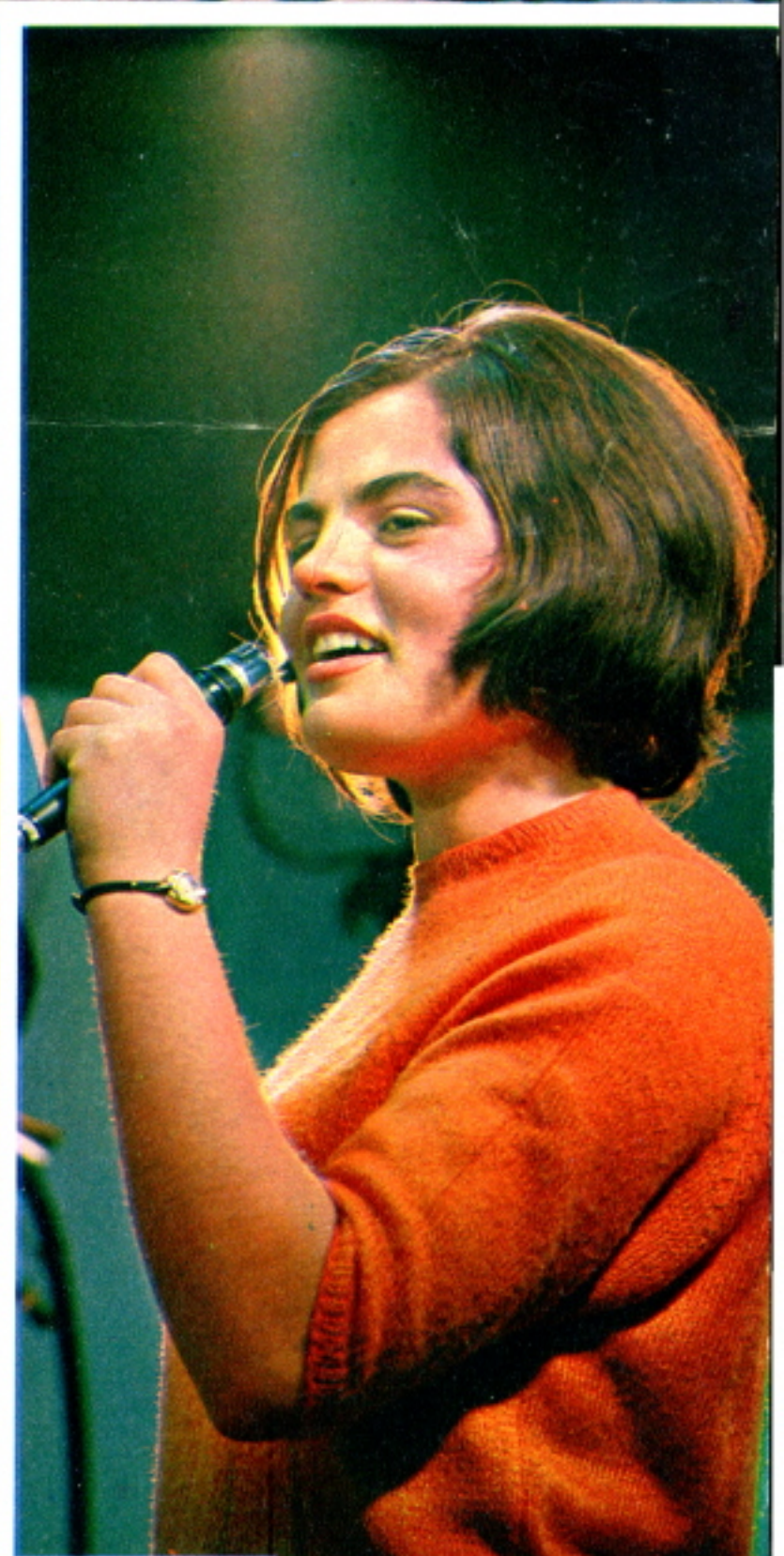


Inhabitants
of My City



NEW ALBANIA

1971
No 2

YEAR XXV

NEW ALBANIA

FRONT COVER: "Inhabitants of my city", is what P. Kumi has called his photo-reportage of inhabitants of Tirana.

BACK COVER: Folk instrumentists.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Shefqet Musaraj:** They were two hundred 1
- **Halim Stolia:** Divjaka renewed 6
- **Sadije Agolli:** A Concert in four languages 10
- **Dr. Luan Dusha:** Figures which are falling 12
- — Foreign authors about Albania 14
- **Kristaq Prifti, Selami Pulaha:** Albanian historians have access to Turkish archives . 17
- **Fadil Paçrami:** Fultze seeks collaborationists 20
- **Eng. Javer Çobani:** Horizons opened to our electric power system 24
- **Ramadan Sokoli:** Architect Sinan 32



NEW ALBANIA

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

EDITORIAL BOARD: Editor -in-chief: Ymer Minxhozi.

MEMBERS: Andon Kuqali, Haim Stolia, Ismail Kadare, Jusuf Alibali, Sofokli Afezulli.

ART EDITOR: Lumturi Dhrami.
PHOTO REPORTER: Simon Xhillari.

ADDRESS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD: "SHQIPERIA E RE", Rr. "LABINOTI" Nr.7 TIRANA-ALBANIA.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: For one year-2.80 U.S. dollars or 2.16 rubles.

ADDRESS YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO: Central Directorate for Distribution and Propagation of Books — Tirana — ALBANIA.

THEY WERE TWO HUNDRED

Shefqet Musaraj

The spark that was kindled 30 years ago in that small house, in one of the poorest living quarters of Tirana, when the Albanian Communist Party was born after a fierce struggle of opinions and views, may have seemed pale and weak against the black shadow of the fascist occupation.

Fascism was at the peak of its victories. The power of the jackboot and the whip extended from the deserts of Africa to the gates of Moscow and from the Atlantic to the Black Sea.

For two and half years, the terror and demagogy of the enemy relying heavily on the local feudal-bourgeois class, which had betrayed the national cause and had placed itself with all its means in the service of the enemy, had ruled in little Albania.

The most savage reprisals and persecution, mass exile and imprisonment, shooting without trial, were the enemy's response to the groans and revolt of the people, the fiery protests of the youth and the isolated actions of the patriots who had never laid down their arms.

In such a situation it required great courage even to hope that the pale spark struck in the little house in Tirana would quickly burst into a powerful blaze over every inch of our motherland, would open new ways and horizons to the oppressed, would arouse the faith of the masses in victory and would turn their hearts and will towards a single objective, national and social liberation, which could be achieved only through great sacrifices and by means of the barrel of the gun. We, the generation who lived through that time, now in the thirtieth anniversary year of our glorious Party remember the difficult but heroic days of that November with yearning and with pride.

After days and nights without sleep with minds illuminated and hearts ablaze with the words of the leader of the future, who had hit hard, right on the target, disclosing the sure path through the darkness, to the future the delegates to the conference, who had taken the historic decision, were dispersed through the provinces of the enslaved country.

They brought the people the good tidings extended the links and further organized the work with other comrades who had long been militating as Communists in the people's movement for a better future, who were heart and soul for this goal, and as such, deserved the honored title of member of the Party.

But how many were they in all?

They were only 200—among them a very few woman comrades. Two hundred sons and daughters of the working people and the peasants, who had really felt the internal national oppression and the foreign yoke, who had formed their ideas of the struggle for national and social liberation not so much from books and schools as from the

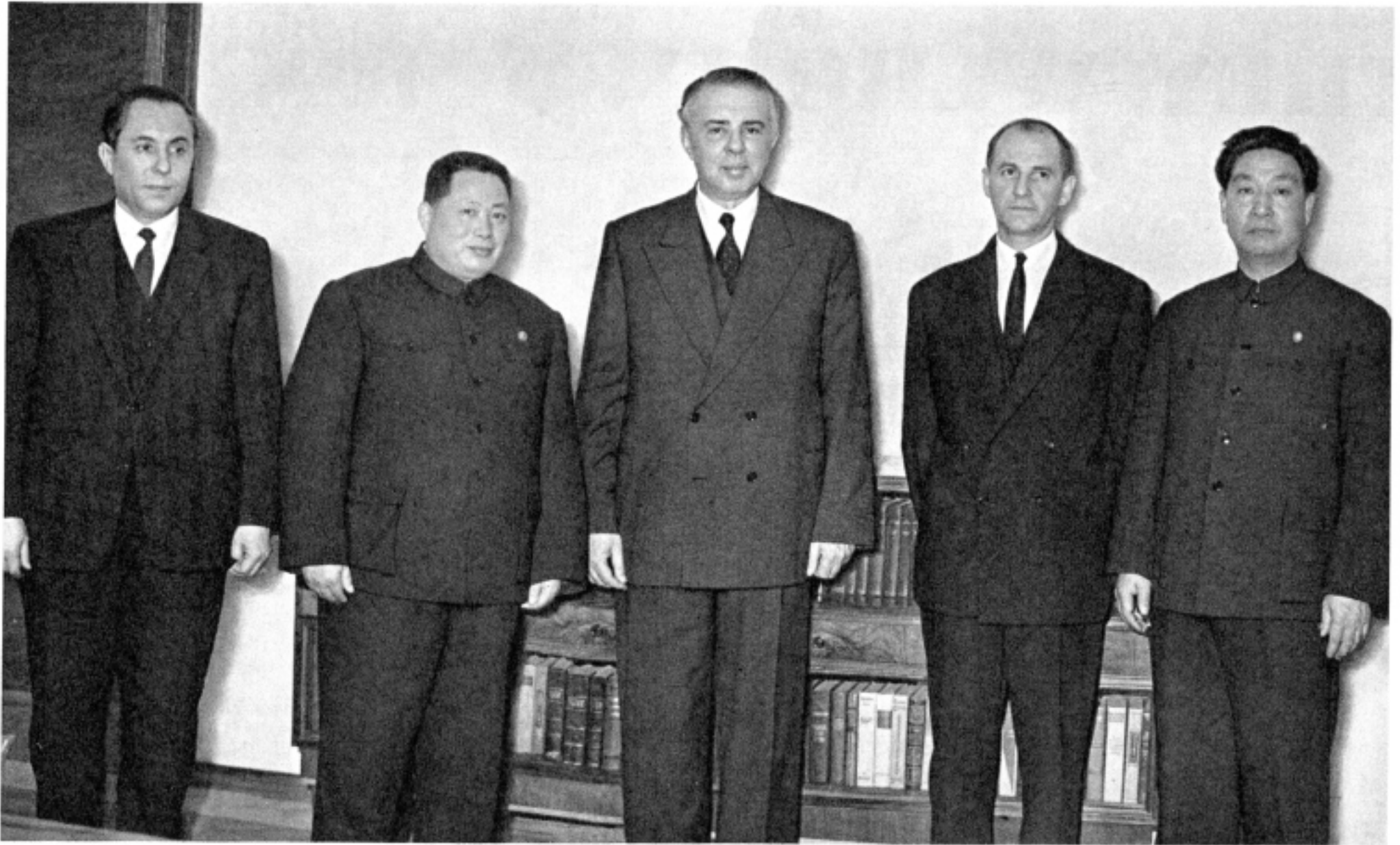
bitter experience of the life of their people oppressed and exploited throughout the centuries.

The founding of the Albanian Communist Party in the light and example of the Bolshevik Party of Lenin and Stalin, who had organized and carried the Great October Socialist Revolution to victory in one sixth of the world, had always been their most beautiful dream and their most certain hope to achieve the victory in their own dear motherland as well.

They were the first to welcome the foundation of the Party as the most outstanding event in Albanian history. And they were the first to put their thoughts, their will, their very lives, without any reservation, at its service.

They were only two hundred, but their determination and courage to sacrifice everything for the cause of liberation surpassed the power of the enemy armies and the spies of the occupationists. With hearts warmed and minds enlightened by the teachings of the Party with that iron but profoundly conscious discipline which characterizes the member of the Communist Party, the two hundred like 200 fireflies in the dark of the fascist night, worked day and night to carry from hut to hut the light of truth which had started its way on those cold November days from the small house in Tirana.

It was not only the fiery works of the two hundred which kindled the masses against the enemy, but, above all, it was their unflinching stand in the face of any danger and difficulty, their personal example, there where the danger was greatest. Thus, they started their first armed actions: In the middle of the day the most dangerous agents of the occupationists were executed in the main streets of the cities, enemy depots and convoys were attacked; the Party member fought one against hundreds and came out victorious. Proud and unyielding to the last stood the Communist under the barbarous tortures of the enemy. The enemy was terrified, while amongst the people, faith in their own strength and in victory increased. Thus the cause of the two hundred the sacred cause of the Party, soon became the cause of the whole people. The ranks of the two hundred were increased from day to day with new forces and the spark of November 8, 1941 so pale and weak at the beginning, was transformed very quickly, into a huge and furious fire that once and for all consumed the occupation and treachery, crushed all the laws and morality of oppression and exploitation from the past, and brought our people to the wonderful days of the worthy socialist life in which we live today under the glorious banner of the Party of Labour of Albania, with its founder and great leader Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head.



On February 24, 1971, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the PLA, Comrade Enver Hoxha, received the new Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in the People's Republic of Albania Liu Chen-hua.

Comrade Enver Hoxha Received the New Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

CHRONICLE

On March 26, the new transoceanic ship "Tirana" anchored at the Port of Durrës. Thus, another 12,000 ton ship is added to our naval transport.

The "Tirana" ship is equipped with up-to-date controlling and loading-unloading apparatus. The working people of Durrës accorded a warm welcome to the sailors.

Photo by P. Sheqeri.



COMRADE ENVER HOXHA AMONG WORKERS

On the first days of April, Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the CC of the PLA paid a visit in the District of Durrës where he met with workers of glass sheet, glassware and plastic industries. Comrade Enver Hoxha made his first visit in the glass sheet and glassware state industrial enterprise where he had a hearty talk with many workers and got acquainted with the technological process of production. There work many women and girls in this factory. Comrade Enver was interested in the work conditions and in the mastering of the profession by the young workers.

In the Plastic Plant too, Comrade Enver Hoxha talked with the workers about the attempts made to master the technology of production in this new branch of our industry as well as about the increase of assortments, to satisfy people's demands.

The beloved leader of our people and our Party was offered a warm welcome wherever he came to.



Comrade Enver Hoxha in the Glass Factory.

A warm meeting with the workers of the Plastic Plant.





Prospectors for Black Gold

A wrinkle was formed on Naum Nasi's forehead. His companions knew that this was a sign of worry. The manometer needle had begun to move beyond the usual point, a sign that pressure of the clayey mixture is not normal. Naum sounded the alarm. The technological nucleus the engineers, chief prospectors and workers gathered at once in the small office of the master operator of the oil well drill.

"Yes, this must be the result of an eruption!"

Their experience in boring oil wells had brought them to this conclusion. Immediate steps were necessary.

On an occasion like this, chief drill operator Naum is like the helmsman of a ship. During twenty years of experience in exploring the depths, he and his companions had built many metal derricks. Each of them is an oil well. In each of them, he and his companions had left behind a part of their lives; in each of them they had learnt something, they had steeled their will power and their talents. Each one of these wells had its own whims, its own "biography".

The well they are boring now constitutes a new phase not only for the chief drill operator. Attempts at boring for oil were made here some years ago but they met with no success. They had not gone deep enough. The project was abandoned and some people formed the conviction that it was of no use to go ahead with it. This conviction gripped many people. Years passed and no one bothered any more about this place. In later years, however, things changed. Our oil workers had gained more experience and self-reliance. One in every ten of them is

now an engineer or technician, while in 1945 Albania could not boast of a single engineer or technician of its own. Thus, after a long period of study and preparation, this brigade came here and put up a derrick. Drilling Master Rauf Cobani's brigade decided to break with old convictions and concepts. In this otherwise quiet region engines roared, the boring machines screeched and oil began to ooze out.

In their attempts to harness even the most "undisciplined" areas the workers of this brigade have scored successes putting them skilfully and persistently in the service of our homeland and extracting from the depths the crude oil and gas lying latent here.

The speed at which this brigade has gone about its job breaks all records. By 1968, it had already reached the targets set by the 4th (1966-70) Five-Year Plan and at the moment is busily engaged in accomplishing the tasks set for the first three months of 1973.

Drilling Master Rauf Cobani started his career in the petroleum industry as a motor driver. A few years later he became an expert at running a boring machine. Now, he himself does not remember how many oil wells he has dealt with. But he is proud that in prospecting for "black gold" he has gained one experience after another and has become a master of his own profession.

When he meets with his old fellow workers, their topic of conversation revolves around those days of hardship when the foreign concessionaires who had got their claws on the petroleum resources of our country used to assign only menial jobs to Albanian workers. Today, our workers of the petroleum industry run the most up-to-

date machines. The rate at which they bore and prospect for oil keeps rising from day to day. Rauf opens his block of notes and reads some interesting figures. Among others, he points out to me that the rate of boring during the 1961-1970 period has increased by 15% as compared with the preceding ten year period.

In Naum's brigade there are also two engineers, Llambi Baçova and Ali Yzeiri. Both of them began their careers as simple oil workers. Later on they had attended the Technical School and the Geological and Mining College of the Tirana State University.

I asked them when they had felt the happiest on their job.

Llambi Baçova's reply was prompt and to the point: "When we achieved world standards in boring for oil". Engineer Ali Yzeiri smiled and nodded approval.

Not far from the master's office there stands a small building. Inside, everything is in its place, everything is tidy making one think that this is a pharmacy. It is the laboratory. Engineer Shemsi Hensi, who has also graduated from the Geological and Mining College of the State University of Tirana, talked to us about the equipment and the laboratory analyses made here.

"In this place alone we have made more than forty analyses. Once the boring work in this oil well is completed this laboratory is moved from here and installed where the work for the next well has begun".

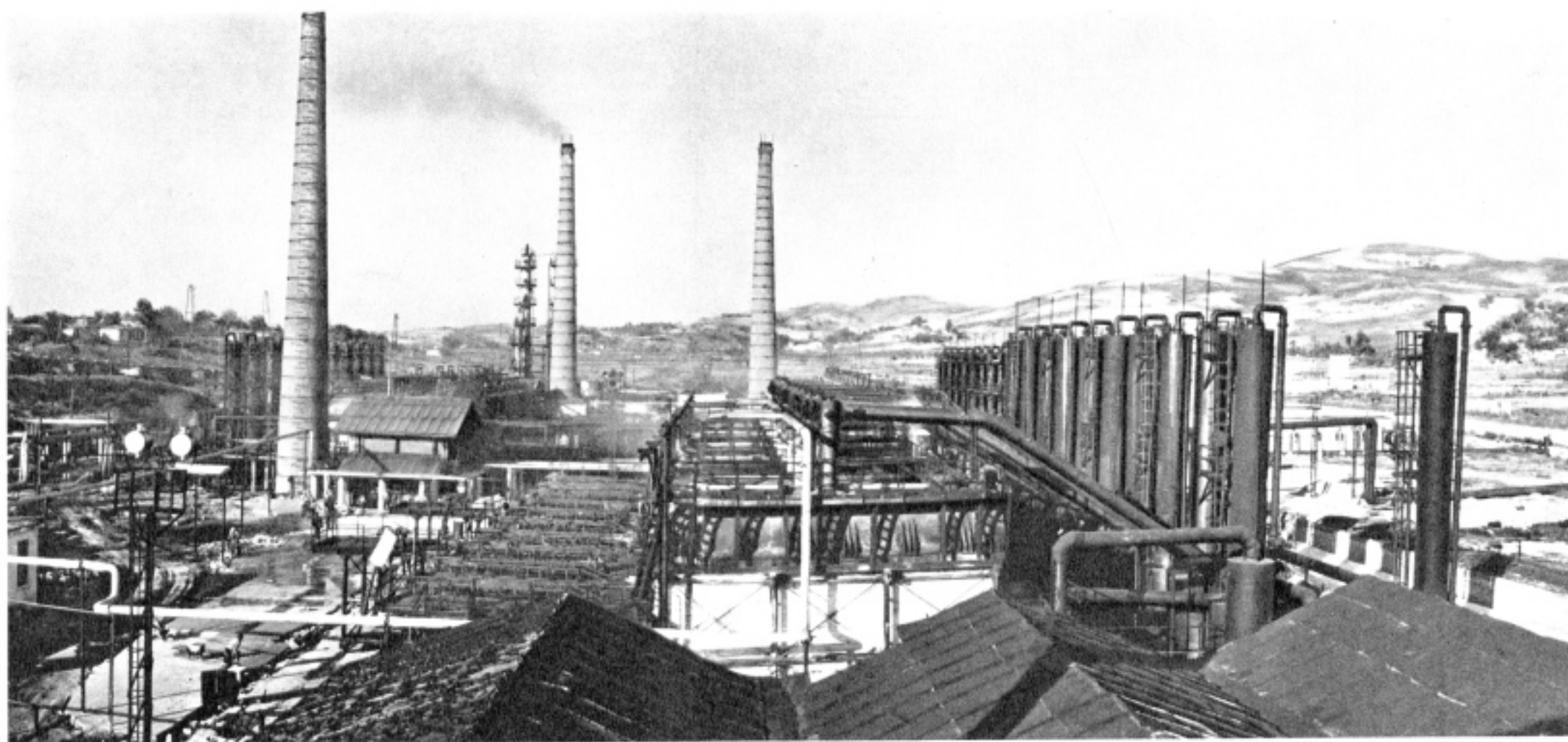
At dusk the lights were switched on and the derrick stood out like a blazing tower. At the club a performance was given that evening and groups of spectators kept coming from the city of Fieri.



Oil fields.

Photo by S. Xhillari.

View of the Plant of Coking, in Qyteti Stalin.





Halim Stolia

On this map you can see a red spot. It is west of the town of Lushnja, on the Adriatic coast between the outlets of two rivers—the Shkumbini and Semani. In this zone lie the fields of the Agricultural Cooperative of Divjaka. Ten or fifteen years ago, this zone was marked on all the maps with the grey color of swamps, colors which could be seen in many quadrants of the map of Albania.

In autumn, the Shkumbini and Semani River flooded and swelled the Terbufi and Karavasta Lagoons . . . Divjaka was cut off from the rest of the land and remained an isolated island up to the end of the following spring. Not very long ago, hunters shot and killed a "wild cow" in the ancient forest of Divjaka. This was one of the survivors of the herds of cattle and flocks of sheep which roamed wild through the forces after abandoning their stables at flood times.

In the little museum of the House of Culture of Divjaka there stands today a ceramic figure of a woman. This and many other similar works exhibited in this museum, testify to the ancient civilization of these

regions, which were later inundated and abandoned. The Illyrian civilization in these zones suffered long periods of foreign occupation. The land was turned to ruins. While the people tried to keep intact everything dear to their life: national feeling, love of freedom, devotion to work, their mother tongue, their songs, legends, and noble customs. Our people's revolution found the inhabitants of Divjaka poor, without schooling, but not without hope. The reclamation of the swamps, the wiping out of malaria, the organization of collective work and the mechanization of the processes of work, gave a fresh impetus to the revival of the latent energies of the people.

The revival of these energies is apparent everywhere in Divjaka, in the faces of the people, in the carefully tilled fields, in the fresh breezes and the waters of the nearby sea, in the cheerful eyes of young Olimbia and in the youthful enthusiasm of 78-year-old Tasi Pope.

Before the establishment of People's State Power, Tasi Pope was a nomad shepherd. The savage custom of 'vendetta' had driven him to this formerly isolated and forgotten land. Now he has become an expert at

Divjaka Renewed

The end of December is the best time to plant tomato seeds in Divjaka. In the hothouses which occupy vast areas there grow hundreds of thousands of tomato seedlings which later are transplanted in the fields.





The fusion of the experience of the older generation with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the youth at work, constitute an important factor in the development of agriculture. In the photo you see the 78 year-old cooperativist Tasi Pepo talking with the young girls Ndone Gjoni and Liri Lapi on the "tempering" of the seedlings. Photos by I. Frashëri.



growing tomato plants. He knows from practice all the secrets of raising tomatoes from sowing the seed in hotbeds to hardening off the seedlings, planting out and cultivating them and picking the ripe fruit. And it must not be forgotten that these tomato plants yield the earliest crops in our country, appearing not only on the home market but also in the showcases of foreign markets as early as during the month of May.

At present, the Divjaka Agricultural Cooperative with approximately 5,000 inhabitants, has under cultivation an area of more than 3,000 hectares planted to field crops, vineyards, fruit and olive trees. About 40 hectares of the land is allocated to tomatoes alone, yielding 200 quintals per hectare. The cooperative owns more than 1,000 head of cattle in addition to sheep, pigs, poultry etc.

The cooperative members have created a capital fund of about 13,000,000 leks which they use for investments to expand production, to build projects for social and cultural purposes, to set up all-round social services and activities.

The establishment of this good economic base, as well as the major state schemes for land reclamation the mechanization of work processes, and others, have radically changed the way of life of the cooperative members, their world outlook and aspirations. The new dwelling houses, the wide use of electric power, the two secondary schools which are attended by all the children and youth of the cooperative, the many courses of qualification, the house of culture, even if these were all — give a clear picture of what the Divjaka cooperative members have achieved and plan to achieve in the days to come. The Chairman of the Cooperative, Hero of Socialist Labour Dhimo Lika, told us that the cooperative members have drawn up a broad program of work for the new five-year period. The victories already attained constitute a sound basis for further progress.

① There have been opened many creches and kindergartens, an eight-year school, a middle school and a middle agricultural school in the Divjaka Coop-farm.

② About 80 per cent of the dwelling houses in Divjaka are new. In the photo you see some houses built recently.

③ "Is there any new publications today? This a question put to the book-seller E. Mëhilli almost everyday by tens of young men, pioneers and aged people.

④ The Home of Culture is an important cultural centre. In it there is a cinema hall with 540 seats, a meeting hall, an entertainment hall, a library, a museum, a bar etc. In the photo: View of the agro-technical cabinet.

⑤ In the stock-raising sector, the cooperativists of Divjaka have made conspicuous progress. In the photoyou see one of the distinguished workers of the stable of cows. Photos by I. Frashëri.



Hothouses in the Shkallnuer Joint Cooperative, in the District of Durrës.



Hoeing tomatoes in the hotbeds, Shkallnuer.

Photo by P. Cici.



FIELDS WITH ROOFS

The mild climate of our country favours the growing of early vegetables in the hothouses covered with plastic material. The covered area has been greatly extended and is constantly expanding. Today these hothouses can be seen everywhere. On the Ionian and Adriatic coasts from Saranda in the South to Shkodra in the North.

In these fields with roofs, the earliest Albanian tomatoes risen at the beginning of May, and they may often be found on the markets of Europe.

... It seemed as if the seasons had turned right round when we entered the complex of hothouses of the third sector of the State Agriculture Enterprise of Vlora. Though it was still winter, in the "roofed field" plants were in full flower. The long bitter winter of this year could not penetrate the hotbeds of this sector.

One night in February, the temperature suddenly dropped. The workers had long since left the sector. What could the worker on duty do alone? He was one, there were tens of hothouses with their transparent "walls" and roofs. This trouble did not last long. Back came the workers, some of them lit the stoves, some lit fires with green branches to make smoke. A broad front was opened against the unforeseen frost.

The brigade leader, Cole Haniaj, telling us about other events of

the same nature did not know whom of the workers to praise most. They all had done their share.

After such "duels" with the winter, the workers of this sector have a lot to tell the visitors. The healthy tomato seedling speak of the care they receive. They are a good healthy colour. Thousands of seedlings have been transplanted. They have grown well and the first bunches of fruit have set. Athina Petani has been working here for three years. She loves the work and as she jokingly puts it, spring comes earlier here.

Kadri Islami, Faik Saliu, Hilmie Ahmie Ahmeti are very careful and devoted workers.

There are three agronomists in this sector. One of them, Vasil Kolidha is engaged in vegetables growing only. One of the tasks he has set himself is to help in raising the workers qualifications. The brigade leader and other workers study at the Evening Agricultural Technical School.

The tomatoes produced here are for export. Production is at the rate of nearly 1,000 quintals of tomatoes per hectare in the "roofed fields". There is a traditional, silent contest among the people who work under these roofs: who will pick the first early tomatoes ripened in the hothouses?



A Concert in Four Languages

Sadije Agolli — Teacher

A few years ago I was teaching in a middle school. I knew many teachers of various schools of the capital. One day, a friend of mine, invited me to a concert.

Where? I asked her.

In the Foreign Languages Middle School, she answered sounding pleased.

These days they are giving many concerts prepared in honour of the anniversary of the birthday of Lenin.

The big school hall was full to the capacity. I saw parents, teachers and other guests among the pupils. They all had their eyes to the stage waiting for the young "artists" from the school to emerge. I was waiting too. The curtain went up and the master of ceremonies who came out opened the program speaking in four different languages:

The concert opens with the amateur group of the English language branch — she said.

An unknown melody filled the hall. The pupils were singing in English a song to Lenin. My friend who was sitting next to me explained.

They sing in four languages in this school: In Albanian, French, Russian, English. But, be patient. . .

These words were followed by the coming to stage of a girl in a simple school uniform. Mayakovski's powerful verses from the poem "Vladimir Ilych Lenin" reached by ears:

"Lenin, even now lives among the living, our knowledge is power and weapon."

Thus the amateur groups sang and recited in the four languages they are taught in this school. In conclusion the hall echoed with the hymn of the International. The words of the proletarian hymn were sung in Albanian, French, Russian, English. They all were singing: parents pupils, teachers. . .

This extraordinary concert left a deep impression on us all.

Many of the pupils who finish the Foreign Languages Middle School pursue higher studies in the Faculty of History-Philology.

In the photo: During a lesson on the practice of the foreign language.

The laboratory where students have their practice is modernly equipped.

Photos by S. Xhillari.



It impelled me to acquaint myself in detail with the life and work of this school in Tirana. Its history is short, but the work performed there is great. This school was opened in September 1965. There were only a few pupils in the beginning, whereas today the school has 480 boys and girls from all district and regions of Albania. They are the sons and daughters of workers, peasants and intellectuals. Many of these pupils we see today at the desks of this school we shall meet tomorrow in the auditorium of the state university, some of them will be our colleagues the various schools of Albania.

So far there have been 210 pupils graduate from this school. Now they pursue higher studies at the faculty of foreign languages, where 20 are studying to be workers in the history of language, after having completely mastered the classical languages Latin and Greek, which they started to learn in the middle school.

In this school the old and experienced teachers work side by side with young ones who have just left the auditorium of the university. They collaborate to learn from one another and to make the classes as effective as possible for the pupils in the assimilation of the language.

Together with the director of the school, the experienced teacher of French, Skender Vila, we attended some lessons. The pupils are divided into groups of 14 pupils each. The director explained that they use the radio-visual method in the first and second years, whereas they use texts with selected parts from progressive world literature, documents of our Party and speeches of Comrade Enver Hoxha translated into foreign languages, in the third and fourth years.

Up-to-date equipment is widely used in the Foreign Languages Middle School.

We attended a lesson of the fourth grade in the practice of English in the laboratory which consists of 24 cabins.

The teacher Ksanthipi Dode, had selected an unknown text for the

pupils. The tapes were recording in every cabin, where the pupils wearing earphones were following the text read by the teacher. After the text was recorded, the pupils began their independent work.

The silence which reigned in the lab was disturbed only by the noise of the buttons pressed by the pupils who listened to the recorded text and wrote it down in their exercise books.

After they finished writing they started to record their voices in English. The teacher seated at the control desk, checked each cabin in turn.

There are many aspects of the work in this school. Special importance is placed on the ideo-political education through every subject in this schools of our country

The unity of lessons, productive labour, physical and military education is reflected in the whole life of the school. The pupils learn, produce, and are physically and military tempered, so that tomorrow they will be worthy of taking over the banner of the revolution.

The Foreign Languages Middle School in Tirana like the Faculty of Foreign Languages attached to the state university, is an important centre for training and preparing cadres for various sectors of education, culture, and the economy. Albania today is a country with a dynamic development of the technical-scientific revolution, therefore there is a demand for cadres well-trained in all aspects.

The Albanian Party of Labour has always pointed out that we have to profit from progressive world science, technique, culture and art, and to put them into the service of socialism and communism. Comrade Enver teaches that we should neither worship all things foreign, nor reject them for that reason alone. These two manifestations are alien to us. We are revolutionary internationalists.

The Figures Are Falling

Dr. Luan Dusha

**Director of the Institute for
the Fight Against Tuberculosis**

Snapshot from the work in the laboratory of the Sanatorium, in Tirana.



To give an idea of the tasks which have been solved in the field of the fight against tuberculosis in our country, we will mention here that on the eve of the establishment of the people's power in Albania, the anti-tuberculosis service did not exist at all.

King Zogu's regime paid not the slightest attention to the tubercular problem, which was, in fact, very great. The only weapon to fight tuberculosis in the whole country was one ward with 50 beds in the civil hospital of the capital. During World War II tuberculosis, as a social disease, increased, as a consequence of the devastation and other results of the war and the foreign occupation. Though we lack statistical data about the pre-war period, it is a well known fact that tuberculosis was rife especially in the poor workers and peasants.

After the liberation, efforts were made to rapidly increase the number of hospital beds for tuberculosis patients with the aim of isolating and treating all the cases diagnosed. Thus, in five years, up to 1950, there was one bed available for each 1,000 citizens, besides the 520 beds in the preventive hospitals for children.

It is a well-known fact that industrial development and urbanization in the capitalist countries has always resulted in a conspicuous increase in tuberculosis. This has not occurred in our country, where preventive medical treatment has reduced and restricted the incidence of the diseases usually associated with industrialization and collectivization.

New cases of the tuberculosis are declining and advanced cases are becoming ever more rare as you will see from the following figures.

Parallel with the training of staff a number of antitubercular dispensaries were set up in the main cities. These institutions became the pivot of the fight against TB in the areas they served, both for preventive measures and curative treatment. Our dispensaries make very persistent efforts to track down all cases of TB by the recognized means of tuberculin testing and various forms of radiography.

The patients who need a long treatment are hospitalized in sanatorium where all the known forms of hygienic and dietary treatments are used. Today in the Sanatorium of Tirana there is a surgical service which performs all types of lung surgery as well as operations for pulmonary tuberculosis.

To assist the fight against TB, there are some special decisions of the government on the diagnosis, treatment and free hospitalization, social insurance, protection from TB at work, special efforts to track down the disease in even the remotest areas, vaccination with BCG, and so on. The fight against tuberculosis in the People's Republic of Albania is directed by the Ministry of the Health with the Institute of the Fight Against Tuberculosis, together with the tuberculosis clinic attached to the State University of Tirana, as technical consultative organs.

A great deal of money is spent on the fight against tuberculosis. Our Institute spends thousands of leks to cure each patient. 8,032 leks were spent on treatment for the patient NK alone who recently left hospital recovered and is ready to begin work again. During the period of her illness, she continued to receive 80% of her monthly pay from the state social insurance.

This is the general law for all those hospitalized in any type of medical institution in Albania. Our medical service gives priority to prophylaxis especially against diseases like TB. In the beginning, for vaccination with BCG, an important preventive measure, imported vaccine was used, while in 1966 the vaccine was prepared by one of our labs thus creating conditions for a wider vaccination which includes the entire age group from 0 to 20 years.

An important protective measure which has been used since 1962 is chemical-prophylaxis for children who are in contact with sick persons and for those with strongly positive reactions to the tuberculin test.



Partial view of the façade of the Sanatorium in Tirana.
Photos by S. Xhillari.

The measures taken and the consistent improvement of the economic and social conditions of the people have given satisfactory results in the fight against TB. The rate of incidence, mortality and morbidity have all been reduced. Thus the death rate (in the town from 1950 to 1965 was reduced 86% and morbidity (city and village) from 1957 to 1966 was reduced 78%.

Here is a table that will give you a clearer picture about the rate of decline of tuberculosis (all forms) in our country:

Year:	1960	53.1 cases per	10,000 citizens
Year:	1961	37.4 " "	" "
Year:	1962	32.1 " "	" "
Year:	1963	27.9 " "	" "

Year:	1964	21.5 " "	" "
Year:	1965	19.2 " "	" "
Year:	1966	16.2 " "	" "
Year:	1967	14.7 " "	" "
Year:	1968	14.4 " "	" "
Year:	1969	13.9 " "	" "

Mortality has gone down as follows:

Year:	1955	32.1 per	10,000 citizens
Year:	1965	17.1 " "	" "

Due to the conditions of the ever increasing well-being of the people and to a specialized, organized and entirely free medical service tuberculosis is constantly declining.

FOREIGN AUTHORS

These two recent years quite a number of foreign authors have been publishing books, albums and photographs about Albania.

In the following we are presenting to our readers some of those publications.

A friend of Albania, the French writer Gilbert Mury, visited our country and acquainted himself with the life and the revolutionary changes that have taken place here; he met many working people, Party and state leaders.

He titled his books: "Albania — the land of a new man." The book has about 180 pages.

Describing this author's book the French magazine "Literary Review" nr. 48 writes among other things: "... he tells us how Albania is working, living and being transformed. Anticipating some of our questions, he answers them in a language of facts. A thorough description of a plant, how an agricultural cooperative is run, life in Tirana, the evolution of the Albanian family, the problem of schooling in the new society, the emancipation of women, the role played by the Party in political and social life in Albania — all these are part and parcel of one story which, however does not read like a dull record of official quotations or ordinary figures.

A book with felling.

G.Mury has felt at first hand, and seen in practise the close ties that bind our Party of Labour with the labouring masses. Here is a passage in which the author outlines his views about this.

"Of course the Party lives in the midst of the people. It needs to be continuously revolutionized just like the masses and together with the masses... The Party of Labour plays a leading role, in that it raises the masses' experience to a theoretical level, organizes the common struggle and sets itself the task of disseminating and mastering Marxism-Leninism. But the Party's relations with the (base) are dialectical: The basis Party organization is criticized by non-party workers too, and thanks to this criticism it improves its work and activity. Or a Party member is criticized because the life he is leading does not conform to the lofty image the masses have about the genuine communist.

... Following the victory (after the liberation of the country on the 29th of November 1944) the masses wanted with all their heart to put an end to "the age-old, backwardness inherited from the past"... but how could the transition be made from the uprising against the occupier to socialism? how could a workers' state, be set up and run in a revolutionary and sovereign country? It was the Party that gave practical, concrete answers to those big problems, and positive answers at that.

Gilbert Mury concludes his book with these words:

"The land of the united people and class struggle, of the Party that leads the sovereign masses, the country of Enver Hoxha to whom so much of admiration and gratitude is directed — without any personality cult; Albania where the eagles die so that men may live — you have throughout Europe so many brothers and friends because you are the country in which they place their hopes".



**GUN KESSLE
JAN MYRDAL**
Albanskutmaning



Two interesting publications are those that have come from Sweden. One of them is that written by a couple Gun Kessle and Jan Myrdal entitled "The Albanian challenge".

This book is written on the basis of the first hand impressions the authors got from the Albanian reality while at the same time making use of historical documents of the past which add to the documentary value of the book.

A Swedish reader who, not long ago, came to Albania, said this referring to the book: "I first learned about Albania from this book. This first acquaintance impelled me to come here and get to know it more completely at first hand. Through this book one makes friends with this country whereas coming to see it, binds you with it and makes you love it".

It is good that an author can thus impress his readers.

This book by G. Kussle and J. Myrdal is written in an interesting style that comes to reader from one chapter to another, opening up new horizons before him about Albania's history, economy, education, arts, about our socialist society and its problems, about the Albanian working people of town and countryside, who in addition to their production duty do not neglect the other equally important duty the defence of the fatherland and the victories of the people's revolution.

The book is illustrated with many photos taken by the authors themselves. In this way they fulfil their idea and desire that the book may be a good guide of Albania and a true reflection of the Albanian reality.

Another publication in form of an Album is that bearing the title of "Albania". It has been published by the Sweden-Albanian Friendship Society. It is an attractive book for the way it has been conceived for the all-round material it offers, for the necessary and accurate data it furnishes the reader on every field of the activity of Albania's working people.

The front cover of this publication shows a group of young volunteers at the Elbasan-Prenjas Railway construction site. The authors intend this front cover to show that these youth are the future of Albania. Side by side with their lessons they contribute to the building of important projects, and master the use of weapons so as to be ready, if the need arises, to be capable fighters.

The book begins with some geography — telling something about our people and their origin, about the language and the socialist state power which springs off from the people and belongs to the people. In this album one finds an account of the struggles waged by the Albanian people for freedom and independence against the Turkish invaders and later, against the Italian-German fascists. Separate chapters have been devoted to the founding of the Albanian Communist Party and to the National Liberation War. The second half of the book deals with the road travelled by the PR of Albania

ABOUT ALBANIA

during the socialist construction period, and the struggle of the PLA against modern revisionism in defence of the purity of Marxism-Leninism.

The economic problems of the socialist construction in our country, comparisons with the past, figures and facts about the achievements during the Five-Year Plans, have been dealt with in separate chapters. Separate chapters have been devoted to social and cultural problems, too.

This book is of value to the foreign reader who wants to learn something in a condensed form about the new socialist Albania.

A collection of verse by three Albanian poets. This publication comes from Italy. It is a pocket-size volume published by Lerici. It has been compiled as a labour of love by ours. Joyce Lussu who, during her visits to Albania familiarized herself with representatives of our literature of socialist realism as well as with various works of our literature in general.

The preface written by J. Lussu "Three poets of the present-day Albania" presents the three poets selected by her in this way:

"Migjeni (Millosh Gjergj Nikolla) is the first of the three poets we are presenting in this anthology. He was born in 1911 and died of tuberculosis in 1938. He represents that generation of writers between the two world wars, and reflects its revolt against the Italian occupiers and the local traitors.

The second is Ljazar Siliqi, born in 1924. He belongs to the generation who took upon themselves the struggle for the liberation and the revolutionary construction of the country.

The third Ismail Kadare belongs to the generation brought up in the new socialist society.

Our selection is concentrated on three poets, typical of three different periods for reasons of simplicity and space and not because there are no other poets of a remarkable value".

J. Ussu who knows our literature of socialist realism and the writers emerging from the ranks of the working people, says this: "We can say that the whole of the present-day Albania is a school because the cultural maturity is reaching new heights in all spheres, not only in the school institutions, but also in factories, agricultural cooperatives in collectives of every kind and age-group. The aim is to create favourable conditions for all to perfect their talents and tastes, to express their creative capabilities in one way or another... Every collective, in every corner of Albania has its own library and its centre of culture, where people go in for theatre, music, poetry, and drawing, endless contests are held all over the country, contests which award various prizes (but never in terms of money)".



action poetique

Pierre Larique
Charles Dubryski
Paul Louis Bess
Claude Beland
Dreville

44

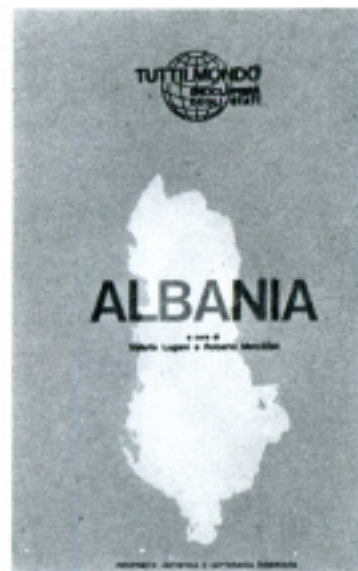
ENTRETIENS : ROGER BODICER, PIERRE DAIN,
ANDRÉ GOSSELBRICHT, JEAN PERUS, LEON ROBEL :

DU RÉALISME SOCIALISTE

UN INVENTAIRE CRITIQUE, DES DOCUMENTS

UN NOUVEAU POÈTE ALBANAIS - ISMAEL KADARE

PAR JOYCE LUSSU - DÉCEMBRE 1970
LE PUELLON - POCHE N° 44



The French Review "Action poetique" in its number of 44 — 1970 published some poems by the Albanian writer Ismail Kadare, together with an article on the Albanian language and literature written by Michel Metais. Speaking about the changes of socialist Albania, Metais writes: "What a long road has been traversed within a few years: illiteracy has been wiped out for all ages, the population has been doubled, a systematic struggle against malaria which is now only a bitter memory, roads and railways have been constructed, industry has been set up capable of meeting the country's needs, and so on. But at the same time, in a completely paradoxical manner, Albania preserves a lively interest in her past." Among other things he says: "The Albanian language... an ancient language, probably descending from Illyrian, belongs to the Indo-European family but contains elements that cannot be associated with any other group. So it can be easily characterized, it resembles no other language. It has undergone the same sufferings as the people who have the merit to use it still today. During the Turkish rule of 5 centuries, the teaching and learning of it was strictly prohibited. Thus it was perpetuated orally, from generation to generation. It was not until 1908 that a common latin alphabet was worked out and established... The young Albanian writers have in this language a means which conforms very well to their need to express their epoch. The present-day literature is constantly growing but it should not be thought that it is cutting itself off from the past, even with regard to the subjects it deals with.

Another recent publication about Albania is a tourist type album illustrated with colour photographs, various drawings, sketches etc.

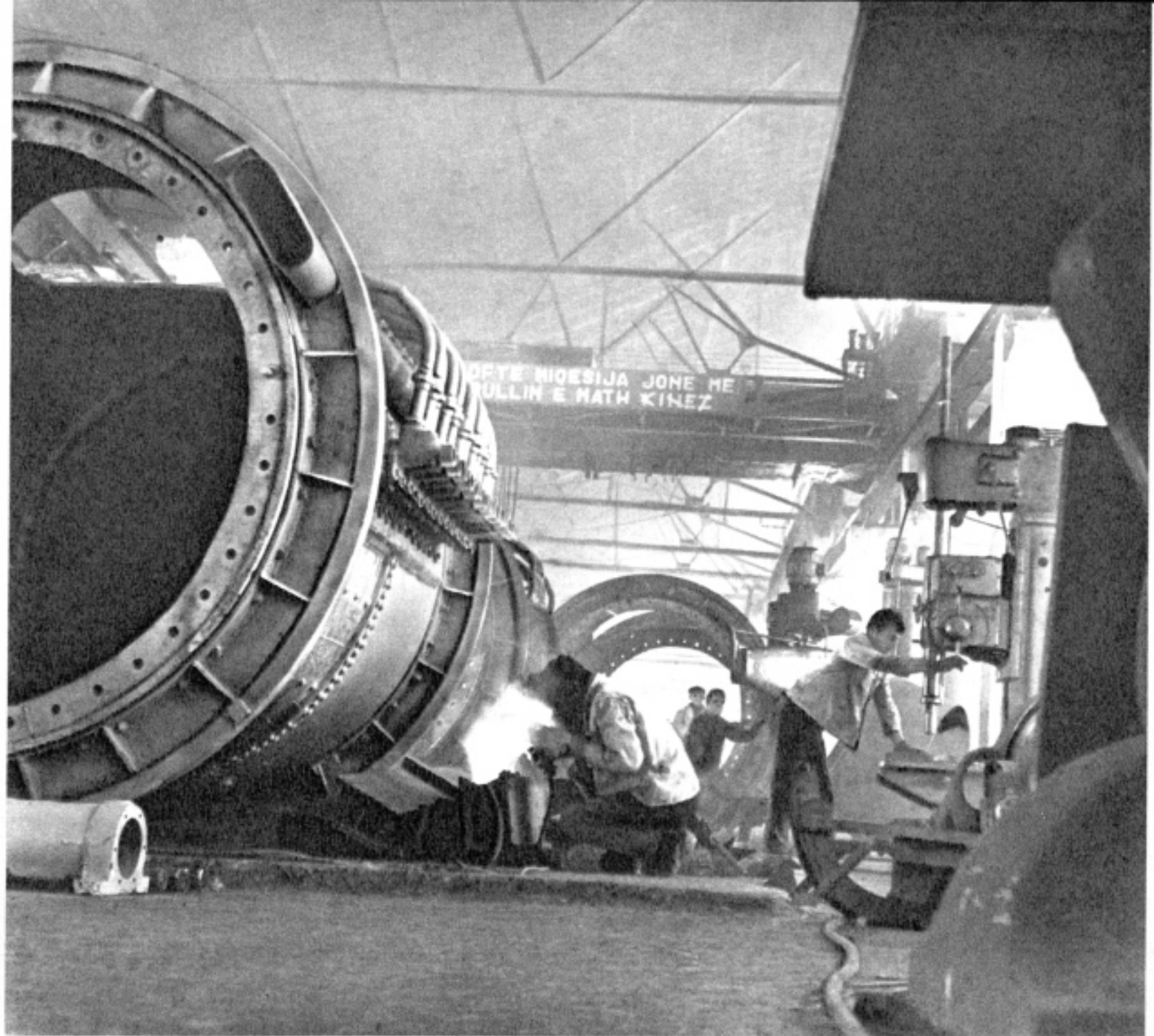
This album has been compiled by the Aristeo-Milano Publishing House for the edition all the world — an encyclopedia of nations.

Through a number of illustrations the album offers abundant informative material on the the structure of our socialist state, as well as on geography, climate, population, language, and the economy, education, arts and culture. A considerable part of the album is devoted to Albanian folklore and tourist centres. While describing the present, the characteristic Albanian hospitality, the archaeological and ethnographic centres, both the ancient and recent history of Albania, is introduced.

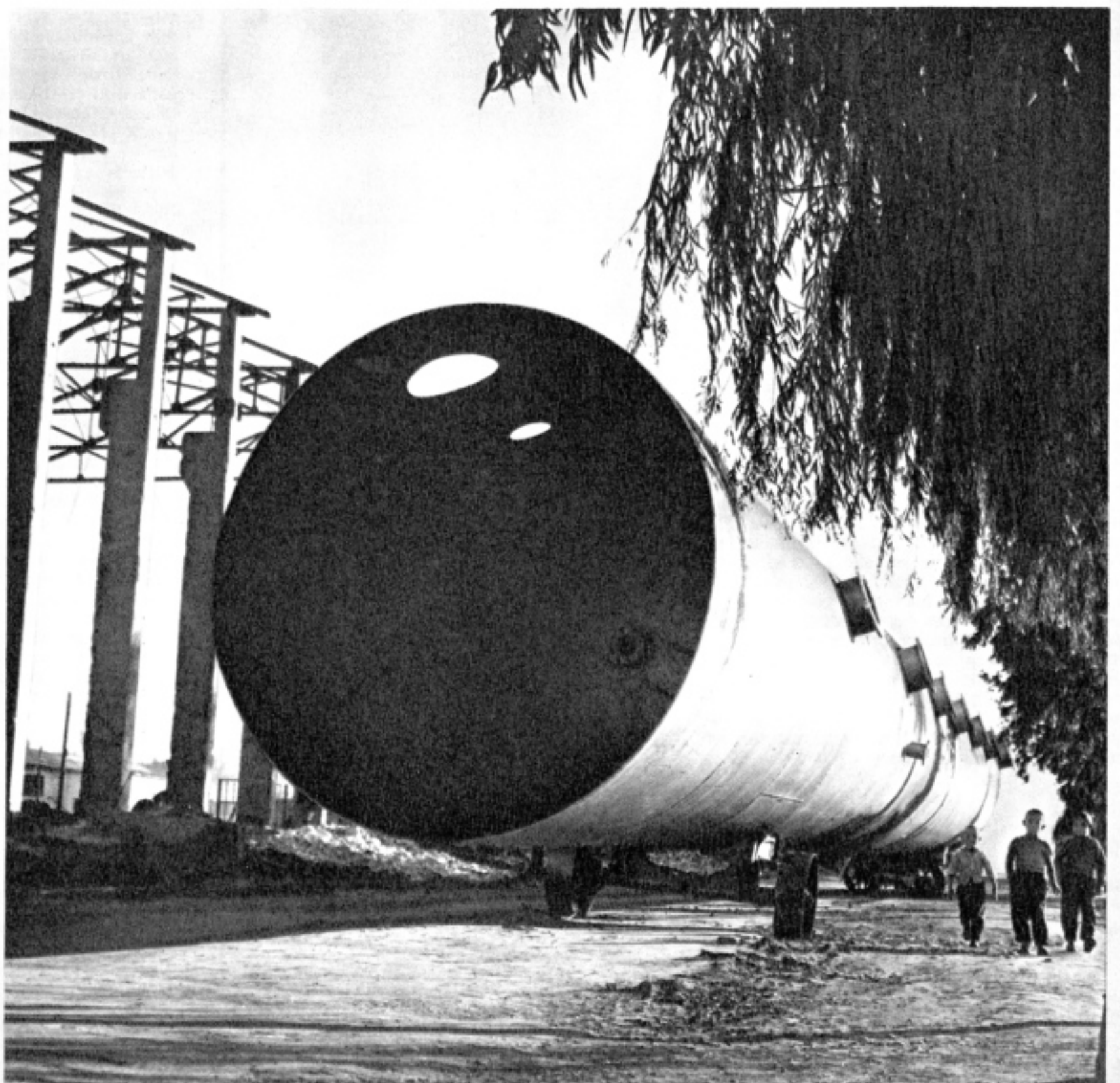
At the book there is a short Italian-Albanian dictionary together with other information valuable for all those who wish to visit our country.

"Dinamo" Plant in the capital produces heavy equipment for the country's industry. In the photo you see the preparation of powerful aggregates which are to be sent to Copper Smelting Plants.

Photo by P. Cici.



"IN OUR PLANTS"



Industrial equipment turned out in the mechanical Plant of Qyteti Stalin.

Albanian Historians Have Access to Turkish Archives

Kristaq Prifti
Selami Pullaha

First page of the Book of Registration of Land and Population in the Sanjak of Shkodra taken by the Osman rulers in 1485.

In recent years and on the basis of cultural conventions concluded between the two countries, teams of Albanian historians have been doing research on the archives of the Turkish Republic, namely, in the archives of the Prime Ministry (Basbanlik arsivi), of the Royal Palace Museum (Top-kapu Muzesinin Arsivi), of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, of the Central Office of Deeds and Titles, etc. These archives contain rich documentary materials of the Central and Local Administration of the Ottoman Empire of special importance to the study of the history of the Albanian people during the five centuries of Ottoman domination. These documents throw light on very important processes, like that of the Ottoman occupation of Albania and the resistance of the Albanian people to this occupation, the economic and political transformations in the life of the country during the centuries of Medieval and Modern times, the repeated uprisings of the peasantry, the process of the formation; of the nation the struggle of the Albanian people for liberation which was crowned with the Proclamation of Independence in 1912.

With the assistance of the directors and keepers of the Turkish archives, the Albanian historians discovered a series of valuable documentary materials which throw light on the most important economic, political and social problems of the history of the Albanian people and of the Ottoman Empire in general.

For the medieval period of the history of our people, the Turkish archives contain documents of interest to the study of Albanian-Ottoman relations during the glorious period of battles for freedom under the leadership of Scanderbeg during the XV century. These are, for example, the Books of the Registration of Land and Population taken immediately following the occupation of Albania or after such as the 1431 Census of the Sanjak (Province) of Albania (published by the Turkish historian, H.Inalçik), of the Korça and Përmet Districts (1431), or Dibra, Mati and other districts (March 1467), of the Sanjak of Shkodra (1485), the Sanjak of Vlora (after 1492) and so on. These materials give information enabling us to pass judgment on such important problems as the factors which gave rise to the long struggle of the Albanian people for freedom during the XV century.

Important materials have been found in the Turkish archives regarding the study of the two fundamental features characterizing the history of the Albanian people during the XVI centuries, namely, the reestablishment of the feudal-military system of fiefs, and the armed uprisings for freedom during this period. The Register of Land titles and the census of the population enable us to determine the nature of the system of land taxation in Albania, to study agrarian relations, the status of the peasantry of the mountainous regions, to get a better grasp of the political events and of the character of the struggle of the Albanian people against the Ottoman invaders during this period, and so on.

These materials supplemented by the other Ottoman documents kept in the Albanian archives, enable us to study the important

historical processes which took place later, during the XVII and XVIII centuries, with the replacement of the system of fiefs by the system of land estates. They give important information on the establishment of the larger principalities of the Bushats and of Ali Pasha Tepelen on their policy and relations with the center, and so on. Among these materials an important place is occupied by the documents which throw light on the period of the decline of the principalities and the development of people's uprisings at the beginning of the XIX century.

In their work on the Turkish archives, our teams of historians devoted their principal attention to the collection of documentary materials relating to the period of our National Revival, and, particularly to the Prizren League, which constitutes one of the most glorious events of the history of the Albanian people in their struggle for national liberation. This task is connected also with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Prizren League which the Albanian people will be celebrating in 1978.

Covering the period of National Revival there were collected from the Turkish archives such valuable materials as those found in the Yildiz Palace (during Sultan Hamid the II's reign), the Records of Government Decrees (Irade Defterleri), Records of Montenegro and Greece, as well as of the Provinces of Rumelia (the archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs), and so on. These documents give information of major interest regarding the economic situation and the most important political events of the history of the Albanian people during the period of their National Revival. These documents especially reflect step by step all the events of the Prizren League ranging from preparations for its formation prior to the Berlin Congress (1876-1878), the formation and organization by the League of the struggle of our people in defense of the territorial integrity of Albanian and the autonomy of the country (1878-1882), the attitude of the Sublime Porte towards this events, the attitude of the Great Powers, the conflict with Montenegro for Plav, Guci, Hot, Grud, Ulqin and other regions. We find there a lot of information about the military intervention of the Great Powers (the Naval Demonstration) in 1880 to force the Albanians to hand over Ulqin.

Two important records like that on Montenegro and that on Greece which contain information on the events of the 1878-1884 period are devoted entirely to the problems of the struggle in defense of Albanian territory in the north and in the south, waged by the Albanian League, and their conflict with Montenegro and Greece.

Valuable materials have been collected also on the other periods of our National Revival, on the Peja League towards the end of the XIX century and, especially, on the major Albanian uprisings of the 1910-1912.

The documents extracted from the Turkish archives, enriched by those kept in our Central Archives and the local archives of our country will enable the Albanian historians to delve deep into and portray in full and correctly the glorious history of the liberation struggle of our people, during the five centuries of Ottoman domination.



IN THE GALLERY OF ARTS

"The highlander" (fragment) (wood cut) by Kristaq Rama.



"The girl from Divjaka" (marble) by Valentina Balli.



"The warrior of 1912" — (wood cut) by Shaban Hadëri.



"Our Mountaineer" (fragment) —
(bronze) by Andrea Mana.



"Child's portrait" by Besim Tabaku.



"The woman highlander" — (bronze)
by Gori Verija.



In the previous issue, we published an extract from Fadil Pacrami's books "The Failure of the Plots" on the conduct of foreign espionage against the establishment of the people's power in Albania.

In this issue we are publishing another passage.

Fultze Seeks Collaborationists

... Fultze had arrived in Albania a few days before. The first thing he interested himself in, as soon as he had set foot on the American mission, was the "boys" 1) and "pupils" 2) affair.

— What about the "boys", Tommy? — he asked Captain Thoma Stefani. Have you got in touch with all of them? Tommy started to tell his chief about the meeting he had with some of them, since January 10th 1945, and the tasks they had been allocated.

— Tell me everything — in detail! And Tommy began to tell him.

— With Lari's help, I was able to get some of them together here in the mission. You know that they are dispersed through the different brigades. Lari had met them and informed me. "We must get them together," I told Lari. The chief is always interested in the "boys". We are in a very great need of their services". And so we did. At first I spoke in general terms. "We don't know, — I thought let's see how ready they are". And I began to speak: "You, who have been in the "villa", you know that we are the friends of the Albanians, but . . . of an Albania friendly to America. Naturally, you, don't like the present situation, but don't lose heart, it won't stay like this. We didn't fight the war for nothing. But if it is to be changed, we need information and you should help us. In this way you'll be helping yourselves, too."

— So much diplomacy: was it necessary? — Fultze remarked.

— Then — continued Tommy, lighting a cigarette, — Lari took the floor. He reminded them of the course in the "villa" and obligations they had undertaken. The truth is that Lari has always assisted us, but he's a bit scared. He has been boring me these days with requests to be withdrawn from Albania because he reckons he is eyed with suspicion and kept under observation.

— It is true he's a bit of an old woman, but he's clever and can still be of use to us. But carry on.

— So, they said they were ready to serve us. They were only awaiting instructions. At this point, I begun to speak openly. "Any information is of value to us, — I said. You can give us information about the army and its organization, the military equipment it has, its education etc. "I told Vait Maci, for instance", you who are working building bridges, could inform us about what sort of bridges are being built etc". "Then, I told them that if they should meet the other "boys" they should send them to the mission. I asked them to find various people that might work for us and send them here. Finally, I advised them to get as deep as possible inside the Party and State organs, to be on guard and not stay together too much, to come to the mission one by one and only at night, to keep their mouths shut, and tell no secrets.

I asked them if they were in need of money and I gave them a little. They agreed to everything. Then they left one by one. What else?

— Through them we have recruited . . . some other. Some have had more success and have got into important places.

— Good work — Tommy — said Fultze, getting up from the couch, after he had listened carefully to the long story on the "boys". Tell Lari to get some of them back here soon. Get busy yourself on this. Tell them that I'd like to meet them.

— What about the old ones, — inquired Fultze afterwards, — the "pupils", what about them? They have more training. Tommy began to tell him about them too:

— Lari has got into contact. It didn't take much. He presented himself with the old password and they understood. Lari talked to some of them about the scheme you had given him. They agreed and

got down to work. They and the "boys" fixed it so that when the American mission was being welcomed to get but some slogans like: "Long live America, the land of liberty!" or "Long live America, the friend of Albania!" It is true that they are more experienced and have got into some of the top circles of the opponents of the regime, who are particularly interesting. Some of them have positions, like Selaudin Toto, others have leading posts and some influence in intellectual circles.

— Very good, Tommy. Now please fetch me the personal files on the "boys" and "pupils". And tell Lari to inform the "pupils" of a meeting with me, soon as I want to talk with them too. Two days later, some of the "boys", who were in Tirana, gathered in the American mission. This time, there were more of them. After he had greeted them, Fultze immediately began the discussion.

— How are you getting on? How are things going? he asked.

— Badly, some of them, responded.

— Are there many people who think like you? — Fultze went on.

— Yes, they said, — there are. We know some of them.

— Then, what do they do?

This time, he got no answer. Some of the "boys" lowered their heads; they understood that the chief was reproaching them as if had said "Then what are you doing?" "Then, they spoke about the situation in Albania, giving their opinions on how they should work in the future. Fultze listened attentively and gave new instructions. They left late at night.

Fultze had brought a new plan of action. In its general out lines, this plan, which we might call plan number two, can be summarized like this:

1) To organize an opposition within and outside the ranks of the National Liberation Front. By this means to impede the fulfilment of various reforms and hinder the development towards socialism. To protect the landowners and merchants and direct the government towards a regime of the western type.

2) Through diverse political and military pressures to try to open the way for as many as possible from the opposition to occupy important places in government, to end up with a coup d'état, by means of which to put an end to what had been achieved on November 29th, 1944.

3) If this could not be achieved, to create turmoil which would permit armed intervention by the Anglo-Americans, at first as arbiters and later as masters. By way of turmoils, or provocations on the border, to give an excuse for intervention from Greece or a landing from the sea.

These instruction had been brought by the American civil mission which arrived in Albania in May of 1945, with J.E. Jacobson as Head and H. Fultze as his deputy. The chief of the British mission, general D.E. Hodgson, who had come a little earlier had also received these instructions. They had stated that "purpose" of their dispatch to Albania was "to inform ourselves on the situation in the country, prior to recognition of the government". But all their later activity shows that they had come to carry out a new criminal plot.

But, the longest talk Fultze had with some of his "pupils".

— Thus — said Fultze, starting to speak about the main points of



Drawing by Shaban Hysa.

the plan, — The Atlantic Charter has not been implemented, here, in Albania. There are no other Parties and no papers of different Parties. Why does no opposition emerge? You must tell those who are of the same opinion as you, not to be afraid: we will help them. The hopes of our people must be aroused and if they have died, we must disinter them. Now we must not back with folded arms. These jobs require courage and intelligence, but above all, courage.

— Why did you permit the creation of such a situation — asked one of the “pupils”. Why did not you nip the National Liberation Movement in the bud, and now it has taken such wide proportions, but it is still not too late. Fultze saw that the “pupils” were not satisfied with such an answer, but he closed his eyes to this and went on: — An opposition is needed, a powerful opposition both within and outside the National Liberation Front, and later we must unite the two under a single centre. It will follow a political direction opposite to that of the communists a Western political direction. We shall support the creation of this opposition, will exert pressure on the present government, to prevent measures being taken against it and the people who will form it. Later, they will take part in the government and their position there will be strengthened, until they take over the power completely.

— Right . . . you are right. We should have nipped this movement in the bud, and now it has taken such wide proportions, but it is still not too late. Fultze saw that the “pupils” were not satisfied with such an answer, but he closed his eyes to this and went on: — An opposition is needed, a powerful opposition both within and outside the National Liberation Front, and later we must unite the two under a single centre. It will follow a political direction opposite to that of the communists a Western political direction. We shall support the creation of this opposition, will exert pressure on the present government, to prevent measures being taken against it and the people who will form it. Later, they will take part in the government and their position there will be strengthened, until they take over the power completely.

— But what if such an opposition is not formed, since a lot of those who might set it up are too compromised? — added one of the “pupils”.

— Then, the opposition should act illegally, it should organized units and cause turmoil; which will create an uncertain situation. Then, we shall find a way to enter this dance. Now, you must set about the work boldly.

At this moment Fultze could not help feeling a certain satisfaction. He took up the bottle of whisky that was on the table and started to fill the glasses of everyone present. Finally he put the bottle down on the table, rose, glass in hand, and said:

— I’m happy to find you well. As always, let us drink our usual toast: “Everything for the friendship with America”. They all drank.

After they had sunk back in their armchairs, Fultze took the floor once again.

— I’m informed that some groups in opposition to the regime, like the Resistance group set up by Sami Oeribash and another one within the ranks of the National Liberation Front have been formed. There are the remnants of the “Balli Kombëtar and “Legaliteti”, which are being organized. There are some other trends, such as the social-democrats, monarchists and so on.

Now the thing is that we should get into all these groups, to inspire and coordinate their activity.

— But the Resistance group is linked up with the British.

— It doesn’t matter. We must get into this group too, and be connected with it.

— Some one wanted to open up the subject of the group within the ranks of the National Liberation Front, but Fultze closed this matter. He considered it as “the great plot” and had made up his mind to discuss it only with Selaudin Toto.

Some of the “pupils” were none too enthusiastic about the scheme he had brought over.

— Albania is no longer what it was when you left,—they told Fultze. There has been a profound revolution that put the poor in motion. The state is in the hands of the young men who fought. Albania has never had such a powerful army. The special court, that was held sometime ago, wiped out many of those who yesterday had Albania as their estate. Many others were wiped out during the war. The others cleared out. And we should not forget that a lot of them were the friends of America.

— But, we still have other friends,— Fultze broke in, trying to create an atmosphere of optimism in his men.

— How, is it that some of those who were sentenced in the special courts could not have been saved? remarked one of the “pupils”. Rumour has it that these men of the government feel themselves strong and neither know nor care about America or Britain.

Fultze did not want the conversation to go any further along those lines, so he turned the talk to the economic difficulties Albania was experiencing, to economic sabotage.

The worsening of the economic situation of the country,— Fultze said, will give us an opportunity to bring pressure to bear on the government, either from abroad, or within; so economic sabotage will be an important sector of our activity.

After the people, who would engage in sabotage had been named and tasks set for engineers Riza Alizoti, Sulo Klosi, Abdyl Sharra, Kujtim Beqiri, etc the meeting came to an end. Now, Fultze was effectively in charge of the situation. When the “pupils” had left, Fultze and Lari Fosti stayed behind. They discussed their impressions of the “pupils”.

. . . . A few days after Fultze’s discussion with the “boys and “pupils”, he invited, Selaudin Toto, and Kol Kuqali, to the American mission, to talk over the question of the group that took part in the National Liberation Front. Jacobson also was present at the meeting. They attached particular importance to this group. Selaudin Toto was the first to speak.

— As you know for some time a group of us, big merchants, industrialists, landowners, and intellectuals, who have been affiliated with the National Liberation Front have been talking amongst ourselves about founding an opposition Party within the Front. Since the second meeting of the Antifascist National Liberation Council in Berat in October 1944, we began to ponder over the founding of a Party within moderate tendencies, in order to slow down the Albanian Communist Party, which is leading Albania on a road we don’t like. Selaudin Toto explained in detail how he had started.

In the middle of February this year,— Kol Kuqali continued the story — we got together at my house: Selaudin Toto, Shefqet Beja and I, discussed the issue concretely. We agreed that something had to be done, therefore we resolved to get down to work to found up a Party. We also decided to talk it over with the others, and so we did. We discussed the idea with Gjergj Kokoshi, Riza Dani, Suat Asllani Selim Kokolari, Sheh Ibrahim Karbunara and others and ten days later



Aspects from Our Life

Helicopter Descending on the Snow

Everything was carpeted by the snow. The storm of that day of March was too suffocating. The wind whistled and nobody was outdoors. The sick struggled in the bed. The children were sitting round her. The oldest was not thirteen years of age yet. The doctor sitting by the sick scrutinized his patient. Her face and body had grown grey. Sanije's husband, Haziz Riba was standing agitated behind the doctor's back.

— We will carry her to the hospital, — the doctor spoke.

He pulled his shoulders to admit it and then added:

— But how?

— She can not ride. And the horse can't move in the snow, the sick cant' sit on the horse either. The children cast casual glances at the doctor, at their mother and their father. The youngest had plunged into the doctor's lap holding his knee tight in a pleading way: "Save my mother".

The doctor decided to inform the health department of the district.

— Send the helicopter here. There is no other way.

Before long, people heard the helicopter's noise which descended on the snow in front of "Jemin Balla" Eight-Year School.

— Save her doctor, — peasants uttered. She has six children. . .

Sanije was carried into the helicopter and then it flew up.

One of the peasants said:

In a winter like this one, before the war, people suffered from typhus. Deaths followed one another. There were no doctors, no hospitals and no balloons and no streets.

People suffered from diseases and died. . .

In a few minutes the helicopter arrived in Tirana. They send Sanije to the Maternity Home. The people in the square of the village had not dispersed yet. Some had gathered at the Post Office and some others were expecting some news from them. The telephonist was holding the receiver at her ear and heard a voice: Alo! Is it Shëngjergj?

— Yes!

— She is saved. They operated her. Now everything is all right.

There is no danger. It was Sanije's brother. Halili speaking from Tirana.



“Be happy, youth, be happy,
The world is yours”.
Thus, our revolutionary poet, Migjeni, wrote some
forty years ago. This optimism of the poet was

but a dream at that time. Today our youth is
happy just as Migjeni had written. In the photo:
you see joyful faces of girls of the Tractor Plant.

The door opens and in comes a middle-aged man with some books in his hand.

— May I come in, comrade teacher?
— Yes, Përtefi come in and take a seat!
— He came up and sat next tome.

The desk creaked. He put the books under and let his heavy hands fall on the desk. His bushy, rough hair was rather dirty.

— I was late so I came out of the pit running. A mine had exploded. I had not enough time to change my clothes and thus came in the classroom on work uniform, — said he, being at a loss.

— Never mind, It is always like this when one does two things at a time.

— Though, this is a school, and has its own rules.

— How are you getting one with your studies? — I asked him quietly, making use of the opportunity.

— I'm "swimming" in eight marks. I have been getting along well, but the last two months we have had some troubles with coal output plan, and I'm not going on very well with my studies.

“Demand of the time”

Siri Sulejmani

— The school is somewhat tiresome at such an age, isn't it.

— What can you do! Better late than never. It is a demand of the time. The first class was over. We did not move from the desk. We went on with our talk.

— I'm competing with my son, — he told me smiling.

— In studies?

— Yes.

— How many children do you have?

— Only one, a boy. My house is far from here.

Nearly 6 hours on foot. I go over there once a fortnight.

If it happens that I do not go at the end of the month, my boy mails a letter, which

contains the marks and I, in turn send mines . . .

— How is the competition going on till now?

— The first two months he won it. It might seem a joke, but it did put me in motion. Yet, I was ashamed. I have been hard on him whenever he happened to get a bad mark.

— What course does the son follow?

— We follow the same course, the eight, — he answered.

— In spite of the exhausted work, I set on studying, till late at night, when one was having his tight sleep. It was in November and December when I won the competition. The second class has begun already.

He is a miner. The man of our time. The man of work of undertakings of dynamic meetings, the school-worker of sacrifices for knowledge and light. He feels it and deems a need, a necessity. I parted with him carrying something from his spiritual world, something that will stand me in good stead.

1970 entered the history of the socialist development of our country as "the year of light". In 1970 the output of electric power was more than 100 times above that prior to the liberation. Albania has become one of the first countries in the world to provide electric power to all its cities and villages. A powerful material and technical basis has been and is being speedily created in the field of energetics. The whole country is covered with a unified power network with a high level of reliability.

New horizons have been opened at present to the further development of our power industry: work has begun on building major hydro-power stations for the planned and complex utilization of the main sources of hydro-electric power.

The power sources of our country are rich and stand out for their great possible potential for utilization. It suffices to mention that two major rivers—the Drini and the Vjosa—alone, are capable of producing ten billion kilowatt-hours, or 5,000 kwh per capita of population of Albania, thus surpassing many European countries as far as the possible unit of exploitation of hydro-power sources in kwh per capita, and per square kilometer is concerned.

At present, the study and designing of hydro-power and power projects in this country has been raised to a very high level. These tasks are now accomplished by a number of relevant institutions of studies, research work, and designing. The necessary material and technical basis has also been laid for the construction of major projects.

These measures have created conditions for proceeding in a planned and scientific way, in this field of socialist development too. All the actual and perspective development of studies, designing and building of hydro-power stations, high-tension lines electrical, sub-stations are based on sound scientific groundwork.

The Richest power source of the country

The Drini River is the richest power source in our country. It is the largest river of Albania and of the eastern seaside of the Adriatic. Its length to its outlet at the Buna River is 285 kilometers with a catchment area of 12,000 square kilometers. Its average flow, according to many years of observations, is 320 cubic meters per second, while its maximum flow has reached the 5,000 cu.m. per sec. mark.

In recent years, special attention has been attached to the study and assessment of the hydro-power resources of the Drini. For this purpose, systematic and all-round research and observations have been conducted until a complex study of the hydro-power resources of the Drini has finally been completed. This is the first time that the possibilities and the stages of planned exploitation of this river has been scientifically determined.

The figures show that, through the utilization of the resources of the waters of the main flow of the Drini River alone with the construction of 5 hydro-electric stations an installed capacity of 1,300,000 kw with an average annual production of 6 billion kwh can be ensured.

The principle characteristics of the hydro-power stations of the Drini River are the big installed capacities—from 100,000 to 400,000 kw; their tall dams, the big reservoirs and low cost per unit of installed power which is 2.5 times lower than that of the hydro-power station built so far in our country.

Up-to-date technique is widely used both in studies and research as well as in construction already begun. The "Maotsetung" Hydro-Power Station of an installed capacity of 250,000 kw, which will be put into operation this year, is the first step of the Drini cascade. With the building of this station the output of electric power for the country will be double that of 1970.

As regards the technical problems and indices as well as the volume of work involved, the "Maotsetung" Hydro-Power Station is a hydro-power complex of world standard. In studying, designing and building this hydro-electric station our specialists have taken a big step ahead in the technique of designing and building hydro-power plants at low cost. Powerful up-to-date equipment is being used including excavators with 4 cu. m. baskets, large diameter drills for deep boring, transport vehicles of 20 and 32 tons, and so on.

The next Hydro-Electric Power Plant to be built on the Drini River is that of Fierza. The studies and designing for this Hydro-Power Plant of an installed capacity up to 400,000 kw have already been completed. Preliminary work is under way.

Horizons Opened to Our

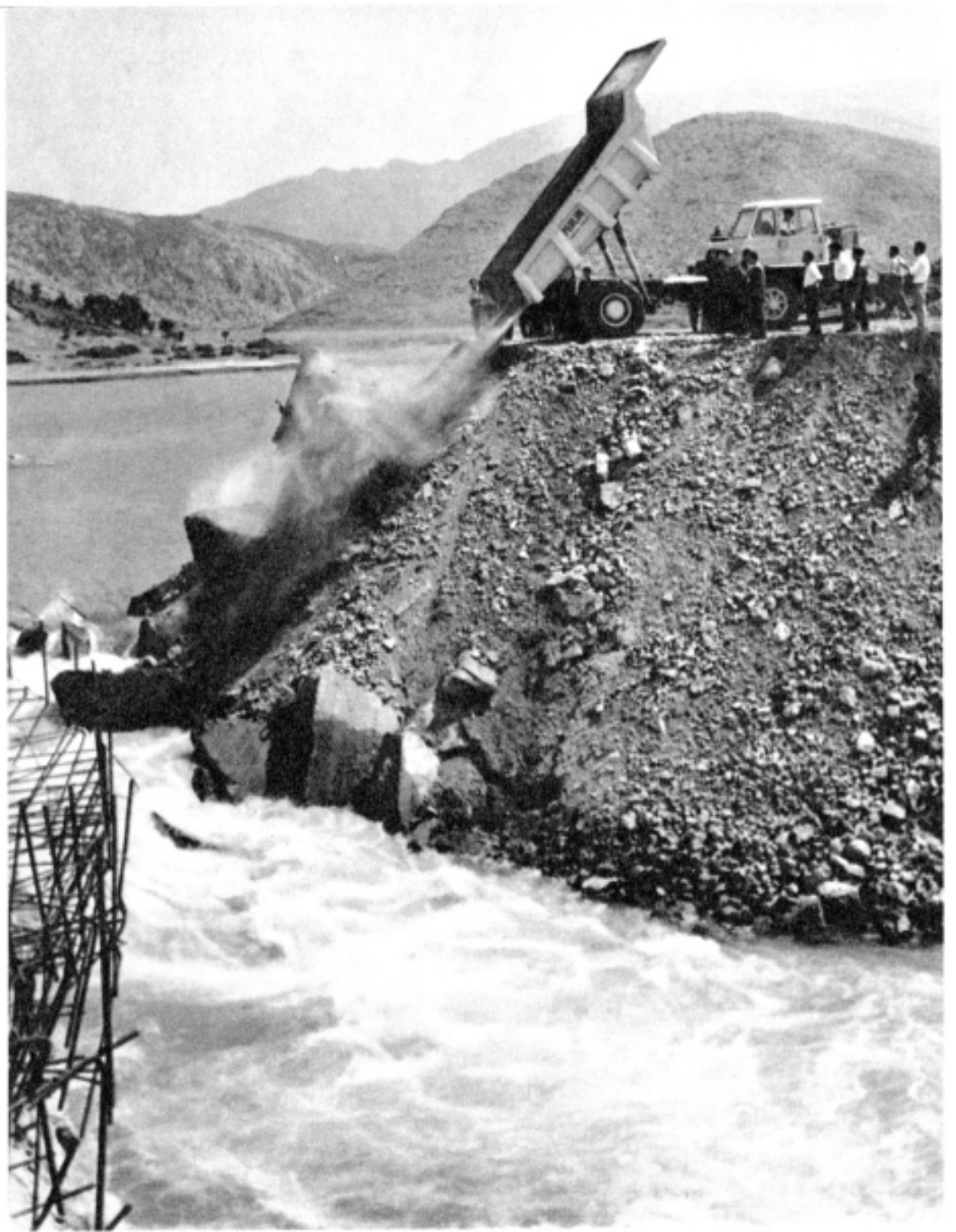


Power Industry

Eng. Javer Cobani

View of the Drini River.

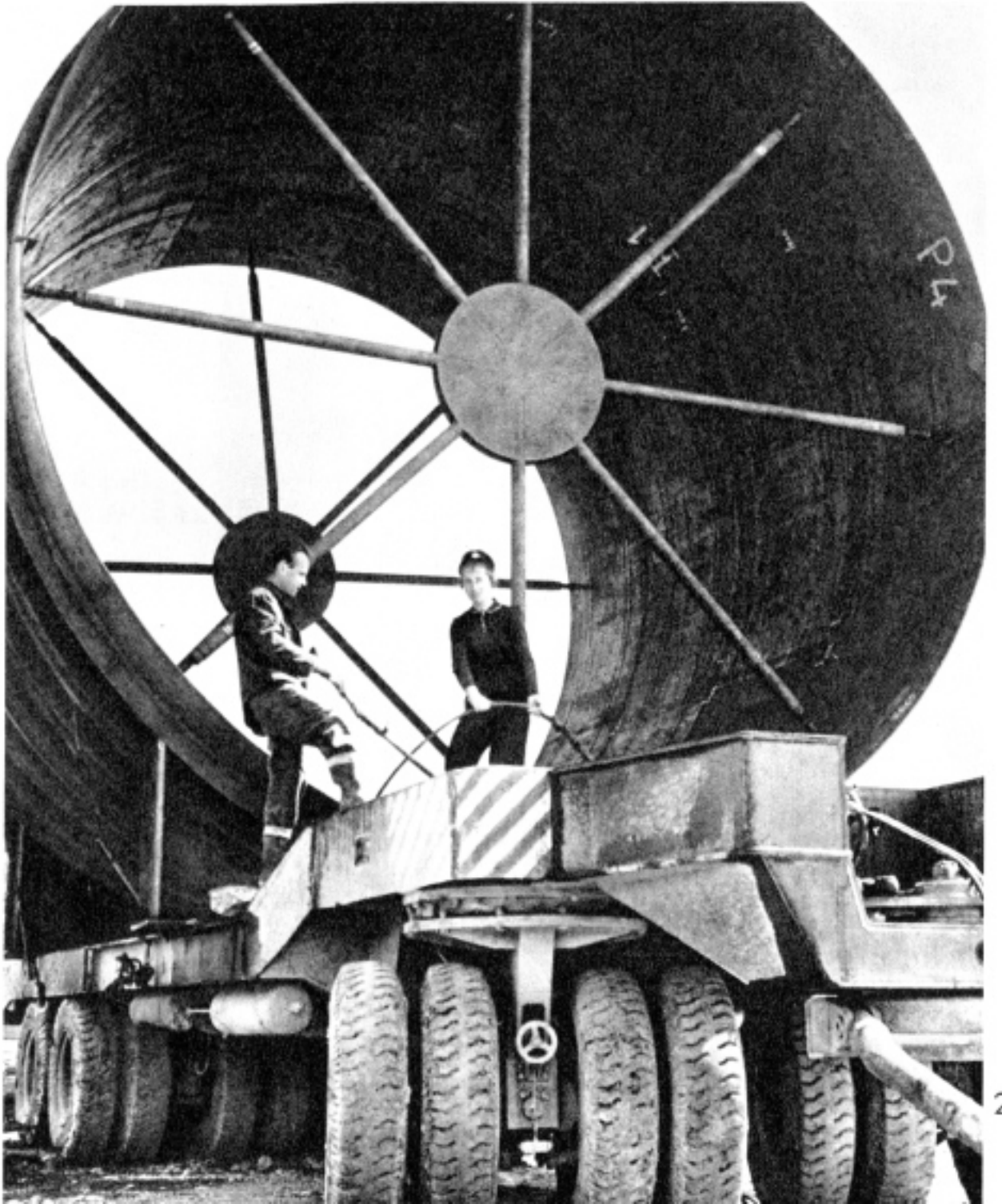
Photo: by P. Kumi.



The construction work on the Drini River is characterized by a high level of mechanization

The installation of the supplies for the first power-station on the Drini River is going on at high rate.

Photo by P. Cici.



The troupe of the People's Theatre of Tirana staged the Premiere of the drama "Arturo Ui" of the German dramatist and producer Bertol Brecht.



Snapshot from the drama "Arturo Ui".
Photos by S. Xhillari.



The premiere of the drama "Arturo Ui" of the German dramatist and producer Bertol Brecht was put on the stage of the People's Theatre in Tirana recently.

This play is one of the best known works of Brecht, written during the years of World War II when the nazi hordes of Hitler were attacking the European states. The author's aim, as he puts it in his notes on this drama, was to denounce Adolf Hitler, the Hitler, the author of monstrous crimes and all those circles of landowners and industrialists who, proceeding from their perfidious interests against peoples, brought him to office. "The big political criminals must be denounced" Brecht said, and they should be held up to ridicule, because they are not merely great political criminals, but authors of great political crimes, which is something else. . . Thus, the play

Bertol Brecht

"Arturo Ui" is a political pamphlet written to pour scorn on them, to satirize and mercilessly unmask the authors of the crimes against humanity. That is why Brecht has built his drama on a grotesque background of sharp satire where the tragedy turns into a macabre comedy and this into a blood-curdling tragedy.

This play of the great master of the dramatic art, Brecht,



cht on the Stage of the Albanian Theatre

awakens people's consciousness and sharpens their vigilance to fight fascism, imperialism and all anti-people's regimes unceasingly.

"Arturo Ui" was put to stage by the stage director and artist of merit Piro Mane. The scenography is drawn by painter Agim Zajmi. The main roles are played by the actors of the People's Theatre Kadri Roshi (Arturo Ui), Prokop Mima (Givola) and Ndre-

kë Luca (Giri). The whole troupe of the People's Theatre worked long, hard, and persistently to succeed in successfully presenting on stage this work of Brecht.

In a talk with our correspondent, Director Piro Mani said: "In staging this drama, my intention has been to bring out not only that a career such as that of "Arturo Ui" — for which there are many analogous examples in the

present-day capitalist world — should and must be restrained, but what is more fundamental, that the very order which gives birth to these monsters and incites such careers, should be destroyed. For the construction of this spectacle I have relied on the experience of our theatre; keeping in mind Bertol Brecht's principal demands for the epic theatre.

The Albanian Climate

Robert Naçi — meteorologist
engineer

A number of scientific institutions and laboratories modernly equipped have been set up in our country for the study of climatic phenomena.

Photos by A. Kruti.



Unexpected changes of weather are not rare in our country. These sudden changes are one of the characteristics of the climate in Albania as a Mediterranean country.

A fine sunny day, but all of a sudden a light breeze disturbs the sea. Soon heavy clouds blot out the sun, to be followed by thunder and lightening. Big rain drops begin to fall. In a while a real storm bursts. But this doesn't last long either. After an hour the sun comes out again shining brighter than before. The air seems fresh, and clear the earth wet and soft.

continued from page 21

we had another meeting. It turned out that all of them shared our opinion. At the point we decided to organize ourselves, to have our own Party, at first without announcing it openly, until it had taken shape. At the end of March, we called a broad meeting with all those I mentioned and some others, and decided to set up branches all over Albania, to make contact with the other groups in order to coordinate our activities with them. The meeting appointed Selaudin Toto and me to come to you and report on our decisions, concluded Kole Kuqali.

Jacobson and Fultze had listened with great attention.

— I see that it is serious work — Jacobson broke in. The names you mentioned are not new to us. Without doubt the situation is very promising. For the present, I think you should tell all those gentlemen that we are very pleased with the initiative which has been taken and highly appreciate their will. We will give every assistance.

— I think, — Fultze added, — that now, at the start, the important thing is the organization. I mean that branches must be set up anywhere and measures be taken so that the organization's activity is not discovered.

— You are right. This is precisely what we stressed at our last meeting, interposed Selaudin Toto. Many other problems were also discussed. Jacobson and Fultze gave other instructions too, but did not go into very great detail. They thought it necessary to study the situation better based on this information and to give more complete instructions at the next meeting.

I think we should meet again in a week's time — said Jacobson when they rose to leave.

* * *

... In the the last days of September, the group that took part in the Democratic Front was on the agenda. Shefqet Beja was the first to take the floor.

... As you know, the elections to the Constituent Assembly are to be held on December 2, — he began. The Antifascist National Liberation Council approved the electoral law and set the date. Now, we should discuss what attitude we shall take in these elections. The main question is whether we should come out with a separate list and then join in the Front or should we stay as we are and in this way, of course, some of us will appear as candidates of the Front. I think that we should not come out with a separate list: first, because we are still not so organized; second, we will be exposed as a group on our own, and third, there is the danger that we might not win any seats in the Assembly.

The others were more or less of the same opinion, but first of all they wanted to know what the people of the American mission had said, and for this they turned to Selaudin Toto:

— This is precisely, the opinion of the Americans, he said. Jacobson has interested himself in stand we should take during the elections.

He told me that we ought to win some places in the Constituent Assembly, by being merged in the Front.

— We agree too — said all those who took the floor.

— Somebody inquired about Gjergj Kokoshi. Selaudin Toto answered this question too.

The rapid scientifically based development of our socialist economy has made a systematic and profound study of the climate over the territory of Albania more than ever necessary. At present our research institutes and research workers have made a broad and detailed study of the laws governing our climate and its phenomena.

Here are some general facts about the climate in Albania for our foreign readers.

Sunshine and cloud. The wide-scale cyclonic activity during cold half of the year brings cloudy weather and rain during this period while the warm half of the year is characterized by little cloud and rain, as anti-cyclonic activity becomes predominant. The cloudiest months are November and December. In November cloudy weather throughout the territory of Albania fluctuates between 6.0—7.5 degrees. Mountain areas have the most cloudy weather, while the plains the southwest region in particular have less. July and August are the months with the least cloudy weather—the average for the whole territory is between 1.0 to 3.0 degrees, Saranda, the southernmost corner of the country enjoys an average of 159 sunny days a year, whereas Kukësi, 4 in the north,—77 days.

Albania's lowland area records 2,480-2,800 hours, sunshine per year, the south-western part 2,580-2,730 hours, the southeastern part 2,400-2,500 hours, the north-east 2,050-2,300 hours, and so on. July is the month with most sunshine and December the month with the least.

The maximum number of hours of sunshine in one day (15.1 hours) for the whole territory of the country, was recorded at the meteorological centre of Fieri, on 28th of June, 1969.

Rainfall: in our country is concentrated more on the western and south-western slopes of the mountains and mountain-ranges than on the eastern slopes.

The heaviest rainfall occurs in November, December and January. Rainfall is heaviest in the Alps of Albania. Boga (in the north) is the spot which has a record of 404 mm in November and 432 mm in December. In Korça (south) in November the average rainfall is 112 mm.

During the summer months of July and August there is very little rain.

Summer rain usually has a local character and is a consequence of the influence of the relief on the air currents.

The rain is often torrential. On 23rd October 1946, in Tirana, within two and a half hours there was a precipitation of 252 mm. In Boga, within 24 hours (on 15th of December 1965) a precipitation of 420.4 mm was recorded. This is regarded as the record fall for our country.

The number of rain days per year all over the territory of Albania, fluctuates from 90 to 136.

Winds: The country's relief exercises a great influence on the air currents. The western part of Albania being a plain, is most influenced by air currents from the seas, the influence of these air masses is also felt in the interior of the country.

In Albania winds from the northerly and southerly quarters are the most frequent, particularly from the north. Winds from the north. Winds from the easterly or westerly quarter are less frequent.

The maximum wind velocity recorded in Vlora is 45 m/sec, in Korça, Durrës etc 46 m/sec.

Characteristic winds in our country are the Murlan—typical of the North and North-east, which is cold and mainly a dry wind whose influence is felt all over the territory of Albania; and the Sirocco which occurs more often in the western part. It is a warm wind coming from Africa across the Mediterranean Sea. Usually the Sirocco is encountered in spring and autumn.

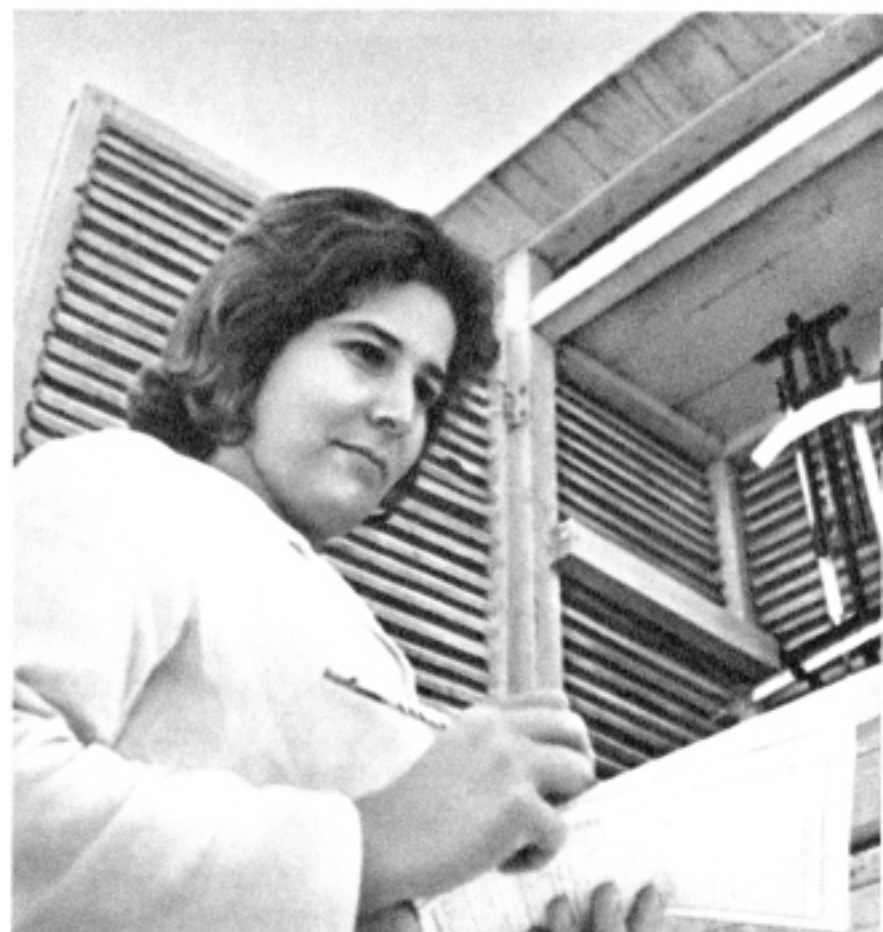
Temperature: Examining the temperature maps it can be easily observed that there is a marked drop in the temperature from South to North and from West to East, the main reason for this being the increasing altitude above sea-level.

On the Western lowlands the annual average temperature is between 14°-16° C. whereas along the Ionian coast it fluctuates between 17°-18° C. The region of the Albanian Alps is the coldest part. January is the coldest month in the country, July and August the warmest months. The average temperatures of these two months have little variation.

The highest air temperature record until now is 42.48° C. (That was on 14th of August 1957).

The absolute minimum temperature recorded is minus 25.8° C. (17th of January 1963), in Central Albania.

Our research work also touches upon other climatic elements such as the humidity of the air, soil temperature, various atmospheric phenomena, etc.



—Gjergj— he said, — has withdrawn from the Front and will establish an opposition outside it, with the Resistance group, the monarchists and so on.

Later they discussed practical question concerning the election. Finally, it was decided to inform the members of the organization in the districts and other opposition groups, with which they had contact about the decisions they had taken. It was also decided that wherever the members of their organization would come forward as candidates, of the Front propaganda should be done to ensure that they won, while where there were other candidates, efforts should be made to sabotage the elections, to have as many obstructions as possible and increase votes against the front as much as they could.

Thus, the roles were divided among the different groups, prior the elections of December 2. Now the emergence of the overt opposition was to be expected.

But the days went by and no opposition was emerging. Despite Hodgson's insistence, the heads of the groups outside the Front, did not reach an agreement. There were contradictions among them, but above all there was in decision, because they saw that they would find no support among the people. In general they were compromised individuals. Seeing that the days were passing by in talk, Hodgson called up some of the chiefs. They made promises, but again made not a step forward. He threatened, put all sorts of pressures on them, yet, nothing came out of it. November 7th, the last day for announcing candidates came but still nothing had been done. Thus the plan of coming out with an open opposition outside the Democratic Front failed.

— They're like blasted rabbits—raged—General Hodgson to Fultze that day — what we did not do for them. We advised them, helped to get them organized, gave them money, promised to protect them, put pressure on the government, postponed recognition of it to encourage them. What else could we have done?

— I've news from the center,—added Fultze after a pause,—that now it has become impossible to postpone recognition of the government any longer. The Soviets are insisting on the implementation of what was decided Yalta about Albania and announced by Hull Eden and Molotov in December 1942. They have declared that they will recognize the present Albanian government regardless of what we do. This makes the situation more difficult. It seems the government will soon be recognized.

— That's the last straw! After this there is nothing more that can be done.

Hang on bit — not so fast!

1) The "boys", were some Albanians jailed in Italy, whom the SBS had assembled in "Roza" villa, near Bari, where they went through a special espionage course and who were later dispatched to Albania. They joined the partisan ranks. Some of them were even admitted to the Party. By means of them, Fultze intended to organize the assassination of some Party and state leaders.

2) The "pupils" were some of the agents Fultze had recruited when he was director of the Technical School in Tirana; After the liberation of Albania, they played an important role in the organization of reaction and sabotage.



Dionis-marble, second century.



Provisional recreation of the ornamental fronts of the "Monument of Argonoteteve" in Apollonia.



Fresh Discoveries in Apollonia

Koço Zheru — archaeologist

In the ancient city of Apollonia, one of the most important archaeological centres of our country, side by side with the research work done for the discovery and research on the ruined monuments of the city, works of a restoration and conservation character has always been undertaken.

This was the character at the work that was carried out last year by the Institute of Monuments and Culture on the so-called "Monument of Agonoteteve" which has important architectural values.

The monument represents a public building constructed in Apollonia about the second century. From its main façade it looks like a temple, with a row at marble columns in the Corinthian style. The architectural decoration of the façade carved from stone with rare mastery is of great interest and artistic value.

It was built by a city functionary — Kuintus Villima Krispinus Furius Prokulus, in memory of his deceased brother.

The preliminary work that was done the last year was aimed first of all at a detailed study of the whole material of the collapsed façade and through this study a graphic reconstruction and a provisional recreation of its ornamental fronts was achieved.

Restoration work on the façade of Agonoteteve monument will start soon on the basis of a carefully studied detailed design.

During the shifting of the stones of the fallen façade, three in-

The Legend of Two Mountains, a Hill and a River

The people's fantasy has woven various legends round some places of our motherland, legends that seem to have been inspired by the extend appearance of the corresponding sites.

The old men of Berati District tell that Tomorri (the highest mountain in the southern Albania) and Shpiragu (a lower one which is situated west of Berati), were once, human beings, brothers. These two gigantic brothers had fallen in love with a beautiful creature; hence they quarrelled, until the day when the two brothers came to blows. In the course of the fight Shpiragu who was armed with a steel ball struck a blow at his brother's ribs, while the infuriated Tomorri struck his brother on the chest with his sword. In the meantime, the beautiful creature was crying. This blood fratricidal event turned the two giants into stone. Ever since Tomorri with his mountain slopes stands imposing and threatening opposite Shpiragu with his chest marked with stripes. But, what of the cause of the quarrel, the beautiful creature, what became of her? As the legend has it, out of grief she was petrified into a rocky hill, on which, our forefathers, the Illyrians, built stone by stone, the castle of Berati. From her tears at grief arose the Osum River, which flows across the city, at the foot of the castle.



Artemis-marble, fourth century before our era.

complete sculptural objects, related to the mythology of the ancient world were discovered. The first found on its own under a heap of stones, was a woman's head carved from white marble. The head had been part of statue sculptured in half natural size. Judging from the position the head took in composition of the whole statue, the hair, style, the expression at the face and the characteristic features reproduced in it, we think that it should be identified with the initiation of Artemis (Diana) goddess of hunting, and belongs as a work, to the second half of the fourth century before our era.

The head of Artemis which appears for the first time as a photograph in our press, is one of the earliest and most beautiful works of Apollonian sculpture that has been discovered so far.

The second discovery is a statue that shows the figure of a god not yet identified. The statue is utility. The head, part of the left leg and hand are missing. Despite the mutilation, it stands out as a work carved by the hands of some gifted apollonian master craftsmen. The third archaeological object was a small head, which was discovered together with some small fragment of its torso. It seems this must lead of Dionysus, (Dacchus), who, in ancient mythology represented the god of vineyards and wine. It is carved out of white marble in half natural size and is very well preserved.

Both the unidentified body and the head of Dionysus are products of the Apollonian sculpture and date back to the 2nd or third century before our era.



Drawing by N. Bakalli.

The most outstanding among the artists distinguished in the history of the Turkish architecture is Sinan Atiq Aga, who designed and supervised the most important constructions built during the reign of Sultan Hamit II. The Sultan's biographer, the Byzantine historian Christovoulos, wrote that for the reconstruction of Istanbul that had been damaged by the wars, prisoners were used. Immediately after the occupation of Albania which was the cradle of the master craftsmen of building at that time, the best artists and masters were taken as hostages to Anadolu. Among those hostages was the master craftsman Kristodullo who was later converted to the Moslem religion and named Sinan Atiq (which means a freed slave).

Ten years after the fall of Istanbul to the Turks in 1463, in order to perpetuate his memory Sultan Mehmet the second ordered the building of a grand mosque in place of the church at the Apostles where the sovereigns of the Byzantine Empire, among them Justinian—the law maker from Kosova, had been buried.

The work for the construction of the new mosque (the first of its kind in Istanbul) began in the spring of 1463 and went on for 8 years. Our Sinan was appointed chief architect for this project. By the end of the summer of 1471 when the work was nearing its completion he had managed to build a mosque with 32 cupolas supported by 18 columns of granite or marble together with another complex of social-cultural buildings around the mosque. There were eight schools with students dormitories, the hospital, the almshouse for the poor, a dining hall and a bath house as well as the burial place of Sultan Mehmet II and of his wife Gjylhane (she, too, was, of Albanian descent). All these buildings occupy a big square area in the midst of a huge garden, intersected by several paths and lanes. The grandeur of this architectural work lies not simply in its proportions, but mainly in the lucidity of its composition, in the courage and daring spirit embodied in its construction. The interior is very simple. It is lit by six rows of windows. Despite its simplicity it undoubtedly surpasses all the other Istanbul mosques with its beauty and grandeur so masterfully designed and constructed. Nicholas de Nicholay (the court geographer of Françoise 2nd of France) was correct when wrote during his visit to Istanbul in 1540 that, "the most beautiful and rich of all the mosques is that of Fatih".

The grace of its form and the harmony of its proportions caused it to be regarded as a magnificent model for later architects.

Where did architect Sinan find those essential elements of the style he displayed in designing that masterpiece?

Did he bring them from his homeland with rich traditions in architecture, with masters of building who enjoyed a high reputation, and was that why he was entrusted to design such important schemes? The morphology of architectural works, which in a way reflect historical, social and political conditions, is influenced by a variety of factors, particularly by the geographical and geological conditions of the terrain. Nevertheless, the creative thought of the designers is always there, though their physiognomy and personality (individuality) is invariably over-



View of Mehmedie Mosque in Istanbul.

Tracing the Early Albanian Artists

Architect Sinan

Ramadan Sokoli

shadowed. Architect Sinan's work was seriously damaged, it was almost ruined by a heavy earthquake in 1766. It was rebuilt during 1766-1772. The "Blue Mosque" of Sultan Ahmet I, a work of the Albanian architect Zedefqar Mehmet Biçaku from Elbasan, was chosen as a model for its reconstruction.

We can probably picture the image of the master Kristodullo's work from some drawings and descriptions given by visitors to Istanbul during XV and XVII centuries; particularly helpful are the details obtained

from a document in Arabic which is preserved, together with the number of the acts of 1672 in the museum of the Turcho-Islamic arts at the Sulejmanie Mosque. From the data available to date we can't say we have a full picture of architect Sinan's activity, for we don't know everything about his background.

A forced immigrant he worked in a foreign city at a time when Albania was groaning under the ruthless yoke of the invader after a hundred years of heroic struggles resisting the Ottoman hordes.

For this reason, data on the birth, biography and the growth of the creative personality of architect Sinan are elusive. Dimiter Kantemiri (1674-1723) from Moldavia who is known as an orientalist and erudite of his day, mentions architect Sinan using his former name "Kristodullo", in "The History of the Ottoman Empire" which he had published in 1705. Architect Sinan's Albanian nationality was accepted by the Turkish thinkers themselves such as Syria Bey (the author of "Sicili Osmani") or Abdurrahman Sherif Bey (former chairman of the Turkish Historians Association), etc. Among these historians there are some who say nothing about architect Sinan's nationality either because they know nothing of his origin, or because they don't want to point out the fact that the authors of the masterpieces of Osman architecture were people who had come from the occupied lands. Some others confuse our architect Sinan, with architect Koxha Sinani (1491-1588) known as "the Osman Michelangelo", who came from a place called the Kaiseri of Kapodekje.

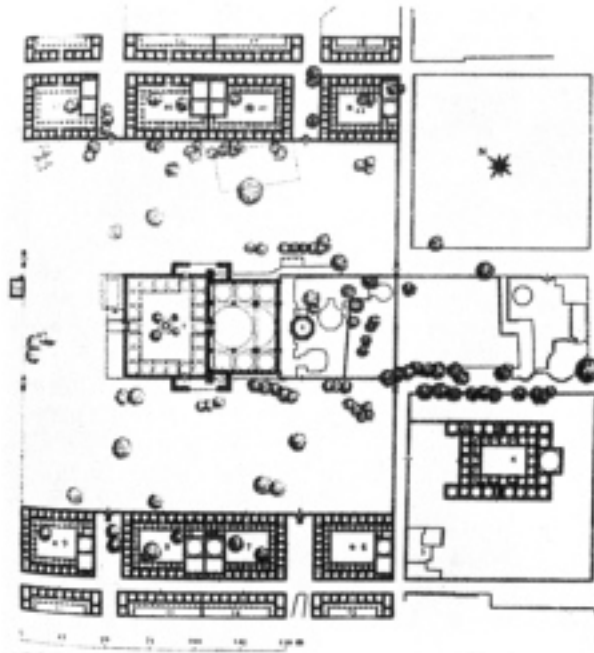
As for his social position, it is crystal clear that architect Sian' Atiq Aga, even when he was at the zenith of his powers and fame, remained nicknamed 'Atiq', which meant a formally freed slave always under the orders of the Sultan.

It is said that, after the new mosque was completed, Sultan Mehmet II rewarded him for his services by giving him the Kyçyk Xhafer Street at the Upper Fener. But from a contemporary Osman chronicle, quoted by the renowned Turchologist, Franz Babinger (see Mehmet der Erebernr und zeine zeit, book IV, page 432) we learn that the truth is entirely different. After a description of the bad treatment and of the bitter exploitation the masters and artisans suffered in conditions of forced labour, the Turkish chronicler writes that "None of them returns to his homeland". Then he goes on to tell us that "Sultan Mehmet II imprisoned, then killed architect Sinan who had built the new mosque. Franz Babinger does not reveal the reasons for this tragic end but asks: "Was his wrongdoing really so grave that he deserved such a death?" It is also said that



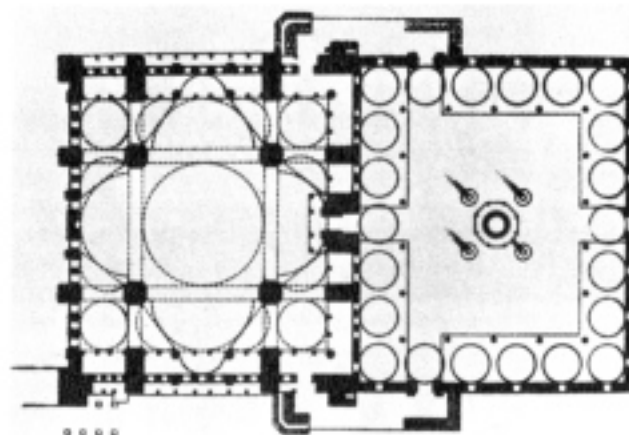
The burial place of Sultan Mehmet II.

after the building of the mosque was completed, Sultan Mehmet II was very angry because the new mosque was lower than that of St. Sofia; so he ordered that architect Sinan who had shortened two columns that had been brought there from a far off place at great expense, (these two columns were unearthed during our century while work was going on for paving the square in front of the Fatih Mosque) should have his hands cut off. Then the Sultan imprisoned him and in 1471 killed him.



The Design of the complex of the buildings round Mehmedie Mosque.

The Design of Fatih Mosque.



These facts obtained from the chronicler about architect Sinan's death, correspond with grave stone inscription which can still be found today in the Qurumi Mexhid garden, near the mosque of Mehmet Pasha Nishanxhi. The inscription tells us only the name "mimar Sinan" and the data of his death 3rd September, 1471.

This was how the great master ended his days — a victim of the violence and capriciousness of the cruel Sultan. Interestingly enough seven centuries before, the architect of Emperor Justiniani's church which was built on that very spot, suffered the same fate.

Architect Sinan is not the only Albanian who worked in Turkey. "All the hydraulic works around Istanbul have been built by the hands of the Albanians, and they are all praiseworthy from the point of view of the skill displayed in their building". That was written a century ago by a foreigner Athanasion Kaminou Ipeilentou (see "Te Meratin Alosin-1453-1785-published in Cinstantinople in 1870, page 777). Here we should add that it was not only in hydraulic works, but also in all kinds of construction work that the Albanians contributed with their skill. They built temples and shrines, mausoleums, dwelling houses, bridges, castles, fortresses etc. There is no doubt that the number of the Albanians who exhausted their energies beyond the borders of their country must have been greater than what we know today.

Their names were often forgotten, though their works are conspicuous and have withstood the passage of time. The history of world architecture particularly that of the Middle Ages, provides numerous examples of the frustration of the creative personality of the artists.

However, the Albanians have not forgotten architect Sinan. A street of our Capital city today bears the name Sinan, in honour of this glorious master.

The Young Man Who Shot at The Albanian Quisling Premier

His name was Shyqyri Bërxolli but his companions called him Reti. Poorly dressed and pale faced, Reti was poor and an orphan.

It was during the critical days of fascist occupation of our country. There were outbursts of anti-fascist demonstrations in all the cities of Albania. Reti was in the forefront of the antifascist demonstration in Tirana. A few months after the founding of the Albanian Communist Party (November 1941) he was admitted to membership. A new period of life, duties and struggle had begun for him. Bold and full of energy, but cool and resolute, he began to take upon himself the hardest of tasks. His short life was filled with bold actions, but his great communist courage and extraordinary self-sacrifice and . . . cool-headedness, were brilliantly manifested in his attempt on the life of the fascist quisling Prime Minister and traitor to the Albanian people, Mustafa Mërlika Kruja. Mustafa Kruja was an old agent of fascism. The occupationists kept him as their "firm hand" against the people who had risen up in arms.

The guerrilla unit functioning in the capital decided to do away with this traitor and this task was assigned to Reti. He organized his job at lightning speed, finding a car, a driver and the weapon.

And thus as the car with the quisling Premier inside approached its destination a shot was fired. The wind screen of the car was smashed. The traitor Prime Minister crouched in the corner of his back seat. He had been wounded.

The guerrilla unit drove off without loss and leaving no trace behind. But crack of that revolver had a great echo.

Other exploits lay in store for Reti. Cool-headed and bold as ever he made short work of many traitorous agents.

To stay in Tirana any longer was too dangerous. The young man joined the "Dajti" Partisan Battalion. In January 1944, a bitter battle took place between this battalion and the mercenary forces of the enemy. In his attempt to request some of his companions from encirclement Shyqyri Bërxolli met his death. Today a monument stands on the spot where he fell. . . .

VIOLA ALBANICA

Selami Skenderi — engineer



①



②



③

Our country has a variegated landscape — in it one finds the blue waters of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, green plains and plateaus, thick forests and lofty mountains intersected by valleys, passes and gorges that give to the Albanian nature a sort of gentle beauty and alpine roughness. It is of particular attraction for its greenery, its rich and various vegetation of a great scientific significance.

From the hitherto studies made by our men of science we learn that there are more than 3,000 species of plants and vascular chirtogames in Albania. This is particularly in favour of the Albanian climate. Two known climates are intermingled in our country: the Atlantic Mediterranean climate characterized by warm weather and Mediterranean continental mild climate.

So various historical-geographical phenomena that have conditioned the evolution of the vegetation have determined the development of some "endemic" species that constitute an important flora element of great scientific value. Above 6 per cent of the Albanian flora (more than 160 species) are endemic plants that bear



the name of our country, of heroes, of mountains or other places where they grow. The endemic plants are to be found all over the place: on mountain peaks, in the lowlands, even in the sands of the sea coast. They embellish our country's landscape with a variety of colours and shapes filling the air round with odour. A traveller's eye may be often struck by the splendour of a flower-embroidered lawn like those in the alpine valleys of Vermoshi, or by the lilies that grow above the Lura lake waters, by a deserted flower which has its roots in a crack on the rocks of the rugged mountains where no vegetation is to be found but this flower that resembles a legend.

On the rocks where the Kruja castle erects one finds in big quantities a flower called *Sesleria Scanderbegii* a name given to it to honour and revere our national hero — Scanderbeg who fought for 25 years in succession against the Ottoman Empire for Albania's independence.

Another rare flower is *Sesleria Skipetarum* which grows on the hills around Shkodra. On the Korabi Mountain peaks we find such endemic plants as *Draba Korabensis*, *Eryssimum Korabense*, *Sesleria Korabensis*. The Dukagjini violet—*Viola Dukadjinica* attracts one with its splendid odour. Its yellow flowers decorate the rough nature of the mountains. *Sanguiserba Albanica*, *Cerasium Hekuravense*, *Trisetum Albanicum* flourish in the Alpine areas of the Hekura peak and Shkelzeni Mountain in the North. In the picturesque Thethi Mountains *Wullenia Baldaccii* with its blue flowers roots well at the Shtegu Dhenve Mountain pass. *Erachypodium Albanicum* grows on the Shebeniku rocks where vegetation is sparse. On the Tomorri Mountain peak *Grocus Tomoricus* marks itself out from the rest of the plants that grow there. Our seacoast sands together with the jungle-like Divjaka forests offer the visitor a particularly attractive panorama in autumn, especially in October when the light-blue *Aster Albanicus* flower is at its height. In the end we must make mention of the fragrant blue Albanian violet—*Viola Albanica* which embellishes the Qore Mountain, Llogara and the Martaneshi Mountain.

The Albanian flora with its abundance of vegetation is a boundless realm for research work and studies. Thousands of sportsmen, mountaineers setting foot on every inch of our plains and mountains will always discover something new. They are undoubtedly a great help for our experts. Therefore we have grounds to say that the Albanian specialists will contribute to this branch of science with their studies and research work.

- ① Cactus.
- ② *Nymhala alba*.
- ③ *Cyclamin Persicum*.
- ④ *Dianthus caryophyllus*, varieteti chabouk.
- ⑤ *Amaryllis Hippeastrum*.
- ⑥ *Sinningia hybrid*.



SPORTS

About a Football Match

Within the framework of the European football championship a match was played in Tirana between the representative team of Albania and that of the F.R. of Germany. The game was of special interest because these two teams drew when they played in 1967 for the European championship, and thus the German team was knocked out of the finals. That is why this time the German team came to Tirana with almost the same players it had in the world finals in Mexico: Meier, Vogst, Backenbauer, Grabovski, Overat, Muler etc. The Germans even "borrowed" from "Milan" of Italy the famous back Shnelinger.

The game ended 1:0 in favour of the

German team, but judging it even from what the German players themselves said it can be seen that the score did not truly reflect the development of the game which might well have ended differently.

After the match the international referee T.Bechirov (Bulgaria) said this: "The Albanian team played better than the F.R.G. team with regard to its fighting spirit and the whole organization of the game. Had it not been for that unexpected chance that brought the goal, the match would have ended in a draw. The Albanians played a very correct game while the west Germans began to stir things up, but failed. Concerning your team I can say that it is a very

good collective in all directions.

What struck me most? The behaviour of your public. There can not be a more objective public".

Hans Bangester: Secretary General of the UEFA pointed out: "Having seen this match I hold Albanian football in high esteem. The match should have ended in a draw". In a meeting with the journalists, Hans Bangester said this among other things: "I have seen two Albanian teams selected out of two million people, but I also saw two teams of the FRG selected from the two million footballers of that country".

Helmut Shon: The coach of the FRG team said: "I have had the chance to see the Albanian football previously and I have always liked it. I wish to pay the best compliments to my colleague Boriçi. Though we won, I would have accepted a one all draw. Both teams played better than in 1967. Among your players I liked Bizi, Vaso, Dinella, and as always Pano. I am leaving



Snapshot from the international football match between Albanian and German teams.

1967. Technically the Albanian team plays first class football. No doubt the Albanian team deserved a draw. Shon says this: "We must not get downhearted. The essential thing is we have won".

Muller says this: "I had thought it would have been an easier game. The Albanians don't play bad football".

Backenbauer said: "The game that the Albanians played was something unexpected for me. Yes, it will be difficult for any team in Tirana".

"Die Press" newspaper wrote this in its sports corner: "Gert Muller saved his trainer Shon and the German team from another desperate situation. Muller scored the "golden" goal at the 38th minute. The Albanians play a wonderful game. This was also accepted by Insbruk at the "Tivoli" stadium (This refers to the match between "Vacker" of Insbruk and "Partizani" of Tirana for the Cup of the cup winners — our note). The Albanians play with a magnificent conception, but have not achieved what they should. The Albanians were stronger than 3 years ago. This can be seen in the fact that the Germans had only six shots at the Albanian goal".

"Sportul" newspaper of Bucharest gave this news about the match: "According to information obtained from the trainer of the federation, Cornel Dragushin, (who accompanied the "Universitatea" team of Cluj who were touring Albania recently — our note) it was an evenly balanced game during the first half. After the break the hosts were completely superior but did not manage to score. Generally speaking it would have been fair if the match had ended in a draw. Taking into consideration their opponents we can say that the Albanian team played very well. The team is made up of strong players, physically well trained, who are able to control broad areas of the football field".

Albania with the best impressions about the hospitality you have accorded us".

Overat: "A well played game by the two teams. It was a highlight for the Albanians today."

Backenbauer: "In these four years Albanian football has made considerable progress. Your team did very well tactically. We did not do well because your good play did not allow us. I liked all the Albanian players".

Shnelinger: "Your team played modern football." On the 18th of February "Frankfurter Rundschau" among other things wrote this: "Albania has once again demonstrated that it is the fear of the German team. The hopes of the Germans to run up a big score to repair the shame of the 1967 draw (0:0) were buried. After the first and only goal of the match, the Albanians were closer to equalizing than the Germans were to increasing the difference. The German team was several times in danger... The Albanians showed that they have learned a lot since



