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◆FOLK COSTUME

The Shkodra-Han i Hotit railway which was built with the participation of 270 brigades of young people from all over Albania, was inaugurated on January 11 this year.





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THE 6th SESSION OF THE THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

FROM THE REPORT «ON THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PLAN FOR 1984, THE DRAFT-PLAN OF THE ECONOMY FOR 1985,
AND THE DRAFT OF THE BUDGET FOR 1985»

*Submitted by Comrade HARILLA PAPAJORGJI, chairman of the Commission for the Study of the Draft-Plan of the Economy for 1985,
to the 6th session of the 10th legislature*



THE 10th LEGISLATURE OF THE PSR OF ALBANIA

MENT OF THE STATE PLAN AND BUDGET
ONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STATE BUDGET FOR 1985»

*State Planning Commission, on behalf of the Council of Ministers,
Legislature of the People's Assembly*



«WE HOLD THIS SESSION OF THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE DRAFT OF THE STATE BUDGET FOR 1985 ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY CELEBRATED WITH MAGNIFICENCE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE HOMELAND AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTION.

THE GREAT VICTORIES ACHIEVED IN THESE 40 YEARS, THE STRENGTH AND VITALITY OF THE NEW ALBANIA, MARCHING SECURELY ON THE BRILLIANT ROAD OF SOCIALISM, RELYING COMPLETELY ON OUR OWN FORCES HAVE THE STEEL MORAL AND POLITICAL UNITY OF THE PEOPLE ROUND THE PARTY, WITH COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AT THE HEAD, AT THE FOUNDATION. THIS UNITY WAS CREATED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE BEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE WAR FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE HOMELAND AND THE TRIUMPH OF THE POPULAR REVOLUTION. THIS UNITY WAS FURTHER STEELED IN THE 40 YEARS OF TITANIC WORK, EFFORTS AND STRUGGLE OF THE WORKING MASSES, WITH THE PARTY IN THE FOREFRONT, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW AND HAPPY SOCIALIST LIFE, FOR SAFEGUARDING IT WITH UNPARALLELED COURAGE FROM THE SAVAGE ENEMIES OF OUR COUNTRY, THE AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS, THE YUGOSLAV AND CHINESE REVISIONISTS, AND ALL WORLD REACTION.

This session of the People's Assembly is convened to draw a rich balance-sheet of successes. Allow me, comrade deputies, to report in brief, on the basis of the analyses which the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Party and the Council of Ministers made of the economic plan and state budget, about the attainment of the targets for 1984, to present the main objectives endorsed for the draft plan of 1985, and some of the main directions on which the work and attention of the Council of Ministers and other state and economic organs will be concentrated during the next year.

ON THE FULFILMENT OF THE ECONOMIC PLAN AND THE STATE BUDGET FOR 1985

In 1984 the working masses of town and countryside, led by the Party, have reached successes in the economic and social development and the further strengthening of the defence capacity of our socialist Homeland. Thanks to their mobilization and the great efforts made everywhere in order to come to the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Homeland with the best achievements possible and in order to put into practice the important decisions of the 8th and 9th Plenums of the Central Committee of the Party, our socialist economy maintained and further strengthened its stability in face of the encirclement, the blockade and the economic crisis of the capitalist and revisionist world, as well as the great difficulties which were created by

the long draught of this year. The social production marked new increases in many branches and sectors of the economy. Its effectiveness was further raised, the material, financial and valutary needs for the extended socialist reproduction were completely met with our own forces, and the material and cultural well-being of the people was further improved.

During this year the productive potential of the different branches of industry was strengthened and productive capacities were exploited better, thus bringing about a 3.3 per cent increase of the total volume of industrial production. The objectives set in the plan were attained or exceeded for many important products. In comparison with 1983, production showed the following increases: electric power 18 per cent, coal 13 per cent, conner wires and cables 19 per cent, blister copper 14 per cent, chromium ore 5 per cent, carbonic iron-nickel 19 per cent, footwear 6 per cent, fishing 6 per cent, etc.

The development of industry was accompanied with achievements also in the discovery of new industrial reserves of oil and gas, chromium, copper, coal, and other mineral ores, which open new perspectives for a more intensive exploitation of our natural assets for 1985 and the years to come.

In 1984, the achievements in agriculture were further consolidated, a thing which once again powerfully confirms the correctness of the agrarian line of the Party for the ceaseless intensification of production in this basic branch of the economy and for securing the general development of our cooperativist order. In the grave situation which was created by the prolonged draught of this year, the level of yields and production reached in 1983 and 1984 for many

field crops, livestock-raising and fruit-growing, are among the highest reached until today.

In 1984 more than 4.5 billion leks were invested for the development of industry, agriculture and other branches of the economy and culture. Investments were better allocated, in the first place, for reconstructions, the extension and completion of other productive projects under construction. During this year, 160 important projects were built, including the gas-purifying plant at Ballsh, the extension of the oil-engineering plants at Patos and the Stalin City, the second line of uninterrupted steel pouring in the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine, the extension of the chromium factory at Kalimash and the copper enrichment plants at Reps and Fushë-Arrza, the reconstruction of the existing technology of PVC production at Vlora, some factories and production lines of the light and food-stuffs industry and the building materials industry, the livestock-raising complexes of Tirana, Saranda, the irrigation works and many socio-cultural buildings. Along with all this, work continued at high rates on many other important projects, such as the «Enver Hoxha» hydro-power plant at Koman, the extension of the superphosphate fertilizers plant at Laç, the plant for the production of lubricating oils at Ballsh, the building of the Fier-Vlora railway, the Shkodra-Han i Hotit-Border railway, etc.

Important investments were made for the further development of social and cultural sectors. This year the state built and distributed to the population 10,500 dwelling flats, which further improved the housing conditions of the working people.

In 1984, railway and sea transport assumed special development, bringing about the increase of the effectiveness of the economy.

The many measures that were adopted and the revolutionary actions and initiatives taken by many working collectives for the implementation of the decisions of the 9th Plenum of the CC of the Party, had a powerful influence in the increase of the financial sources of the country and the further strengthening of our finances. In this manner it became possible to ensure the uninterrupted financing of the economy and culture, to further strengthen the defence capacity of the Homeland.

The further development of the economy, education, culture, health and other sectors of services, contributed to the further raising of the material and cultural level of our people, maintained and further raised the purchasing power of the

population. The internal market, on which goods circulation was 3.9 per cent greater than that of the year 1983, was in a position to fulfil the needs of the population for goods better, and ensured an increase in the consumption per capita of many products of primary necessity, especially, in the countryside. Efforts were made also by our working people of the foreign trade in order to sell our goods and, in return for them, secure part of the goods our economy needs.

But the Council of Ministers, estimating the positive balance of achievements made during 1984, has analysed, in the spirit of the 9th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party, the cases of failure to completely fulfil the planned quotas in some individual branches and sectors of the economy. It has taken measures to avoid shortcomings in the work of some oil enterprises, executive committees of the people's councils in the respective districts and the Ministry of Energy Industry, which have been the main cause of the failure to fulfil the planned targets in this important sector of the economy.

THE MAIN TASKS OF THE DRAFT OF THE STATE PLAN AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1985

As is known 1985 is the last year with which the 7th Five-year Plan (1981-1985), which is the first plan we drafted and are carrying out fully with our own forces, is closed. In the draft plan which is presented for endorsement, efforts were made to ensure that, on the basis of the directive of the 8th Congress of the Party, and through the exploitation of the new possibilities that have been created, the tasks approved in the 7th Five-year Plan for 1985 are increased in some directions in order to compensate for some non-realizations in other branches.

The draft-plan of 1985 contains great but attainable targets. A characteristic of this plan is that the rapid rates of the increase of social production, national income and all other branches are to be realized through a strict savings regime in the material and technical base, the financial and valutory funds.

The comrade deputies have been extensively acquainted with the tasks of the draft plan through the materials which were distributed to them before this session, therefore, I shall dwell on some of the more important tasks:

In industry, the draft plan envisages that the total industrial production of 1985 should increase over 6.2 per cent over 1984. Therefore, important tasks have been set to energy industry and the extraction of some minerals, the more thorough exploitation of the productive capacities of heavy processing industry, the extension of the range of consumer goods, etc. Similarly, important new projects of the extracting and processing industry will come into production.

Oil and gas extraction will continue to constitute the main task, because increases in this field determine, to a large extent, the rapid-rate development of all social production. To this end, the draft plan envisages the necessary material, valutory and financial base, which must be used with higher effectiveness. During 1985, besides greater efforts for the attainment of the objectives in oil and gas extraction, the work for the increase of industrial reserves of oil and gas, through strict implementation of the orientations of the Party and the application of the teachings of Comrade Enver Hoxha on the importance of oil, should be built on a more scientific basis.

In order to fulfil the needs of the economy for coal it is envisaged that its extraction should increase by 6.4 per cent over the quota reached in 1984.

The production of electric power is forecast to go up by 5.1 per cent, the increase being achieved from hydro-power plants. In 1985, the first two turbines of the «Enver Hoxha» hydro-power plant at Koman, the biggest ever built in our country, will be put into exploitation. This will be a very important success and a sound support for the development of the productive forces of the country and will further increase our exports.

In the mineral extraction and processing industry special measures will be taken for the more complete exploitation of the existing productive capacities, the reduction of the degree of impoverishment of minerals during mining and handling of the ores and for a more extensive enrichment of poor mineral ores. The Ministry of Industry and Mining and the respective executive committees in the districts have been working, on the basis of the decisions adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the application of a series of measures to increase the degree of reliability for the fulfilment of the quotas of the plan,



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especially, in the extraction of the rich chromium ore and the improvement of the qualitative, technical-technological parameters of exploitation in the mineral enrichment factories, smelting and mineral processing plants. Greater efforts should be made at the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine to achieve standard productive capacities, to produce new steels of high trade-marks, to cut on imports of them, and finally, increase the efficiency of production.

Higher targets are envisaged for the development of the chemical industry, which should better support the fulfilment of the tasks set for agriculture and other branches of industry and the demands of the population. The production of chemical fertilizers is envisaged to increase over 16 per cent, whereas that of pesticides 65 per cent. An appreciable increase will be made in the production of caustic soda and soda ash, PVC products, detergents, etc.

The draft plan envisages qualitative achievements in engineering industry for the production of machinery, equipment and spare parts for the more extensive introduction and application of new technologies, the improvement of quality, all of which will be realized through widening the range of assortments and the further reduction of imports. The light and food-stuffs industry will fulfil the needs of the people and the economy for consumer goods better. Along with ensuring the supplies of primary materials for agriculture, attention should be concentrated, also, on the rapid absorption and thorough processing of products, with a view to reducing wastes to a minimum. The tasks of the light and food-stuffs industry for 1985 envisage a more rapid preservation and canning of fruits and vegetables. Besides, improvements are envisaged to be made also in the structure of textiles, increasing the amount of textiles with a mixture of polyester and cotton. Measures have been included in the program of work for the production of new assortments with a light weight and better quality and for the application of new technologies in dyeing and stamping of fabrics. The quality of the production of shoes and some new items of the light industry will be further improved.

With a view to attaining the objective set at the 8th Congress of the Party for the development of industry, in general, the draft plan for 1985 envisages, at the same time, high growth rates in agriculture. Production and yields of field crops and animal husbandry are envisaged to be higher than those realized during the four years of this five-year period. In comparison with 1984,

agricultural production in 1985 will grow about 17.7 per cent. The fact that even in the difficult conditions of this year the districts of Shkodra, Kukës, Puka, Mirdita, Librazhd and Korça took in 1.6-3.3 quintals of wheat per hectare more than in 1983, speaks of the possibilities for the attainment of this objective. In 33 thousand hectares lying in the plains we took in 49 quintals of wheat per hectare, whereas in 7 thousand hectares of the hilly zone 44 quintals per hectare. Individual economies, such as that of the Maliq and Plasa state farms took in 63-65 quintals of wheat per hectare in all the sown area. The production of cotton for the whole sown area was 14.3 quintals per hectare, or over 5 quintals more than in the last year; as for tobacco, along with the increase of yields, quality was improved by 20 per cent. In order to create a better support for the attainment of the objectives of agriculture in 1985, about 30 per cent of all the national investments will be made in this branch.

The Council of Ministers envisages that in 1985 some improvements should be made in the structure of field crops and animal husbandry in order to guarantee the fulfilment of the needs of the population, especially, for potatoes, vegetables and beans still better, ensure the rapid-rate increase of the production of meat, especially, from sheep and goats, and pork, to further raise the effectiveness of agriculture in the increase of exports through the extension of the sown area and raising yields of tobacco and cotton, etc.

The main task of agriculture for 1985 remains the increase of the production of bread grain. This constitutes an objective imperative not only for fulfilling the needs of the population and strengthening reserves of bread grain, but also for guaranteeing the attainment of the great tasks envisaged for the intensification of livestock production and the production of meat and eggs, in particular.

Therefore, work will be concentrated on the implementation everywhere of the proper measures and the dissemination of the known experience of many economies which have achieved high yields not only in the plains, but also in the hilly and mountainous zones. In the plan for next year it is envisaged that the plains zones will take in 42 quintals of wheat per hectare and 57 quintals of maize per hectare, whereas the hilly and mountainous zones respectively 25 and 28 quintals per hectare. Increases are also envisaged for yields of other field crops such as cotton — 15 quintals per hectare, tobacco — 10 quintals per hectare, and so on for sunflower,

potatoes, beans, etc. Special tasks are envisaged for the more rapid increase of yields and production in the zone of priority intensification.

In livestock-raising, the Ministry of Agriculture is required to give greater attention to the increase of numbers and normal growth of livestock in all agricultural cooperatives and state farms. The tasks figuring in the draft plan of 1985 are aimed at encouraging the improvements made during 1984 in the numerical increase of livestock of all kinds, and in the increase of production. The production of meat is envisaged to increase 9.1 per cent, and milk 7.8 per cent against 1984. In order to ensure a better support for the more rapid development of sheep and goats, it is envisaged that investments for pasture grounds, and dry feed should increase about 3 fold against the average of the period 1981-1984.

It is required that work in transport should be better concentrated on the intensification of railway and sea transport. With the putting into exploitation of the railway Fier-Vlora and Shkodra-Han i Hotit, the motor road transport will be further lightened.

During 1985, 4 billion and 620 million leks are envisaged to be invested in the development of the economy, the socio-cultural sectors and the further strengthening of the defence capacity of the country. The bulk of investments, as always, will be allocated to the development of the various branches and sectors of the economy. During 1985, we will see the building of about 145 important projects such as the first phase of the «Enver Hoxha» hydro-power plant at Koman, the extension of the copper factory at Reps of Mirdita, the raising of the mining capacity of the iron-nickel mine at Çervenaka, the 220 kW high-tension line from Koman to Elbasan, some important sections of the chemical enterprise at Durrës, the production line of sulphonates and detergents at the Stalin City, the factory for the production of fibre plates at Fushë-Arrza, the extension of the ceramics plant in Tirana, some livestock-raising complexes, land improvement and irrigation schemes, etc.

In the plan of 1985 important tasks are envisaged for exports and imports.

With the measures envisaged in the draft plan of 1985, on the basis of the increase of production, the material and cultural well-being of the broad masses of working people will be raised still higher. The real per capita income of the population will increase 2.4 per cent against 1984, giving priority to the more rapid increase of the income of the cooperativist peasantry. There will be a

4 per cent upswing in the circulation of goods for cash in internal trade. Communal services will increase 5.3 per cent overall. With the objectives envisaged for the development of production and the increase of the real income for 1985, the material well-being of the people is to be guaranteed and further improved. This constitutes one of the major achievements of the correct economic policy of the Party, the importance of which assumes a still greater significance if we take into account that it is achieved in the conditions of the imperialist-revisionist encirclement and blockade, and at a time when the economic crisis, inflation and unemployment in the capitalist world is causing the worsening of the living conditions of the broad masses of working people.

The draft plan presented for approval envisages the further improvement of housing conditions. In the next year, a total of 17,500 dwelling flats will be built, of which 11,500 by the state and the rest by the cooperativist peasantry. With the attainment of this objective, the task set by the 8th Congress of the Party for the construction of 80 thousand dwelling flats and houses during the five-year plan is thus realized.

Education and culture will continue to develop in conformity with the directives of the 8th Congress of the Party for the rising of the qualitative level of the training of pupils and students. Their number in all categories of schools is envisaged to increase to 736 thousand. Over 5 thousand new admissions will be made in the higher schools.

Health service will assume further development.

In order to ensure the uninterrupted financing of the economy and culture, the Council of Ministers has drafted and presents for approval the draft of the state budget for 1985. The income of the state budget is envisaged to increase 6 per cent against 1984. About 60 per cent of the increase of the net income of enterprises will be secured from a cost reduction of 135 million leks. The financing of the economic development will absorb 52.5 per cent of the total budget expenditure, the social and cultural measures 26.8 per cent, and the increase of the defence capacity of the Homeland 10.9 per cent.

In 1985, the development of the productive forces will be accompanied with the continued improvement of the socialist relations of production.

On the basis of the orientations of the Central Committee of the Party, the Council of Ministers will organize and direct the work in the

base, in the districts and in the centre for the drafting of the plan for the development of the economy and culture in the 8th Five-year Plan (1986-1990). Therefore, the studies made during the drafting of the outline for the 8th Five-year

Plan will be deepened and new studies will be undertaken.»

Then, Comrade Harilla Papajorgji pointed out the main directions for the fulfilment of the economic plan and the state budget for 1985.



The 6th session of the 10th legislature of the People's Assembly was called in session on December 24-26, 1984.

Vanguard workers and cooperativists, cadres of state organs, the economy and mass organizations, and others were invited to take part in its proceedings.

The deputies to the People's Assembly and the guests broke out into stormy applause and ardent cheers upon the entrance in the hall of the beloved leader of the Party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Famiz Alia, the member of the Political Bureau and Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Adil Çarçani, and other leaders of the Party and state.

This session of the People's Assembly held its proceedings according to the following agenda:

1) Report of the Council of Ministers «On the fulfilment of the state plan and budget for 1984, the draft-plan of economic and social development and the draft of the state budget for 1985».

2) Draft-law «On the state plan of the development of the economy and culture of the PSR of Albania for 1985».

3) Draft-law «On the state budget for 1985».

4) Draft-law «On the administration, protection and documentation of the circulation of material and monetary values».

5) Draft of the Code of Road Traffic of the PSR of Albania.

6) Decrees issued by the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

THE ROLE OF THE CPA AND COMRADE ENVER HOXHA IN THE CREATION OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE POWER DURING THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR

by **LUAN OMARI**

A specific feature of the popular revolution in Albania is precisely the fact that the working people, led by the working class and the Communist Party, won the decisive battle against the exploiting classes in the conditions of the liberation war against the occupiers and traitors

THE GLORIOUS PERIOD OF THE ANTI-FASCIST NATIONAL LIBERATION WAR, WHICH LASTED A LITTLE OVER FIVE AND A HALF YEARS, FROM THE AGGRESSION OF FASCIST ITALY ON APRIL 7, 1939 UP TILL THE COMPLETE LIBERATION OF ALBANIA FROM THE NAZI OCCUPIERS ON NOVEMBER 29, 1944, IS FULL OF SUCH IMPORTANT EVENTS AND HAS SUCH A DYNAMIC OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT THAT IT COMPARES WITH WHOLE DECADES IN THE LIFE OF PEOPLES.

These events and this dynamic of development not only led to radical revolutionary changes but also car-

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ried in themselves the seeds of new developments in the coming decades in Albania, leaving indelible imprints also in the processes of the present development of our socialist Home-

land, in the characteristics of these processes and in the place and role which socialist Albania has today in the international arena. The present development of our country, the invincible strength of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Albania, the continuous enhancement of the role of the Party cannot be understood without taking into account the whole of the revolutionary experience of our country which, as Comrade Enver

Hoxha has said, most thoroughly proves the correctness of the brilliant teachings of Marx.

The experience of Albania, a small and backward country, in which within a short time after the creation of the Party of the working class the foreign enemies were driven out, the power of the state of the exploiting classes was overthrown and the people's state power was established as the main means for the realization of radical political and socio-economic changes which ensured the rapid transition, in a revolutionary manner, from the feudal-bourgeois order to the socialist order, is a unique experience of great interest. On the one hand, this speaks of the vital and universal strength of the teachings of Marxism-Leninism and, on the other hand, of the ability of the Communist Party of Albania (today the Party of Labour of Albania) to apply these teachings in a creative manner in the concrete conditions of our country.

The strategy and tactics of our Party for the creation of the people's state power, as an integral part of its political line in the time of the Anti-fascist National Liberation war, was based on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the directives of the Comintern, especially those of its 6th and 7th Congresses, which reflected the world revolutionary experience in the analysis of the concrete conditions, and on the historical traditions of the country.

With the occupation of the country by Italian fascism the political situation changed completely, the class forces on both sides of the barricade were aligned differently. The contradiction between Italian fascism and the Albanian people became the fundamental contradiction, whereas the contradiction between the working masses and exploiting classes faded to second plane, though it did not disappear altogether. The solution of the first contradiction became the premise and condition sine qua non for the solution of the second contradiction. The war against the fascist occupier for freedom and national independence was a vital question for the Albanian people. Without the

solution of the national question, none of the social questions could be solved.

The success of this task was conditioned, first of all, by the creation of the Communist Party of Albania. Without the creation of the Party, the Anti-fascist National Liberation War of the Albanian people, which in fact had begun from April 7, 1939, could never have developed and be organized in such a manner as to be combined with a profound social revolution.

The starting-point of the strategy and tactics of the Party which was reflected in the Resolution of the Founding Meeting of the CPA, was the linking of the question of national liberation with the creation of a new revolutionary democratic state. This connection was dictated by the historical experience which showed that the old anti-popular reactionary state not only was not in a position to defend national independence, but on the contrary, put the independence of the country at auction in order to ensure support by foreign imperialism for the exploitation of the working masses. Comrade Enver Hoxha says, «The people, the working class and the peasantry, in the first place, should know and understand what they fought for and what the victory would bring them... The Communist Party of Albania was a guarantee that the past would never be repeated, but this had to be proved in practice through a program, through actions, through war, through politics.» The linking up of the question of national liberation with the creation of the new state power objectively gave the National Liberation War a social content, brought about that masses, which were ready to rise to their feet for the freedom of the Homeland, took part in the National Liberation War in still greater numbers and determination. In this manner, the war against the occupier was transformed into a popular revolution directed against those rotten and parasitic social forces which betrayed the interests of the nation, placing themselves in the service of the occupier.

The theoretical thinking of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha on

the people's state power, on its character and manner of organization, which from the beginning had very clear aims, was gradually developed and enriched on the basis of the revolutionary practice of the National Liberation War, reflecting also the concrete evolutions of the political situation and the differentiation of the social forces involved.

Whereas the Resolution of the Meeting of the main Communist Groups for the creation of the Party treated the problem of state power still in a general manner, in the subsequent instructions of the CC of the Party, and especially, in the Resolution of the Conference of Peza, drafted by Comrade Enver Hoxha, the character and duties of the national liberation councils as organs of war and nuclei of the future state are pointed out clearly and in a more detailed manner and form.

The content of the new state power, its organization, its stand towards the old state organization, were materialized in a more complete manner in the decisions adopted at the 2nd National Liberation Conference of Labinot, in September 1943. The National Liberation General Council, formed in Peza as a provisional organ with a small membership, was changed in Labinot into a standing organ with such a membership which reflected also the growth of the National Liberation Front. It was in a position to effectively carry out its tasks as a leading political organ of the National Liberation Front and also discharged the functions of the state. The Standing Committee of the Council had the features of a government; by directing the work of various sections which were created at the Conference of Labinot, such as the section of internal affairs, finances, the press and propaganda, etc., it may be considered as the nucleus of a high organ of state administration, the future people's democratic government. In this manner the Conference of Labinot carried out the tasks set at the Conference of Peza for the creation of the «Main Provisional Council of Albania», just as the task for the creation of the General Staff of the National Liberation Army was carried

out with success in July 1943, again in Labinot.

The Congress of Përmet marked a higher stage in the development of the people's state power, in which the correctness of the strategy and tactics defined by the Party was expressed without equivocation or ambiguity. It proclaimed the creation of the Albanian state of people's democracy, thus solving the question of state power in our country. The decisions of the Congress and of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council had a double character: first, declarative, because they analysed and defined the situation created in the process of the National Liberation War and the popular revolution; second, constituent, because they created organs which had purely state competences such as the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council with attributes of a provisional government. The creation of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council, especially, as the supreme organ of state power, with legislative and executive functions, which represented the sovereignty of the Albanian people and the Albanian state, was a moment of a change, a qualitative leap in the process of the development of the new state, its victory against the hostile force at home and abroad.

The revolutionary platform of the Party over the question of state power, worked out by Comrade Enver Hoxha, left the solution of the question of the form of the future Albanian state to be decided by the people after the liberation of the country. This stand created the possibilities for people belonging to different strata to unite in the National Liberation Front despite their different opinions over the form of the future government of the country. But the platform of the Party defined the national liberation councils as an entirely new state in comparison with the old state. Moreover, this platform, especially the decisions of the Conference of Labinot, raised the imperative for the destruction of the state machine set up by the fascist occupiers who, in fact, had retained the state machine of King Zog both as regards its structure

and its men, with adaptations which suited the regime of occupation. This stand of our Party was in compliance with the teachings of Marx, who pointed out that the breaking of the bureaucratic and military machine «is the preliminary condition of every genuine popular revolution...» By such a «genuine popular revolution» Marx meant something more than an ordinary bourgeois-democratic revolution, and did not limit this preliminary condition to the socialist revolution only. In fact, he meant a broad popular revolution which would grow in an uninterrupted manner from the democratic revolution into the socialist revolution.

The breaking of the old state machine, which was explicitly put and sanctioned by the Conference of Labinot and consistently carried out by the national liberation councils and the National Liberation Army till the complete liberation of the country, consisted in:

a) the dispersal and banning of all the old state organs and the administration;

b) the divesting of these organs of effective power and disarming and dispersal of their armed forces;

c) the dispersal of all the old juridical institutions;

d) the annulment and abrogation of all the old juridical norms which defended and sanctioned the existence of all the state organs, the administration and courts, which were liquidated by the revolution.

The liquidation of all the state organs of the enemy in the liberated zones and the recognition of the state power of the national liberation councils as the only state of our country, had a decisive importance for the development of the popular revolution. Any stand different from this would have grave consequences to the fates of the Albanian people, their national and social liberation, the securing of true independence against the ambitions of the British and American imperialists. The consistent line of our Party in this question exploded the plans of the foreign imperialists and the internal forces of reaction which had their support.

This line, analysed from the histo-

rical aspect today, is a convincing example which refutes the preachings of modern revisionists who play the role of the extinguisher of the fires of national liberation and democratic revolutions in different regions of the world, by encouraging unprincipled compromises and agreements with the forces of regression.

A logical result of this clear-cut stand of our Party was the firm struggle of Comrade Enver Hoxha against any duality over the question of state power and against the sharing of state power with the reactionary forces. «In this matter there is no room for equivocations: only the state power of the councils and no other state power must exist, there must be no compromise and duality in this,» Comrade Enver Hoxha instructed in October 1943.

The stand of our Party towards the important question of state power should be seen in the context of the political line followed towards the reactionary classes, their organizations and the forces which supported them from outside in the war against the National Liberation Movement of Albania. Even in the conditions of the new German occupation, this line was clearly recapitulated by Comrade Enver Hoxha in an article written for the newspaper «Bashkimi», November 1943, «In this war and at this juncture the question is raised not about the form of regime but about the liberation of Albania; during this war there is only one people's state power, the power of the national liberation councils, there is only one army, the National Liberation Army; our war is waged for a people's democracy, whereas the form of the regime will be chosen by the people themselves after the war... We will consider all those parties, which may be formed and will eventually fight against the fascist occupier and their collaborators, as friendly parties and will admit them into the National Liberation Front. We will fight any party which collaborates with the occupiers.»

However, the Communist Party of Albania always stressed that the main task was the war against the occupiers. Even when the CC of the Communist Party of Albania, in its direc-

tives of November 3, 1943 — which reflected the change in tactics towards the hostile forces — raised the need for open war and the destruction of the Balli Kombëtar, regarding the war against the force of reaction as an inseparable part of the war against the occupier, it warned the organizations of the Party not to fall into sectarian mistakes, instructed them to preserve the broad popular character of the National Liberation War, and directed that the war against the bands and organizations of traitors should be carried out not by the communists alone but by the communists together with the people. In the conditions of the aggravation of class struggle, the Central Committee of the Party drew attention to the fact that the main enemy was the nazi German occupier.

Unlike the Communist Party, the Balli Kombëtar and the Legaliteti saw their main enemy in the National Liberation Movement. Their whole strategy was aimed at liquidating this Movement with the assistance of the fascist occupiers. Even when they placed themselves in the service of the occupiers, which they did more openly in the autumn of 1943, the Balli Kombëtar and Legaliteti, in particular, continued to maintain their links with the British imperialists through the British military missions in Albania. These links were not unknown to the nazi occupiers, who tolerated this double stand because, in the final analysis, they were united with their Anglo-American enemies in their desire not to allow the establishment of a people's state power, led by the communists, in Albania.

In all the phases when the struggle for the establishment of the people's state power was waged, our Party confronted the views and all-round efforts of the Balli Kombëtar, the Legaliteti and the Anglo-American imperialists, who, despite some nuances that divided them, were united in the essence of the aim to impose on the Albanian people a bourgeois, authoritarian regime, which they tried to disguise with democratic liberal labels. The «democratic» formulas which the Balli Kombëtar put up in its «Deca-

logue», proclaimed in February 1943, were aimed at winning the working masses over from the influence of the Communist Party and the National Liberation Front. But their demagogy could not conceal the fact that the Balli Kombëtar was led by the representatives of the landowners and the bourgeois whose interests and aspirations were widely different from those of the common people.

When the perspective of the defeat of the Axis Powers was clearly outlined, internal reaction, with the approval of the occupiers, intensified its efforts to prepare the establishment of a state which would guarantee the suppression of the popular revolution. These efforts were materialized in the agreement entered into between Ali Këlcyra, in the name of the Balli Kombëtar, and the commander of the Italian forces in Albania, General Dalmazzo, on the creation of an «Albanian» army and gendarmerie. After the capitulation of Italy, the reactionary forces tried to find other roads in the same direction. One such course, which in fact was an old and discredited one, was the attempt to revive the regime of King Zog. In November 1943, the «Congress» of the Legaliteti, which, as Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, «was monitored by the British and the Germans in silent collaboration», and in which a representative of the British military missions participated, proclaimed that the regime of King Zog was legitimate and continued to exist as long as the King had not abdicated. All the juridical sophisms of the Legaliteti could not cover up the reality that the regime of Zog had been brought to power in an illegitimate manner with the help of foreign reaction, that it was synonymous with corruption and national betrayal, that it opened the road to the Italian invasion of the country, that by betraying and abandoning the country at a very decisive moment in its history Zog lost any juridical and moral right to his return to the royal throne, that the traitor Assembly of April 12, 1939 consisted largely of his own men, that the fugitive King enjoyed no sympathy with and was not recognized by other countries, and most importantly,

that the very revolutionary development of events in Albania closed the door definitively to the return of his hated regime.

The efforts of the reactionary forces, rallied in the Legaliteti, were supported and encouraged by Great Britain, which, as Comrade Enver Hoxha has clearly shown with convincing proofs in his book «The Anglo-American Threat to Albania», and as emerges from the British documents on which our historiography throws light, had always had the Zog card in reserve as a possible variant to counter the National Liberation Movement.

The analysis of the efforts for the creation of a reactionary Albanian government, on the basis of historical documents, reveals especially that these efforts were directed mainly at forming a government in exile.

After the failure of the attempt to create a «Committee for the Salvation of Albania» at Mukje, Albanian reaction did not carry out any other attempt to create inside the country a «government» or at least a «committee» as an opposition to the quisling government of Tirana, although it never abandoned the idea of seizing power after the war. Such an attempt was impossible on account of a series of factors. In the first place, there was no movement which could claim, with some degree of seriousness, that it resisted the fascist occupiers. Besides, despite their relative unity conditioned by the needs of their war against the National Liberation Movement, the forces of reaction were essentially divided into rival clans, with their pretensions and plans. Similarly, the German occupiers and the quisling government of Tirana, who fondled the idea of a regime headed by Zog as a possible perspective and worked to pave the way for the upholders of this idea, would hardly accept the creation of an organ of opposition, even if it were only formal.

For this reason, up to the end of the nazi occupation, all the forces of reaction gave their support to the local quisling government, actively collaborating with it, putting aside even their contradictions, in order to sup-

press the National Liberation Movement.

Nevertheless, the potential danger of the creation of a reactionary government, inside or outside the country, as the pivot round which the forces of landowners and the bourgeoisie could regroup themselves, was still imminent.

A similar possibility could not be ruled out given the hostile stand of the British and American imperialists towards the National Liberation Movement. The attitude of the British Government towards the National Liberation Front of Albania, the plans worked out by top men in the Foreign Office for the future of Albania — a future according to the wishes and whims of Great Britain — are well known. As regards the Balkans, the British had direct interests which were something more than just interest of a military character. This explains also their concern to keep a close watch over the events in Albania where they sent a military mission as early as the spring of 1943. The Balkans and Albania were a distant zone for America at that time. Nevertheless, towards the end of the war, aware of its own growing strength and the weakening of the allies, especially the British, the United States began to play a more active role, taking a direct interest in the Balkans, and within the framework of the Balkans, also in Albania. From US documents of the period of the Second World War it emerges clearly that the Washington diplomacy, though not as outspoken as the British diplomacy, was not altogether indifferent towards the development of the situation in Albania. In their studies, which the functionaries of the Department of State conducted from time to time about the fates of Albania after the war, they reached the conclusion that the possibility for the existence of a fully independent and sovereign Albanian state was ruled out; they proposed projects and plans for the re-establishment of a formally independent Albanian state with international advisers, or for putting this state under the international mandate of another country such as the United States itself, Great

Britain or even Italy, and even for the division of Albania between Greece and Yugoslavia. It is worth mentioning here that these studies and projects were proposed behind the back of the Albanian people at a time when in December 1942 the American government, together with the Soviet and British governments, had pledged that after the war Albania was to become independent.

Despite their negative stand towards allowing Albania to become a completely independent and sovereign state after the war, the American functionaries did not remain behind their British counterparts in drafting plans for the creation of a provisional Albanian state, in working out different plans — from the creation of a government of «national union» in which representatives of the National Liberation Front, the Balli Kombëtar and the Legaliteti would be included, to the sanctioning of the continuity of the quisling government in the conditions of an invasion of Albania by the Anglo-American forces.

But the plans hatched up by the reactionary forces, inside and outside the country, were castles in the air, because they ran counter to the Albanian reality, the will of the people who were fighting not only for their liberation from foreign yoke, but also were determined not to allow the past to be repeated. This new reality, this firm will of the Albanian people were expressed in clear-cut terms in the historical decisions of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Congress, which was called on 24 May 1944 at the liberated town of Përmet with the initiative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Albania.

The question of state power in our country was solved with the decisions of the Congress of Përmet, with the creation of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council as the main legislative body which represented the sovereignty of the Albanian people, and with the election of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Standing Committee which had the attributes of a provisional government, with the ban on the return of King Zog and his

clique to Albania, and since the question of the form of government would be definitively decided by the people themselves after the war and the liberation of the country, with the decision to refuse to recognize any other government which may be formed inside or outside Albania. In conformity with the platform defined by the Communist Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha from the beginning of its existence, the new Albanian state of people's democracy was created.

The decisions of the 2nd Meeting of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council at Berat constituted the further continuation of and complemented the decisions of the Congress of Përmet.

The transformation of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Standing Committee into the Democratic Government raised the question of its international recognition. The statement made by Comrade Enver Hoxha in the name of the Democratic Government at the 2nd Meeting of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council put it explicitly that it would request the big allies and the members of the anti-fascist bloc to recognize it as the only government of Albania.

The negative stand of the Anglo-Americans regarding the recognition of the government that emerged from the National Liberation Front is known. The British, who had assisted in the so-called Congress of the Legaliteti in the autumn of 1943, refused to send representatives of their military mission to the Congress of Përmet. However, in the weeks following the Congress the British seemed to alter their stand in the face of the reality and the facts, because they were forced to admit that the card of the Legaliteti was beaten irremediably, that its forces were defeated and that the new revolutionary power was being steadily established all over Albania. The ex-prime minister of Great Britain, Macmillan, who during the war was plenipotentiary minister of his government for the Mediterranean zone, admits that in the last months of the war the British were compelled to recognize that in Albania they had lost the game more hopelessly than in Ruma-

nia and Bulgaria. Nevertheless, till the complete liberation of Albania, the British and the Americans carefully avoided recognizing the Albanian government officially.

After their threats failed to produce the effect they desired, they pinned their hopes on economic pressures, waiting, as Macmillan suggested on October 21, 1944, for Enver Hoxha to make the inevitable request for aid for the civilian population... upon which they would excuse themselves saying that they would wait until a truly national government was formed and then start their aid program. But the Anglo-American imperialists were again mistaken in their calculations, because the Democratic Government of Albania was not to be subdued either by political blackmail or by economic pressures, and the Albanian people began the work to heal the wounds of the war with their own forces. Great Britain and the United States of America followed this line until the autumn of 1946, when, confronting with the resolute stand of the Albanian government and convinced of their defeat, they finally decided to withdraw their missions from Albania, broke off any relations with the people's state and openly went over to their policy of plots and provocations, a policy which they had applied even before, with the difference that at that time they threw the stone and hid the hand.

The resolute struggle which the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha have waged against the attempts of the Anglo-American imperialists to impede the establishment of the people's state power was struggle for guaranteeing the independence of the Homeland. Only the state of the people could realize this independence. The history of these 40 years since Liberation has fully confirmed that socialism and national independence are two inseparable concepts for the Albanian people.

The creation of the people's democratic state in the fire of the National Liberation War was a decisive premise which created the possibility for the transformation of our popular revolution into an anti-imperialist democratic revolution in the process of

uninterrupted development. From its creation our new state did not constitute merely a democratic dictatorship of the revolutionary forces, but had the form of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the embryo because it ensured the hegemony of the working class through the Communist Party. With the liberation of the country, our state began to carry out all the functions of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

From the point of view of content, the people's state power has advanced alongside the development of the revolution in Albania. This revolution has been a long process during which a series of ever more radical social transformations were carried out. Our National Liberation War had no socialist objectives, but the situation that was created in an objective manner, the deep social differentiation that developed in the country, led to the toppling from state power not only of the landowners but also of the bourgeoisie. By openly making common cause with the occupiers, the bourgeoisie linked their fate, and consequently, the fate of the landowner-bourgeois order, with the fate of the occupiers. The whole struggle for deep revolutionary changes, for demolishing the old order and old social relations, was to develop as a necessity in these concrete conditions, in the framework of the war against the occupiers and the collaborators with it. The creation of the new state was a decisive factor which determined this revolutionary course.

The policy of the organs of the new state was guided by the interests of the working class and the working masses, thus becoming a powerful weapon of the social revolution which was combined with the National Liberation War.

A specific feature of the popular revolution in Albania is precisely the fact that the working people, led by the working class and the Communist Party, won the decisive battle against the exploiting classes in the conditions of the liberation war against the occupiers and traitors. And if this war was uninterruptedly transformed into a socialist revolution, this war because of its motive forces, its

leadership and the direction its development took in an objective manner.

Socialist elements of this transformation could be seen also in the fact that a new state, the state of the working people, which negated the whole of the old state system, was born during the time of the war.

All these factors conditioned the emergence of a socialist state directly from the National Liberation War. This in itself is a new experience in the revolutionary practice and in the development of the Marxist-Leninist theory of the revolution and the state. Its importance transcends the borders of Albania and represents an experience of special interest for all those countries which exist in conditions more or less similar with those of Albania at that time.

The experience of our country confirmed once again the words of Lenin: «He who waits for a «pure» social revolution, he will never see it come,» and developing this idea further, Lenin emphasized: «The socialist revolution in Europe can be nothing other than an outbreak of the war en masse by all the oppressed and discontented.»

The new situation that was created in Albania after the Congress of Përmet in the few months before Liberation, as a result of the successive victories of the National Liberation Army, the withdrawal of the forces of the occupier, the destruction of the reactionary state power and the organized forces of the exploiting classes, prepared the terrain for the transition to the stage of the tasks of the socialist revolution.

The Communist Party of Albania had clearly defined the ratio between the national liberation and democratic tasks, which constituted the essence of the first stage of the revolution, and the socialist tasks which belonged to a later stage. In January 1943, in an article of «Zëri i popullit», Comrade Enver Hoxha wrote: «The Communist Party of Albania is fighting at present at the head of the National Liberation Front... for the liberation of the country and for a new democratic Albania. This is the

first stage of our war. This does not mean that we are not working and preparing for the second stage. The first stage prepares the dictatorship of the proletariat. However, at the present time if we set the task of going over to the second stage, instead of the first one, that would mean to sabotage the common war of the people against the occupier. Hence, the strategic aim of the Party was to ensure that the national liberation, anti-fascist and democratic tasks were carried through to the end as a starting-point and premise of the socialist revolution. This strategic aim included the complete overthrow of the state of the bourgeoisie and the seizure of state power by the working class and the Communist Party.

The strategy and tactics followed in Albania for the triumph of the popular revolution and the solution of the problem of state power were the fruit of the creative thinking of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, who acted in compliance with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, applying them according to the conditions and specific features of our country. The Yugoslav revisionists have endeavoured to appropriate the merits of our Party, attributing to

themselves the role of the guide in the war of the Albanian communists and people for the triumph of the popular revolution. But historical facts show the falseness of these claims of theirs. It is enough to mention that the creation and organization of the National Liberation Front, which played an important role in the setting up of the people's state power, is an original feature of our war. In Yugoslavia a front like the National Liberation Front of Albania was created only in 1944, except for Slovenia where the Front was set up in 1942. However, both in Slovenia and in the whole of Yugoslavia, just as in the other countries of Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Front was set up as a coalition of parties, whereas only in Albania it was formed as a compact and monolithic organization of the popular masses of the people engaged in the liberation war.

Our Party has displayed its ability to operate in a creative manner also in the period after Liberation. The whole of the development of the political and economic life in socialist Albania has been based on the general laws of the dictatorship of the proletariat. Precisely because our Party honours these laws, Albania is

the only country in the world today which builds socialism. But our state has also some specific features conditioned by the historical circumstances in which the popular revolution was carried out and the transition from capitalism to socialism took place. The road of our popular revolution from which the dictatorship of the proletariat emerged definitively, in conditions entirely different from the «classical» conditions of the development of the socialist revolution, puts an original stamp to the entire road of the transition of Albania to socialism.

Only a genuine revolutionary Party which applies Marxism-Leninism in a creative manner, in compliance with the conditions of its own country, could succeed, within three years from its founding, to arouse a whole people to war with powerful and experienced enemies, and lead them to victory, to the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat, on the difficult but glorious road of socialism, as our Party did.

Rallied around the Party and under its leadership, with their state power growing ever stronger, the Albanian people will continue to advance towards new victories.

THE ALBANIAN NATION AND OUR EPOCH

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EACH HISTORICAL EPOCH HAS ITS FACE — ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL. IT HAS ITS LINGUISTIC FACE, TOO. FROM THIS STAND-POINT THE EPOCH IN WHICH THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK TODAY IS THE EPOCH OF THE ALBANIAN LITERARY LANGUAGE UNIFIED AND COMMON FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE NATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THE PSR OF ALBANIA. WITH THIS UNIFICATION WHICH CROWNED THE EFFORTS OF MANY CENTURIES AND MANY GENERATIONS THE USE OF THE LITERARY ALBANIAN IN TWO DIALECTAL VARIANTS WHICH REPRESENTED A TWO-FORM UNITY CAME TO AN END AND THE EPOCH OF ONE LITERARY LANGUAGE WITH A BROAD BASIS, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF THE ONE-FORM UNITY OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE NATION, BEGAN. THIS LITERARY LANGUAGE HAS ALREADY ACQUIRED ALL THE FEATURES OF THE ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY LITERARY LANGUAGES IN WHICH THE MANY-SIDED VALUES OF THE PRESENT-DAY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CAN BE EXPRESSED. THE DEGREE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT, ITS «FACE», IS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN THE FUNDAMENTAL ATTRIBUTES THAT CHARACTERIZE IT, IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS SYSTEM AND IN THE TENDENCIES THAT OPERATE IN IT.

As is known, in the functional typology of modern sociolinguistics attempts have been made at defining some attributes that indicate the extension and degree of social phenomena as well as the social prestige of literary languages. The attributes of the contemporary literary Albanian can be correctly defined, having the close connection of the functional typology with the history of that language and its real and potential values as a fundamental principle. Proceeding from this principle we think we can distinguish in it seven main attributes which combine into one indivisible whole.

a) Unification and normativeness (the so-called standardization) to such a degree and extension that makes the Albanian one of the more unified literary languages of Europe.

Prof. ANDROKLI KOSTALLARI — Director of the Institute of Linguistics and Literature

b) Genuine national and popular character: the contemporary Albanian language serves the whole nation and is actively mastered by the overwhelming majority of the population, especially in its written form. The assimilation of its system is on the main achieved in the course of the compulsory eight-year education; this knowledge is extended and deepened in the higher degrees of schooling and maintained and strengthened in all the publications and means of oral use of the national literary language. Hence, this language can quite rightly be called a popular language, too. This is a new feature which the Albanian literary language has acquired in our epoch.

c) Autonomous and original character. This attribute is observed in the first monuments of the Albanian writing which are pervaded by the concern about the fate of the mother tongue; it was much strengthened

NAL LANGUAGE

by **ANDROKLI KOSTALLARI**

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during the National Renaissance and has reached its highest degree in our days when unknown values and peculiarities of the Albanian language have come to light and have been defined scientifically.

d) Historism par excellence, because its carriers as a united ethnic community have used and developed it uninterruptedly through the centuries and continue to rejuvenate it in our epoch, without separating it from a tradition inherited from one generation to the other. This is genuine historism of the past, the present and the future.

e) Homogeneity. The fundamental features of the phonetical, grammatical, lexical and word-forming structure and dialectal structure of the contemporary Albanian, on which the literary language is built, stem from the previous stages of its development and are not the derivation of a mixture of heterogenous systems and structures. It must be pointed out that the system of the Albanian has shown a great assimilating capacity towards borrowed elements, has profoundly changed them and given them its own phonetical-grammatical features, its Albanian «face». This holds true not only about the older borrowings from the Greek, Latin, Slavonic and other languages, but also about the more recent borrowings. The peculiarities of both the phonetical and phonological type of synthetic-analytical language plays, it seems, an important role in this process.

f) Symmetrical all-sidedness of functions (the so-called polyvalence). The former literary variants also had to a certain extent a polyvalent character, but the various aspects of this

polyvalence had perceptible gaps and pronounced disproportions among them, hence, it was an asymmetrical polyvalence. The contemporary literary language has on the main overcome this asymmetry and has all the means and possibilities to cope with the demands of all fields of social activity on more or less the same qualitative plane.

g) Uninterrupted and ever growing vitality: the contemporary Albanian language has been created and used by a people to whom the Albanian is their mother tongue. It has preserved its vitality also in the most difficult times of foreign occupation and manifested it with particular strength especially in the epoch of the National Renaissance, when works which belong to the classical fund of the Albanian literature and which enriched also the Balkan and European literature were created in that language. The vigorous vitality of the Albanian people after Liberation is reflected also in the vitality of the national literary language. This vitality of the people and their language is a source of inexhaustible possibilities for its development in the future.

Those attributes have qualitative values which prove that the contemporary literary Albanian has risen to a new historical degree as compared with that of the pre-Liberation period.

A particularly important milestone on the road of development of the literary Albanian was the Congress of Spelling (Tirana 1972) in which representatives of linguistic science, education and culture from the PSR of Albania, from Kosova, Macedonia

and Montenegro, and from the Arbëreshi of Italy took part. The Congress of Spelling did not create a new literary language. As an embodiment of the subjective factor it only scientifically assessed and endorsed the unification and development which has essentially been achieved in the more advanced written and spoken Albanian as a historical result of the convergence operating in the life of the Albanian people and the Albanian language, especially since the 19th century, and which has greatly been strengthened during the recent forty years, in the epoch of the construction of socialism. At the same time some tendencies and directions of the future development of the literary language and some tasks which face our society in connection with them were clarified and expounded scientifically at the Congress of Spelling.

In the years elapsing after the Congress the linguistic norm has been crystallized, fixed and extended on a larger scale in all the territories inhabited by the Albanians. The literary language has on a whole been elaborated further at accelerated rates in all spheres and styles and enriched with new values. It has been «codified» in an all-sided manner in a number of fundamental works which combine profound scientific knowledge of the Albanian with normative aims. These works such as «The Spelling of the Albanian Language», «The Spelling Dictionary», «The Dictionary of the Contemporary Albanian Language», «The Phonetics and Grammar of the Contemporary Albanian Language», the popular texts and collections «The Albanian Literary

Language for Everybody», «A Practical Treatise of the Albanian Language», «The National Literary Norm and the Culture of Language» and «Problems of the Literary Norm», as well as the new school texts, the review «Our Language» (Tirana) and «Our Language» (Prishtina) and other publications have become today important guides to the norm of the language and major means for the development of the culture of language of our people.

The new qualitative step forward which the Albanian has taken in our epoch has drawn the attention of many students who have explained and assessed it in the light of extra-linguistic and linguistic factors and drawn from it some conclusions bearing on the general theory of literary language and sociolinguistics. Most of them have pointed out the sound scientific solutions which underlie the unified Albanian literary language, its original and realistic character and the importance of these solutions for the theory and practice of national languages. One of the principal European organs of Indo-European linguistics, reviewing the volume of the materials of our Congress of Spelling has emphasized, among other things, that this «is a very interesting and instructive book also for a linguist not interested in Albanology, because he finds there more than in so many foggy treatises of «theoreticians» facts and ideas which can lead to a sound and well-based concept of the national language and which show how it can be built, especially through the establishment of a spelling norm»¹. Well-known Balkanologists have stressed the peculiarity of the literary Albanian as a model of language which has not been created *ad hoc*, but has achieved its unification through a complex and long process by emphasizing and strengthening its integrating and converging elements.² However, there are also certain students who, for one reason or the other, have not understood or valued the decisive role of this convergence or have passed it in silence.

Studies in the field of the Albanian

literary language, which continue to be deepened, have already proved that the Albanian literary variants of the past have since the second half of the 19th century inter-acted more and more with each other and exercised an uninterrupted mutual influence. The convergence of the literary variants and the unification of the written Albanian has been among the main aims of the Albanian National Renaissance, during which the foundations of the contemporary literary Albanian were laid relying broadly on the vivid language of the people. In the conditions of a powerful socio-economic, political and cultural convergence after Liberation, this process was accelerated and deepened, assumed new features and brought about the crowning of the efforts for the creation of a unified and common literary language.

Precisely this objective development is reflected in the linguistic policy of this epoch, in which the one progressive line has historically predominated. The linguistic policy of the Party of Labour and the People's State Power has proceeded not from the positions of a dialect or region, but from the good of the whole nation. It has been aimed not at creating only an official unified language, only a language for the state administration, but at building a genuinely national language above the dialects and with an all-sided social value. Hence, proceeding from sound scientific principles, it has supported and continues to support what is general, national and popular in the language, without ignoring what is international, and has combated the extremist stand of both linguistic particularism and anarchism, as well as the drive of «unification for unification». The Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha have always had the question of the language at the centre of their attention and seen it in close connection with the self-existence, freedom and independence of our people, with the defence and flourishing of our national culture. In the light of the Marxist-Leninist theory on the nation and national culture. Comrade

Enver Hoxha has worked out the policy of the Party and state on the question of language. This policy is based on the assessment of the mother tongue as the main feature of the nation, as a powerful means for its freedom, independence and progress, as a symbol standing beside the national flag. It is pervaded through and through by the profoundly materialist and dialectical concept of the role of objective and subjective factors in the historical process of crystallization and development of the national literary language in general, and in the conditions of the construction of socialism in Albania, in particular. This concept organically merges tradition, the present and the future into an ascending line and closely links the Albanian language with the spiritual treasury and the essential peculiarities of the Albanian people and their culture. It has become a source and support for the fundamental requirement of our epoch to have a unified and common literary language as pure and as rich as possible.

The policy of our Party, of the new Albanian society, on the question of language, which links it through one thread with the past, the present and the future, has carried the ideas of the Renaissance much ahead and responds to three fundamental aims: a) to facilitate and strengthen the communicative function of the Albanian literary language as a distinctive feature and a means of progress for the whole nation and to raise and maintain this language on the level of contemporary world culture; b) to keep the links of the literary language with the popular language always alive; c) to preserve and develop further the traditions of the national literary language and its self-existence and originality as an expression of the ancient original culture of the Albanian people and their spiritual unity, as an active force for the promotion of this unity. This policy which embodies the most ardent desires of our people does not operate on the administrative level only, but also through linguistic science, the

school, publications, the radio and television, the theatre, the cinematography, etc. It is precisely the implementation of this policy which has brought about the great historic victory of the unification of the literary language of our people.

This unification has brought about, of course, the dying away of the two former literary variants, but not the «disappearance of the dialects». The dialects of the Albanian, just as those of any other language, true, are remnants on the way of extinction, but as variants of a spoken language they have a relatively high vitality. The literary language influences them ever more powerfully and ever more deeply, restricts their geographical and social area and weakens their vitality, while at the same time being influenced by them. This is a dialectical process which will doubtlessly lead gradually and imperceptibly to a time when only the literary language, with its rich systems of styles, will prevail in the life of people both in the city and the countryside. However, the present does not belong to it fully.

So the solution of the problem of our national literary language has been accepted not only by linguistic science but also by society. Here lies the source of the stability of this language and its very rapid assimilation.

A peculiarity which characterizes the original process of the unified Albanian language is that its unification was achieved through the joint efforts of all the members of the Albanian nation in different state and social contexts. Alongside with the broad and systematic work carried out in the PSR of Albania, important efforts have been made in this direction also by the Albanians of Yugoslavia — in Kosova, Montenegro and Macedonia. The Arbëreshi of Italy are also involved in this historical process.

The use of the common literary language also by the Albanians who live in the territory of the Albanian language outside the bounds of the PSR of Albania has increased the

number of its real or potential carriers. However, this phenomenon does not constitute only a quantitative, «space» extension of the unified literary Albanian. It also constitutes a new qualitative extension of great social value, which is seen in the important contributions the students of the Albanian have made to the development of the literary language in those parts, specially in the last two decades. They have expressed their deep conviction that «the question of the language is not only a question for the linguists and writers, but also a question for all the social structures».

The rapid spread of the unified literary language in the PSR of Albania and in the territories that extend immediately beyond its borders, as well as in the Arbëreshi settlements, has a double explanation. On one hand, the question is about members of the one nation who have the same multi-secular traditions and the same folk culture, which are preserved and transmitted from one generation to the other and developed through the mother tongue. On the other hand, all the dialects of these linguistic territories and the settlements of the diaspora of the Albanian nation are forms of existence of the one ethnolect. So, in its essence, the problem was the same for all the carriers of the Albanian dialects: the transition from a dialectal variant to a literary language above dialects, which is also the variant of the common ethnolect.

In different proportions the Albanian dialects find themselves in the more elaborated, higher and more prestigious variant of this ethnolect — the national literary language.

The literary Albanian that is used today within and outside the bounds of the PSR of Albania is a unified system with a linguistic norm without territorial variants operating within this system. Doubtlessly, in different state, cultural and social contexts outside the bounds of the PSR there are particular interferences, that is, foreign penetrations which stem from the pressure exercised on

the Albanian by the languages with which it has been in immediate contact. However, these interferences which are observed mainly in the field of the lexic and syntax, especially in the means of information, do not arrive at creating a separate normative territorial variant of the literary Albanian, because the system of the common literary Albanian not only is in a position to cope with the pressure of other languages, but is also rapidly liberating itself from a number of negative influences which other languages have exercised on it in the past.

Be how it may, the official status of the unified literary Albanian today is not the same in all the Albanian-speaking territories. It differs according to the state context in which it functions. However, a different status in various official contexts does not alter the unified national character of the contemporary Albanian language. It only created individual problems for the teaching, cultivation and use of this language which can be solved in different ways and by different means.

Seen as a system of systems, how is the present system of this literary language, the highest system of the language of the Albanian nation, built? The core of the contemporary literary language is made up of elements which are common for the two dialects, that is for the Albanian language as a whole. Apart from them, the basis of the unified literary language, includes in different proportions also some particular elements which are distinguishing features of the northern or southern dialect. The individual elements of dialectal extraction included in the basis of the literary language have merged organically into its central nucleus. Today it is not hard to see that the younger generations which make up the majority of the population do not distinguish them as such, but consider them as common elements, too. So an indivisible whole has been formed which serves as the sole unified basis for the literary language of the whole Albanian nation. When speaking of

the basis of the unified literary Albanian, there is no question of a narrow one-dialect basis, but of a broad basis in which the common elements of the two dialects and some of their particular elements which in the former dialectal literary variants excluded each other have been integrated into one system. Precisely on this basis a kind of koine *sui generis* has been built and is being developed and enriched — the contemporary national literary language which interacts also with the other, non literary linguistic spheres.

If we consider the contemporary Albanian as a whole system of variants, we can say that at the head of them stands the national literary language in its written form with almost the same oral application. The written form leads today the whole process of development of the language in the territories of the literary Albanian, because precisely in this form the literary language has achieved its fullest unification and, hence, become the common denominator of the one-form unity of the language of the whole nation. The powerful influence of the literary language on the dialects has to a greater or lesser degree disintegrated them and today even in the remote rural regions the more active generations of the population use no longer their pure local dialect in their everyday speech, but mix it with elements of the literary language. They have gone over to a semi-dialect of some kind or a literary language interspersed with dialectal elements (according to age, culture, milieu, the aim or situation of speech). All this shows that in our time the literary language has to various degrees shaken the structures of the dialects and that the archaic dialectal systems have begun to disintegrate. In all these cases a transitory speech is being formed from the traditional dialects to the normative literary language. This phenomenon finds its obvious reflection also in the folk oral creativeness of our time. Among the more active generations of our country today there is the widespread phenomenon

of the carriers of local dialects mastering the literary language and using it in their social and state relations in given circumstances and situations, in writing in the first place, but also in their everyday speech, even in their family circle. This is determined by two major extra-linguistic factors. The average age of our people is one of the youngest — only 26 years. The more active generations (in and under working age) make up about 91 per cent of the population. Thirty-five per cent of them are under 15 years, that is, assimilate today the unified national literary language in the system in pre-school and eight-year school education. Second, the level of schooling of the population in our country is among the highest in Europe. According to comparative data published by UNESCO in 1980 the schooling coefficient for both sexes in Albania was higher than in Bulgaria, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Portugal and Poland³. It is important for the assimilation of the literary language that in our country, particularly in the recent twenty years, the schooling rate of the population, especially in the countryside, has been greatly accelerated, with the result that the difference in the level of schooling between the city and the countryside has been reduced about three times. The educational structure of the rural population according to the school links has been improved perceptibly. While in 1969 60.4 per cent of the educated population of the countryside had a primary education, 31.1 per cent a seven or eight-year education, 4.9 per cent a medium education and only 0.6 per cent a high reduction, in 1979 the percentage of primary education declined to 38.1 per cent, that of eight-year education to 46 per cent, that of medium education rose to 14.3 per cent and that of higher education to 1.5 per cent. Another radical change which has made the gradual assimilation of the literary language easier from the child age is the emancipation of the woman which finds its clear expression in her education.

Schooling rates of females in our country in the decade 1969-1979 have been about twice as high as those of males. Today in our country females account for about half the attendance of eight-year and middle schools: if in 1960 females made up 16.6 per cent of the attendance of these schools, in 1979 this figure rose to 47.5 per cent. According to UNO data, this index is higher than that of Turkey, Spain, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Belgium⁴. The high percentage of schooling of females in our country means that Albanian young mothers assimilate the literary language at the school, and to a higher degree feed their children with this knowledge. This is the only road for introducing the literary language into the family, the basic cell of our society, or, at least, for preventing this cell being counter-posed to the school. It is not in vain that the language of a nation is called the mother tongue. And to introduce the literary language into the family means to raise on a very broad scale the culture of the language, which is a very important component part of all our national cultures.

On the other hand, dialects, too, continue to exercise their influence on the literary language. However, their main influence today is exercised through the spoken literary language in which the literary norm does not operate in all its extension. The spoken language has become, so to say, an intermediary between the written literary language and the extra-literary sphere of the spoken language. However, it is observed that in the spoken language, too, it is the literary language which extends more and more among our working masses through these reciprocal influences.

In our days there are some main trends of the strengthening and perfecting of the system and structure of the national literary language. These trends lead to the further unification of the literary norm, the enrichment of the literary language from the sources of popular and educated speech which maintain close

links with each other, the strengthening of the national character and the coalescence of the spoken form with the written form of the language. These trends have been and continue to be the object of particular studies. We shall mention only some of them.

a) Following a centripetal line (from the dialectal periphery to the national literary language) individual mobile elements become general, common and fixed. This is observed both in the grammatical system and in the lexical and word-forming system. This centripetal line further deepens an early convergent trend of literary Albanian which is based essentially on the ancient unity of the areas of the Albanian language in the North and in the South.

b) In the morphological structure there is a tendency towards the simplification of noun and verb systems.

c) In the structure of syntax two parallel trends are noticed. On the one hand, it is enriched with structures from the popular idiom, especially with simple and elliptical phrases typical of the dialogue, and with structures from the literary language, mainly with complex phrases of many degrees of co-ordination and subordination, which are typical of the monologue. On the other hand, the syntactic structure of standard Albanian is purged of redundant foreign structures grafted on this structure, which make its meaning obscure for the broad masses.

d) The lexical and word-building structures of the standard literary Albanian, as the most dynamic structures open to change, continue to assimilate values still latent in the popular idiom, regardless of the area from which they come. The criteria of the admission of these units is that they must bring something new to the vocabulary of literary language and its stylistical system, contribute to its purity and further increase the incidence of the fund of the popular idiom and vocabulary of the fund created during the literary cultivation of the language, the so-called learned fund of the language. This tendency

enables the standard literary language to remain close to its popular base, on which it relies from its origin.

In the present time a special place in the enrichment of the literary vocabulary of Albanian is occupied by the creation of systems of terms for many fields, among which the first place is occupied by socio-political terms. The incidence of terms on the vocabulary of modern Albanian has increased greatly, as a result of the general uplift of the educational and cultural level of the working people. The question here is not about very specific terms, but for those terms which are generally used at the secondary school level, even if in a passive manner. The work on terminology, set on sound scientific bases, assumes special importance in our time. Both translation into Albanian and unification of terms, and the study of the means and ways for the creation of systems of terminology as complete and stable as possible in themselves, emerges on the first plane. In this direction, progress has been made in many fields, but still much remains to be done. The Albanian language has a much greater potential of lexical and word-building systems than is known to day. In the present conditions, with the research and studies carried out, with the extensive material accumulated from the people, we have the possibilities to discover and use them better and more thoroughly, bearing in mind that this dialectical process, which is connected with the most direct and conscious regulatory operation of society in the field of the literary language, is connected not only with the present but also with the future of this language. On the one hand, this process preserves and deepens the popular character of this language, and on the other hand, it raises it still higher as the language of culture, science and technique of our time.

It is noticed that the whole vocabulary of literary Albanian is being extended at very rapid rates, not only with the introduction of single words, but also with the creation of whole lexical series built mainly on the

word-building means of the Albanian language itself. This applies to words of the popular idiom, which have become the legacy of the literary language, and new words of the learned vocabulary. If we compare the «Dictionary of the Albanian Language» of 1954, with the «Dictionary of the Modern Albanian Language» of 1980, it emerges that in this quarter of a century, along with prefixing as the most productive means of word-building of the Albanian language, the building of new words by means of suffixing, the formation of composites and compounds has been enlivened to a great extent. Individual series which are built according to these patterns have expanded from two to twenty times during the period mentioned. It is noticed that the series, the units of which have a foreign stem as the first part of the composite, have expanded less compared with those with an Albanian stem. Apparently, the tendency for the further purification of the vocabulary of the Albanian language has included not only the word, in general, but also its component parts.

An important testimony and encouraging element in this enlivening process of literary Albanian are also the new relations which are and continue to be created among the word-building types. A whole series of means of word-building by affixating has been and is being specialized in the semantic and stylistic plane. This specialization of the word-building means of the literary Albanian is an index of the high degree of its development. It constitutes a very important field of problems and tasks for our theoretical and applied linguistics.

The rates of learned formations have increased very rapidly in the present-day literary Albanian. This results from the natural course and rates of the uninterrupted development of our socialist society in all walks of life. However this raises a worrying problem for our literary language: the specific weight of basic Albanian words, which come from the popular source, is being reduced, thus creating

the danger of an unjustified departure of the national literary language from the popular spoken idiom. Undoubtedly, we do not forget that the enrichment of the lexic is a dialectical process. On the one hand, there are the new words — derivatives and composites, which are formed mainly from the matter of the Albanian language itself, from the popular fund, and on the other hand, there are those words which are formed as learned words and which very soon become popular words, the property of the broad masses, which enrich their vocabulary day by day. This, however, does not solve the problem that occurs and reoccurs because of the uninterrupted development of vocabulary in this line. The fundamental road for the solution of these problems is on the one hand to make a more profound and systematic research and exploitation of the popular legacy and, in close connection with this, to restrict the field of translation loans from foreign languages, because precisely these words are the main source of unjustified disproportions between the popular and the literary fund of modern literary Albanian.

It must be noted that the great enlivenment of suffixing and the growth of compounds, through the creation of compact solid units, brings about the strengthening of the grammatical system of the Albanian language.

The consolidation of the system and structure of modern literary Albanian is evident also in its great resistance to the many and various influences of other languages. This is expressed both in the systematic and profound work which is being done for the replacement of foreign words and structures which have entered our literary language unnecessarily, with the means of the Albanian language, and in the work and efforts to raise barrier to the further penetration of such loans in it. The idea of purging the Albanian language of foreign words and phrases, the beginnings of which date back to our old authors, has found a clear and most

complete expression in the first steps that were made by our men of the National Renaissance for the formation of a national literary language. In our time this linguistic movement has been placed on a scientific basis on a more advanced level, which responds to the level of our epoch. Besides, it has assumed much broader social proportions. The fundamental principles from which we are guided on this issue are component parts of the Marxist theory of the national language and nation.

Our efforts today for the purification and enrichment of literary Albanian, which find a wide response and support from all the social circles, are aimed at ensuring that the values of the popular idiom, which have not only national but also international values are not allowed to be lost, at preserving its links with the literary language and barring the way to the hybridization of its lexical and word-building structures. This ensures the homogeneity and popular character of the national literary language, makes it clearer and more understandable, therefore, serves its fundamental function. In our efforts for the purification of the language today, the main aim is directed against the words and structures which have penetrated and continue to penetrate into the learned language through the various European words. This is connected with the new relations that have been created between the Albanian words and foreign words in the vocabulary of the Albanian language.

The work for the purification and enrichment of the vocabulary has made greater progress in comparison with syntax, in which results are more limited. In order to overcome this gap in the purification of the language from unnecessary structures, which unfortunately have been manifested in journalism and in the learned language, especially, and which are even more harmful than lexical loans, it is necessary that more profound studies, in the first place, in the field of the syntax of popular Albanian, should be made.

The period after the Congress of Spelling 1972, clearly showed that unified spelling has been built on sound scientific bases. It has positively influenced both the normative use of morphological types and word-building structures, and the widespread use of standard spelling and pronunciation in its complete form. However, theoretical observations and studies will be made on standard spelling, seeing graphemes as a central notion of written language, and analysis the relations of graphic levels with other levels of the system of our literary language in an all-round manner. From the reciprocal relations between standard spelling and standard pronunciation it emerges that in the period after the Congress the style of complete pronunciation is leading more and more to an orthographic pronunciation (i. e., the meaning that spelling directs pronunciation).

The road of the development of the national literary Albanian in the last forty years is the road of progress. It has made great progress not only compared with the time when our men of the National Renaissance worked, but also with the time immediately before the liberation of the country. Quantitative changes in the vocabulary and word-building system, as well as in the grammatical structure of the language, have also brought about qualitative changes in the general unification of its structures. From the viewpoint of historical typology, the Albanian is a national language and contains in itself those fundamental qualities which it had in essence in the time of the National Renaissance. However, these qualities have assumed new dimensions and values, because they respond to a more developed phase of the Albanian nation. It is difficult to find in Europe another literary language which has made within a century such great and rapid progress as the Albanian language has. It has made progress in all fields, but the greatest contribution has been made by the press and propaganda, in general, and artistic literature and

science. Never before has our press used such a varied and elaborated language as it has today. The language of literary works constitutes the broadest and most varied style of our national literary language. Our writers, as the tireless masters of the language, creative word-builders and word-coiners, always in search for the popular idiom and words, have brought many new values to the literary Albanian language in vocabulary and phraseology. Apart from this, however, the contribution of the writers of our time, in essence, is not determined by the number of words and expressions which they have dug up from the popular treasury or have coined themselves on the basis of the local material. No doubt, this contribution has its importance. But the main role of our writers, which gives the place of honour to artistic literature in the linguistic process of our time, is that they with their artistic word, generally speaking, have raised our literary language to the level of the more advanced languages of world literature, have made the Albanian language the conveyer of high esthetic values, have greatly extended its range through the embodiment of great poetical ideas and profound feelings, and have noticeably increased its expressive potential. We may affirm without fear of exaggeration that in our epoch the artistic

language has carried out in the Albanian language such a work which compares with the work of two or three centuries in the literature of other countries. In this work of special historic importance, some generations of writers make their contribution. So our epoch marks an unprecedented intensification of the activities in the field of creative and cultivated language of the people and the masters of the word who have emerged from the bosom of the people.

Stability is an essential feature of the language, in general, and of the literary norm, in particular. The norm changes whenever this is required by the qualitative development of the language and the development of society. Its mutability has not merely the character of changes of a mechanical and subjective order, but is an historical mutability, which makes the language ever more accurate, clear and resilient on the road of its uninterrupted development.

In the present epoch of the history of our people and language, all the tasks emerging from the development of society will be coped with a view to the future, and at the same time, by inspiring ourselves from the work of those who prepared and brought our epoch. «These men have dreamed, worked and striven for the mother-

land to live free, for the Albanians to gain learning, to assimilate knowledge and build the free Albania, unhampered by chains of foreigners, in which the Albanian language would flower, 'our language so beautiful, so pure', so tuneful in the songs of the inhabitants of the highlands and the plains, of the courageous men and women and girls and boys... These pioneers of the Albanian language sacrificed themselves on the altar of the Homeland, their blood became a beacon-light, their work took root, grew up and developed amidst storms, amidst the suffering and poverty. From the Albanian schools which were opened through the efforts of these outstanding patriots, emerged people who collected the songs of our history and the customs of the people, who strengthened the determination of the Albanian to liberate himself, which gave us the light and the strength of knowledge...»⁵ Enlightened by the Party, our people advance towards new heights. Lenin said that «we need that culture which teaches us how to fight» for the future, for progress. And for this, among other things, we must serve this culture as well as we can with the help of language. This language our nation has already built. It is up to our epoch to strengthen it and polish it further for the present and the future generations.

1 See *Paidela magazine*, Brescia — München, 1975, p. 275.

2 See Klaus Steinke, *Diachronie und Synchronie in der Balkanlinguistik*, in *compendium Ziele und Wege der Balkanlinguistik*, Berlin 1983, pp. 229-230.

3 See *Analyse comparative de la scolarisation et de l'analphabétisme féminins et masculins*, Ed. UNESCO, Paris 1980, pp. 73-75.

4 See *Compendium of social statistics — 1977*, Ed. Nat. Unies, New York, 1980, pp. 842-845.

5 Enver Hoxha, *Greeting addressed to the Albanian people on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Liberation*, Tirana 1984, Eng. ed. 6. V. I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, vol. 44, p. 172.



The scientific Conference «The Albanian National Literary Language and our Epoch», organized by the Academy of Sciences, carried out its proceedings in December in the capital of the PSR of Albania, Tirana.

Guests and Arbëreshi and other students from many countries of Europe attended the Conference.

In the course of its proceedings the Conference made an all-round analysis of the Albanian literary language in our epoch, of the rear peculiarities of its development, seeing them in close connection with social factors, with the peculiarities of the con-

struction of socialist society in our country and particularly with the development of education and culture and the correct policy of the PLA on the question of language. The Conference treated both the written form of the literary language and its spoken form, indicating their mutual links and the broad spread of the literary norm also in the everyday speech of the masses. It dwelt especially on the current problems of the further crystallization of the national literary norm, its fullest possible assimilation and application, the problems of the struggle for the further

cleansing and enrichment of the national literary language, the road of the further development and perfecting of the system and structure of the literary language as well as the influence our socialist society can and should exercise on these processes of development.

Problems were dealt with at a high scientific level and on sound methodological bases. Summing up the achievements and carrying them further, the Conference also outlined some of the main directions and problems of study and research in the future.

ALBANIAN FOLKLORE FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT *by* ALFRED UÇI

*In the conditions of our society
under the influence of contemporary progress and the changes
made in life, folklore traditions have become
more resilient, more dynamic, more mobile, subject
to a process of profound, rapid and many-sided regeneration*

THE CONCERN ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF FOLKLORE, ITS CONDITION, BUT ALSO ITS FATE AND FUTURE IS THE MAIN PREOCCUPATION OF ALBANIAN FOLKLORE SCIENCE. THIS PROBLEM HAS BECOME PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN THE PRESENT TIME WHEN MAJOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY, WHEN A RAPID AND MANY-SIDED TECHNICAL, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND ARTISTIC PROGRESS IS OCCURRING, WHICH CANNOT FAIL TO EXERCISE A POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON TRADITIONAL CULTURE, IN GENERAL, AND FOLKLORE AND ITS DEVELOPMENT, IN PARTICULAR. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PUT FOLKLORE IN A RELATIVELY SPECIFIC SITUATION COMPARED WITH THE GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE GIVEN IT BIRTH, WHICH HAVE PRESERVED IT AND FORMED AS A TRADITIONAL CULTURE FROM ONE CENTURY TO THE OTHER. SO, WE SHALL TRY HERE TO CHARACTERIZE THE CONDITION OF FOLKLORE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL EVOLUTION THAT IS TAKING PLACE WITHIN OUR SOCIETY AND ITS PRESENT MANY-SIDED PROGRESS.

As art in general, folklore, too, is always subject to an inner process of evolution, while unlike cultivated art, is very slow and gradual. In this process of evolution the general aspect of folklore remains almost unchanged for long historical periods, while the waters flow underneath are always new like life itself. This particular manner of evolution of folklore is conditioned, on one hand, by its specific character as a particular form of artistic activity of a pronounced tradi-

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tional character and, on the other, by social factors outside folklore, connected mainly with the fact that the mode of life of the broad popular masses, the main carriers of folklore traditions in pre-socialist social formations, have undergone only very slow and minor changes in the past.

Folklore exists as a particular formation of the artistic culture of society which is characterized by such essential features as its collective character, its popular and ethnic, national spirit, its syncretic anonymous and improvised nature, its oral transmission,

etc. These features have preserved it as an artistic formation of its own and formed a permanent tradition.

Folklore traditions constitute a well-defined system of specific forms and means of artistic expression, of themes and subjects, which is characterized by greater stability than the tradition of cultivated art. The stability of folklore traditions is an important premise for the conservation of the ethnic-national genuineness and originality of folk art. This is apparent if we consider Albanian folklore, the preservation of its originality not only within the borders of the PSRA, but also among the Albanians living in their territories in Yugoslavia and among the Arbëreshi of Italy and Greece who, for well-known historical reasons, had not very intense relations with their country of origin. Had it lost the stability of its tradition, folklore would not have maintained its uninterrupted and original historical continuity and would not have been able to cope with pressure from and assimilation by foreign artistic cultures, without mentioning that artistic perfection which the finest creations of folk art achieve

through polishing made from one generation to the other. However, regardless of the stability of folklore traditions, the system of means and forms of artistic expression of folklore has not remained unchanged; although very slowly, folklore traditions have evolved by abandoning obsolete elements and assimilating new elements. In the conditions of our society under the influence of contemporary progress and the changes made in life, folklore traditions have become more resilient, more dynamic, more mobile, subject to a process of profound, rapid and many-sided regeneration. At present, besides more ancient traditional creations in folklore, there are also new creations which, though bearing the imprint of traditions, for the first time express the new world outlook, psychology, ethics and social ideals of the masses. The perceptible enrichment of folklore traditions in our time has been done through the choice of new words and figures, the organization of new types of dances, the formation of folklore ensembles, the creation of a new relationship between vocal music and instrumental music, etc.

Without mentioning the lesser changes in the different genres of folklore, its evolution in the current conditions of our society manifests itself in some fundamental directions:

a) As always, in our days, too, folklore retains its collective character as creativeness of the broad working masses which is created and performed by them, which expresses their collective aims and aspirations, their general psychology and ideals. Within its collective character, however, elements of individual creativeness make themselves felt, too. This process is not observed for the first time in our days; in a more limited form it has existed in the past, too, because the collective character of folklore does not exclude, but on the contrary, implies the creative role of the individual, in general, and of the gifted individual, in particular. The fine folklore creations are not only the fruit of the collective genius, but also of the original talent of the individuality of their creators. Enhancement of individual elements in many folklore creations of

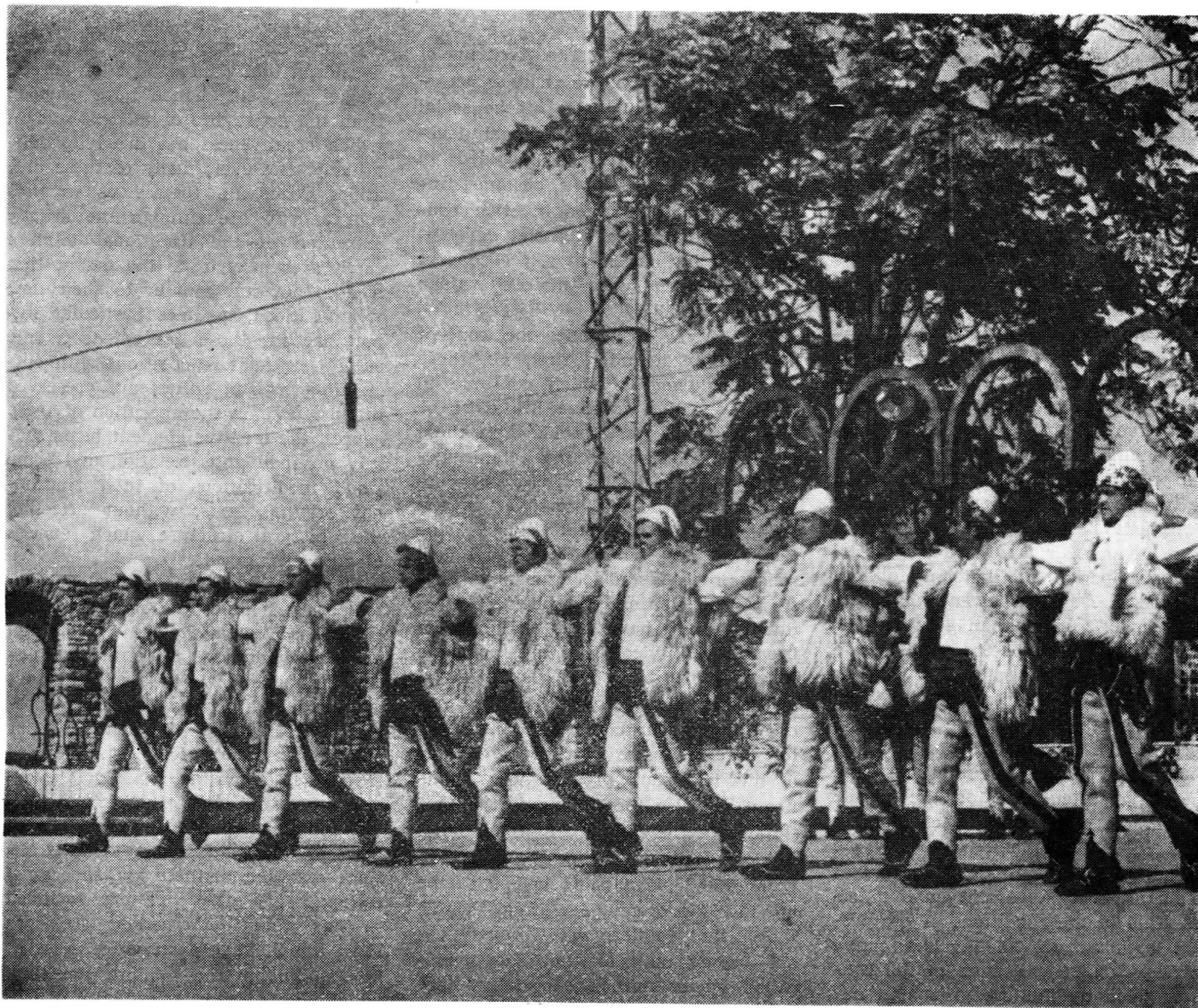
our times does not in the least exclude the collective character of these creators, because these authors work more or less within the norms and principles of folklore aesthetics, their creations are modelled according to the essential features of folklore, express the tastes, feelings and thoughts of the masses of the people, are assimilated and disseminated by them and live on among people, circulating as anonymous creations.

b) The present evolution of folklore bears also on the mechanism of transmission of artistic formation. Oral transmission has been a mode of existence of folklore and the fundamental mechanism of artistic information both in vertical direction — from one general to the other, and in horizontal direction — among contemporaries. In the time when the working masses were illiterate and deprived of any other means of communication, oral transmission of information had decisive importance for the circulation of folklore values. In the present time modern means of information, which have a great impact both on the creators and consumers of folklore values regardless of their educational and cultural level, are being employed on a large scale in the system of circulation. Folklore creations are recorded in writing, on tapes, in films and through musical notation and circulate by means of the radio, the television, the school, etc. This modern system of information is not only a means for the presentation, propaganda and dissemination of folklore, but also a new form of the contemporary existence of folklore. However, the use of new communication means does not eliminate the mechanism of oral transmission. It continues to play a complementary role. These two systems will live on one alongside the other, will influence one another and create new possibilities for the expansion of the creative basis of folklore.

c) In the current development the many-sided syncretic character of folklore fades away while it more and more develops and lives as artistic creativeness. As life in the social milieu in which folklore traditionally exists, changes, folklore loses some functions which in the past integrated

it into the traditional syncretic folk culture. It is given new artistic-aesthetic functions in the spiritual life of our society. In our time folklore values circulate mainly as monofunctional artistic values. It is not accidental that those genres (music, dances, etc.) of the general folkloric, legacy, which have more possibilities of development in this direction, have a more active and vivid existence. Many folk songs, dances, rituals or artistic creations which in the past were linked with magic or practical-utilitarian purposes, with diverge rites and ceremonies continue to be sung or danced by people, although now they have lost those functions and are accepted only because of their artistic value. The process of modifications of folklore functions is also a critical assimilation of the folklore legacy by people in the condition of current development.

d) An important phenomenon in the life of folklore in the current conditions of our society is that folk art draws ever closer to the other formations of artistic culture, amateur art and cultivated art. This occurs because, in our society, the working people have become the sole creative subject in all these three different formations of artistic culture. The people now meet their artistic needs through the values of these three artistic formations. Moreover, folklore is no longer the creativeness of a mass of uncultivated people, but on the contrary it develops as a creativeness of educated and cultured people. Proof of this process are the data on the educational and cultural level of the participants in the national folklore festivals of 1973, 1978, and 1983. They show that about 12 per cent of the participants had a primary education, 50 per cent an eight-year education, 33 percent a medium education and 5 per cent a higher education. This shows that folklore creativeness can have an intensive life also when its carriers are educated people. Folklore artistic creativeness which is being observed and practiced in the present educated social milieu is assuming the features of an amateur artistic movement which is closely linked with the traditional peculiarities of folklo-



re. It constitutes today the broader, folklore branch of the amateur artistic movement throughout the country in general and in the village, in particular. Folklore draxing closer to the other formations of artistic culture of our contemporary society has not brought about the levelling out of qualitative differences among these formations. It continues to be distinguished from them through the essential features and peculiarities, characteristic of folklore tradition.

e) Among the more important consequences of social, technical, cultural, educational and social progress is the present extension of the «territories» in which folk art is created and performed, the extension of the traditio-

nal and non-traditional social milieus in which folklore artistic values circulate permanently. In the creation and performance of folklore values priority continues to belong to the peasant masses, although folklore activities are also observed in the social milieus of smaller and greater cities, in milieus of workers, students, militarymen, employees, intellectuals, and others, who take part in folklore creativeness, come out as carriers of collective creative initiative and meet a good part of their artistic requirements with folklore values. This is evident from the figures on participation in the national folklore festivals of 1973, 1978 and 1983. About 60 per cent of all the participants in these festivals were pea-

sants, 20 per cent came from the working class and about 20 per cent comprised people from the intellectuals milieus of the village and city, as, for example, students, employees, intellectuals, assistant doctors, teachers, agronomers, and others.

An important tendency of folklore in the present conditions of our society is the extension of non-traditional milieus which use the artistic values of folklore, especially through the modern technical means of information and culture. The so-called new wave of folklorization of the general artistic life of our contemporary society is linked with this phenomenon in the first place. The mass of people, especially in the cities, who use the

values of traditional folklore is much larger than it was in the past. The role and prestige of traditional artistic folklore are greatly enhanced in urban milieus of our society. Certainly, while the mass of people who use and consume folklore as an art is growing, there exists also the possibility of the reduction of the mass of people who play a creative role in folklore, of the increase of the mass of people who maintain a passive stand, who only consume folklore values. The only road to invigorate the creative source and to increase the collective creative strength in the present day social milieus and in the conditions of the present social progress is and will be the development of the folklore movement as a collective mass movement of amateur art. Figures on active participation in national folklore festivals are significant in this direction. In 1973 more than 40 thousand, in 1978 more than 50 thousand and in 1983 about 70 thousand folk singers, dancers and instrumentists took part in these festivals. If we take into account the total population of the country (less than three million) and the large attendance of the public in the three phases of development of these festivals, then we clearly see the vitality of the folkloric movement as an amateur movement on a national scale in the conditions of the present social development. The active participation of spectators in the concerts given by folklore groups in national folklore festivals turns these events into real national festivals of folk art.

Knowledge of the content and results of the actual evolution of folklore enables the formulation of a more correct and more modern concept of folklore. This concept must be, on one hand, so broad as not to exclude any authentic folklore value, to reflect present evolution of folklore, its current state and perspective development and, on the other hand, so defined as not to include anything which has not the authentic character of folklore or which belongs to other artistic formations. Certainly these bounds cannot be the same for different countries and different degrees of

social development. The content of the concept of folklore changes according to the peculiarities of the social order and the degree of social development, because things included in this notion (superstitions, customs, traditions, are not implied in other conditions and degrees of social development. As for our country, the concept of folklore includes mainly artistic creations.

Seen from this angle, the concept of folklore includes, first, all, those traditional genres which continue to live and active creative life more or less as in the past. Included in these fields of folklore are the epic in general and the historical epic in particular, the socio-political songs, the vocal and instrumental music, dances, tales and fables, dirges and love songs, proverbs and locutions, etc. These genres continue to be very productive, they have and will have a broad social, ideological and aesthetic inner-folklore basis and need not dry up in the future. Folklore studies and creations in our country during these forty years prove best the existence of this important process. Very significant are also the figures of the age-groups of the participants in national folklore festivals during the recent 15 years. Most participants belong to the up to forty years age-group, which shows that folklore creativeness does not belong only to the older generation whose formation has taken place before the Second World War, but also to those generations which have been born and formed in the recent forty years. The folklore creations of these genres stand out for their closer genetic and structural connection with the former creations, tick more closely to folklore traditions, are built and enriched the mainstream of folklore esthetics. Of course, these creations comprise many new elements, but these elements affect rather the content than the formal and stilistic means of artistic expression.

Second, contemporary folklore also includes the artistic execution of the folklore values of the past, those genres which have dried up now and can no longer be productive in the new social conditions as, for example, the

mythological epos, fantastic tales and legends, ritual dances, lays of heroes, magic rites, etc., which have dropped from the active life of folklore and in which creativeness has dried up definitively. However, many of these creations reactivate themselves in present artistic life through the artistic execution of the traditional folklore carriers themselves to the extent that it does not run counter to their new world-outlook, assumes particular importance for those genres. As a rule only those folklore creations with outstanding artistic values are preserved in this fund. In the execution of these genres, the creative element bears mainly on their interpretation and some small modifications of their traditional original texts, without affecting their integral structure which remains always unchanged.

Third, included in the fund of contemporary folklore are also those new creations of amateur and professional artistic which have folklore traditions as their models, win greater popularity and, through a process of folklorization, are integrated into the active life of our contemporary folk art. We see that folklore is a factor not only exercising pressure and influence on cultivated and amateur art, but also assimilating, although on a small scale, some creations of these two spheres of contemporary artistic culture. Included in this group of creations are only those which have a structure more or less similar to the folklore structure, which accept folklore aesthetics. Works of this nature were created by professional or amateur artists and integrated organically into the rich life of folklore in the past too. However, this phenomenon has become more apparent in our time. This phenomenon is natural and inevitable when amateur and cultivated art is invading the cultural and artistic space of folklore, co-existing with it. This phenomenon is also stimulated by the fact that our amateur and professional art is closely linked with folk art. Such songs as, for example, «The Song of the Wedding-guests», «Gjirokastra on a Mountain Slope» and others, which belong to amateur artists but circulate as anonymous folklore songs, indeed, in several variants, with the es-

sential features of traditional folklore songs, have been created in the past and continue to be created in the present.

Fourth, included in contemporary folklore are also some stylizations and partial modifications of folklore creations by amateur and professional artists who do not carry them beyond the tradition and norm of folklore art, but integrate them, artistically enhanced, into the mainstream of circulation of traditional folklore values.

Of course, the subdivisions we mentioned cannot be absolutized and considered as completely distinct from each other, because in folklore itself there are intermediary fields in which such phenomena emerge as do not come under rigid classifications. All this shows that contemporary folklore includes both old and new values which did not exist in its past legacy

and are now comprised in the traditional folk culture proper.

Of course, in the present-day process of development of folklore there can also be individual manifestations of its denaturation which present themselves mainly as imitations of models of cultivated art. For this reason the practice of national folklore festivals which take place every five years in our country and which contribute to the preservation of the authentic character of folklore, the elimination of any manifestation that denatures folkloric values, assumes great importance. These festivals rely on a platform which is worked out scientifically by folklore specialists and students as well as ethnographers and have as their main aim not only the encouragement and enlivening of the active life of folklore, the raising of its general level, the development of folklore as a mass amateur movement,

but, more important, the preservation of its authentic character.

Faced with the current process of development of folklore, Albanian folklore science considers the problem of scientific criteria for a precise distinction of what is genuinely folkloric and what is not such as particularly important so as to prevent the evolution of folklore from running counter both to tradition and its own present trend of development. An important role in this field is played not only by the positive influence of the sciences which study folk culture and folklore, in particular, but also by favourable social conditions which leave folklore a broad space in the cultural life of the country and enliven it. The experience of our country shows best that contemporary folklore with all its genuine values is emerging as a formation in active rivalry with the contemporary artistic culture of our society.

A REVIEW OF PHYSICAL SCIENCE IN ALBANIA

by **SOTIR KUNESHKA**

With their achievements physical sciences have made their contribution to carry work ahead in those fields where they have been applied. Our current and future development sets ever broader and more complex tasks before our physical sciences

THE BACKWARDNESS INHERITED FROM THE PAST IN THE ECONOMY WAS GREAT INDEED, BUT THIS BACKWARDNESS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE WAS GREATER STILL. A TRUE REVOLUTION HAD TO BE CARRIED OUT IN THESE FIELDS. THE PARTY AND COMRADE ENVER HOXHA HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE OF THE COUNTRY AS A PREMISE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

TODAY WE HAVE A SCIENCE WHICH IS IN A POSITION TO COPE WITH THE TASKS SET BY THE PRESENT PHASE OF THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY. PHYSICS, TOO, HAS MARKED IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE CONSTANT RAISING OF THE LEVEL OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS POSED BY OUR SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION.

In the beginning a concrete program of measures for the setting up of scientific sectors in the field of physics was worked out. The problems we faced at that time were not easy to solve because there were only a few qualified cadres and the material base and possibilities were very limited. We had to look for such fields of applied physics which, while having the same theoretical and experimental axis, could find application in as many sectors of the economy as possible. These conditions were better met by nuclear physics and physics of solid bodies which have diverse fields of application.

Gradually programs were worked out and applied. In 1969 the Laboratory of Nuclear Radiations was set up and later transformed into the Institute of Nuclear Physics. Nuclear physics and its main applications were the main fields of work in the first years. Applications had to be made in such sectors of the economy as to achieve

the maximum effect. At the same time a tradition of constant long-term work of a clearly defined physiognomy had to be created.

The physics of solid bodies, one of the fields of study chosen at the founding of the first chair of physics, is today one of the more important directions of work of this and other chairs of physics of the University of Tirana. Study of the physical qualities of solid, crystalline and amorphous bodies, local production of new materials of particular qualities, studies of new technological processes and equipment based on physical effects, etc. are the more important directions of work to ensure the further technical advance of almost all the main branches of our economy. The development of industry, its extracting and processing branches, particularly, the ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, etc. calls for studies and research about condensed environments which lie at the foundation of many modern technologies.

Taking into account the needs of the

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country and relying on our concrete material conditions other smaller research groups have been created and have achieved concrete results in the study and application of ultrasounds, in the elimination of negative effects of static electricity in industry, in the study of the application of electro-magnetic methods in geological prospecting. Studies in theoretical physics have also been carried out.

Research work has been aimed at constantly raising the level of physical sciences in our country while, on the other hand, ensuring a high effectiveness of their application. The Party has set as a permanent task «... The active role and effectiveness of science must be further increased, and it must not be developed only in scientific research institutions but must be developed and applied extensively in the concrete terrain, in the plants, the combines, the fields, wherever material blessings are produced». This calls, on one hand, for undertaking ever broader studies and, on the other, for establishing close links with research institutions in other fields and production enterprises. At present the Institute of Nuclear Physics and the chairs of physics are in constant touch with many institutions and enterprises all over the country. A great number of workers of these institutions and enterprises are engaged in joint studies with results which are being successfully applied.

Extensive application of nuclear methods and techniques is preceded by broad theoretical studies in many

branches of nuclear physics and other adjoining branches. This was done in the study of the dosimetry of ionizing radiations, neutron physics, the spectrometry of ionizing radiation, the interaction of radiations with matter, radiometry, mass spectrometry, nuclear electronics, radiochemistry and the processing of information derived from the measuring of nuclear radiations.

On this basis studies are being carried out for the application of radioactive marker techniques and nuclear analytical methods, for the production of substances with new qualities, for the designing of nuclear mathematical control equipment, etc.

In order to have an idea of the importance of physical sciences in the economy and life of our country today we shall give below a brief survey of the main fields and directions of their application.

Nuclear physics is giving direct assistance in the analysis of elements. Rapid analyses of great precision have enabled different sectors of the economy and geological prospecting, in particular, to cope with a great volume of analyses within a short time. Application of methods of neutron activation, neutron absorption, fluorescence of X-radiation and isotopical dilution have aroused great interest in many enterprises and institutions. Work for the intensive and rational application of these methods has been carried out in two directions: in the application of these techniques at the base and in setting up groups of analytical service in the sectors of geo-

logical prospecting and in the oil industry.

Hydro-geological studies of a practical profile are more and more applying nuclear methods — natural radioactivity, radioactive markers and the determination of isotopical rapports in their arsenal of means and techniques of research. Here we may also mention nuclear sedimentology which studies the movement of solid matter in river and sea-beds. The studies already carried out have clearly shown their high economic profitability. The experience gained serves as a basis to undertake more extensive studies in this field in the future.

The problem of rational fertilization is among the more important problems of agriculture in which there are large reserves in regard to the saving of fertilizers and the increase of yields. Experiments with radioactive and stable markers have more precisely determined that part of phosphor or nitrogen the plant assimilates from the fertilizers as against that part which it takes from the soil. Similar experiments have been made in wheat and maize crops with results which have been applied in production with great economic profitability.

Conservation of food stuffs is an important economic problem. Studies show that treatment of a number of agricultural products with gamma rays may reduce losses and create favourable conditions for a prolonged conservation.

It is known that the creation of new plant varieties with well-defined

features is much quickened through the application of artificial mutagenesis by means of radiation. An ever more important place in the field of selection is being occupied by efforts to raise productivity and improve the food value of plants. Here nuclear techniques are giving valid assistance to our selectionists.

Stimulation of seed through nuclear radiation before sowing has great practical value. Experiments carried out so far show a yield growth which, according to crops, is as high as some tens per hundred in some cases. In the present stage of nuclear techniques which can be applied in our country it is possible to radiate the seeds of some small-seed crops for purposes of stimulation on a national scale. The experiments carried out so far show that stimulation through radiation has in some cases also influenced the acceleration of the ripening process.

In the production of materials with new qualities good results have been achieved in the improvement of some qualities of the polyethylene through its radiation with accelerated electrons. Besides other qualities, polyethylene foils and tubes have been given a «memory» effect (shrinking through heat). These materials are in great demand in production, especially, as isolating materials for generators, transformers, cables, etc., successfully replacing materials which were formerly imported.

Application of nuclear methods in the sector of drilling and exploitation of oil-wells has been an important step in this sector. Complex nuclear carrotage and radioactive markers are now used as a compulsory procedure in oil-well drilling and exploitation. These methods enable the solution of some important problems in this field.

Analyses of the absolute age of rocks and their isotopic content through the technique of mass spectrometry have already begun. The data produced in this way are very important and serve for scientific generalizations, thereby raising the proba-

bility of success in geological prospecting.

Introduction of nuclear devices to control industrial technology has now become an indispensable process of our modern technology. Many such devices are used in our industry. Studies of questions connected with nuclear control devices have preceded the demands of our industry for these devices. The experience gained in designing and constructing nuclear control devices serves our industry also for the maintenance of installations and equipment.

Protection of people's health constitutes another important field for the application of nuclear methods. Today our hospitals have special wards of nuclear medicine equipped with modern means of diagnosis and therapy. However, the possibilities of these techniques are much larger and work is being done to increase analyses *in vivo*, and especially, those *in vitro* by means of radioactive markers.

In the physics of solid bodies, the first steps have been taken in the study of semi-conductive materials. After working out methods for producing pure electrolithic selenium, the first selenium rectification plates were produced in our country. This work was further concretized with the setting up of a selenium purification line according to a technology based on original studies. Later studies were made about the possibility of extracting germanium from local coals. A valuable experience has been gained in the physics of minerals. Scientific forces working by means of two powerful techniques such as electronic microscopy and röntgen structure analysis combined with other techniques for the study of the mechanical and optical qualities of minerals have been active in this field, too. Special studies have been carried about quartz holding and microdisperse materials such as clay, soot, etc. Recently studies have been undertaken about the possibility of utilizing local quartz for the production of electrotechnical silicium.

In the physics of metals, studies ha-

ve been aimed at elucidating the links between the inner structure of metals and their outer qualities, the links between treatment and changes of structure, their phase transformations, etc.

In the study of ceramics important work has been done for defining their qualities and improving the technology of production of simple carbographic materials and metallo-graphite links which present an interest for the economy of the country. Work has also begun for the study of the qualities of special glasses, and eventually, for the development of the technology of their production.

Concrete results have been achieved in the elimination of static electricity in textile industry. The phenomenon of static electricity in this industry represents a great drawback for the quality of products and productivity, especially, when synthetic fibres are used on a large scale. Here valuable experience has been gained both in the theoretical aspect and in that of measuring and neutralizing the phenomenon in question. In the process of research the necessary means and appliances were designed and built. This experience will soon be applied in the paper industry as well.

Important work has been done in the field of theoretical physics such as the study of many phenomena in crystalline liquids and molecular crystals, of the ellipsoidal state of glass, of models of electric and magnetic fields in oil and gas beds, of the application of the theory of groups to some problems of the field theory, etc.

The first steps have been taken in the study and use of ultrasounds and some experience has been gained in the stimulation of some crop seeds to raise their productivity.

The directions mentioned above are expressions of a positive process that is taking place in the various spheres of modern science, that of linking and integrating sciences which formerly were considered as wide apart. This progressive process has already begun playing an important role in the tech-

nical and economic development of the country. These directions constitute at the same time a sure basis for the development of our sciences in the future. The problems facing us in the future in the field of physics have been clearly defined. Such problems as the increase of the effectiveness of geological work, the study and rational exploitation of our mineral assets, the progressive raising of crop yields, improvements in technique and technology, etc. constitute at the same time a broad field for the application of physical methods.

Speaking about the future, we foresee that scientific activity will develop, first and foremost, in the existing

directions, while tackling with the solution of new problems or expanding the existing directions so as to include ever new aspects. Likewise, there will be problems which will continue to remain among our themes of study with the aim of deepening and extending our knowledge.

The present level of our scientists and the experience acquired so far represent a good basis for our physical sciences to raise to a higher level in the future and occupy the place they deserve among the other sciences developing in our country.

Our advance in the field of physical sciences and their application are a

component part of the development of our country on the road of socialism. Our social needs have been and remain a powerful stimulation for these achievements. For their part, with their achievements physical sciences have made their contribution to carry work ahead in those fields where they have been applied. Our current and future development sets ever broader and more complex tasks before our physical sciences, the solution of which calls for more knowledge, the application of new methods and techniques. Our physicists and the specialists who collaborate with them possess the necessary experience and scientific level to tackle these tasks successfully.

VIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CULTURE, LITERATURE

by ANASTAS KONDO

Our culture is among the outstanding achievements of socialism in Albania and a treasury of our nation. In no time in the past did our people know such an explosion of talents, such a broad and valuable creativity, such a militant art inspired by the communist ideals

OUR PEOPLE TODAY ARE EMANCIPATED MATERIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY. THEY ARE LIBERATED OF MANY GRAVE PROBLEMS AND ULCERS OF THE CENTURY SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT, ILLITERACY, SOCIAL INEQUALITY, THE ENSLAVEMENT OF THE WOMAN, HUNGER AND POVERTY; THEY BUILD THEIR PRESENT WITH DETERMINATION AND ARE ASSURED OF THEIR FUTURE; THEY ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE, ARE ENTITLED TO FREE EDUCATION AND ENJOY TRUE FREEDOM WHICH IS NOT INTENDED ONLY FOR SOME PEOPLE, FOR AN ÉLITE, BUT FOR THE ENTIRE NATION. OUR PEOPLE TODAY, WITH THE PARTY AND COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AT THE HEAD, ARE DEVELOPING AND CARRYING FURTHER AHEAD THE CENTURIES-OLD DREAM OF MANKIND AND GENUINE HUMANIST SOCIALISM, THEY ARE GOING TOWARDS THE COMMUNIST FUTURE IN WHICH MEN AND WOMEN WILL EXERCISE THEIR FACULTIES, AS MARX SAID IN THE ABC-BOOK OF SCIENTIFIC COMMUNISM «THE GERMAN IDEOLOGY», ACCORDING TO HIS ASPIRATIONS, IN ALL THEIR EXTENSION AND IN ALL THEIR POSSIBILITIES. TODAY THIS IS NOT WITH US ONLY WISHFUL THINKING NOT ONLY A THEORY, BUT THE REALITY OF LIFE, A REALITY WHICH IS BEING BUILT WITH OUR HANDS.

An important part, the corner stone of this extraordinary, both material and moral, emancipation are our culture, literature and arts in which, among other things, the progress and development of the country is clearly expressed. The achievements in the field of culture and art are in complete symbiosis and unity with the achievements in the field of the economy.

Our country inherited a lamentable

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backwardness from the past: the illiteracy of the masses was almost general, there was only a small number of teachers, the educational system was in no position to cover the whole population of the country, and there was a total lack of cultural institutions; it inherited a pronounced spiritual inequality between man and woman, between city and country, and among the different regions of the country.

The Party created a qualitatively new culture, without the evil in-

fluences of the old world, a culture with a socialist popular character and a clearly defined national character. All-round cultural transformations have been carried out bearing on the whole spiritual and material life, involving all the masses of the people, not only some particular strata of society. This revolutionary process of construction, development and progress of our new culture did away with all the old reactionary ideologies and backward customs which were so many shackles to man, as well as ways of life which were alien to socialism; it brought about the creation of our new man.

In this development of culture as a result of the general advance of the nation, the vigorous development of our literature and arts occupies a particularly important place.

Our literature and arts of socialist realism grew along with socialism in Albania, they are the offspring of the revolution, the brilliant deed of the Party. The ideological orientations of the Party and its struggle to keep our literature and arts always pure have been of vital importance for them. The esthetic thought of the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha has directly contributed to our literature

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and art developing on sound ideological foundations and producing works of an ever higher artistic level.

Our art today is immensely rich in feelings and thoughts, it reports the stormy road of our people with the Party at the head, brings out outstanding artistic values which have met with the high appreciation of our art-lovers and the respect of progressive people throughout the world.

Our culture is among the outstanding achievements of socialism in Albania and a treasury of our nation. In no time in the past did our people know such an explosion of talents, such a broad and valuable creativity, such a militant art inspired by the communist ideals.

But let us speak in the language of figures. About 4,300 cultural and artistic institutions carry out their activity throughout the country: the radio and television, the film studio, two big publishing houses, 28 professional theatres, 520 houses and palaces of culture, 45 central public libraries, 1,640 hearths of culture, about 2,000 museums and museum houses, without mentioning a broad network of cinemas, libraries or art galleries. It must be said that in comparison, not with the past, but only with some decades ago, the network of cultural and artistic institutions has been extended twofold.

This network covers the whole country. The culture and its means have also contributed to strengthening the national unity of our people. The houses and palaces of culture today are to be found in all the cities and major villages of the country, every city and three fourths of our villages have their museums. Besides central

public libraries, there are about 4000 libraries in schools and institutions, in centres of work and production, military detachments. The book has practically entered every house hold.

In regard to the population, our country today has theatres and cinemas with accommodations for about 90,000 people, publishes 3-4 books per inhabitant every year and has one museum or museum house per 1,500 inhabitants. Our professional drama or variety show troupes put on stage 80 premieres, our musicians come out with 2-4 operas or ballets, our film makers turn out 14 feature films, 15 cartoon films and 40 documentary films, our publishers publish about 700 books, etc., every year. New genres, like the cinematography and television, the opera and ballet, and a broad amateur movement, were created in the years of the Party.

The creation and formation of the revolutionary artist of the new type inspired by the communist ideals, linked forever with the destinies of the people and the socialist Homeland, is the outstanding deed of the Party.

In all periods our writers and artists have worked and fought for the interests of socialism with the pen and the rifle, with the book and the pick and by setting the personal example. In all the victorious battles of our people for socialism our writers and artists have always been in the front ranks, on the barricades of the class struggle. In the process of the class struggle our artists have gained their great revolutionary experience which they have transformed into art in their works. That is why our peo-

ple love and highly estimate their writers and artists.

In the period intervening between the two congresses of the Writers and Artists' League, from 1969 to 1984, our literature and art have made many quantitative and, what is more important, qualitative achievements. Many outstanding works have been created which reflect important moments of the struggle for socialism and the history of our people. Literary creativeness, especially, the novel and short story, have accumulated a great experience, while, the film, monumental painting, ballet and symphonic music have undergone a favourable development. Outstanding individualities of artists, which have enriched the new tradition of our arts, have emerged and affirmed themselves.

Our literature and art have gone through a period of vigorous development. From 1970 to 1983, 162 novels were published. This period can be considered as a period of the consolidation of this genre, when for the first time in the history of our literature, the novel is in the lead of our literature and arts. In the same time, 6 operas and 4 ballets have been put on stage, apart from major musical works for children or works which, although finished, have not yet been published or executed. From 2-3 films which were turned in the beginning of the 80's, only the «New Albania» Film-studio now produces 14 feature films, without mentioning the films prepared by the television. Many outstanding works were produced in the field of figurative arts. About 2,000 works of painting and sculpture have been presented for every National

Exhibition in these recent years. The monumental arts have affirmed themselves and made great progress in these same years. Six hundred new members and 1,700 candidates have been added to the creative artistic forces, which has brought about the development of all the genres and kinds of arts. Many genres which were little known or not known at all in our country, such as the telefilm, the monumental fresco, the symphony, etc. have been successfully developed and created their own tradition. However not only these, or the novel and the short story, but all the genres have made perceptible progress. It is the time when in our books, plays, films, figurative arts and music current themes prevail. This is evident even if only some of the more important films are considered, like «The White Road», «Red Poppies on the Walls», «Benny Walks on His Own», etc., or plays, like «Baca i Gjetajve», «The Lady from the Town», «The Pomegranate Flowers», or works of painting and sculpture, like the sculptures «Mother Albania», «Freedom», «The Heroes of Vig», or the works exhibited in the Museum of National History of Tirana and Skanderbeg's Museum of Kruja, or works of music, like «The Commissar», the ballet «The Lass from the Mountains», etc. or works of literature, like the novels «The Great Winter», «The Face-up», «The South Wind», «The Man with the Gun», etc. And many and many other outstanding works of literature and art.

In this period not only did the quality of the reflection of our reality rise to a higher level, but at the same time was the democratic and popular character of our creativeness strengthened further. Our art came more closely to the masses and was linked with the life of the people further. After the 4th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party in 1973 it relied more firmly on popular creativeness which gave it a more clear national physiognomy.

A fact of particular importance is that not only outstanding artists emerged and developed their talents, but a sound generation of new talents is being created and growing. Another characteristic of the deve-

lopment of the arts in this period, which is closely linked with the growing standard of living and the rising cultural demands of the masses, is the perceptible improvement of artistic mastery. Ever deep-going studies of social phenomena have been made through artistic analysis. Along with the constant deepening of the content, artistic forms have been enriched, have evolved and become more varied. As a result of the higher artistic level and the growing authority of our country, during this decade arts have become better known to the outside world. Our literary works have been translated in various countries of the world, our films, musical ensembles and arts exhibition have been received well in many countries of the world. Among the more important achievements of our literature and art is their ideological purity, their successful struggle against any alien manifestation - modernist bourgeois or revisionist art.

The all-round social development, the innovative spirit which characterize the masses, the process of the class struggle, the major projects of the five-year plans, the ever rising productivity — all this has formed people of a high cultural level both in the city and country. Apart from this, our society has entered a new phase of development which calls for higher quality, a stronger communist spirit and ever more culture. It is clear that our literature and art must respond ever better to this phase of our development by raising their creativeness to a higher level. Self-complacency and satisfaction with an average level, hankering after quantity, underevaluation of innovative research are alien to the very nature of our creativeness.

The socialist content of our art has been strengthened through a deeper and all-sided reflection of the processes of the class struggle and the socialist relations of our society, thus embodying the Marxist-Leninist world outlook of our man. On this road our creativeness will score ever greater successes.

The further qualitative advance, which our literature and art are called

on to make, poses the need for a more profound reflection of the major themes of the time, the phenomena which emerge in the process of work for the socio-economic development of the country and of the struggle against conservative and liberal ways of thinking. In all the themes he deals with, our socialist artist strives to find the great epic of our socialist epoch, its essence, to raise important current problems of society, to stimulate the thinking of the reader and raise him spiritually, inspire him to revolutionary deeds.

The artistic debate of important current problems is the first source of innovation, of the renewal of the literature and arts. The fullest possible reflection of the hero of our time, with the new features he acquires in the present process of the ideological struggle and the struggle for the socio-economic development of the country, will make our art an ever more faithful testimony to our time, a powerful means of education. The hero of each time, and the more so the hero of our time, speaks to his contemporaries through his own example, inspires them with his great deeds, leaves to his successors the historical testimony of an important period - socialism. A primary task of our artists is that of representing our hero, a man advanced in all fields of life, who is characterized by the feeling of the new, especially the innovative worker which is the corner-stone of our society in all its important activities. Our hero is in a process of development, his spiritual world is being constantly enriched. The aim is to present this hero ever better, ever more realistically, but without idealizing and embellishing him, without vulgarizing and oversimplifying him, without detaching him from the activity of the masses, this great creative force of which he is a part. So we have to write the biography of the people by means of the art, as Comrade Enver Hoxha calls on us to do.

The further deepening of militancy in our literature and arts calls for the artists to live intensely with the current problems of the time, to be sensitive to the major problems of

society, to reflect its major conflicts and give their historical solution. Assimilation of the ideology of the Party, close acquaintance of the revolutionary practice, reflection of the new phenomena from the positions of Marxism-Leninism enables our artists to ever better embody in their creativeness the principle of proletarian partisanship, to turn art into an effective means of the present-day ideological struggle. Proletarian partisanship gives art its militant strength and fighting pathos.

Our socialist art increases its educative strength and its artistic values when it describes not the external aspect of phenomena, but delves deep into their essence. Therefore, the strengthening of realism so as to reflect life with ideological clarity and militancy, in all its depth and complexity, in all the richness of its forms and the variety of its colours, is an important demand to our writers and artists. Our artistic creativeness increases its affirmative strength by discovering and reflecting the new processes, their trend and future. In this dialectical view of the reality our art acquires new qualities, eliminates monotony, the static undialectical approach to life and manifestations of sketchiness.

The strengthening of militancy and realism calls also for artistic creativeness to be endowed with a stronger critical spirit and a more active stand to every outdated phenomenon by criticising negative phenomena and manifestations of the old world which create problems for the development of our present society, which are still active in our life today.

Our people love literary creativeness. Our masses thirst for works of a sound content and a high artistic level. The growing interest and the broadening of the cultural horizon of our readers, and spectators, which is a great fortune for our artistic creators, comes about as a result of the whole socio-economic development of the country. This, however, raises the responsibility of our artistic creators for works which should embody great ideas in a high artistic form.

Quality in artistic creativeness can-

not be achieved without constant efforts by the artistic creators themselves to raise their own cultural level. In our country today there exists a whole army of talented writers and artists of a strong ideological formation and a broad culture and closely linked with life.

However, our artists keep it well in mind that the cultural level of the masses is rising rapidly. So the artist that takes it upon himself to disseminate knowledge and culture must himself be outstanding for his broad cultural and scientific horizon, as well as his deep-delving knowledge of life processes. To expand the cultural horizon of men and women of a cultured nation is a difficult task of great responsibility which calls for efforts and sacrifices, but which is, at the same time, a social indispensability.

Constant contacts with the masses, close acquaintance with their problems and life have always been a powerful vivifying source for the artist and writer. Social practice, life and the energies of the masses represent a big book open to all and everybody, in which, when we know how to delve deep into it we find such treasures as to ceaselessly renew our art. This book, however, can read only the artist whose heart throbs with the pulse of the masses of the people, the artist who has got a firm grasp of the teachings of the Party and lives with the problems of his own people. Just as he tries to be always a seeker of the new, our writer endeavours to be a close friend of progressive people, a passionate fighter on the more important fronts of the struggle for the revolutionization of life. Among them he singles out the new qualities our life and our men acquire.

When our country had many worries and ulcers, besides building the new life, the Party also laid the foundations of the cinematography, the opera and the ballet, of our new painting and sculpture. Even when people were deprived of many things, the Party saw to it that schools of art were opened from which hundreds of talented artists emerged. And here it is to the point to say that according

to official international statistics, our country is among the first in the world for the number of the schools of art related to the population.

Without the broad understanding and the perspective view of the Party, our art could not have reached its today's level. When we talk of the diverse fields of literature and art we always look forward to the future. What we plant today will be the pride of our art after some decades. More concretely, when we train a new cadre, for example, in violin playing today, the question is about the year 2,000. Hence, the concern about new talents has been and remains a constant problem of the Party and our society.

Our art is distinguished for its national character. It reflects the characteristic peculiarities of our country and nation proceeding from the national artistic experience. In the process of the reflection of the socialist reality, our national character acquires new qualitative features, develops them and raises them to a higher level. The further strengthening of the national character of our art calls for the expression, on a higher artistic level, of the characteristic features of socialist Albania, of the conditions in which our people live and work, for the expression of the new thoughts, feelings and customs which develop in the conditions of socialism. In this manner our artists do not consider the national character something given once for good, but something in permanent change. National originality and national peculiarities have nothing in common with provincialism and conservatism, as the bourgeois and revisionist theoreticians and the chauvinistic cliques, which try to attack national cultures, make out. In the reality, our art combats everything alien coming either from modernism or conservatism and which endangers its socialist content, its national character. This has provided our literature and art with broad possibilities of creation and exploration. In the future, too, our artists will further sharpen their vigilance against alien influences in form and content. A persistent struggle must always be waged against

those narrow concepts which reduce the national character to some external forms, some superficial details. The national character is strengthened through the broad reflection of topical or historical problems of major social value for the people.

National cultural and artistic traditions are not only a major treasury of the nation, but also an important factor for the development of our present-day artistic creativeness. They play this role properly when they are assimilated in a creative manner and when artistic experience is developed further. In the new artistic tradition created after liberation and in folk creativeness there is a rich artistic experience which our artists must try

to know, study and use in their creative activities.

Our art does not develop isolated from the progressive and revolutionary traditions of world art. Our Party has always instructed our artists to learn and profit in a critical manner from world progressive art, to see how the progressive social ideals of the time have been expressed. However, it has also instructed them to sharpen their vigilance further, to expose the new practices and whims of the bourgeois and revisionist culture and art, to lay bare the regressive and counter-revolutionary character of this culture, of its subjectivist inclinations and objectivist stands. Preservation of the ideological purity of

the artistic creativeness is a vital question for the development of our art.

Our creative method of socialist realism, is strengthened further through the development of art itself, while keeping its fundamental principles pure from any revisionist influence or distortion. Our artistic creativeness acquires a richer experience in the process of expanding its innovative research to discover new qualities in life, to reflect them at a higher artistic level and illuminate them with the ideology of the working class. Developing on this road, our art of socialist realism has scored and will score new achievements in all fields.

ENGINEERING INDUSTRY ON THE ROAD OF TRANSFORMATION INTO MACHINE-BUILDING INDUSTRY

by **ROBERT LAPERI**

In the present stage engineering industry is going through a new phase of development. Along with work for the consolidation of production of spare parts, the task of the production of machinery and equipment for the construction of projects with our own forces and for raising the degree of mechanization of work in the different sectors of the economy, has emerged in the first place

ENGINEERING INDUSTRY, LIKE MANY OTHER BRANCHES OF THE ECONOMY OF OUR COUNTRY, WAS CREATED AND DEVELOPED ENTIRELY DURING THE YEARS OF THE PEOPLE'S STATE POWER. TODAY IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT BRANCH OF THE ECONOMY, OR, YOU MIGHT SAY, THE HEART OF THE ECONOMY, WHICH GIVES LIFE TO AND BOOSTS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OTHER BRANCHES AND SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

IN THE PROCESS OF SOCIALIST INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE COUNTRY THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA HAS ATTACHED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF ENGINEERING INDUSTRY.

In 1982 it turned out 15 per cent of the total industrial production against 3.1 per cent in 1960, thus occupying first place among the branches of heavy industry, and third place among the branches of industry, in general, from sixth place in 1965.

ROBERT LAPERI — Senior Scientific Worker

Engineering industry is completed with advanced technique. Its setting out on the road of machine-building and production of equipment, production lines and factories, is an important qualitative achievement in the process of our socialist industrialization.

Development rates of engineering in-

dustry have been high. The 1982 production was 580 times as great as that of 1938, whereas in 1983 production of this branch increased 158.9 times against 1950. In 1983 the production of 1938 was realized in 4 hours, that of 1950 within two days, that of 1960 within ten days and of 1970 within two and a half months.

The main place in the production of engineering industry is occupied by the production of the means of production. In 1983, Group A accounted for 90 per cent of the total industrial production of the engineering industry. This is the result of the correct policy of production pursued by the Party of Labour of Albania for the independent development of the national economy.

In the development of engineering industry, special importance has been attached to the improvement of the structure of production, giving priority to production of spare parts, maintenance of implements, machinery and existing equipment. The general tendency, however, has been towards increase of production of machinery and equipment at more rapid rates. Thus, in 1960 the production of machinery and equipment occupied 8.8 per cent of the total production of this branch, whereas in 1980 they accounted for 50.5 per cent of it, or, from 1/0.09 it was in 1960, in 1980 the ratio changed to 1/1.02, whereas in 1985 the ratio will be 1/1.35. This will contribute to the attainment of the great objectives the 8th Congress of the PLA set for the production of machinery and equipment, which in 1985 will increase by 57 per cent against 1980.

In the present stage engineering industry is going through a new phase of development. Along with work for the consolidation of production of spare parts, the task of the production of machinery and equipment for the construction of projects with our own forces and for raising the degree of mechanization of work in different sectors of the economy, has emerged in the first place.

The Party worked with foresight for the strengthening of engineering industry, and, in turn, all the sectors of the economy, equipping it in the best possible manner, seeing it as one of the basic branches for the continuous development and growth of productive forces. In the current five-year plan, engineering industry is being further strengthened and becoming capable of coping with still great tasks of the future, as a machine-building industry.

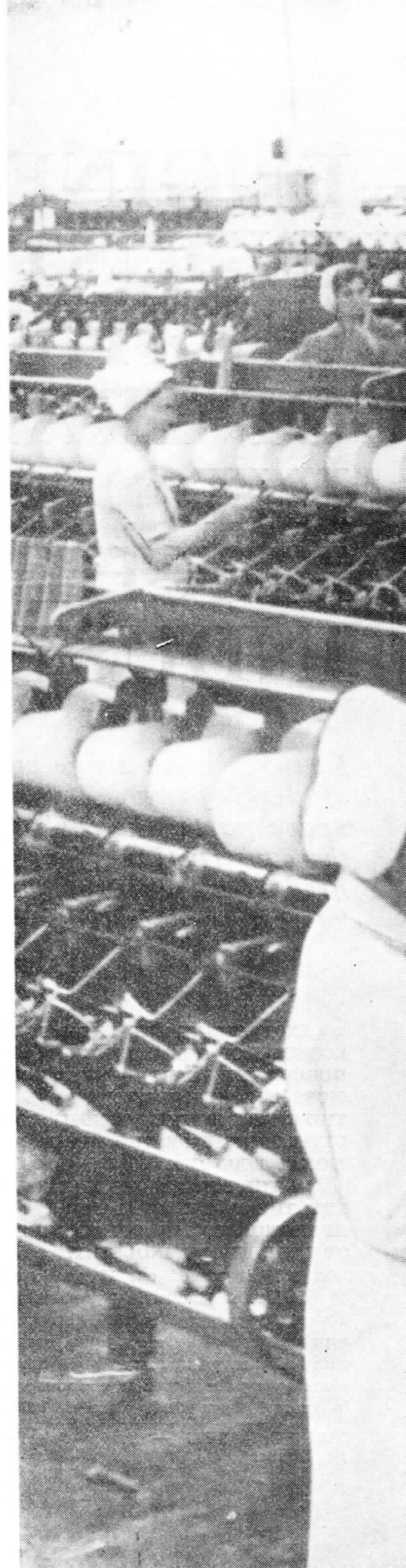
In the years of the current five-year plan engineering industry has begun on a more extensive scale, the production of equipment and machinery for the construction of new production lines and factories, for various reconstructions and extension of existing productive capacities. In the work for the realization of this task, further steps ahead have been taken for putting the technology and production on a more scientific base, and a new level of concentration, specialization,

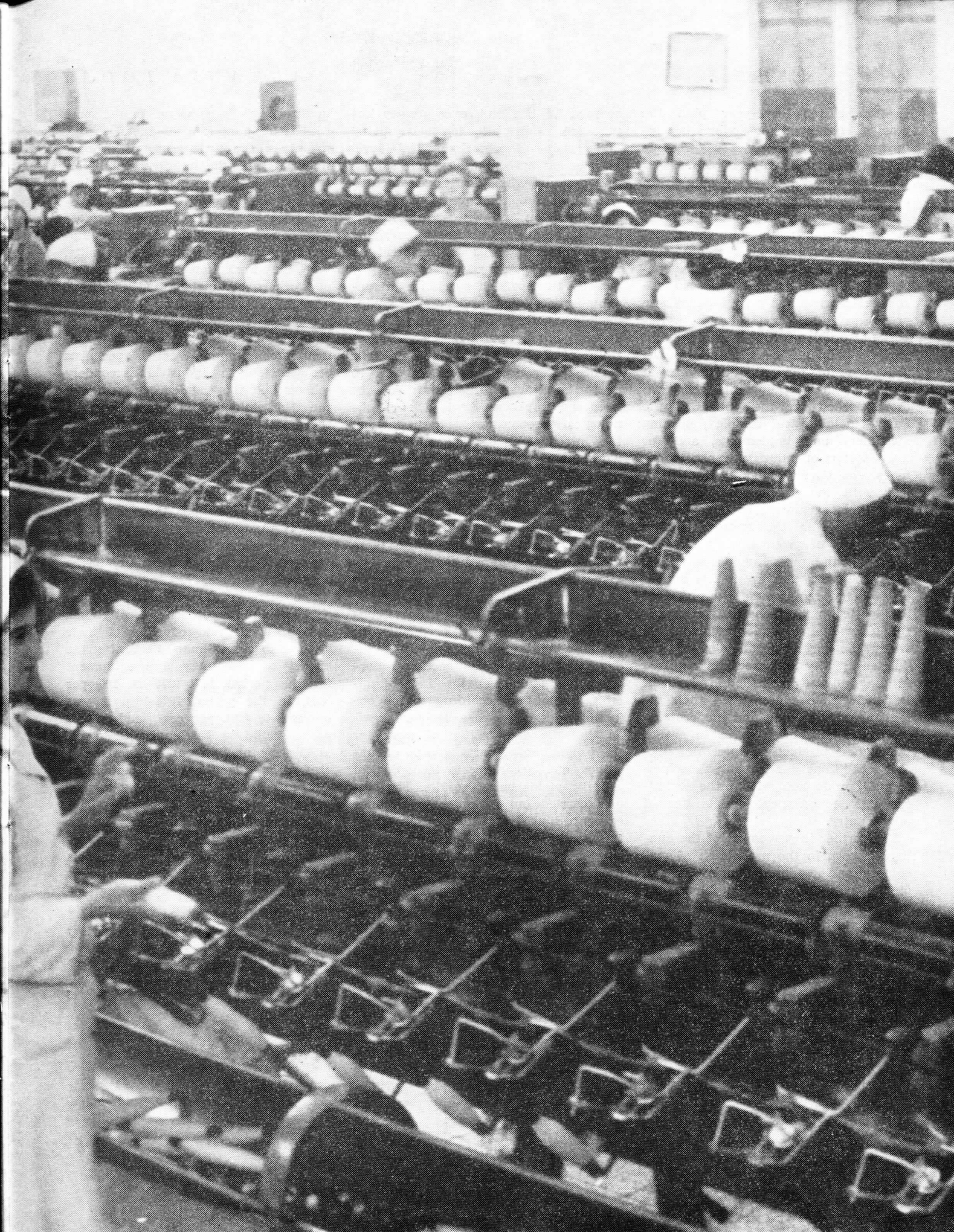
cooperation and standardization from the organizational point of view has been reached. The continuous improvement of technology, growing productivity, lowering of cost of production, have now become daily targets for the workers, technicians and engineers of this branch of industry.

Our engineering industry has increased the range and quantity of machinery and equipment. The production of tractors, the building of metallic ships, rolling stock, the production of lifts and cranes, drills and machinery for the oil industry, mines, metallurgy, for the chemical, food-stuffs and textile industry, the different machinery and equipment, electronic and electrotechnical devices, many metallic articles of broad consumption and so on, speak of a higher level of this industry. But the tasks set for the present and future dictate the need for a quantitative and qualitative improvement, especially in machine-building, without neglecting the production of spare parts and their recuperation, which are basic for the developments and improvements made until now. The 7th Five-year Plan set the task for engineering industry to increase quantity, improve quality and widen the range of production not only through new projects but also through perfecting organization, the increase of the productivity of labour, the most extensive introduction of new technology and recent achievements of science in production.

Improvements in the production of machinery and equipment require of the working people of this branch, the specialists, cadres and directing organs, to focus on the solution of some important problems. One of the problems has to do with the raising of the level of designs and blueprints of machinery and equipment, in order to ensure that they are produced in time, in the required quantity and with good quality, according to predetermined technical-economic standards.

The engineering industry ensures the production of machinery and equipment for the construction of new lines and factories, for the reconstruction and expansion of productive capacities. Many machines for the textile mills are now built in the country





In the current five-year plan the amount of designs for engineering industry will be five times as great as that of the last five-year plan.

In our country a great number of study-designing organisms have been set up, including technical bureaus at engineering plants and shops, designing sectors at study-designing and technological institutes, as well as special working groups attached to various enterprises and institutions. These organisms have given solution to important problems of designing and made a valuable contribution to the production of thousands of pieces of machinery and equipment, such as those needed for the «Steel of the Party» metallurgical complex, farming machinery and implements, and for many sectors of industry, transport, defence, etc. Various laboratories, equipped with modern devices, work at every plant and mill and play a noticeable role in the improvement of the quality of production.

Despite the great amount of work done, the tasks that await this branch of industry require the improvement and perfecting of constructive preparation of designs for production, on which the correct technology of production, quality and precision required in the designed construction depends. Designers have concentrated their attention on improving and modernizing designs of machinery so as to ensure the highest productivity possible, suitable conditions for advanced technology of production within the technical and technological possibilities of our country.

The further improvement of the quality of work in the production of machinery and equipment today is one of the most important problems for engineering industry. This is connected mainly with the technological level of production of parts and their as-

sembly. To this end, ever greater importance is being attached to improving and raising the technological level of production, beginning from studies and designs, which are done especially for this aim, the equipment of units of production with necessary instruments and devices, to the assembling of machinery. This is the road on which many plants of the country, especially those which specialize in machine-building and production of equipment, are proceeding. Technical bureaus at plants and the Engineering Institute play an important role in this.

The better organization of work in the technological bureaus has brought about an important turn in the technological preparations of production, the introduction of new methods in work processes, the improvement of quality in precision casting, dusting of parts, etc. In the context of the work for strengthening the engineering industry tentative studies have been made for the introduction of these methods in a planned manner in engineering industry as soon as possible and with optimal results.

Efforts have been stepped up to concentrate and specialize production in machine-building industry. Until today, production in engineering industry was organized on the basis of narrow specialities according to the object of work. However, experience showed that the organization of work for the production of parts, groups of machines, etc., according to technological affinity, yields better results. The studies carried out in order to advance concentration to a higher level and the application of these studies in practice will lay sound bases for the production of machinery and equipment with better quality and within a shorter time.

For engineering industry to carry out its tasks in time and with high

quality, work is going on for the more rational exploitation of metal-cutting machines, the thrifty use of primary materials and the improvement of organization and management of production.

A great decisive role in the increase of production of machinery and equipment in range, quantity and quality, had the work for the qualification of workers, technicians and engineers. The training of workers for different specialties has been the concern of specialized 2 and 2-year schools, qualification courses, etc. Whereas specialists are trained in industrial secondary schools and the engineering faculty at the University of Tirana. However, the great tasks which face this branch of industry in the future require a higher level of training on the part of specialists and cadres. In this context, post-university qualification and training of technicians through special courses, in which they acquire additional knowledge that responds to the growing demands of the time, has a positive influence.

The increase of production of machinery and equipment locally has brought about the reduction of their imports to a minimum. Reckoning the import of machinery and equipment for the period 1971-1975 at 100 per cent, in the period 1976-1980 it was reduced to 83.1 per cent, and in the period 1981-1985 it is envisaged to fall to 45 per cent. Whereas the increase of production for the same periods is 156 per cent and 245.6 per cent respectively.

The task set by the Party at its 8th Congress for the largescale production of machinery and equipment is becoming a reality. With the present dynamic of growth engineering industry is in a position to respond to the still greater tasks that await it in the future.

THE EXTENDED REPRODUCTION OF THE WORK FORCE IN THE PSRA

by **LEONTJEV ÇUÇI**

*Great and deep-going changes have
been made in the social class structure of society.
This has resulted in the creation of a numerically strong working
class which plays its powerful leading and
vanguard role all over the country*

THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE EXTENDED SOCIALIST REPRODUCTION CALLS FOR AN EVER GREATER INCREASE OF WORK SOURCES AND MATERIAL VALUES THAT TAKE PART IN ECONOMIC CIRCULATION. SOCIAL PRODUCTION CANNOT DEVELOP AT HIGH RATES WITHOUT INCREASING THE QUANTITY OF LIVE WORK AND THE MEANS AND OBJECTS OF WORK FROM ONE YEAR TO THE OTHER.

THE PLA ADHERES TO THE MARXIST-LENINIST THESIS THAT THE MAN FACTOR IS DECISIVE IN PRODUCTION, THAT THE WORKING MAN IS THE PRIMARY PRODUCTIVE FORCE OF SOCIETY, AN ELEMENT OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIAL LIFE AND SOCIAL LIFE, IN GENERAL. IN THIS ASPECT, THE WHOLE LIFE, ALL THE MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY ARE BASED ON THE PERFECTING OF THE TECHNICAL-PROFESSIONAL ABILITIES AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WELL-BEING OF THE WORKING PEOPLE.

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The extended socialist reproduction of the work force in Albania has undergone great changes has always been done on a higher material and

LEONTJEV ÇUÇI — *Economist*

social basis. Proceeding from the Marxist-Leninist principles, the PLA has dealt with the problem of the reproduction of the work force as any important not only economic but also

ideo-political factor. The new revolutionary man constitutes the decisive factor for the solution of all the great and complex problems of the socialist construction and the defence of the country on the basis of self-reliance.

The extended reproduction of the work force in Albania is characterized, first and foremost, by the high natural growth rate of the population, which is about 4 times that of the European average. This high growth rate is seen in the average young age of the Albanian population. According to population census taken in 1969 and 1979, the average age results to be 25.7 years (27.3 years for the city and 24.9 years for the village). The population of the age-group under 15 years accounts for 37 per cent of the total population, and that of the age-group 15-59 years, 55.6 per cent.

The young age of the population is also reflected in the extended socialist reproduction of the work force.

The overwhelming part of the workers, peasants and intellectuals, about 66 per cent of them, are relatively young, up to 40 years. The relative youth of the active population explains the relatively large contingents of young workers who accede to work for the first time. Our society does not know the phenomenon of the aging population and, as a consequence, is able to constantly strengthen the subjective factor of production.

The rapid increase of the average life-expectancy is another success of the demographic policy of our country. From 38.3 years it was in 1938, in 1950-1951 it rose to 53.5 years, in 1965-1966 it went up to 66 years and today it has reached 70.4 years. The rapid improvement of the material well-being of the people, the broad extension of the health service, the great changes in the mode of living and the reduction of mortality, especially, among children up to one year, are factors which have had an influence on the extension of the average life-expectancy.

During the years of the people's state power the number of working people engaged in the different branches of the economy, in the services and social and cultural activities has constantly increased and their physical and intellectual abilities have risen to a higher level. From 540 thousand it was in 1960 this figure has reached 1,222 thousand today. Characteristic is the fact that the number of working people increases about 1.6 times that of the growth rate of the population. For the periods 1950-1982, 1960-1982 and 1971-1982 the average growth rate of the working people in the whole national economy is 3.4, 3.5 and 4.1 per cent respectively, while the growth rate of the population lies at an average of 2.5 per cent annually.

This tendency is explained by the young age structure of the population in which the age-group under 15 years occupies a relatively important place, which creates the possibility for the emergence of ever new contingents of work force, as well as for the emancipation of the woman, which has resulted in the broad participation of her in the process of social pro-

duction. At present this participation has become something quite normal. At the same time the role of the younger age-groups has gained increased importance because of the high rates of the natural growth of the population

The dynamic development of the forces of production has taken place in close connection with the growth of the working population, with the creation of ever new jobs in ever larger quantity, especially in the sphere of material production, but also in the socio-cultural spheres, in science, in the health service and other important directions.

The development rates of our economy have ensured the complete occupation with social useful work of all the new active forces. This has enabled the economy to ensure relatively high and steady rates of increase of the social product and the national income and, on this basis, to cope with the expenditure for the opening up of new work fronts through its inner material and financial accumulations. This is shown also by the dynamics and volume of fundamental investments for construction and assembly work, which in 1983 have increased 4.7 fold compared with 1960.

The growth rate of the social product has been 2.6 times that of the growth rate of working people. This development of material production indicates the high effectiveness of social production and the constant growth of work productivity, the sources of accumulation and exports. At the same time, this growth constitutes a powerful material basis for the constant improvement of the well-being of the people.

The rapid increase of the total social product and work productivity is also reflected in the increased production of broad consumer goods and the systematic reduction of prices. Socialist Albania is the first state in the world in which prices do not go up, but on the contrary, go down. From 1950 to this day there have been 12 reductions of prices, in the first place, for broad consumer goods. The buying power of the working people and their consumption has increased at

more rapid rates than the growth of the population.

The high-rate development of the socialist economy, especially industry, has enabled the working class to grow more quickly than the peasantry and the other working masses. Thus, in 1960 workers accounted for 29 per cent of the total number of working people engaged directly in the process of production, peasants 60 per cent and intellectuals 11 per cent, while in 1982 workers made up about 43 per cent, peasants about 44 per cent and intellectuals about 13 per cent of the total number of working people. As against 15,000 before Liberation, the number of workers has increased to 154,000 in 1960 and about 560,000 in 1983, or 3.6 times the figure of two decades ago.

Of great importance is the growth and development of industrial workers, especially, those of the heavy industry and mining who play an important socio-political role among the working class by strengthening and consolidating the revolutionary features of the Albanian working class itself and the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Another important feature in the revolutionary process of the development of the working class is the considerable increase of the number of working women who today account for more than 42 per cent of the total number of working people. Today there is no sector of production and culture in which the strength of our women is not felt. In some branches and sectors, such as the light industry, trade, education and the health service, working women occupy the main place. A true revolution has taken place in the life of the Albanian woman.

Some characteristics such as the composition of the working class according to age-groups and length of service of the different groups of workers indicate the degree of the extended reproduction of the work force and its productive, technical-scientific and leading capacities. Two different tendencies, both positive, are apparent. Although ever larger contingents of the younger age-groups accede to work, with the growth of

the working class the proportion of the older age-groups (up to 10 years of seniority at work) has decreased. In 1979 these groups accounted for 45.8 per cent of the total number of workers as against 71.7 per cent in 1969. On the other hand, the proportion of the age-groups with a length of service of 11 years and more has increased. In 1969 these groups made up 28.3 per cent of workers, while in 1979 they rose to 54.2 per cent. Today our working class is more mature and experienced, and has greater possibilities to increase production and tackle with ever more difficult tasks.

Great and deep-going changes have been made in the social class structure of society. This has resulted in the creation of a numerically strong working class which plays its powerful leading and vanguard role all over the country. The Albanian working class has the youngest average age in Europe — 35 years. It plays a decisive role in material production and constitutes the backbone of the people's power. It realizes 67 per cent of the national income and, together with its families, accounts for 40 per cent of the population of the country.

The extended reproduction of the work force develops combined with a harmonious distribution of the working people in the productive and non-productive spheres as well as in the different branches of the economy both in city and country. The overwhelming part of the work force is engaged in the sphere of material production, mainly in industry and agriculture. Since the year 1950 onwards, about 86.5 per cent of the working people is engaged in the productive sphere and about 13.5 per cent in the non-productive sphere. In 1982 as against 1960 the number of working people in the productive sphere has increased 2.2 times, whereas that of the non-productive sphere has grown about 2 times.

With the development of the production forces the proportion of the workers of industry and construction has risen while the proportion of agricultural workers has decreased as a result of the ever broader replacement of manual work with machines.

About 65 per cent of the workers of the sphere of material production are engaged in the two main branches of the economy, industry and agriculture. These tendencies, although different in quantity and intensity, will continue in the future, too.

The high proportion of the younger groups in the active population calls for the improvement of their qualification, the raising of their technical and professional level and the development of their education. Lessons and qualification courses have never been divorced from work, they have gone hand in hand with it and have contributed to the strengthening and development of production.

The law of the constant extended reproduction of the qualified and educated work force operates in socialism. The ceaseless technical and scientific progress, which is inherent in the socialist system of production, calls for the reproduction of the work force at an ever higher level. The sphere of utilization of unskilled work is gradually narrowed in the process of socialist construction. On the other hand, real conditions are created for the education, qualification and raising of the cultural level of the broad masses of the working people. This progress and development of man is necessary also for the fact that the working people in socialism are not only producers but also active participants in the economic, political and ideological activities. They are the masters of the country and perform organizing and leading functions which are the monopoly of the exploiters, the technocrats and the scientists of the bourgeoisie in the capitalist countries.

Some processes which, taken in their interconnection, reflect the qualitative aspect of the extended reproduction of the working class, take place and deepen in the process of socialist construction. The general educational and cultural level of the workers of the production and other sectors is constantly raised; the profile of training of workers and cooperativists is broadened; engineering technical elements in the training of the mass of workers increase; besides the raising of qualification, requalification

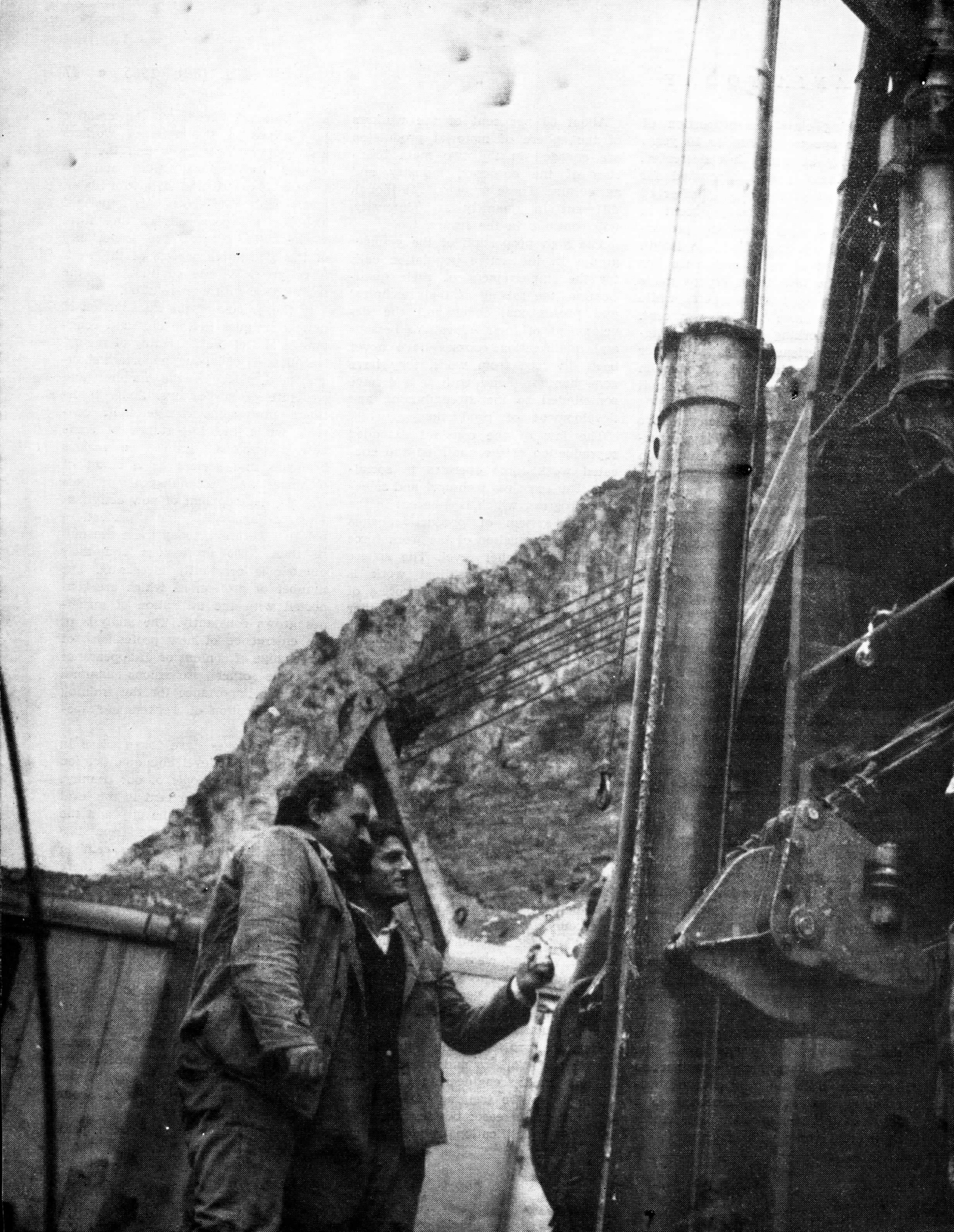
also becomes necessary; the creative possibilities of the mass of workers and cooperativists grow and the movement for rationalizations and inventions expands and rises to a higher level; qualification becomes important also for the cooperativists and farm workers. In general, the importance of the qualitative aspects of the work force grows in the conditions of the technical-scientific revolution.

In the process of the introduction of new techniques in the city and countryside and of the deepening of the social division of labour, important changes take place in the number and structure of professions. Some traditional professions change their content, while the importance of some new professions grows in various branches and sectors as a result of technical and technological progress and the development of new activities. Thus, as against 85 main professions before Liberation, today there are more than 5,000 professions and their number is constantly increasing. The number of professions which are connected with the utilization of machines grows constantly. The analysis of the emergence of new professions, of the change of content or disappearance of some other professions assumes particular importance for the training and qualification of workers and specialists.

Major changes have taken place in the educational level and qualification of the working people of our country. The difference in per cent in the level of schooling between the city and the countryside has decreased from 18.9 per cent in 1960 to 6.9 per cent in 1979. Among the working class there is a rapid increase in the proportion of workers with a medium education who today make up more than 34 per cent of the total. The same tendency is observed among the cooperativists.

In regard to the degree of qualification (attestation) in 1983 the situation was as follows: in industry more than 48 per cent of the workers have a medium or high qualification; in agriculture the proportion is 23 per cent and in construction it is about 35 per cent.

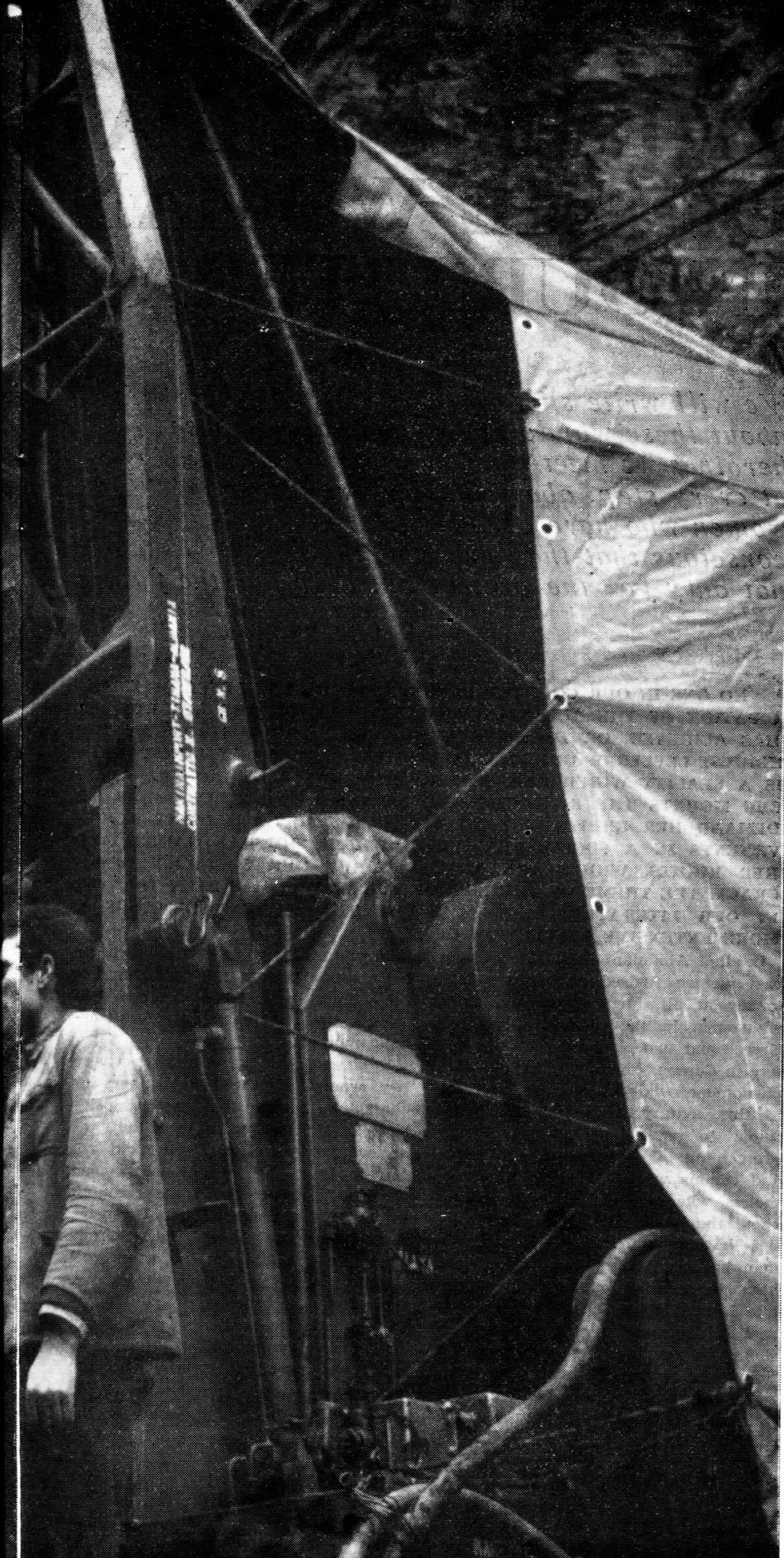
Particular attention has been paid



to the training and recycling of cadres with a medium and high vocational education. Their number has increased 4.2 times over only during the period 1970-1983. In the 1983 there were 64,400 cadres of higher qualification, as against 620 in 1950 and 4,300 in 1960. The number of cadres with a medium vocational education was 190,000 as against 3,000 in 1950 and 38,000 in 1970.

The qualitative aspects of the extended reproduction of the work force in the conditions of the technical-scientific revolution in our country develop on a broader intellectual basis, with the ever growing proportion of mental work in the total of social work spent in the process of production.

Our society needs people with knowledge, with a broad cultural horizon, with a high vocational, technical and scientific training, and exacting towards themselves. Much progress has been made and intense work is being done to meet the growing demands of the development of our socialist Homeland.



Albania is rich in minerals. Ever more work forces are engaged in minerals prospecting and extraction.

THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WOMAN IN OUR LITERATURE

*We will write still more
about these wonderful women, about these
heroines we meet
at every step, about these courageous
women who have become
conscious that they are working
not only for the present but also for the future*

NO ONE IN OUR COUNTRY IS SURPRISED BY THE LEVEL OF EMANCIPATION OF THE ALBANIAN WOMAN TODAY, OR THE RESULTS SHE HAS ACHIEVED, OR TO SEE HER MOUNTING THE ROSTRUM AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF OUR LIFE. TODAY THIS DEGREE OF EMANCIPATION IS A REALITY WHICH CAN BE SEEN AND HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED. SHE MOUNTS THE ROSTRUMS AND SPEAKS OUT NOT IN ORDER TO DEMAND HER RIGHTS, BUT TO REPORT ON HER BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN A SOCIAL REALITY IN WHICH SHE HAS GAINED ALL HER RIGHTS, WHICH ARE AN ASPECT OF OUR SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY. THE THEME OF THE LIFE OF THE WOMAN HAS BEEN TREATED IN OUR LITERATURE AND ART, BUT THE PRESENT DEMANDS A MORE EXTENSIVE REFLECTION OF IT.

In the Albanian literature of the past women figured very rarely, not to say at all. Men played the parts of women in the theatre of ancient Greece and two or three centuries before in Europe, whereas in Albania this phenomenon existed even in the 30's of this century. It would be superfluous to repeat such things as the overcoming of old vestiges, prejudices and canons which are known, nevertheless whenever it comes to talking about the high social, moral and political level to which the Albanian woman has been raised, we will always have to mention outstanding women like Dora d'Istria, Parashqevi and Sevasti Qiriazhi, and their comrades who shone as lonely stars but powerful that tore the dense obscurity of ignorance and backwardness. In their wake followed thousands of thousands of

DIANA ÇULI: Writer

anonymous women, who with their talents suppressed in the centuries, left their imprints on the epic songs, folk tales, songs, dances and wonderful artistic motifs.

In our previous literature in fact very few women appeared as authors or characters, because that was the historical lot of Albania; however, the most serious writers of that time did not fail to treat the fate of the woman as a social problem. In the creations of De Rada, Pasho Vasa, Grameno, Foqion Postoli, Migjeni, Haki Stërmilli, there are women characters full of life and energy, who act and move, who fight and strive.

From the orientation of the Party that the rotten morality of the backward past must be overthrown because it treated women simply as slaves, the struggle for the liberation of the Homeland and the new life in which

ON

RE *by DIANA ÇULI*

they began to take part, the writers and poets were impelled to see the women as fighters for the new and builders of socialism. It was the woman who, powerfully supported by the Party, were fighting for the creation of their own personality, went to work, to school and entered social life. This was achieved through irreconcilable struggle with the centuries-old morality and the qualitative leap that was made thereupon marked a great victory of the materialist world outlook over the idealist world outlook. Old canons were demolished, but this did not mean that the chapter was closed at that, that the women were completely emancipated and now we have nothing else to speak about this problem, or that we have no reason to strive with our writings to keep the flame of this struggle going.

Life shows that much remains to be done in order to avoid and wipe out prejudices which have survived from the past, to overcome old and backward customs. Our socialist society, which is only 40 years old, had to provide gigantic efforts in order to overcome, as it did, what the centuries had done by creating a whole system for the enslavement of the women.

In their books our writers succeeded in creating perfect women characters which have captured the minds of readers. Such are, among others, Afërdita in Sterjo Spasse's novel, Rina in Fatmir Gjata's, Vita in Jakov Xoxe's, Lumturia in Ali Abdihoxha's, Cuca in Loni Papa's, Shota in Sulejman Krasniqi's, and scores of other women writers and poets, who, with their more intimate experience of the inner world of women, have made a notable contribution to the realistic reflection of woman in literature, have lined up along with these known writers. In the first years after Libe-

ration the appearance of a woman's name in the pages of newspapers and magazines, on book covers, was a rarity, but today we can list a whole number of them. Beginning with Arsinoi Bino and continuing with Eglantina Mandia, Lavdie Leka, Elena Kadare, Natasha Lako, Zhuliana Jorganxhi, Adelina Mamaqi, Dhurata Bozdo, Shpresa Vreto, Ludmilla Pajo, Liliana Cukalla, Ivoni Reso, followed by a number of new talents who have made themselves known especially in poetry such as Vojsava Nelo, Shpresa Kapisyzi, Liri Seitllari, Zhaneta Lazri and many others who take an active part in the literary circles all over the country.

In the creations by our women writers and poets we can see that the problems of the emancipation of the woman, especially the woman of today, have been treated with greater depth and breadth. In these books the woman emerges with a strong personality of her own, working in all fields of life as producer and creator, as mother and educator. Some authors are inclined towards psychological analysis in order to bring into evidence the spiritual transformations which have happened with the Albanian woman in the epoch of socialism, and which only the correct policy of the Party could bring about. From the time our new society took its first steps, the Party and Comrade Enver Hoxha fought for the creation of the personality of the woman through work, at school and with education. The writers, men and women, have drawn their inspiration from this reality, from this new spirit of education, from the new social life in work centres and schools, which enabled our new society to break with prejudices and leftovers. However, despite the successes achieved, we can say that in our litera-

ture women characters of present-day Albania have to be treated in greater detail and more thoroughly. Besides, there is still more to be done regarding the treatment of women characters of the past. In their literary creations our writers constantly return to the idea that the emancipation of the woman is a great achievement of our revolution, but not always is this idea analysed properly at the required artistic level and skill. It is true that our woman has been economically liberated, but although she has succeeded in making herself felt politically and morally in all fields, in the same footing as man, still she has not been completely freed from the vestiges of man's «superiority». Social and family problems which demand solution still exist, therefore books, artistic and literary creations, work as one of the means for the ideological and political education and uplifting of the masses, are a great help in this field.

At the present stage of the development of our society, writers are actually working for a more realistic reflection of women characters, thus making an important contribution to the complete emancipation of the women in the context of the emancipation of the whole society. Not a few novels, stories, films and books have been published which, placing women in their centre, have helped a great deal in the process of their emancipation. «Cuca e Maleve» («The Lass of the Mountains»), by Loni Papa, which is received warmly whenever it is put on stage, not only has had an influence in the change of the general stand towards women in the zones of the North, in which backwardness was more striking, but also became an example of the strength of our art.

In our literary and artistic works

women have been and will continue to be represented more completely, with greater truthfulness, just as they are in reality, in work and struggle, side by side with the men and considering them their companions of life and work.

In our society, and consequently in our literature, there is no room for feminist concepts, which see the struggle of the women for emancipation simply as a struggle against the man. In the world today «feminist» movements and trends in literature are numerous. This is due to the ideological confusion which predominates in the world of capital. These trends are mainly orientated against the man, as though the evil of the submission of women is to be found in the man and not in the social system which begets enslavement. From time to time, this feminist trend of anti-man orientation undergoes a change, a minor one in fact, which is used to justify both the men and the women for their «eternal» contradictions. According to the supporters of feminism, demands for equality must be abandoned as absurd and unattainable. The bourgeois and revisionist writers see the way for the preservation of long love between husband and wife in the latter's complete submission to the former, in her devotion to children, in her seclusion within the house and negation of the need for work. The odd idea is raised

sometimes that women are completely different from and beyond the understanding of the men, therefore any possibility of communication and harmonization between them is ruled out. In many works by contemporary Western writers the role and the importance of the woman as wife and mother is treated in a sense which is the opposite of what it should be in fact. She is considered only as an object of embellishment, a beautiful creature without any social importance and value, though she is supposed to look after the welfare of the whole family, in the decadent and degenerated meaning it has today. On other occasions, some writer comes up against the falseness of the conventional morality of the bourgeois family, but gives no solution to the question. This impasse is explained with the confusion which feminist ideas have created and the rotten bourgeois and revisionist social order itself.

The bourgeoisie encourages, supports and advertises the works which create no problems or worries for them, which confuse and benumb the reader. The main aim of the bourgeoisie in all this is to eliminate at least half of the population from the field of class struggle.

This picture of the situation of literature in the world reminds us once again of the well-known definition of Marxism-Leninism that «the enslave-

ment of the women is connected with the birth of private property», which remains a definition of great scientific value.

Whereas the Albanian woman leads an opposite life, an entirely different life full of light. Our writers of socialist realism, with their clear ideas and with scientific truth, write also about women, but not the women who have a superficial life. The Albanian women of the epoch of socialism live and work in a broad social milieu. Never in the history of our people have they had too many interests. In the centuries they were known as bold and courageous women, but never bold fighters like today, who are also workers and cooperativists, or who distinguish themselves in important state affairs, who at home are also good mothers and excellent housewives, who are trained to use weapons, who study and acquire higher qualification. We will write still more about these wonderful women, about these heroines we meet at every step, about this courageous women who have become conscious that they are working not only for the present but also for the future, that they are raising and educating the younger generation of our Homeland, which will further strengthen and develop our society which is the most advanced and enlightened society in the history of mankind — socialism.

THE IMPERIALIST SUPERPOWERS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

by **VLADIMIR HOXHA**

The main reason for the Middle-East crisis is the superpowers' policy of maintaining their imperialist domination and dividing the spheres of influence there, is their rivalry for political, economic and military superiority in this zone, the efforts to impede the development of just wars of the Arab peoples against imperialism, for their national liberation

MIDDLE-EAST PROBLEMS OCCUPY AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE POLITICAL LITERATURE PUBLISHED IN ALBANIA AND HAVE ALWAYS ATTRACTED THE PUBLIC OPINION OF THE COUNTRY, FIRST, ON ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPLED FOREIGN POLICY OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA AND THE ALBANIAN SOCIALIST STATE, AS WELL AS BECAUSE THE MIDDLE EAST IS A REGION CLOSE TO OUR COUNTRY WITH PEOPLES WHO HAVE HAD LONG-STANDING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE. THERE IS A GROWING INTEREST IN THE PRESENT CONDITIONS WHEN THE MIDDLE-EAST REGION HAS BECOME AN ARENA OF STRUGGLES AND RIVALRIES BETWEEN THE BIG IMPERIALIST POWERS, AND, IN THE FIRST PLACE, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

The Middle-East crisis contains in itself a multitude of elements, complicated by a variety of problems which stem from the economic, political, social, historical and military reality of the region itself, and especially from outside elements which are related directly to the whole of the pressure and interference in the internal affairs of the Arab countries, to all the complex problems arising from the expansionist and hegemony-seeking policy

pursued by the imperialist powers and, in the first place, by American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism towards the Middle East.

Judging from this stand-point we come to the conclusion that the true cause for the tragedy of the Arab peoples are the superpowers. This because the main cause of the conflict in the Middle East is not to be sought in the state of Israel as such. The latter, as an aggressive capitalist state, merely plays the role of an active tool in the hands of imperialism, is the «arrow head» of American imperialism.

It pursues and carries out, in general lines, the American strategy in this region, but at the same time it has its own strategic policy in favour of other imperialist powers which want the Middle-East region to be a destabilized and weakened region with its hand stretched out for aid. One such state is the Soviet Union which has always had its part of profits from the aggressive nature of the state or Israel. Therefore, the main reason for the Middle-East crisis is the superpowers' policy of maintaining their imperialist domination and dividing the spheres of influence there, is their rivalry for political, economic and military superiority in this zone, the efforts to impede the development of just wars of the Arab peoples against imperialism, for their national liberation. Naturally, this does not constitute a policy mapped out, especially, for the Middle East by American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism. It is part of their political course of enslaving the world and of their

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efforts to make their influence felt in and interfere into the internal affairs of the other peoples and states.

And if these aims and ambitions of the superpowers are manifested with greater blatancy in the Middle East, this is because of the great strategic importance of this region, both from the economic aspect and from the military and political aspects. «The real basis of all the inter-imperialist rivalry in the Middle East is the oil and the military strategic positions of the Arab countries. For years the United States of America and the Soviet Union have been clashing fiercely, openly and surreptitiously, over the oil of the Middle East and for strategic military positions in this region. Without oil, their economies as a whole, and their mighty military machines in particular, cannot go on for long. Without dominating the land, sea and air routes of communication which pass through this very extensive region, it is difficult for them to realize their plans for occupation and expansion in the vast territories of the continents of Asia and Africa and the boundless Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.»¹

And in fact the Middle East pumps out about 30 per cent of the oil of the world and is the richest in oil reserves. Such countries as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the Emirates of the Persian Gulf are some of the biggest oil exporters of the world. According to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1983 Saudi Arabia produced 246 million tons of oil, Iran 124, Kuwait 54, Libya 52, Algeria 32, Abu Dabi 37.5, Dubai 16.5, Katharri 14 million tons, etc. Saudi Arabia alone has oil reserves estimated at four times as much as those of the United States of America and Great Britain taken together.

Apart from this, many countries of the world have built up their economy relying on the exploitation of Arab oil. West Europe, according to the data of the 80's, secures about 60 per cent of its oil supplies from the Middle East, Japan about 70 per cent, the United States of America about 30 per cent, etc.

Comrade Enver Hoxha says that oil is the «life blood» of the great war which American imperialism, Soviet

social-imperialism and the other imperialist powers are preparing. That is why they resort to every possible means in the fight to ensure as much oil as possible, that is why the international situation has become still more dangerous, and the threat of a new world war and local conflagration have increased. In the pressure on and the blockade of Iran, in the invasion of Afganistan, in the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the other conflagrations that have been started in the region of the Middle East, which are the direct result and continuation of the unaltered aggressive policy of world imperialism, there is a strong smell of oil.

The oil crisis, or as it is more broadly called, the world energy crisis, is one of the greatest and heaviest ever recorded in the history of the imperialist and revisionist world. This crisis has developed in the context of the general crisis of the world capitalist system, but, on the other hand, it is a fundamental factor which aggravates or lightens the consequences of the general crisis depending on its intensity. The 70's are typical of the chaos and anxiety which was caused by the shortage of oil in the economy of the capitalist countries, and not only in the economy but also in the political and social fields, too.

In order to avoid the recurrence of a similar catastrophe as that of the 70's, the capitalist states have used in recent years all kinds of diversive means and machinations against oil producing countries and their organization (OPEC). They have created their strategic and operational oil reserves, which they now use in order to throw the oil market into disorder. They watch the OPEC very closely in order to find the moment to destroy it, to break the common resistance of the Arab countries and of the oil producing countries, in general. Integral part of the American policy of division is also the signing of the Camp David agreement, through which, as Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses, the United States of America wants to have not one but two pistols in the Middle East so as to secure their flanks in the oil region against a po-

litical-economic, and later military, invasion of the zone by the Soviets.

But the oil has been and remains a powerful weapon in the hands of the Arab nation. In 1973 the Arab countries declared the oil embargo, and it had great success. It was a heavy slap against imperialism and zionism. The embargo shook the world. It showed the Arab peoples that through this weapon they were in a position to bring Israel and its patrons to their knees.

The Middle East has great importance also from the military and strategic point of view. It is a region through which sea, land and air routes of communication which connect Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania, pass. There is the Suez Canal, too, which links the Mediterranean Sea with the Indian Ocean, and Europe with Asia. This position has been the much coveted object of the imperialist powers which have seen it as a possible base for expansion, for the creation of military stations, as outposts poised over the Middle-East region to suppress anything progressive and have the whole zone as an armed base for aggressions and attacks in various parts of it. The military map of the Middle East clearly reveals this fact. This region has been practically filled with naval and air bases, and the waters round it are patrolled by the warships and gunboats of American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

Only a rapid survey of the American policy in the Middle East is enough to confirm that the strategy of the United States of America in this region is an anti-Arab strategy. It has never served the emancipation and advancement of the Arab nation, the economic and cultural development of the Arab peoples, but on the contrary, has served to keep the Arabs in a semi-colonial backward situation, has served only to further the American policy of expansion in this important region of the world. The American imperialists have not hesitated to carry out open military aggressions when their imperialist interests have dictated such a thing. There are a great deal of examples which prove this, including the intervention in Lebanon in 1958 and again in 1982 through the multi-national force. They

intervened in Iran in April 1980 under the pretext of rescuing the hostages of their embassy in this country; they have carried out provocations against Lebanon and Syria, etc. The United States of America has created special forces, called forces of rapid intervention, 110 thousand strong, to carry out aggressions in the zone of the Persian Gulf. Meanwhile, Washington has declared the zone of the Gulf «a zone of US national interests», has encircled the whole of this zone from Pakistan, Turkey, Israel, Sudan, Somalia, Kenia, Oman, Bahrain, etc. with a string of military bases for their air and naval fleets. This year, according to Western news agencies, the USA has completed the building of six more bases, and carries out military manoeuvres in this zone in which it has stationed at least 11,000 men, military and civilian, as a force designed to protect the interests of American imperialism, but which, in fact, are directly opposed to the freedom and independence of the peoples of this region.

The period of Reagan's presidency in the White House has been characterized by the intensification of the policy of blackmail and the expansion of the sphere of American interests in the Middle East, which is connected also with the mounting of the struggle and increased rivalry for hegemony between the two superpowers, on a world scale. Under the pretext of the Soviet threat, Reagan called for the creation of a military pact extending from Pakistan to Egypt, including Israel. He was at the back of the efforts for the creation of the Council of the Gulf Countries, of course, to impart to this council its anti-popular character, not to defend their independence, but to defend anything regressive and anti-popular; he did everything in his power to give this alliance a reactionary turn. Reagan further extended the range of links of the USA with the state of Israel, which in the beginning of 1984 was concretized with the signing of the so-called alliance of strategic collaboration directed against the Arab peoples and countries. In this manner, American imperialism remains a dangerous enemy of the Arab peoples and has practically become the gendarme and the main patron of this region.

Despite appearances, denominations used for propaganda and other purposes, there is no shade of difference between the strategy and tactics of the Soviet Union and those of American imperialism in this region. Through different methods, the Soviet Union has tried to create its own zone of «national interests». It achieves this through the sale of arms, the setting up of military bases, and through the treaties and agreements signed with some countries of this zone. All the activities of the Kremlin in regard to this zone fully confirm this observation. In the last ten years the Soviet Union has sold 30 billion dollars worth of arms, including 2,300 aircraft of different types, 19,000 missiles, etc, to different countries of the Middle East. Under the pretext of training the Arabs, and in order to supervise the operation of all these armaments, there are actually 12,000 Soviet militarymen in the countries of the Middle East.

As Comrade Enver Hoxha predicted in 1967, the Soviet Union would not hesitate to carry out outright military aggressions in order to push its policy of hegemony in the Middle East. This is what happened in Afghanistan in December 1979. This aggression was timed to take place when the anti-imperialist uprising of the Iranian people had just triumphed. With this aggression against Afghanistan it wanted to ensure the encirclement of Iran, impede the spread of the example of the Iranian people among the other Arab peoples, and make a step towards realizing its plan of securing an opening in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, and approaching dangerously close to the oil-wells of the Persian Gulf.

The events in the Middle East, conflicts, clashes, aggressions, the whole number of intrigues hatched up by imperialist diplomacy, prove that the imperialist powers, headed by American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, have followed the tactic of dragging on the crisis in the Middle East, of maintaining the turbulent situation there, because in this way they can further their expansionist policies. Sometimes in common agreements, as in the case of the joint Soviet-American resolution of the Security Council in 1967, or the quadruple agree-

ment of Geneva, sometimes through individual plans, the superpowers have always aimed at achieving their ends at all costs. Sometime in the past the United States of America dished up to the diplomatic market their «Rogers plan», and then the «Kissinger plan», whereas now they are doing what they can in order to implement the «Reagan plan».

The Soviet Union exploited the recent events in Lebanon in order to produce again the old proposal of Brezhnev's about the calling of an international conference allegedly for the settlement of the problem of the Middle East, but, in fact, for securing the position of the arbiter over this problem for Moscow. In this context, the chiefs of the Kremlin have activated their respective diplomatic means, organizing meetings with the heads of state of some Arab countries one after the other, arranging meetings with the foreign minister of Israel, as Gromyko did when at the UNO sessions. The new facts confirm once again the conclusions Comrade Enver Hoxha has reached in his book «Reflections on the Middle East» that the Soviet social-imperialists want to steel a step on their American rivals, trying to appear as the «natural ally», the «defender» and «friend» of the Arab peoples. In his notes of October 7, 1968 Comrade Enver Hoxha writes the following about the activities of the Soviet revisionists: «When the Arab peoples decide to go ahead to win their legitimate rights, you may be sure that they will find themselves confronted by the Soviet revisionists, as well as by their long-standing enemies.»² This has been confirmed by all the clashes which the Arab peoples and countries have had with the Israeli aggressors. When the Arab peoples have been in need for modern weapons, the Soviet Union has given them old weapons without value, or even when it has supplied them with modern weapons, the firing mechanism has remained in the hands of the Soviets, and this they have done in order to tell the Americans as much as «I am here, too.» The Soviets pose as if they support the just struggle of the Palestinian people, but in fact they have sabotaged this struggle.

A clear proof of the desire of the

superpowers to endlessly prolong the turbulent situation in the Middle East and in the oil region, in general, is also the situation in the Gulf area. The Iran-Iraqi war has been dragging on for nearly four years now, and has cost both countries incalculable losses in human lives and material. It is natural that this conflict can be settled through negotiations which not only will put an end to this tragedy, but also would be a heavy blow to the superpowers and to all those who want to warm their hands in the fires that have been kindled in the Middle East. It is a fact that the prolongation of this war, which is described as a «forgotten war», is desired by American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, because it gives them the «legal» excuse to justify their military presence in the Persian Gulf, and thus further exacerbate the Middle-East crisis. This was one of the objectives of the multi-national force in Lebanon. The noise that was made about the planting of mines in the Suez Canal, also, was used as a pretext to build up the military presen-

ce and to keep tension always high in this already hot zone.

In all their activity in the Middle East the United States of America and their respective allies, apart from all this, try to implant among the peoples a capitulationist and regressive idea. This idea is part of the whole psychological aggression which is organized against the peoples so as to induce them to believe they are powerless, incapable to defend themselves, to develop, and indeed, even to feed themselves. Therefore, efforts are made to ignore the force of the peoples, to denigrate their struggle. The US presents the grave and difficult situation which it has created to be very gloomy and without a way out, while making Israel to appear as invincible, and says that submission is inevitable. According to this theory, the Arab peoples must not and cannot do anything against Israel, the United States of America, the Soviet Union and the other imperialist powers, cannot develop, administer their oil in peace and harmony with one another, cannot live without aid and without

foreign advisers, without the presence of foreign naval fleets and troops. But when the situation in the Middle East, the history of the conflict in this region, is seen with a realistic eye, without inferiority complex, this becomes a source of important lessons not only for the struggle of the Arab peoples but also for all the peoples, in general, for their struggle against imperialist interference and intrigues. This history creates the conviction that the peoples cannot place their hopes for the defence of the freedom and independence of their homeland on those who are the cause of their plight, that any illusion in this direction is fraught with real dangers. «Only the stern and uncompromising war, based on true Arab unity, will lead the Arab peoples to winning their real freedom and independence and ensure that they themselves exploit their colossal wealth, the oil, for the national and social development and advance,» Comrade Enver Hoxha stresses.

1 *Enver Hoxha*, Reflections on the Middle East, pp. 520-521, Eng. ed.

2 *Ibid*, p. 88.

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IMPERIALIST BARGAININGS BETWEEN SCHULTZ AND GROMYKO

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

The chiefs of the American and Soviet diplomacy — George Schultz and Andrey Gromyko, met on January 7-8. In more than 15 hours of talks they talked about «banning space weapons, reducing strategic nuclear armaments and Euro-missiles». Before starting these talks the two sides had reached the agreement that they should be conducted in complete secrecy and their content kept hidden from world opinion.

The preparation of this meeting by the American-Soviet diplomacy was accompanied with noisy demagogical propaganda. The Soviet newspaper «Krasnaya Zvezda» pointed out that an improvement of relations between Moscow and Washington «has exceptional importance for the future of general peace». Washington, too, has used arguments of the same demagogical nature. Upon landing from the plane in Geneva the American secretary of state Schultz declared that «President Reagan has sent us here on a peace mission».

Of what peace mission Schultz and Gromyko discussed, this is evident from the everyday aggressive activity of the two superpowers to the detriment of sovereign peoples and countries. While Schultz was flying to Geneva Reagan stressed that he would not renounce his program of «star wars». Likewise, MacFarlane, the national security adviser of the American pre-

sident, who took part in these talks, two days before they started stated that Reagan's government intended to go on with its rearmament program which includes the MX missiles, the B-1 bombers and the Trident missiles. Not unintentionally, on the eve of the Schultz-Gromyko meeting a Soviet training missile of the Cruise type went off course because of «engine failure» and entered into the air space of two sovereign countries. This was meant to show the determination of Moscow to keep up its rivalry with Washington, indicating to it and others that when its superpower interests are at stake, the Soviet Union will not hesitate to fire its missiles with full nuclear warheads to their targets. Of what «peace mission» Schultz discussed with Gromyko, this comes out also from the treatment of the problem of space weapons. Stressing the American determination to press on with the development of the program of «star wars», Schultz proposed to Gromyko that the Soviet Union, too, should take part in the space armaments race. The two sides consider this proposal a real possibility to deepen the gap between them and the other nuclear powers and to consolidate their own spheres of influence. As well as that, this proposal enables the two superpowers to exercise more political, economic and military pressure on their allies. It is

worth reminding here that the concentration of all the noise on the problem of space weapons is intended to conceal the real threat the American and Soviet nuclear missiles Pershing-2, Cruise and SS and other types, that are being deployed on our continent, pose to the peoples of Europe.

The talks yielded no concrete results, nor could they have yielded any result in the direction advertised by the USA and the USSR on their eve. They do not and cannot serve peace. However, a meeting was necessary to the superpowers on many counts. Faced with the profound indignation of the peoples towards them and the ever rising opposition of their allies to the deployment of the Cruise, Pershing and SS missiles on their territories, Washington and Moscow seek a temporary thaw in their relations along with their armament rivalry for hegemony. The everyday practice of the superpowers shows that the true aim of the talks between Schultz and Gromyko is not the reduction of their armaments, but on the contrary, the lulling of the peoples to sleep through empty talks. Moreover, the aim of Schultz and Gromyko was to rebuild the destroyed bridge of the protracted American-Soviet talks. «I hope,» said Schultz, «that this encounter will set our countries on the road of new talks.» The peoples have

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for some times now seen Schultz and Gromyko meet, just as their predecessors did, but none of their meetings resulted in the suspension of

the deployment of Cruise, Pershing and SS missiles on Europe. History teaches them that the deployment of missiles cannot be stopped through

talks either between Schultz and Gromyko or between Reagan and Chernyenko. Only the resolute struggle of the peoples is able to stop them.

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE OLD IMPERIALIST SLOGAN OF «MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM»

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

The imperialist slogan that «a well-balanced military equilibrium means security for the peoples» today has become the motto of all the military measures and countermeasures of the Americans and the Soviets for the build-up of their forces and the increase of their stock-piles of nuclear and conventional weapons. «The Soviet Union will not tolerate a military superiority of the United States of America and the other member countries of NATO, which might upset the balance of forces,» declared Romanov, one of the top men of the Kremlin. The same idea was voiced by the American secretary of defence, Weinberger, when he called on the allies of NATO to increase their armaments in order to maintain the military equilibrium with the Warsaw Treaty in Europe. This noise, accompanied with concrete measures for the establishment of a military equilibrium, became more intensified after

the stationing of Euro-missiles. To the American decision of stationing medium-range missiles in the West-European member countries of NATO, the Soviets responded with a countermeasure: the stationing of the same type of missiles in the East-European member countries of the Warsaw Treaty. The first American-Soviet agreement on the «partial banning of nuclear arms tests in the atmosphere, in space and under water», which was signed with great pomp in the «Ekaterina» hall of the Kremlin on 5 August 1963, marks the beginning of a series of endless talks on agreements and treaties for «military equilibrium», which have the theses of bipolarization at their foundations. Through agreements, which still are in force, «we always bear in mind that we in the USA have common interests with the Soviet Union,» declared the president of the United States, Reagan.

The noise about Euro-missiles and the noise that goes on about conventional armaments is based on the so-called regulation of military equilibrium, which, in fact, is far from the truth. The truth is that now, with the resumption of the old refrain, with the public resumption of talks and meetings, the old rivals have started a new period of making the most of each other and of their allies and vassals. Under the pretext of the defence against Soviet threat, the Americans want to strengthen their dictate on their West-European allies. On the other hand, by including the West-European countries under their atomic umbrella, the Americans want to avoid the development of the tendency of allies towards independence. With these measures, which they justify by blaming the upsetting of the balance on the Soviet Union, the Americans bring greater pressure to bear on their allies in order to induce them to in-

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crease their war expenditure for conventional weapons, and together with the nuclear armaments and sophisticated technique, they have secured an increase of the new American forces of occupation in the member countries of NATO. The Soviets for their part are making the most of the game of the maintenance of equilibrium for their own ends and purposes. Swearing that all this is done as a measure to counter the arming and deployment of forces on the part of the Americans, they not only have stationed medium-range nuclear missiles but also increased their stocks of new sophisticated and conventional weapons in the countries of the Warsaw Treaty. Their aim is to build up the fire power through their nuclear strength and, what is more important, to intensify their domination in the member countries of the Warsaw Treaty, justifying all this with the American threat.

The slogan of «military equilibrium» in the mouth of both the Americans who claim that they want to achieve it, and the Soviets who pretend they want to maintain it, is an imperialist slogan which is meant to disguise the armaments race and the policy of domination on the basis of their spheres of influence. In the present conditions of the unrestrained imperialist-revisionist rivalry, of feverish armaments race, the endless series of military exercises, etc., the

thesis of equilibrium is merely a word which the two superpowers use in order to justify their fierce hegemonic rivalry which is going on between them and which further increases the threat of war. There is and can be no military equilibrium between the two superpowers, whether in times when they are in agreement or when they are in rivalry with one another, because each of them will always want to outstrip the other by creating a military superiority so as to secure its positions of strength with regard to the other. This is the truth, and this the imperialist and revisionist propaganda cannot cover up by linking military equilibrium between the superpowers with the security of peace in Europe and in the world. According to this propaganda, the threat to the peoples of the world today comes not from the policy of the superpowers or from their armaments, but from the upsetting of the military equilibrium and the uncontrolled one-sided armaments of the one or the other superpower.

In the present situation, when the broad masses of working people have staged powerful manifestations to oppose the presence and build-up of the military forces and arsenal of the superpowers (when only the nuclear arsenal created in the last two decades has more than trebled in the European continent), such a propaga-

nda is intended to snuff off this movement by all manner and means. Indeed, it goes to the point of calling out loud that no state can exist outside the American or Soviet umbrella, not only in Europe but also in other regions and continents of the world. And, whereas the world is lavishly fed on the slogans of the military equilibrium and the benefits deriving therefrom, the two superpowers carry on the intensification of their war preparations. More than 20 years ago the two superpowers spent 100 billion dollars on war preparations, whereas now the figures of their military expenditure have increased six-fold. The noise about military equilibrium is intended to lessen the whole impact of the real danger, to provide a disguise for the aggressive policy and strategy of the USA and the Soviet Union. «The thesis of the equilibrium between the great powers as a factor or means for the preservation of peace is an old imperialist slogan which the world, especially Europe, knows very well. The aim of all this is to justify the hegemonic policy of the big imperialist powers, the right which they attribute themselves of interfering in the internal affairs of others and of dominating them,» says Comrade Enver Hoxha in his book «Euro-communism Is Anti-communism».

**press
review****MILITARY REVIVAL OF THE «WEST-EUROPEAN UNION»**

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

In the West-European political and military circles there is increasing talk recently about the importance of a so-called independent European defence. Old slogans about the European defence potential are being repeated, trying to pass them off as the «ideal of West-European peoples», etc. This noise was extremely intensified on the occasion of a special meeting, organized for the first time after many years of efforts, of the Organization of «West-European Military Union» with the participation of the foreign and defence ministers of Britain, France, FR of Germany, Italy, Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg. The meeting discussed the possibilities for a co-ordination of the West-European military policies.

The revival of this West-European military mechanism coincides with the recrudescence of militarist policy in Europe and in the world. The significance of all this becomes still more understandable if we have in mind the feverish armaments race between the two superpowers and the aggressive military blocs of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, which is spiralling to new heights. In this context, the West-European imperialist bourgeoisie

is striving to strengthen its military positions and in order to achieve this it exploits all mechanisms and possibilities that lie within its reach. One of these mechanisms and possibilities is the West-European Military Union. It is not fortuitous that the meeting in Rome insisted on concluding bilateral and multilateral agreements in the context of this Union for the production of conventional weapons and for the improvement of the military structures of this organization, at the earliest opportunity. Through this the West-European monopoly bourgeoisie secures its arming both in the context of NATO and in the context of the West-European Military Union.

Despite its European name, this military organization cannot separate itself from the framework of NATO. Therefore, although this organization is publicized as a voice independent from Washington, the revival of it has not been and cannot be possible without American approval. Long before, the United States of America have demanded that the NATO member countries arm themselves. Washington makes continuous efforts to dictate to the European coun-

tries that political and military course and even those stands which suit American hegemony-seeking interest on the Old Continent. The West-European Union is a good cover and acceptable excuse for the European name which it has assumed. Therefore, all the measures of a military character, which serve the militarist policy of Washington through NATO, are now adopted in the framework of the Organization of the West-European Military Union. With this Washington attains its ends and, at the same time, gives a change to NATO allies to beat their breasts about and lull themselves with the illusion that they themselves examine and decide independently on matters of a military character. The same line was followed by the meeting of Rome, which adopted a special document for the increase of the production of conventional weapons and their perfecting, on the increase of standing armies and advancement of militarist plans in Western Europe, a thing which will demand a still greater increase of military budgets by the member countries and which, in the final account, are what the Americans have long since demanded.

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**NATO EXTENDS ITS ACTIVITY
TO OTHER REGIONS BEYOND ITS SPHERE**

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

There has been more talk recently in the Western press and in the staffs of NATO about extending the competences of the activity of the forces of the North Atlantic Treaty beyond the so-called zone of security of this alliance. Bridgetown of Barbados was chosen as the seat of a meeting between the representatives of NATO and some countries of the Carabean basin. The meeting examined the possibilities of co-ordinating the military activity of both sides in the Carabean basin. «The strategy of exclusive defence of the European region» is regarded now as something anachronic by the NATO experts, therefore steps have been taken towards developing a new strategy which goes beyond the present range of the activity of NATO forces so as to ensure their intervention in other non-European regions.

The USA is, as always, the initiator of the extension of the activity of NATO. This is explained with the great role which this pact plays in furthering the American interests not only in Europe but also outside its borders. It is in the interest of the American policy to have NATO forces along with American forces at many points of the earth in order to complement one another in

the role of the gendarme for the protection of the American hegemony-seeking policy in various regions. Raising the question of the need for widening the range of the activity of NATO forces, the general commander of this pact, the American general, Bernard Rogers, openly demands that the members of the alliance should carry out the tasks of the American troops in other regions of the world, too, whenever it comes to defending the vital interests of Pentagon. Moreover, Rogers demands that the tasks of the American units in NATO be transferred to the European forces whenever they are required outside the territory of the alliance.

It is not accidental that «the new borders of the defence of the interests of NATO» coincide with the borders of the «vital interests» of the USA in every point, and include precisely those places in which the flames of liberation wars have risen high and in which the interests and predatory ambitions of the superpowers are at variance. Washington seeks concrete aid and support from its allies for attacks and aggressions, for armed interventions of the type it carried out in Grenada. Besides, it boasts to remain alone and be discredited before international pu-

blic opinion for its various adventurous undertakings, but wants to have all its allies involved in them. Washington did a similar action when it sent the troops of NATO along with the American troops to Beirut. The zone of the activity of NATO forces covered also the Persian Gulf in the same manner. Under the pretext of the defence of the American or West-European tankers, the warships of the American and NATO fleet sail in and patrol the waters of the Gulf. The warships of NATO sailed alongside the American warships in the noisy process of the «mine-sweeping» operation of the Red Sea, which resulted in nothing other than building up its military presence in rivalry with the Soviet social-imperialists, and served to reconnoitre the territories and coasts of the Red Sea and to threaten the sovereignty of the peoples, peace and security in this region.

In order to legitimize this activity outside its borders and sanction the right to interference, NATO has drafted a plan for the creation of an appendage to the North Atlantic Pact, namely the South Atlantic Pact (SATO). Such a new military grouping furthers the interests of the Americans. First, it will justify the patrolling operations

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by NATO forces in regions far off Europe. Second, it would increase the membership of this organization, which means the inclusion of other states in the cobweb of American interests.

The fever of widening the

range of the activity of the Atlantic alliance is another expression of the mounting aggressive activity of NATO and the USA, of the dangers and threats which these activities represent not only for the European peoples but also for

other peoples living in those regions in which the interests of the superpowers diverge. It precedes new interferences and aggressions, new local wars, and shows that the imperialist military blocs are a source of danger.

UNSCRUPULOUS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NICARAGUA

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

The imperialist arrogance of the United States of America with regard to Nicaragua was manifested in the threatening statements which were issued from the White House to this sovereign country of Central America. The chief of American diplomacy, George Schultz, arrogantly declared that the USA cannot tolerate Nicaragua to have its modern aircraft, or an airfield with a great number of aircraft on. This is putting it mildly. Top American officials claim as much as to determine what the level of the defence potential of Nicaragua should be, and demand that it is reduced drastically, because, in their opinion, it has a destabilizing effect and prejudices American security in Central America. In this manner, according to a statement made by the spokesman of the American Department of State, Allen Romberg, on November 13, «Nicaragua is getting systems of armaments above the demands and needs of its defence.»

What is implied in the statements of the representatives of the American administration, which say that the USA does not tolerate Nicaragua to have its ultra-modern aircraft and strengthen its defence potential? Is it that the diplomats of Washington regard Nicaragua as the 52nd state of the United States of America?! Such degree of cynicism is contrary to the spirit of all the norms and laws which regulate international relations. They constitute an open and flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Nicaragua, a prelude to imperialist aggression. With such actions the top officials of Washington reveal, at the same time, the true nature of their policy of interference and violation of the sovereignty of other countries.

The American imperialists, bent on their policy of expansion, go to the point of demanding to dictate to Nicaragua the list of countries with which it must maintain di-

plomatic relations. And according to them, these relations should initially pass through the United States of America. and then, after receiving its blessing, be established with those countries which toe the American line. Top officials in the American administration have declared openly that they will never tolerate to change an iota from the Monroe doctrine which legitimizes the sphere of American domination in the countries of Latin America.

The United States of America, which has armed itself in all points and which uses its armaments against other countries, protests vehemently against the so-called militarization of Nicaragua. This noise is made to divert the attention of public opinion from the military presence and interference, from the predatory plans and direct imperialist threats of the USA which have compelled Nicaragua to strengthen its defence potential in order to

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defend its independence. The USA wants the vigilance of the Nicaraguan people relaxed and the defence potential of this country weakened in order to create a most favourable terrain for

the eventual invasion of this country.

Nicaragua is not the first and only example of such an arrogant policy of the United States of America, which violates the sovereig-

nty of other countries flagrantly, opposing the most elementary norms of international relations. This is the line of action of the adventurous foreign policy which the USA pursues.

■

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD BE DENUCLEARIZED BEFORE NORTHERN EUROPE AND THE BALKANS

«ZËRI I POPULLIT»

As the Soviet news agency, TASS, reports in a message addressed to the mayor of the English city of Manchester, Konstantin Chernenko repeats the proposal of creating atomic free zones in different regions of the world. «The Soviet Union considers the creation of atomic free zones,» Chernenko writes, «an important direction of the strengthening of security and struggles for the creation of atomic free zones in Northern Europe and in the Balkans, in particular.» The Soviet mass media accompany this message with the clamour they are so famous for in order to convince the different peoples of the advantages that may accrue to them from the creation of «atomic free zones». The Kremlin propagandists have coined the expression of «atomic lightning shield» which they consider a very happy one. Atomic free zones are described as a magic means to turn re-

gions of local or international tension into oases of peace. Chernenko claims that Moscow proceeds from the aim «of liberating step by step the world from the nuclear epidemic». The Soviet Union prescribes its anti-nuclear therapy for many regions of the world, and more particularly, as emerges from the Chernenko's message, for Northern Europe and the Balkans, about which the Soviet leadership and military staffs show special concern. The Soviets do not limit themselves to proposals and advice only, but issue instructions, too, as the review «New Times» does when it writes in a categorical tone that «there exist all the possibilities for the creation of an atomic free zone in the Balkans right now.» Chernenko's message has the same tone.

Why does the Kremlin insist on the creation of «atomic zones» in the different regions of the world and in

Northern Europe and the Balkans, in particular? The Soviets' eagerness for installing «atomic lightning shields» in the above regions does not stem from their desire to prevent nuclear lightnings from striking the peoples of these regions. On the contrary, «the atomic lightning shields» or «the atomic free zones» are intended, in the first place, to draw the lightnings on sovereign countries. This becomes apparent if we consider who possesses the atomic weapons. The aggressive imperialist powers and the two superpowers, in the first place, which possess nuclear weapons and arm ceaselessly, are not and cannot be interested in the creation of such means and mechanisms as to foil all their atomic threats and blackmail. The threat comes precisely from them and the so-called nuclear lightning shields only make it greater.

Konstantin Chernenko tries to reassure the peoples of

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Northern Europe, the Balkans and other regions that «the Soviet Union has declared solemnly that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons. However, it is clear what the solemn pledges of Moscow are worth if the Soviet aggressions against Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan are recalled. On the other hand, these solemn pledges are accompanied by veiled threats intended to force the peoples of Northern Europe, the Balkans and other regions to accept the proposals of Moscow, Insisting on the creation of «atomic free zones» extending from Northern Europe to the Balkans, the Soviet leadership reveals its true aims and the essence of its aggressive nuclear strategy. All this is intended to pave the road for the Soviet attempts at intervening in the above regions, which is done by creating new forms and possibilities of penetration. It is not by chance that the Soviet officials and propagandists link security in Northern Europe and the Balkans with acceptance of the Soviet proposal of atomic free zones. This reminds us of Andersen's tale about the naked king who was convinced to be elegantly dressed. That is what the Soviets are after with their «nuclear lightening shields».

It is obvious that the Soviet Union not only demands from the countries of the regions included in its proposal that they should agree to the creation of «atomic free zones», but also sets the con-

dition that the superpowers should be the guarantors and arbiters of the implementation of this agreement. In regard to the Balkans, the Soviet mass media declare openly that «this atomic free zone cannot be created without the co-ordinated actions of the great powers». In other words, the definition and control of the so-called atomic free zones must be done by the great powers. It is not difficult to understand what these words mean. They mean that the different countries and regions of the continent, from Northern Europe to the Balkans, should be brought under the nuclear umbrella of the superpowers. It is not accidental that Chernenko's proposal is made in a message addressed to Britain which is known as the closest ally of the United States. This message is also an invitation to the American government to fall into line with the Soviet proposal.

The so-called atomic free zones which the Soviet Union proposes to be created from Northern Europe to the Balkans represent an attempt at deceiving the European peoples and concealing the sinister reality of the deployment of the missiles and atomic weapons of the two superpowers on European soil; they are intended to divert the attention of the European peoples from the feverish nuclear armaments race of the two superpowers. Is it not ironical that on the same day as Chernenko's message about

the creation of «atomic free zones» in Europe the Soviet ministry of defence published a communiqué in which it reported that the Soviet Union was successfully carrying out tests of long-range nuclear missiles?

However, the peoples of Northern Europe and the Balkans and other regions of the world do not let themselves to be beguiled by these dangerous Soviet proposals. The peoples are against atomic weapons, but the «atomic free zones» Chernenko calls for do not serve this cause. Before atomic free zones are created in the Balkans, Northern Europe and elsewhere, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, NATO and the Warsaw Treaty should create such zones in their own territories. This is a precondition for securing real peace and regional and international security. Comrade Enver Hoxha has said: «The broad masses of the people in many countries have risen with full right in demonstrations and protests against the deployment of American or Soviet weapons in their countries and call insistingly for their removal from our old continent. They are aware that the superpowers, by trying to bring their countries under their atomic umbrellas, seek to keep them permanently subjected politically and economically and use the population of Europe as cannon fodder for the Americans and the Soviets.»

Characteristic house of the city of Gjirokastra



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