. In the annual film production a special place is occupied also by films for children.

A very significant place is occupied by films on the Anti-fascist National Liberation War. Films on this theme evoke various events of the heroic struggle of our people, under the leadership of the Party, for the liberation of the Homeland.

The struggle against conservatism and patriarchal hangovers also holds an important place in films on contemporary subjects. Further extending its historical scope, the Albanian cinematography has taken up now the treatment of the more distant past, such as that of the pre-war period and the Albanian National Renaissance.

Albanian films are being shown abroad, too. Their participation in various international festivals, in Cannes, Salonica, Salerno and elsewhere and especially in the Albanian film weeks organized in some countries of the world such as in France, Sweden, Greece, Turkey, and others has been very warmly received, which testifies to the growing possibilities of the Albanian cinematography.

The state film-archives preserve a very interesting fund. It is made up of the entire national film production after Liberation as well as documentaries from the country's past, shot by foreign film-people since 1920. The latter reflect the poverty and backwardness the reactionary regimes of the past kept our country in. In contrast with them, the scenes of king Zog's lu-

xurious dinners and his pompous parades appear very grotesque. Also, those documentaries clearly reveal the expansionist ambitions of fascist Italy, showing its foreign minister, Count Ciano, on the one hand, shedding smiles and signing as a witness the marriage act of King Zog, and on the other hand, together with Mussolini preparing the fascist aggression of April 7, 1939.

Thus the materials of the archives help better understand the level of development of socialist Albania today.

THE WRITERS AND ARTISTS' LEAGUE

The Writers' League of Albania was founded on February 11, 1945. Later the working people of the figurative arts and music joined it too. So it took the name of the **Writers and Artists' League of Albania**.

It has 26 branches, covering all districts of the country, and hundreds of writers, painters, sculptors, producers actors, singers, dancers and others as members or candidate members.

It has its own Constitution and it is run by its leading body elected by its members. The leading body elects the chairman and three secretaries — for literature, figurative arts and music. It has special sections dealing with young artists and relations with foreign countries.

The League publishes three literary organs the newspaper «*Drita*», the magazine «*Nëntori*», the magazine «*Les Lettres Albanaises*» («Albanian Literature»), the latter is published in French.

The League carries out numerous activities and organizes discussions on problem of the form and content of the literature and arts.

Hundreds of literary and artistic circles of

young artists are functioning in the principal cities of the country, in work centres and agricultural cooperatives, schools, the pioneers' houses and palaces, houses and hearths of culture. They are guided by experienced writers and artists.

For writers and artists, who have established their reputation through the works they have published or exhibited, favourable working conditions have been created.

First, writers and artists work reduced hours, 4 or 2 hours less every day, at their normal jobs. For this free time, left at their disposal for creative activity, they are fully paid by the state.

Besides this they are entitled to take creative leave every year. This leave may last from one month to one year, according to the case. During this period they receive full pay.

Both writers and artists enjoy the right to exercise their free professions, which means they are not employed by any institution, but are engaged in creative activity only. The state pays them a salary which is higher than that they would have received as employees. If, during their creative work, they need to go to various regions of the country to gather materials, etc. all their travel expenditure is paid by the state.

Through their organization — the Writers and Artists' League, the creators are provided with conditions to rest or work at the health resorts which have been established at the most beautiful places in our country.

Painters and sculptors are provided, free of charge, with working studios. All their requirements such as paints, canvasses, etc. are supplied, too. These artists have every possibility to open personal exhibitions with their works, and this is encouraged by the state. The best works are accepted by the Gallery of Arts.

Producers, ballet dancers, and singers are

entitled to pensions earlier than the other working people.

Our writers and artists are entitled to honoraria for all their works which are published or performed.

Various forms, such as competitions, festivals, prizes and titles of honour, to encourage outstanding creative work, are practiced in Albania.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Academy of Sciences of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania was set up upon the decision of the 2nd Plenum of the CC of the PLA (April 1972) as the highest scientific institution of the country. It carries out its scientific activity in the various fields of sciences which are covered by its dependent institutes to help in the organization and co-ordination of this activity on a national scale for the solution of major problems of the economy and culture in the service of the socialist construction of the country.

The supreme leading body of the Academy of Sciences is its Assembly. The inaugural meeting of the Assembly was held in January 1973. Today the Academy is composed of 17 members and 5 corresponding members. The Assembly elects the Presidium which runs the work between meetings, the Chairman of the Academy, the Vice-chairmen, the Scientific Secretary and the leaders of the other forums. The Chairman of the Academy of Sciences is Prof. Aleks Buda.

The Academy of Sciences is comprised of three sections: the Section of Social Sciences, the Section of Natural Sciences and the Section of Technical Sciences. The Academy now includes the following scientific institutes: the Institute

of Language and Literature, the Institute of History, the Institute of People's Culture, the Institute of Economic Studies, the Centre of Archaeological Research, which belong to the Section of Social Sciences; the Institute of Nuclear Physics, the Computer Centre, the Centre of Biological Research, which belong to the Section of Natural Sciences; the Institute of Hydrometeorology, the Seismological Centre, the Laboratory of Hydraulic Research, which belong to the Section of Technical Sciences.

The Academy has its Scientific Library with its affiliates in the dependent institutes. The publications council functions under the auspices of the Academy.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The National Library is one of the most important cultural institutions in our country, both because of the large number of books it has available and because of the work it does to publicize and spread them among the masses.

The library has a priceless collection of publications and manuscripts, which increases its scientific and bibliographic value, not only on a national level, but also internationally. This is best reflected in its collection of Albanology, which is considered the richest in the world.

Today it is a recognized fact that for anyone studying Albanological science, whether an Albanian or a foreigner, it is essential to turn to the materials in our National Library.

Of particular importance is the collection of Antiquities, which includes very old and rare publications, incunabula and manuscripts of the period from the 15th to the 18th centuries, most of which refer directly or indirectly to various

Albanian problems in the fields of geography, history, archaeology, ethnography, folklore, linguistics, literature, and so on.

In reviewing the bibliography «Albanica», the noted historian Karl Gölner makes this comment: «It (Albanica) astounds us with the treasures in the collection of the National Library in Tirana, of which many historians do not know,» adding that these publications are also important in regard to the history of books printed in the 15th century.

The place of honour in the collection of Antiquities is occupied by books in Albanian written by our ancient authors. Among them are the 2nd and 3rd editions (1636 and 1664 respectively) of Pjetër Budi's work «Doktrina e Krishterë» («The Christian Doctrine»), Frank Bardhi's «Dictionarium Latino-Epiroticum» (1635), and Pjetër Bogdani's «Cuneus Prophetarum», first published in 1685 and republished in 1691.

Gjon Buzuku's «Meshari» («The Missal») (1555), the first book in Albanian, Budi's first publication of «Doktrina e Krishterë» (1618), «Pasechyra e të refyemit» (Speculum Confessionis) (1621) and «Rituale Romanum» (1621), Frank Bardhi's work on Skanderbeg, Lek Matranga's and Jul Variboba's works are all kept in photocopies only, since the originals are in the Library of the Vatican and in the Paris National Library.

This heritage is enriched by the works of the Albanian humanist Barleti and Beçikemi. The first edition of the first work of Barleti «De obsidione scodrensi» (1504), describing the first and second sieges of the city of Shkodra by Sultan Mehmed II (1474-1475) and (1478-1479), is kept in this library. The author himself took part in the war against the Ottoman Turks.

The most important work of Barleti, which

immortalized his name, is his «History of Skanderbeg». The National Library has an almost complete set of editions of this work. It was first published under the title «Historia de Vita et Gestis Scanderbegi, Epirotarum Principis» (1508-1510) and republished in Augsburg 1533, in Strasbourg in 1537, in Venice in 1554, in Frankfurt-on Main in 1561, in Lisbon in 1567, and so on. It was also translated into many languages.

In addition to Barleti's book, the National Library has hundreds of other works about our National Hero Skanderbeg, by such authors as Lavardin, Duponcet, Biemmi, Kockert, Menezes, Pontanus, Sarocchi, Whincop and others.

The history of our Illyrian ancestors is reflected in the works of ancient Latin and Greek writers, of which the oldest examples in the Library are Pliny's «Natural History» printed in 1516, Caesar's «Commentaries» (1539), Strabo's «De situ orbis», (1549), and Diodorus Siculus, «Bibliothecae historiae» (1559), etc.

The history of the Middle Ages, together with the Ottoman occupation, and the struggle of the Albanians for freedom are dealt with in the works of Byzantine and other chroniclers, as well as of various travellers, of which National Library possesses «Historiae Bizantinae scriptores» (1615), «Liber Chronicarum turcicarum» (1578) and individual volumes by Ptolemy, Anna Comnena, Chalcondylas, Sansovion, and others.

As Gölner remarked, the collection of ancient books and manuscripts in our National Library is also of particular interest for the study of the history of books, in general. In this collection we have incunabula like the book of Sylvius Piccolomini, published in 1473, hence in the first period of the birth of the printing press. Amongst other things it speaks about Skanderbeg and about the struggle of the Albanians against the

Ottomans. There are also old editions of the Bible and the Koran, books put out by famous publishing houses, such as those of Aldo Manuzio and the Elzeviers, illuminated books with gold and silver inlaid vellum bindings, decorated with precious stones and filigree, which reflect the history of books at various stages of their development.

THE STATE ARCHIVES

The State Archives of the PSR of Albania include all the documents created in the course of the activity of state, economic and social organs, and of various political, social, scientific, cultural, educational, and other personalities.

The administration of the state archives is centralized under the General Directory of State Archives.

For the preservation and administration of archive materials, there is a network of archives consisting of the Central State Archives, in which the documents of national importance, from ancient times to this day, are preserved, as well as the archives of different institutions, in which documents of local importance are preserved.

The documents preserved in the Central State Archives or in the archives of different institutions begin with the **Purple Codex of Herat**, written on parchment with silver ink, which belongs to the 6th century and reach to our days.

Like the administration of the State Archival Fund, the archival work is also centralized; it is directed by the General Directory of the State Archives and has as its objective to put the documents in the service of the work of scientific study.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Albanian archaeology — one of newest branches of our historical sciences, was born, grew and developed parallel with the people's state power. Foreign archaeological missions also carried out archaeological research in Apollonia and Butrint before the liberation of the country, but they plundered part of the artifacts discovered. They displayed no interest at all in the Illyrian culture.

When Albania was liberated, there was no museum or archaeological institution in the country. The first archaeological — ethnographic museum was opened in 1948 and the first cadres in this field started a job there. This nucleus of archaeologists served as a basis for the creation of the sector of archaeology at the Institute of History. This sector was extended and strengthened and, as a result, the Centre of Archaeological Research which came under the direct dependence of the Academy of Sciences of the PSR of Albania was created in 1976. Apart from the section of archaeology at the Museum of National History, which is summing up the history of our country from the beginnings of human history to the Middle Ages, there are archaeological museums in Tirana, Durrës, Apollonia, Butrint as well as archaeological sections at many historical museums in the different districts of the country.

Albanian archaeology attaches priority to research in the field of Illyrian culture and the Albanian Early Mediaeval culture, without neglecting the ancient cities of Durrës and Apollonia. The students try to elucidate the problem of the ethnogenesis of the Illyrians, their economic, social and political development in the period of the slave-owning society, as well as

the problem of the genesis of the Albanians.

Dozens of pre-historic settlements and necropolises have been discovered and interesting finds have been made in some of them. Excavations have been carried out in the pre-historic settlements of Maliq, Tren, Podgorie, Vashhtëmi, Dunavec, Kamnik, as well as in the burial mounds of Barç, Kuç i Zi, Prodan and Rehova in South-east Albania; in the caves of Blaz and Nezir and the tumuli of Mat in Central Albania; in the burial mounds of Kolsh, Kruma, Këneta and Çımanak in Northeastern Albania. Interesting material has been dug out in the settlements of Cakran and the tumuli of Patos in the Coastal Zone and in the burial grounds of Vajza, Dukat, the Dropull Valley and the upper reaches of Vjosa river in South Albania.

From the many archaeological objects unearthed in these settlements and necropolises, we have been able to determine the general features of the main pre-historic cultures according to their periods of development. The artifacts discovered in the multi-layer settlement of Maliq, which has been inhabited uninterruptedly from the Late Neolithic Age (the beginning of the 3rd millennium before our era) up to the end of the Bronze Age (the end of the 2nd millennium before our era), occupy a special place in the elucidation of the pre-history of Albania. All this period is testified by a wealth of archaeological material. This has enabled our students to follow the autochthonous process of the birth and formation of the Illyrian culture and ethnos.

Albanian archaeology has scored important successes in tracing and studying the Illyrian culture of the Iron Age (11th-5th century before our era) — a period of consolidation and vigorous development of this culture in the order of the primitive community. The excavations in

the burial mounds of Mat, Pazhok, Vajza, Barç, Dropull, etc., which extend in time from the Bronze to the Iron Age, were very fruitful. What strikes the eye in these graves, besides the construction and the mode of burial, is the relatively large number of earthenware, as well as iron and bronze objects found in them: weapons, spear-heads, swords, daggers, knives, helmets, breastplates, greaves, as well as a large variety of ornaments, of particular artistic value, fibulae, pendants, bracelets, diadems, etc.

Important discoveries and studies have been carried out for the ancient Illyrian period. Research work has continued over many years in the Illyrian cities of Amantia (Plloça), Dimal (Krotina), Antigonea, Çuka of Ajtoj, Selca e Poshtme, Bylis, Lis and others. Huge surrounding walls, which constitute splendid monuments in themselves, as well as what remains of temples and public and private buildings have been unearthed in the sites of these ancient cities. Thus, an ancient stadium with 17 steps on the one side and 8 steps on the other, built in the 3rd-2nd century before our era, has been discovered in Amantia. A portico with 7 niches has been unearthed in the ancient city of Dimal, and monumental buildings and parts of the city quarters have been dug out in Antigonea. A large theatre with about 7,500 seats, part of a stadium and other buildings have recently been discovered in the centre of Bylis, one of the biggest cities of ancient Illyria. Graves carved off in rock, an original mode of burial among the Illyrians, have been found at Selca e Poshtme.

The vast archaeological material discovered in these cities indicates the high degree of socio-economic development of the Illyrian cities in the 5th-1st centuries before our era.

Most of these finds are made up of pottery,

iron work tools and building materials. There are also weapons, ornaments and other artifacts. Ample numismatic materials, which throw more light on the economic activities of the Illyrians, has been gathered in these Illyrian cities.

Likewise, valuable material has been gathered about the emergence of the Illyrian towns, the different stages of their development and their ties and relations with the Mediterranean world.

The colonies on the coast such as Dyrrachion, Apollonia and Orychon, the culture of which developed in close contact with the Illyrian culture, played an important role in the economic and cultural development of Southern Illyria. After many years of excavations the greater part of Apollonia's four kilometres long surrounding wall has been unearthed. The lower part of it, dating back to the 4th century before our era, is built of big hewn stone blocks filling perfectly into each other without mortar; the upper part of it which in places goes as high up as 6.5 metres was built of bricks. A special place among the monuments of Apollonia is occupied by the Nymphaeum (fountain) of the town, built in the 4th century before our era, which is remarkable for its architectonic solution. Evidence of the luxurious life of the upper classes is the bloc of buildings of the 1st-2nd centuries, with floors embellished with polychrome mosaics with geometrical motifs and mythological scenes. Many sculptures, which are considered among the finest achievements of the time in this field, were found in these buildings and are now on display in the halls of the museum of Apollonia.

In the Antiquity Dyrrachion was the biggest city and port of the eastern Adriatic, which is proved by the monuments unearthed in the re-

cent 20-30 years. Of these majestic monuments worth of mention is the amphitheatre of the city. One of its sides rests on the hill of the city and has all the architectonic features of ancient amphitheatres. As to size, it ranks among the largest amphitheatres of the Antiquity. The collection of vases of different periods, diverse decorative objects and many tomb stones with Illyrian names show the important role the Illyrian element played in the life of this ancient city.

Albanian archaeology has scored many successes in the discovery of the Albanian Early Mediaeval culture. Initially, excavations were carried out in some graves of the Early Middle Ages in Northern Albania: in Koman, Burrel, Shurdh and Lezha; later they continued in a number of fortified settlements in Varosh, Shurdhash, Pogradec, and in the recent 10-15 years they were extended to some castles of Southern Albania such as Berat, Kanina, Ballsh, Saranda and others. All this threw new light on the Illyrian culture of the late antiquity, the autochthonous base on which the early Arbër culture was born. A rich and varied material with the characteristic features of the Arbër culture of the 7th-8th century has been gathered in Mediaeval necropolises and castles. In several places remains of basilicas which are remarkable for their architecture and their fine mosaic laid floors have been found. The mosaic of the basilica of Arapaj, in the outskirts of Durrës, is among the finest found in the territory of the Byzantine Empire.

The Albanian Early Mediaeval culture, or else called, the **Arbër culture** whose existence is proved today by a number of archaeological finds over a vast territory, was based on a strong Illyrian tradition and was a direct continuation

of it, and consequently, the Arbërs (Albanians) are the descendants of the Illyrians.

MUSEUMS

The Museum of National History of Tirana reflects the centuries-long history of our people, from the earliest times to this day.

The Museum «Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg» in Kruja shows the 25-year struggle of our people under the leadership of the National Hero, Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg in the 15th century.

The Museum of the Albanian Mediaeval Art in Korça shows exhibits of the material culture of our people in the Middle Ages.

The Museum of Weapons in Gjirokastra preserves weapons used through the centuries by our people and produced by themselves, as well as weapons seized from the enemy during the struggles for the freedom and independence of the country.

The Museum of National Education in Korça reflects the struggle of our people for the dissemination of Albanian education among the broad masses of the people.

The Archaeological museums in Tirana, Durrës, Fier and Saranda, etc., and the ethnographic museums in Tirana, Librazhd, Lezha, etc.

The Museum of Popular Culture in Shkodra reflects the artistic skill of the Albanian people, their fine taste in wood carving, pottery, glass work, national costumes, etc.

Memorial Museums: the museum-house where the Communist Party of Albania (today the PLA) was founded in Tirana, the museum-house where the Communist Youth Organization of Albania (today the LYUA) was founded in Tirana; the museum-house of the Conference of

Peza at Peza (Tirana), the museum-house of the Conference of Labinot (Elbasan); the museum-house where the Congress of Përmet was held at Përmet; the museum-house (Frashër-Përmet) of the Frashëri brothers, the museum-house of the patriot Mic Sokoli at Tropoja, etc.

All the cities have their museums which evoke the history of the city and the district. Almost all the villages have museums, sometimes just one room or part of a room, in which historical materials connected with local events are displayed.

MUSEUM-CITIES

Among the large number and many kinds of monuments, dating from the dawn of history to our days, our museum-cities occupy a special place.

The cities of Berat and Gjirokastra, have been designated as museum cities and the **underground** of the city of Durrës, the **old Bazaar of Kruja**, etc. have been placed under state protection on the basis of a special decision taken by the Council of Ministers. Special regulations in the spirit of this decision deal with the concrete problems of the administration, the preservation and restoration of these important centres of the history and material culture of our people.

The Museum-City of Berat is an important centre for the study of the history and material culture of the Albanian people because it preserves structures beginning with the Illyrians as early as the 4th and 3rd centuries before our era and ending with historic monuments connected with the National Liberation War. Worthy of mention in this museum-city is the fortress in which we find many traces of reconstructions.

Apart from Illyrian traces there are also reconstructions of the 6th, 13th, 15th and 19th centuries. This fortress is one of the biggest of its kind and remarkable for the great variety of contributions from various epochs. Some churches of the 13th and 14th centuries, some of which also preserve mural paintings, are worthy of mention for their architectonic values. The city itself, that is the residential centre as it is today, belongs partly to the 18th century and even more to the 19th century, during which a vigorous process of reconstruction of old houses took place. The ensembles of the museum-city of Berat are distinguished for their close combination with the terrain which is utilized in a masterly way in the compositional volume of the buildings which, joining together, create long strips of buildings. These ensembles stand out for their architectonic coherence and their identical exteriors, the balanced horizontal composition and careful integration of separate architectonic elements. The many windows and the arched projections of the residential storeys lighten and give variety to the dimensional composition of these compact constructions.

The Museum-City of Gjirokstra is younger. Its fortress, a structure with architectonic values, appears to date back to the 11 and 12th centuries. It was the nucleus of the city which, by the middle of the 17th century, achieved rapid and vigorous development. Apart from the fortress, the characteristic houses of Gjirokstra, which constitute a specific type within the framework of the Albanian popular house, are of very important value. These houses are distinguished for their development in height and their pronounced monumental character. Despite their severe outward appearance their interiors are cozy and highly ornamented. The en-

*During the years of people's power,
the cities of Albania
have changed completely.
Over 80 per cent of the population
lives in new apartments*



*One of the quarters of the museum town
of Gjirokastra, in southern Albania*



*The Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg Museum
recently built in the Kruja fortress*



*One of the halls
of the Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg Museum
in Kruja*



*Important archaeological discoveries
are carried out over the entire territory of Albania.
In the photo: Uncovering of an ancient mosaic*



sembles of this city stand out for their accentuated monumental and expressive character, their organic connections with the environment and variety of dimensional composition.

Durrës is one of the most important cities of the Antiquity of our country. The city of today lies on the ruins of the ancient city founded as early as the 7th century before our era.

Of the ancient and Mediaeval buildings of this city only part of the defence structures have resisted the ravages of time and are preserved above ground-level, for instance, the fortress built in the period of the Byzantine Emperor Anastasins I of Durrës origin and a number of Mediaeval towers and walls which date back to the period from the 10th to the 16th centuries. All the other monuments of this city are preserved below ground level and there are so many of them that anywhere you dig you will find something. Through excavations for the foundations of new buildings, many important monuments have been found, such as thermal baths of the Roman period in the centre of the present-day city, mosaics, the sewer system of the ancient city and so on. That is why the underground of Durrës has been proclaimed a monument of culture; no new construction is allowed without the approval of the Institute of Monuments of Culture.

The old Bazaar of Kruja, which dates back to the period from the 18th to the 19th century is a rare specimen of those beautiful architectonic complexes which in the past were centres of production and trade in our cities. This ensemble is remarkable for its successful functional solution through a simple architecture in which timber occupies the main place. The facades of the shops, which can be dismantled so that they can also serve for displays, and

the characteristic eaves which, apart from sheltering displayed goods, can also protect the buyers from the sun or rain, are made of timber. Thus, the space between the two long rows of shops, covered by the eaves, turns into a sort of very picturesque open-air market. The Bazaar of Kruja, which was restored during the period from 1965 to 1967, by the Institute of Monuments of Culture, is one of the most interesting and the oldest of its kind preserved in Albania.

TOURISM

Albania is a beautiful tourist country. The picturesque landscape of its sea-coast, plains and mountains create indelible impressions. That's why the number of people wishing to visit it increases from year to year.

Complete facilities have been created for the rest and recreation of tourists. During their stay in our country they get acquainted with the rich material and spiritual culture of the Albanian people and their achievements in the economic and social development. Our country is noted for its beautiful and sun-warmed beaches. One of them is, for example, that of Durrës, which is provided with all kinds of facilities and comfortable hotels. Various artistic performances and film shows, visits to interesting places, etc., are organized in this tourist centre. Not less beautiful is the Saranda tourist centre in South-western Albania. The road from Saranda to the tourist spot of Ksamil winds through a scenery of breath-taking beauty. In Ksamil there are many facilities for tourists, who can also see the great and many transformations which have taken place in the years of the people's power in this region. Not far away lies the Illyrian settle-

ment of Butrint, where important archaeological discoveries have been made. Travels just as pleasant may be made from Saranda to Borsh (in the Albanian riviera), or to the Museum-City of Gjirokastra. Here the foreign visitor is given the opportunity to visit the castle, the streets and the characteristic houses of Gjirokastra. The tourists may go to see the city and castle of Berat, Vlora and its tourist spot «Illyria» which is situated on a hilltop within the city, Fier and Apollonia, one of the most renowned towns of Antiquity in Albania, Kruja, its famous castle and its museum of the national hero Gjergj Kastrioti — Skanderbeg. Trips are also organized to the cities of Lezha, Shkodra, Kukës, Elbasan, Korça, Pogradec and particularly, Tirana, our capital, where tourists may go sightseeing and visiting its historical, cultural, educational and economic centers.

The foreign tourists will find the traditional Albanian hospitality everywhere, cultured service, comfortable buses, shops to buy things, money-exchange centers, etc.

You can come to Albania as a tourist for a period of fifteen, ten or less days. The date of arrival, the period of stay and the kind of accommodation are stipulated in the contracts between Albturizëm and other tourist firms. Likewise, the program of visits is co-ordinated beforehand between Albturizëm and the other tourist firms.

Albturizëm has links with many other tourist firms in various countries of the world, such as Germany, Austria, Italy, France, the Scandinavian countries, Spain, Turkey, Australia, etc. Anyone who wishes to visit Albania has only to address himself to these firms. The tourist season in Albania begins in April and ends in October.

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