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FRONT-COVER: "Comrade Enver Hoxha greeting the people"

Photo: by P. Kumi

BACK-COVER: Folk costumes

Photo: by S. Xhillari

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"NEW ALBANIA"

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One Out of Every Three Albanians Goes to School

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

The number of pupils and students is increasing every year. This year it is again at a record-breaking level 690,800 persons. Thus, in our country, one out of every three goes to school.

IN NOVEMBER 1941

DH. S. Shuteriqi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

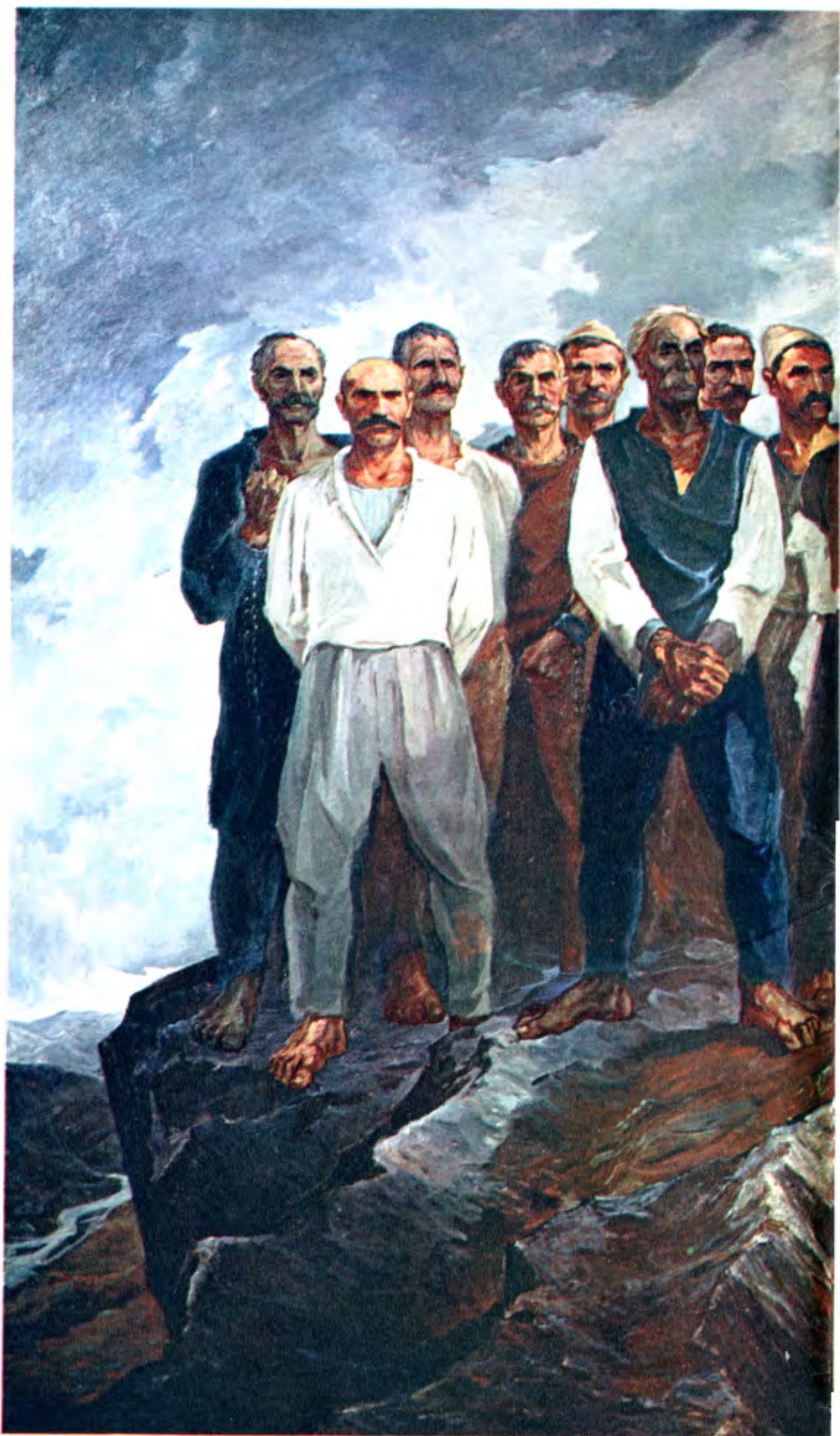
In November 1941, when the Communists founded their Party, they were not more than 200. Today, the 6th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania in these thirty years of struggle and victories, displays the invincible socialist reality.

The Ten Village Aldermen of Hekali

The struggle to smash the old state power and set up the now one, which the Party called for, was one of the most important fronts of our people's revolution. This was a political, ideological, organizational, armed struggle. The Anti-Fascist National Liberation Conference in Peza, of September 16th, 1942, the Anti-Fascist National Liberation Congress in Permet of May 24, 1944 up to the entry of the Provisional Democratic Government in Tirana, the meeting of the Constituent Assembly and the proclamation of the new Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, all these events mark stages in the establishment of the new People's State Power in our country. This State Power emerged in the heat of the National Liberation War, from the National Liberation Councils of villages, suburbs, towns and districts.

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

Remaining loyal to the people, these ten councillors stood manly and unbowed before the Hitlerite invaders. The enemy shot them but not the cause for which they fought. In Albania the People's State Power was built, became strong, and will become stronger and stronger as the years roll on.



Fatmir Haxhi: "With the Party to the last breath" (oil).



"Mother Albania", a work by the sculptors Muntaz Dhrami, Shaban Hadëri and Kristag Rama (in the studio).

WORDS AND DEEDS

(Going through the documents)

Our Party of Labour has never separated words from deeds. This has been and remains a distinctive feature of the whole of its thirty years of existence. In the future, too, this will continue to be a distinctive feature of the Party of Labour of Albania.

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

In the resolution adopted at the meeting of the principal communist groups of Albania which was called to found the Party on November 8, 1941, we read, among other things:

"... the Party will not become a Party of the old type, a Party similar to those of the Social-Democratic Second International in which disintegration, inactivity, factionalism and betrayal of the working class prevailed. We want a disciplined Party in which the comrades will subject themselves to the forums (the highest committees) a Party which will be capable of leading the working class to fight till victory is achieved, which will be closely bound to the toiling masses in town and countryside. If they do not detach themselves from the people, from the mother who has given them birth, the communists will be invincible..."

And now that we have come to the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Party, the Albanian communists, workers, the cooperative peasantry, and all the Albanian people are proud that they have such a Party, a powerful Party with a steel-like unity, a high revolutionary spirit, loyal to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, closely bound to the masses, capable of raising the people higher and higher and leading them towards progress, towards completing the construction of socialist society. Now the Party enjoys the sympathy and respect of all the genuine communists throughout the world, enjoys the deep sympathy of all the revolutionary forces.

In the above-mentioned resolution we read also:

"One of the fundamental laws of development of the Party of the new type, of the Bolshevik Party, is that of fighting on two fronts: against our own mistakes, especially, against attempts of form groups, and against the class enemy".

The whole thirty-year history of our

Party is the history of the fiercest struggles on these two fronts: the fight against the foreign invaders and traitors to the country and the fight against the factionists and opportunists, against modern revisionism and its agents within the Party.

From its foundation, our Party put forward as the immediate task "we must fight for the national independence of the Albanian people and for a People's Democratic Government in an Albania freed from fascism..."

These few lines summed up a great strategic objective. In order to achieve it, an unparalleled struggle, a major epic written in blood was necessary. And true enough, while this paragraph of the Resolution of the Meeting of the Communist Groups to form the Party was being composed in a small house in Tirana, on the streets of Korça, in the front ranks of a powerful anti-fascist demonstration, the writing of this bloody epic began: the communist Koci Bako, hero of the Albanian people, the first communist martyr fell in the fighting. After him there were hundreds of others.

The Party put out the call:

"Through actions of sabotage, strikes, demonstrations and so on, prepare the people politically and militarily for a general armed uprising, involving all the patriotic and anti-fascist forces for this purpose".

This was the road laid down by the Party. It was the road of the armed struggle, the only road that would lead to victory. The problems that had to be solved were many and extremely difficult. They had to be solved in the course of the struggle. The call of the Party reached every town, every village, every work place to the most remote hamlet of our countryside. And, under the heavy conditions of illegality, the Party organized itself, as well as the masses of youth and women, created the National Liberation Front and its own propaganda apparatus publishing thousands of leaflets and bulletins, the central Party organ "Zëri i Popullit", the newspapers "Bashkimi", "Kushtrimi i Lirise", and tens of newspapers and periodicals in every district and partisan unit.

This is what was written in a message addressed to the Albanian people by the Party Central Committee on April 7, 1943:

"... We call on all honest Albanians who love Albania heart and soul to unite all their forces and place them at the service of

the National Liberation War, to close their ranks in the National Liberation Front. Take up arms and join the Albanian National Liberation Partisan Volunteer Detachments and create new guerrilla units. The fate of our country depends on our fight and, the broader and fiercer the war against the invaders, the sooner will the day of liberation dawn..."

And our people listened to the Party. They set up guerrilla units in towns, partisan detachments, battalions, groups, shock brigades, divisions, and army corps. They trained the cadres who would lead them in the heat of battle. They began to fight with a few old rifles left from the generations who had fought in the past for the independence of Albania. In a letter which the General Staff addressed to the commanders of the partisan units on August 14, 1943 we read:

"It must be borne well in mind that we started the war without any other aid except that of our people and we must realize that we will fight to the end basing ourselves on this aid alone..."

"... The commands must see to it that clothing and weapons should be drawn from the enemy. Our only means of supply is to attack the depots of the enemy. You must attack them and seize them from the enemy.

And the weapons were seized from the enemy — from pistols to field guns."

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

On the following day, November 29, Shkodra, the last city held by the Germans Nazis, was freed by the forces of our Na-

THE ORIGIN OF A SONG

tional Liberation Army.

On November 30, the Bulletin of the National Liberation War announced to all the Albanian people:

"Shkodra of Perlat Rexhep, Ndoc Mazi, Vasil Shanto, Reshit Kusi, Manush Alimani and so many others of its worthy sons is now free. . . The liberation of Shkodra completes the liberation of the whole country. Today proud of their fight and the victories, the Albanian people celebrate November 28 in the ranks of a single National Liberation Front with their democratic state power and their Democratic Government".

The great victory envisaged by the Party was won. It was won by the heroic struggle and the innumerable sacrifices of our people. In his speech at the Plenary Session of the Peace Conference in Paris on August 21, 1946, Comrade Enver Hoxha stated:

" The Albanian people have fought for more than five years in succession against the Italian fascist and German Nazi occupationists and against their Albanian lackeys . . . The following figures show clearly how great has been our resistance: On the eve of the complete liberation of Albania our National Liberation Army had in its ranks 70,000 fighters, 6,000 of whom were women. Our resistance forced Italy to keep more than 100,000 troops and Germany more than 70,000 troops in Albania".

Our motto is "The Party does what the people want and the people do what the Party says". These few words express in a most concentrated form, that great truth which constitutes the cohesive force between the Party and the people, the force of the unity of socialist Albania.

Our Party never separates its words from its deeds. Once said as good as done. After liberation, too, the Party pursued the same glorious courses. It said that the old exploiting classes would be overthrown and they overthrown. It said that the land would be turned over to those who till it and this was really done. It said that socialist industry would be set up, that the socialist system would be established in agriculture, that education, culture, science and art for the people would be developed, and that electricity would be brought to all the rural areas, and so on, and all these things have been done.

The draft-directives of the Party for the new Five-Year Plan envisage the construction of bigger projects than our people have ever dreamt of previously. Already it seems to our people that they can see with their own eyes, touch with their own hands, and hear the noise of our new furnaces; hydro-electric power-plant and factories.

Words and deeds — an indivisible unity for our Marxist-Leninist Party, its distinctive feature.

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

What had happened?

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

Shkodra witnessed unparalleled heroism that day.

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

Awaken! Banging on the door when dawn had scarcely broken.

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

One week after the Firaj road affair, I was arrested and thrown into jail. I was put in a cell 5 X 3 meters in the basement in which there were fifty other prisoners. We did what could to pass the time in such a place. I couldn't get the event of 22nd June out of my mind, and one day I scratched the words of this song on the wall. Later, urged by my fellow prisoners, I set it to music. Soon everyone in the jail had learned the song, and it even began to be spread outside in the city.

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

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

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

The director said:

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

No one stirred. I cast a furtive glance at Halil, the leader of our group but his look warned me not to make any move. Then the captain began to shout and stamp hurling all sorts of invective at us. He bellowed like a bull demanding the name of the author.

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

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

The carabinieri rushed to grab him, but the director knew Gjyli very well.

"No, no, this man has not written the song" he said to the captain and to the carabinieri, "he does not know how to read or write".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"No, no!" shouted another mountaineer from the opposite window. "That is the song I composed".

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

"I! I!"

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



A Song to the Three Vigu Heroes

Kolë Jakova

At daybreak at four
A knock at the door
Then a loud roar:
"Give up and surrender!"
Jordan takes command:
"Up for our dear land,
Show the fascist band
We fight to defend her!"

Si përgjigjet populli Shqiptar Asambles s' Gestapos? me TOP!

Asambleja trahitare e Shqipnis u mbloth sot më 18 Tetor, m'ora 9 në Pallatin e Viktor Emanuelit në Tiranë, u mbloth për të përsërit trahitin e 12 Prillit 1939. Kurdoherë anmiqt e popullit tonë, trahitarët, reaksionarët, janë bashkue dhe bashkohen me të huejt për të mbajt popullin në robni.

Asamblesë së 18 Tetorit, populli Shqiptar, n'armë kundra okupatorit, i dha përgjigjën e tij me luftë.

Artilleria e brigatës së tretë t'Ushtrisë Nac. Çl. Shqiptare qëlloi sot m'ora 10 Pallatin e V. E. Pallatin e Asamblesë.

Peaktë Asambleja e Gestapo;!
Rrejtë Ushtria Nacional - Çlirimtare!
Rrejtë Shqipëria e Lirë demokratike-popullore!

On October 18, 1943, the partisan artillery bombarded the place where the traitorous Assembly organized by GESTAPO was held in Tirana. Here is the leaflet distributed in the streets of Tirana an hour later: "How do the Albanians respond to the GESTAPO Assembly? With gunfire. . ."



During the battle for the liberation of Tirana, every house was turned into a bastion.

The monument raised to our artillery. Photo by S. Xhillari



A Rifle of Three Generations

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

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



Comrade Enver Hoxha, Commander-in-Chief of the National Liberation Army, on his way to the First Congress of Anti-Fascist Youth held at Helmas in August 1944.



Comrades Haxhi Lleshi, Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Albania and Mehmet Shehu, Premier of the People's Republic of Albania at Labinot in the Elbasan District in 1944.

The Land to Those Who Till It

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

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

In 1945, ownership of land was as follows:

— 7 landed proprietors held titles to 14,554 hectares or 5.7% of all the land.

— 4,713 land rich families owned 93,133 hectares or 23.1% of the land.

— The State owned 50,000 hectares or 12.71% of the land.

— 128,961 middle class and landpoor families owned 237,668 hectares or 60% of the lands.

— 21,544 peasant families were landless.

Profiting from the Land Reform Laws were:

— 48,667 landpoor and 21,544 landless families. In addition to land they received olive trees, draft-animals and agricultural inventories. The confiscated lands were not paid for or compensated by the State. All the land, olive trees and draft-animals were distributed free of charge.

The distribution of land envisaged by the Land Reform Laws was completed by November 17, 1946.



In line with the Land Reform Laws, it was here that the first titles of ownership were handed to the labouring peasantry. Photo by N. Kodheli

Legend and Reality

nja, Durrës and Vlora is greater than that of the whole of Albania in 1938.

Agricultural production has increased as a result of extending the areas under cultivation the mechanization of agriculture and of raising the productivity of crops. “Take to the hills and mountains, beautify them and make them as fertile as the plains” under this slogan during the last five years we have broken in new land equal to one third the

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

The changes made in the mechanization of agriculture have no comparison in the past. The number of tractors (in terms of 15 HP) employed today is more than thirty times the number employed in 1950, 2.5 times the number employed in 1960 and 43% above those employed in 1965. These tractors have carried out more than 3 times the amount of work done with tractors and 80% more than in 1965.

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

Words That Are No Longer in Use

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

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

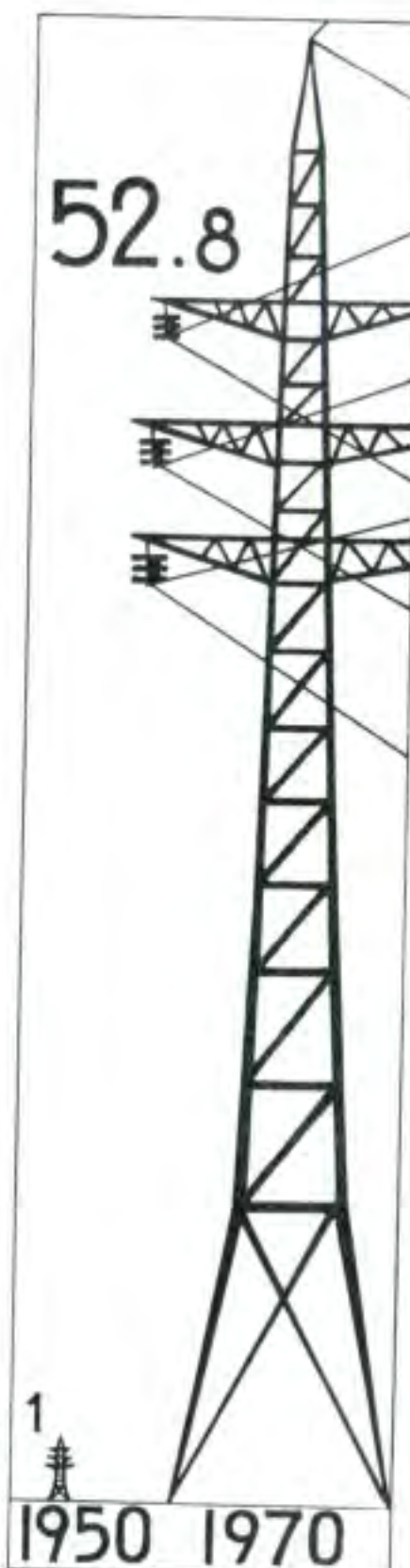
No Albanian citizen pays any tax or other deduction from his income. The People's Republic of Albania is the only State in the world without deductions and taxes on the incomes of the workers at town or countryside. This fact indicates two things: first, the rapid development of our national economy,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

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

The proportion of charges and taxes levied on the population in the total budget revenue of the State in the 1945-1946 financial year was 92%, in 1950—12.6%, in 1960—2.1%, in 1969—0.1%.

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

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



Total industrial production of electricity.

The Miner and His Children

Nili Biti was the first to break his family tradition: he left his home and set off for the mine. He was young then. From Divjaka, his birthplace, he took with him a bag of wears and many bitter memories. His father died when he was very young. So, life with all its burden weighed heavy on the young man's shoulders.

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

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

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

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

"Good morning, Nili!"

"Good morning my boys!"

And Nili responds to the greetings with a smile. He puts his arms on his two sons' shoulders who are walking by his side. With him are his three sons, Perikli, Petraq and Llazar and Hafsa, Petraq's wife. Some time ago you would see here his two other sons — Naum and Llukan. Now, the former is working in the mine of Manzi, in the Durrës District, whereas the latter is doing his military service. Vasilika, Nili's wife with her two

little children, Vladimir and Donika, stay at the gate watching them disappear behind the turn. Now, Vasilika after having worked for 15 years, is getting a full pension pay.

Nili Biti is well satisfied with his children. This is the happiest finish for parents.

What pleases him most is that they all love and honour work. They have embarked on the road of life already. An old saying has it: "Well begun is half done. His oldest son, Perikli graduated from the 8 grade school. Now he is a miner like his father. But he attends the part-time secondary vocational school. He will become a mining technician of medium-training. Last year, Perikli got married. His second son, Naum too, made up his mind to tread on his fathers

steps. He started work here in Krraba. Now, he is working in the Manzi Mine in the Durrës District.

Petraq, his third son, was fond of school. He graduated from Teacher Training Institute and is now teaching in the elementary school of the Rozavera Village, near Krraba. This year he married Hafsa, a girl from Petrela Village. She also is a teacher in the 8th grade school of the Krraba Mine.

His other son, Llukan, was very keen on construction work. Thus he went to work at the "Mao Tsetung Hydropower Station at Vau i Dejës. There he became a fitter. Now, he is doing his military service. When, he finishes with it, he will go back to his old job again. He is very much like swallows: He flits from one work site to another. And the Five-Year Plans are full of such work sites.

Llazar is Nili's fifth son. He graduated from the 8th grade school and began work in the workshop of the mine. He likes to become a mechanic.

Whereas Vladimir, the miner's sixth son is still at school. He wants to pass through the 8th grade school with excellent marks.

Donika is the first daughter and the last child of Nili Biti.

—She is the joy of old age, says her father, smiling. Until now she has brought home only excellent marks from the school. We met Nili Biti in his house. We found him in his garden, feeding the rabbits.

—Next year I am going to retire, and I will have more time to look after the rabbits. In Nili's family they are leading a happy life.

The Language of Statistics

For the number of students for every 10,000 inhabitants Albania ranks with the advanced countries. In 1970, in this respect it left behind a number of countries like Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Poland and others. In 1969, as against 1950, the number of workers with secondary, or higher schooling increased about 14 times. In every 1,000 workers in 1950 there were 44 who had been through secondary and higher schools, in 1965, that number rose to 120 and in 1968, to 340.

During the five years of the 5th five-year period, the volume of investments will be 70 to 75 per cent higher than during the preceding five-year period. It will be nearly equal to the volume of investments during the 18 years from 1946 to 1963. The investments to be made for the construction of the Metallurgical Plant at Elbasan and the Second Hydro-Electric Power-Plant on the Drini River at Fierza alone are nearly equal to all the investments made during the 1st Five-Year Plan or half as much as those made during the 2nd Five-Year Plan.

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

The total production of 1960 was realized in less than 5 months during 1970. One per cent of the increase of production during the period 1956 to 1968 was valued at 14 million leks while during the 1966 to 1970 period it was valued at 42 million leks.

* * *

During the year 1966-1970, agricultural production was 61 per cent higher than during the preceding 10 years. In 1970 the electric power used in agriculture was 2.3 times greater than in 1960. Agriculture used 2.6 times more artificial fertilizer during the 4th Five-Year Plan than during the two preceding Five-Year Plans taken together.

* * *

The future Metallurgical Plant in Elbasan will extend over an area 10 times as large as the "Mao Tsetung" Textile Mills in Berat which is considered one of the largest establishments of our country. The machinery which will be installed here will be 9 times greater in weight and volume than that of the Nitrate Fertilizer Plant at Fieri. The machine shop of this works alone will be 3 times as large as the "Tractor Plant in Tirana". The Thermoelectric Power-Plant, which is a small annex of the Deep Oil Refinery in Balsh, will have an installed capacity equal to those of the "V.J. Lenin" Hydro-Electric Power-Plant and the Thermo Power-Plant at the "J.V. Stalin" Textile Mills in Tirana taken together. The area of the artificial lake of the Fierza Hydro-Electric Power-Plant will be 5 times that of the artificial lake of the "Karl Marx" Hydro-Electric Power-Plant at Ulza.

* * *

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

These new buildings will house a population equal to the present population of the cities of Shkodra, Durrës, Vlorë, Korça, Elbasan, Berat, Fieri and Lushnja taken together.



A woman cooperative member.

This used to be a lagoon.

The "Partisan" Agricultural Cooperative in 1971



Up to a short time ago, there was a small shanty standing somewhere in a sector of the "Partizani" Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative in the Kruja District. Despite attempts to repair it, it could not resist the vicissitudes of time: it sagged and collapsed just as all old things do. Now there is only a photograph of this shanty hanging on the wall of the House of Culture as a glimpse of the past appearance of this district.

"Not even hens live in a coop like that nowadays" some young people said to me.

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

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

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



The cooperative peasants have replaced their former huts with up-to-date dwelling houses.



The artificial incubation. Photos by S. Xhillari

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

In Luz they are people of few words and hard work. But the peasants round about watched the progress of Luz in silence. Before them stretched a road unknown at that time. Now its advantages are evident. These peasants were faced with this alternative: to go on as before or to adopt Luz's way. Time solved this dilemma: they had to follow Luz's example. Thus; one after the other, they raised the banner of cooperativism. Somewhat later, the villages of Fush — Kruja,

Aramoradi, Larushku, Hasanaj, Luz, Hallaj and Zgerdesh were united. We see them now marching together like seven brothers towards the same goal and under one name: the "Partisan" Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative.

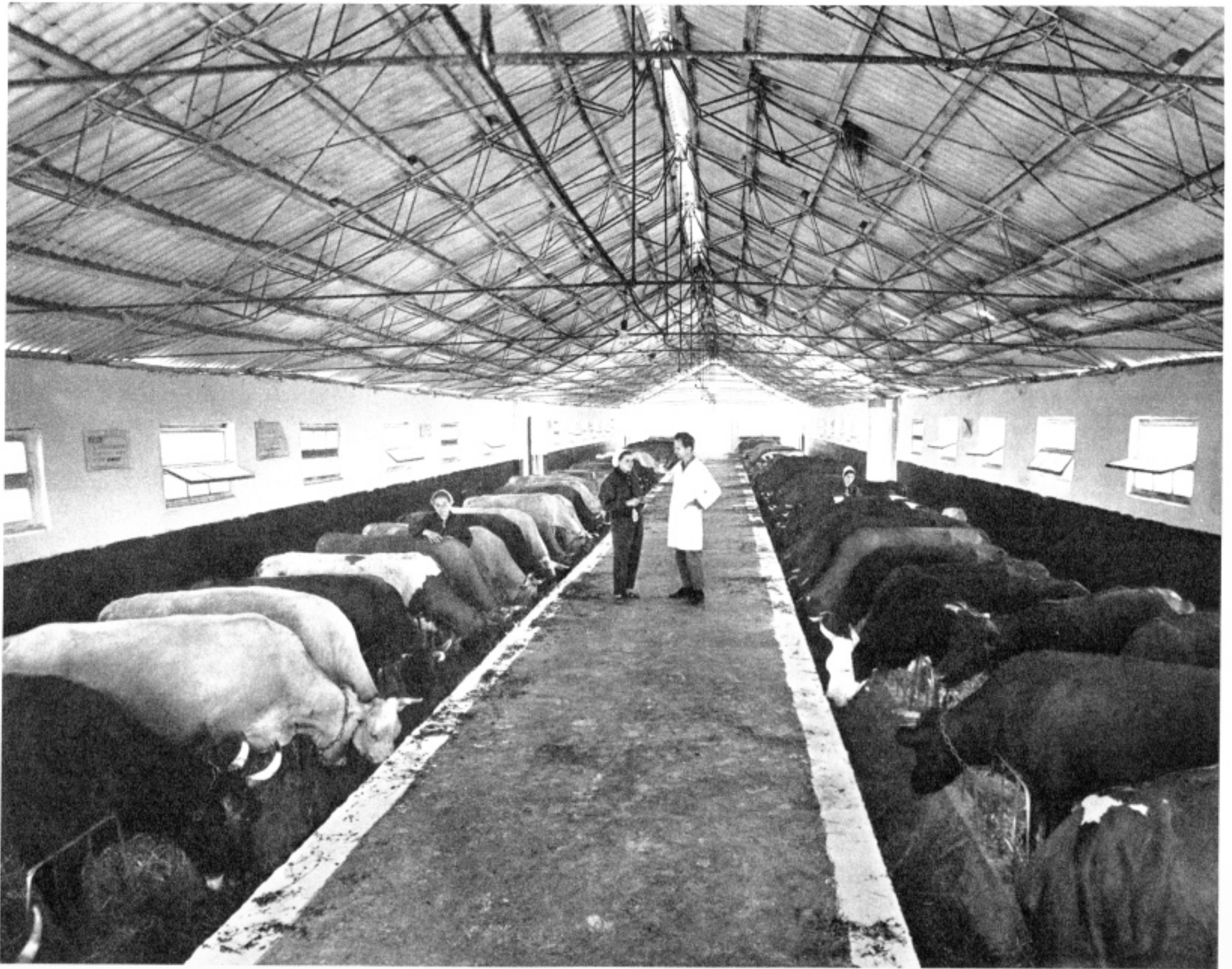
The profile of the economy of this agricultural collective is the production of bread grain, rice, sunflower and vegetables, and, last but not least livestock farming, mainly cows. The average yield of rice is from 50 to 75 quintals per hectars, that of hybrid corn from 70 up to 104 quintals per hectare. During the last ten years, the production of bread grain increased 3-fold, the production of milk — 5-fold. During the last three years,

the number of cows has increased three-fold. A modern complex has been set up for them including an up-to-date milking shed. A poultry raising establishment has recently been built at this cooperative.

The "Partisan" Enlarged Agricultural Cooperative achieved its targets for the 4th Five-Year Plan one year ahead of schedule.

Regular scientific experiments are conducted in the fields of the cooperative for the purpose of increasing production. The experimental plots have yielded 85 quintals of rice and 107 quintals of maize per hectare. Pedological and agro-chemical maps have now been drawn up. This will have a great influence in the scientific use of various fer-

Shaban Vani



One of the cow stalls.

tilizers.

Major work has been done here to ensure irrigation water. During the last decade, the area brought under irrigation has increased ten-fold. Today, more than 90% of the fields of the cooperative are under irrigation. This is one of the factors which has led to the increase of productivity of the agricultural crops in recent years.

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

Economic progress has given an impetus to the all-round development of life in this cooperative. Instead of one small primary school, there are now a general secondary school, four 8-grade and four primary schools in the cooperative. Now there are as many teachers in this cooperative as there were school children prior to liberation. Today, this agricultural cooperative alone has three times as many cadres of higher and medium training as the whole district had in 1944. This year alone 18 midwives and nurses graduated from training schools. More than 40 persons attend part-time agricultural and veterinary schools.

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

cial and cultural institutions.

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

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

At this point it should be said that more than 80% of the houses of the cooperative members have been newly built. The new has entered into their lives. Every house has modern furniture and facilities. Some of them even have TV sets.

We met some of the members of the cooperative.

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

Liri Cela's career is like a rising. We met her in one of the auxiliary sectors. As

a farmer's daughters, she began life with a hoe in her hand in the fields of the village of Hasanaj. Later on, she attended school and became a squad leader in Arameras. She displayed her ability as an organizer and soon took in hand the management of a whole sector. She is one of the six members of the staff of the cooperative.

Other women like Zyra Babaj, Hatixhe Leza, File Hoxha, and others who fill managerial posts, have followed a similar course.

We met other cooperative members, Mustafa Kasapi, Suljeman Hoxha, Sabri Stafuga. . . Some of them are agronomists or doctors, electricians, tractor drivers, carpenters. . . Sabri Stafuga registers 450 work-days a year. Tractor drivers Hysen Sena and Ali Doçi are months ahead of schedule in their work.

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



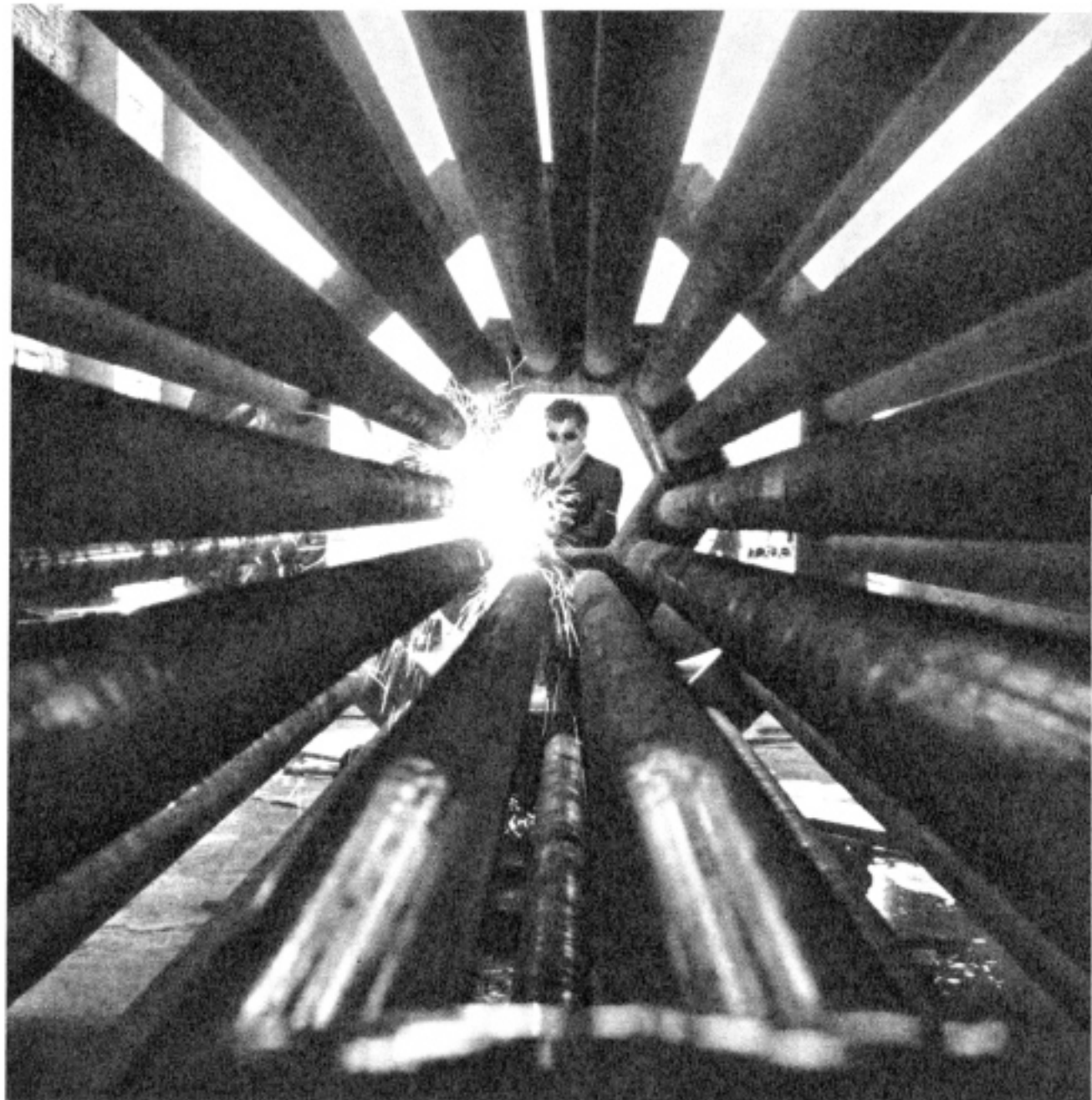
Exchange of experience during work at the Yarn-Spinning Factory of the "Mao Tsetung" Textile Mills in Berat.

Photo by Xh. Beluli

"THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S EYE"

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

Photo by P. Cici



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

Photo by M. Khufka

“Albania on the 30th Anniversary of the Founding of the PLA”

A Word From Those Born Thirty Years Ago...

Stavri Pone — a postgraduate student

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

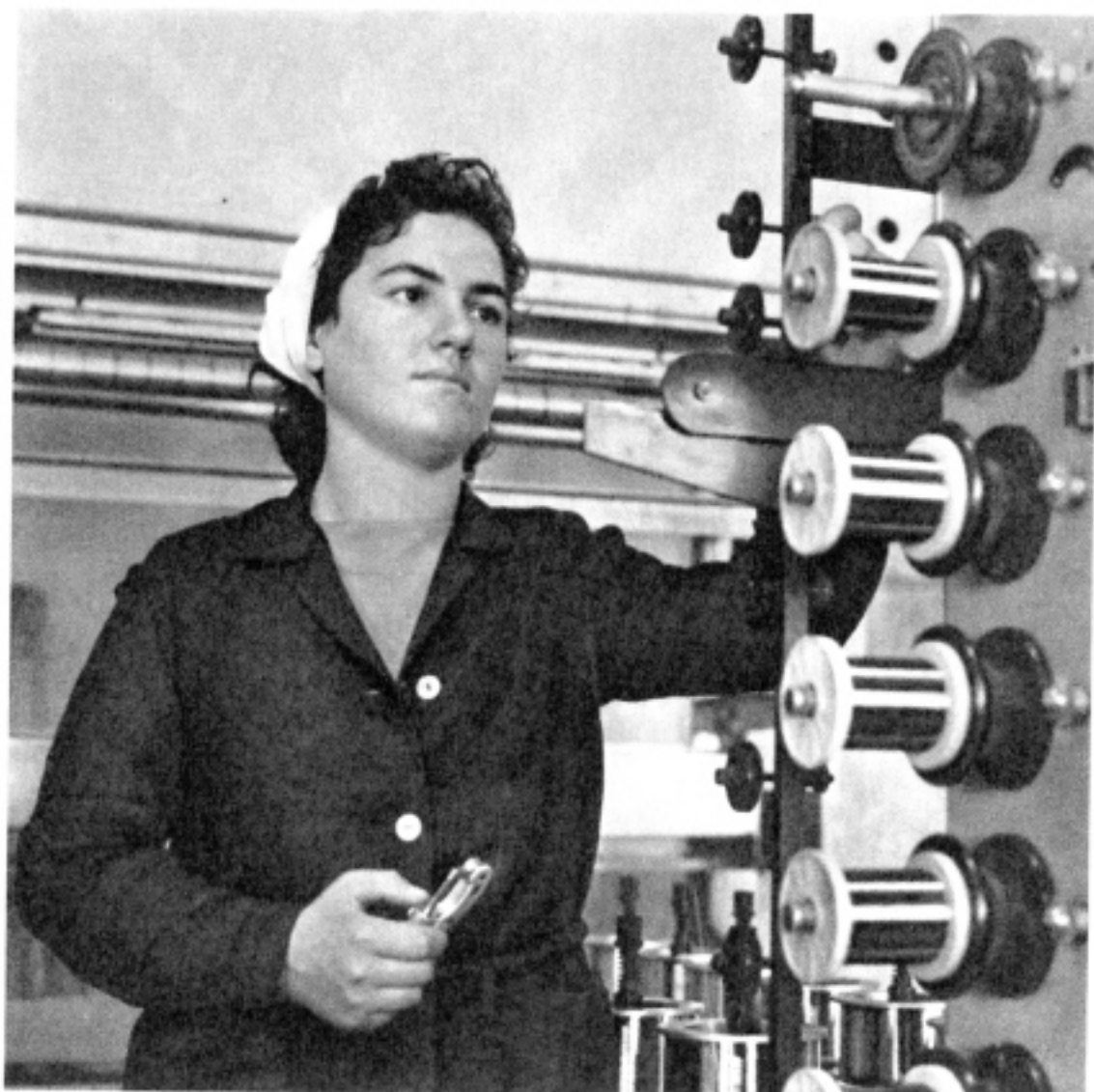
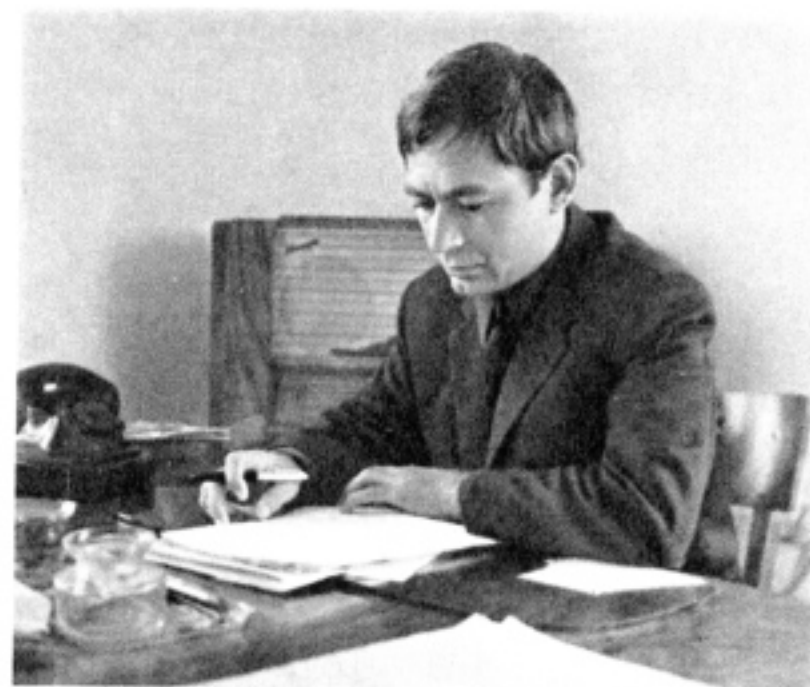
Today, two of my elder brothers have completed their higher studies and are employed as engineers, my sister is a physician while my younger sister is attending a part-time school in the city of Fieri.

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

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

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

And now that I have become thirty years old, these positive heroes in our dramas impart the leitmotif also to the scientific thesis I have chosen.



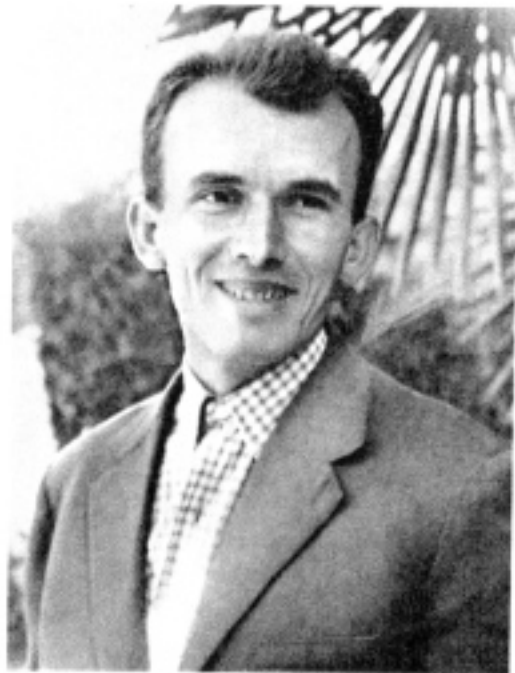
Çoetheret Asiani — technologist

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

In 1965 a new industrial project was inaugurated in our city. This was the Copper Wire Extrusion Plant. I had heard of this establishment when its foundations were laid. Somehow or other I got a notion of taking up a job there.

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

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



Isuf Elmas Deda — a miner

I was born in November 1941, on those stormy days when our Party came to being. All I know of the past is what I have read in books or heard from the elderly people.

This is a double jubilee for me and my age companions. It must be admitted that our life has run smoother than that of our elders.

The Skuterra Village where I was born used to be called, as I have been told, "the cursed land" for it grew no grain for the people's daily bread. This was in the pre-liberation days for now it has been turned into fertile land belonging to those who work on it.

As far back as my childhood days I had always longed to be a miner. When I grew up, I applied for a job in the Krraba Coal Mine. I began as a wagoner, then as an assistant miner and now, after eight years, I am have been promoted to a miner of the fifth category. I am devoted to this job for I feel that I am helping extract from the earth what has not been done for centuries in succession.

I have never missed reaching the target and have often overreached it by working on two fronts.

They say that a miner's job is a hard one. Though it may be so, it becomes a light and even a pleasant job when one puts all his heart and soul to it. That's what I am doing and I feel glad of the results I have attained.

I attend an evening 8th-grade school without interrupting my work. I will soon graduate from it. It is my wish to pursue my studies in the vocational school which has been opened at the Krraba Coal Mine where I will be trained to become a technician in mining.

I have all the conditions to do this and my only regret is that I hadn't started earlier.

Liri Petro Trola — in charge of a factory

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

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

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

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

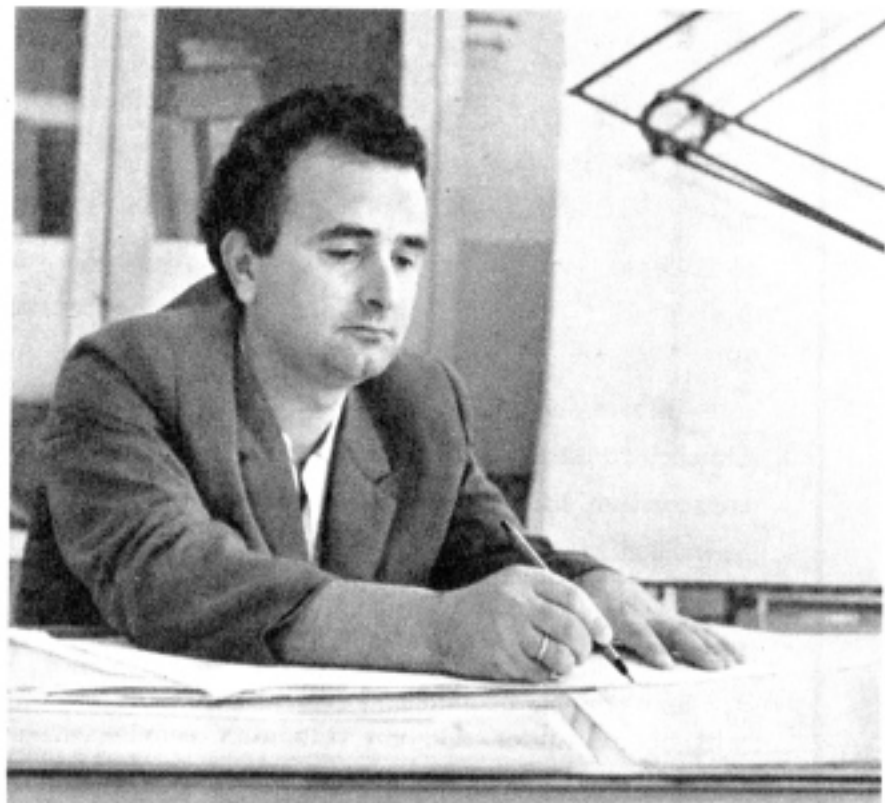


Alexander Bushati — a pedagogue

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

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

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



“FOREIGNERS ABOUT ALBANIA”



Theory Finds Its Confirmation in Practice

Brunhilde Mahr — Austria

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

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

One cannot help being astonished at what the Albanian people have succeeded in accomplishing these last 27 years after liberation. Within this period they have set up an advanced industry throughout the country, they have completed the electric reticulation up to the remotest mountain village; they drained the swamps and marshes and turned them into fertile lands or building sites. The peasants who used primitive methods of farming before liberation are now receiving higher yields thanks to their joining into cooperatives, to the facilities created for them to buy modern machinery and tools and acquire a better knowledge of agricultural technique. The rapid development of industry and agriculture has, of course, given an impetus to building construction in towns and in the countryside. This revolutionization of the whole life of the country requires the collaboration of all the population, the women included. The Albanian women who, ever since the day of liberation, have been enjoying equal rights with their menfolk, are cognizant of their position in socialist society and, through their active collaboration in industry, agriculture, public health service, education and even in the domain of politics have rendered a major contribution to making Albania achieve such a rapid development.

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

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

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

A Big Construction Site

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

QUERY: Have you been to Albania before?

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

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

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

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

ANSWER: We have been deeply impressed by this visit to Albania. We saw a youthful people who have taken their destiny into their own hands, who are enthusiastically building a new society, having confidence in their own efforts, in their right road towards socialism. From Shkodra to Saranda, Albania impressed us as being a big construction site. But what impressed us most was the formation of a new man who builds his own society, a society of men free and self-denying, always ready to sacrifice themselves for others and endowed with a high sense of duty. This assures us that the successes achieved will be multiplied and the Albanian people will soon build a brilliant future for themselves along communist lines.



Good Example

Amoura Asia- Algeria

Being invited to Albania as a prize for winning the competition organized by "New Albania" Magazine I was astonished at the radical and rapid changes which have been made in many regions of Albania which I had seen a few years before.

I think that although Albania is geographically small from the point of view of the constructive work being performed in the economic, social and cultural fields, it is a great nation.

The Albanian people, worthy successors to the greatest of their forefathers, have hoisted high the flag of socialist revolution. Under the brilliant leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head, the Albanian people have scored and are still scoring one victory after another.

The example and courage of the Albanian people and youth are very valuable to the Afro-Asian countries and to the progressive and revolutionary peoples in general.

I want to thank the comrades of the "New Albania" Magazine for the warm welcome which I have received and for their initiative to invite the winners of the competition, which gives us the possibility to become better acquainted with each other and to exchange opinions.

People Who Do Not Rest Upon Their Oars

Brigitte Lagas-France

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

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

In order to understand the importance of what has been achieved it is necessary to take into account from where they began which was practically null. It was from null that the development of agriculture began. Quite as impressive is the sight of the newly-built towns at the industrial centers, like Fieri, at the powerful Hydro-Electric Stations like that of "Mao



Tsetung" on the Dirni River. Major importance is attached to voluntary initiatives and work both on extending the railway line from Elbasan to Prenjas as well as on building dwelling houses which constitute a proof of the revolutionary enthusiasm of the population as a whole.

In Albania "man is the most valuable asset" and examples I could cite are many both in the domain of public health—I take one example namely, that of the Shkodra Hospital where mothers can stay with their babies and pay nothing for maintenance and even receive 80% of their salaries—as well as in the field of cultural development, to wit, the Libohova Agricultural Cooperative which has a cultural home with accommodations for 2,000 persons.

But the Albanians do not rest upon their oars, intoxicated with the achievements they have attained. The process of improvement, of enriching what exists, continues non-stop.

Therefore, these people impart a lesson of optimism to all the freedom-loving peoples fighting in the world.

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

The Albanian Woman Works, Learns and Directs



Amal Hasan

Head of the Women's Delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Arabian Gulf from Foreign Occupation

Mona Mussalim

Member of the Delegation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



"THE VOLUNTEERS"

Photo-reportage by P. Kumi at the Elbasan-Prenjas Youth Railroad.





Albanian Historians Looking Into the Paris Archives

Muin Cami

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

Before 1971, the Albanian historians have had access to the French National Archives and to the Archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Quay d'Orsay, whereas now they are delving into the Archives of the War Ministry, concentrating on the materials of the period of the First World War and of the early post-war years, which were recently opened to scholars. The historical documents of the French archives covering this period are of special importance because, from 1916 to the middle of 1920, part of Albania (the Korça and Pogradec Districts and part of Skrapari) were occupied by contingents of the French Army which were part of the "Eastern Army", while, after the end of the First World War up to March 1920, a military garrison of the Allied Powers, the victors in the war, was stationed in Shkodra under the command of a French General assisted by other French officers. The French historical documents covering this period of the history of Albania have, therefore, a two-fold character. The military documents of the French War Ministry add to the documents of a diplomatic character.

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

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

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

These contradictions and intentions are detailed especially in the documents of the archives of the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, giving the Albanian scholars new materials of interest on other important problems. Such are, for instance, the attitude maintained by France and the other Entente Powers towards the intentions of the Italian Government to occupy Vlorë towards the end of 1914, the support given to the feudal chieftain of Central Albania, Esad Pasha Toptani, by the Government in Paris, the negative stand of the French diplomats towards the "Autonomous Republic" of Korça when it had just been recognized by the "Eastern Army Corps" towards the end 1916, and so on.



An Albania-Vietnamese Friendship Meeting was held in Tirana on the occasion of the national festivities of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The meeting was attended by hundreds of workers and the Vietnamese students who pursue their studies in Albania.



On line with the long-term agreement on cultural exchange between the People's Republic of Albania and the Republic of Cuba, an agreement was signed for the 1971-72 period. On the Albanian side the plan was signed by the Chairman of the Albanian Committee for Cultural and Friendly Relations with the Outside World, Misto Treska and on the Cuban side, by the Charge d'Affaires of the Cuban Embassy to Albania, Carlos A. Monrena.



An Exhibition "Rumania in 1971" was opened in Tirana commemorating the Rumanian national festivities.

In Kruja, where Scanderbeg had his headquarters, there still exists a relic of the past, namely, a coffee-house of the Medieval style which is visited by many tourists who come to this city.



CHRONICLE

CHRONICLE

CHRONICLE

CHRONICLE

CHRONICLE

CHRONICLE

A snapshot of the preparatory work of taking samples of the soil in order to draw up agricultural chemistry maps.

Photo by N. Kodheli



Laboratory workers Sofika Vesha and Bukuroshe Beqiraj at the Pedological Laboratory at the State Upper Institute of Agriculture.

Photo by P. Sheqeri



The "Biography" of the Land

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

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

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

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

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

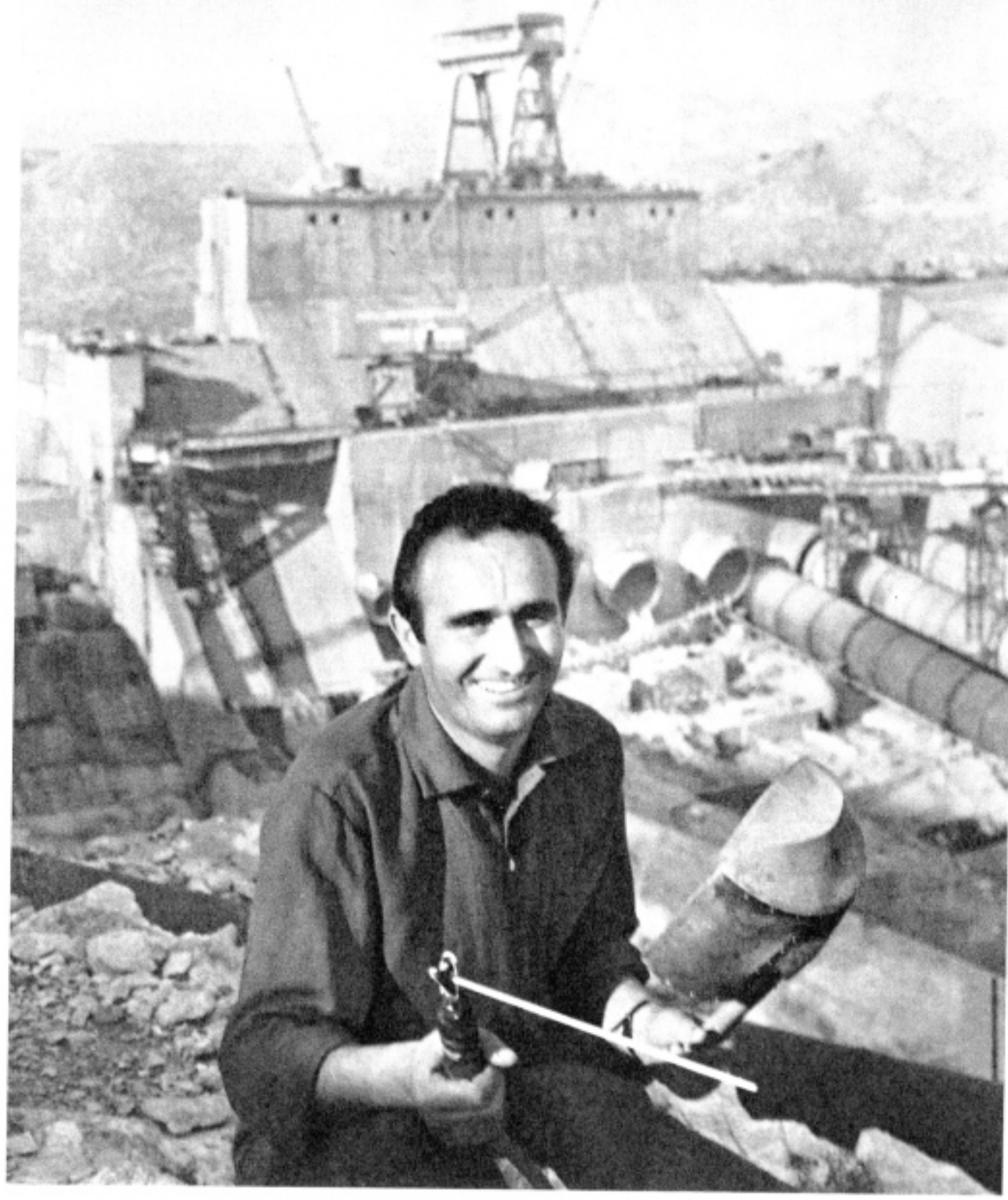
This problem is not raised today for the first time in our country. It was treated in broad outlines during the preceding Five-Year Plans. But at the present stage it calls for a complete, detailed working out so that the area of agricultural land, its particular physical, chemical and agronomic characteristics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

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

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

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

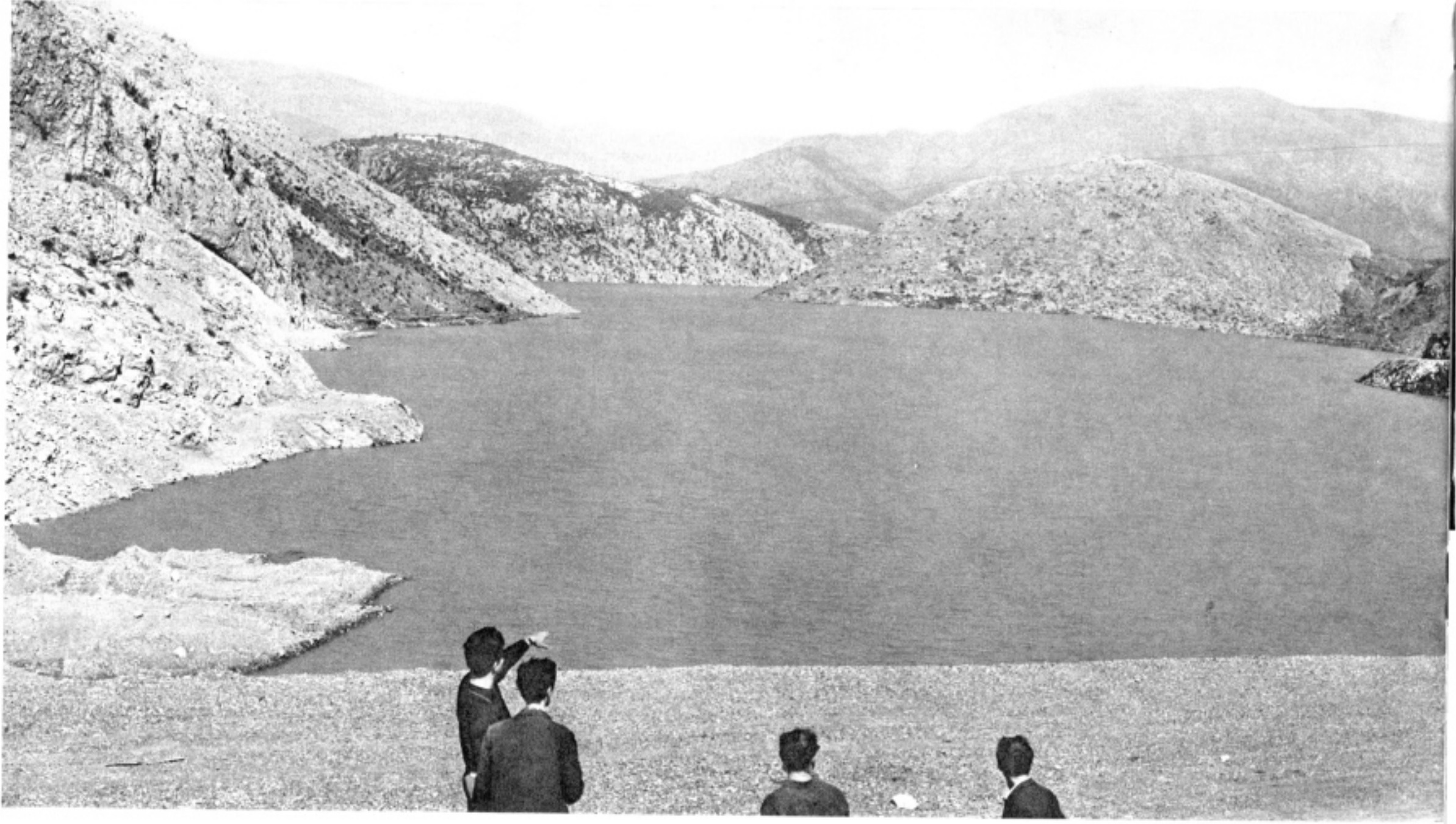
The survey of the areas opens the way to knowing the structure of land to pedological and agro-chemical studies and, consequently, to drawing up the respective maps. The conclusions which are being reached in this study and which will be reflected in the pedological and agro-chemical maps, will permit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

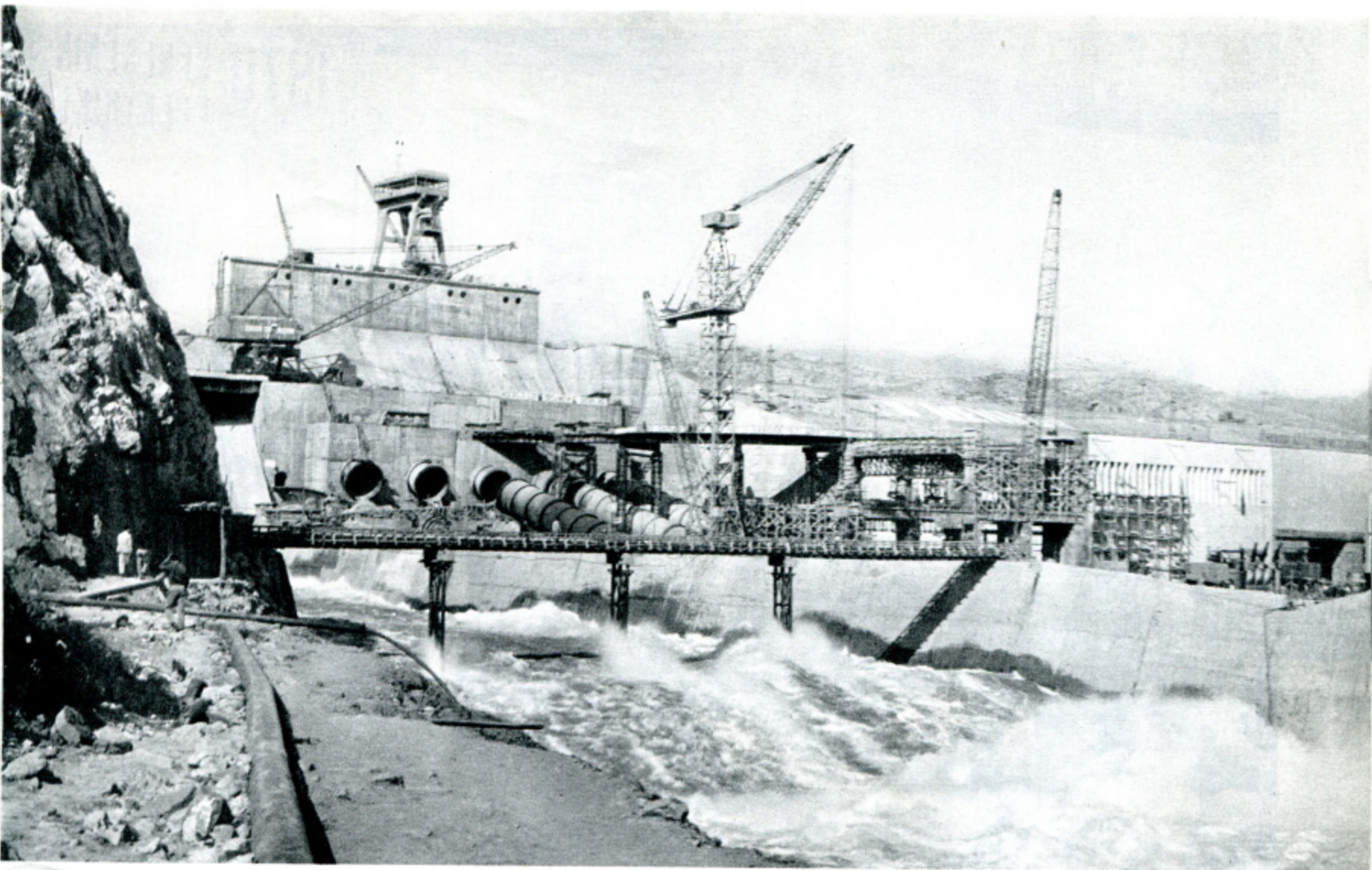


**“VAU I DEJES,
IN SEPTEMBER, 1971”**

Ilija Caqi, one of the fitters of the Hydro-Power Station

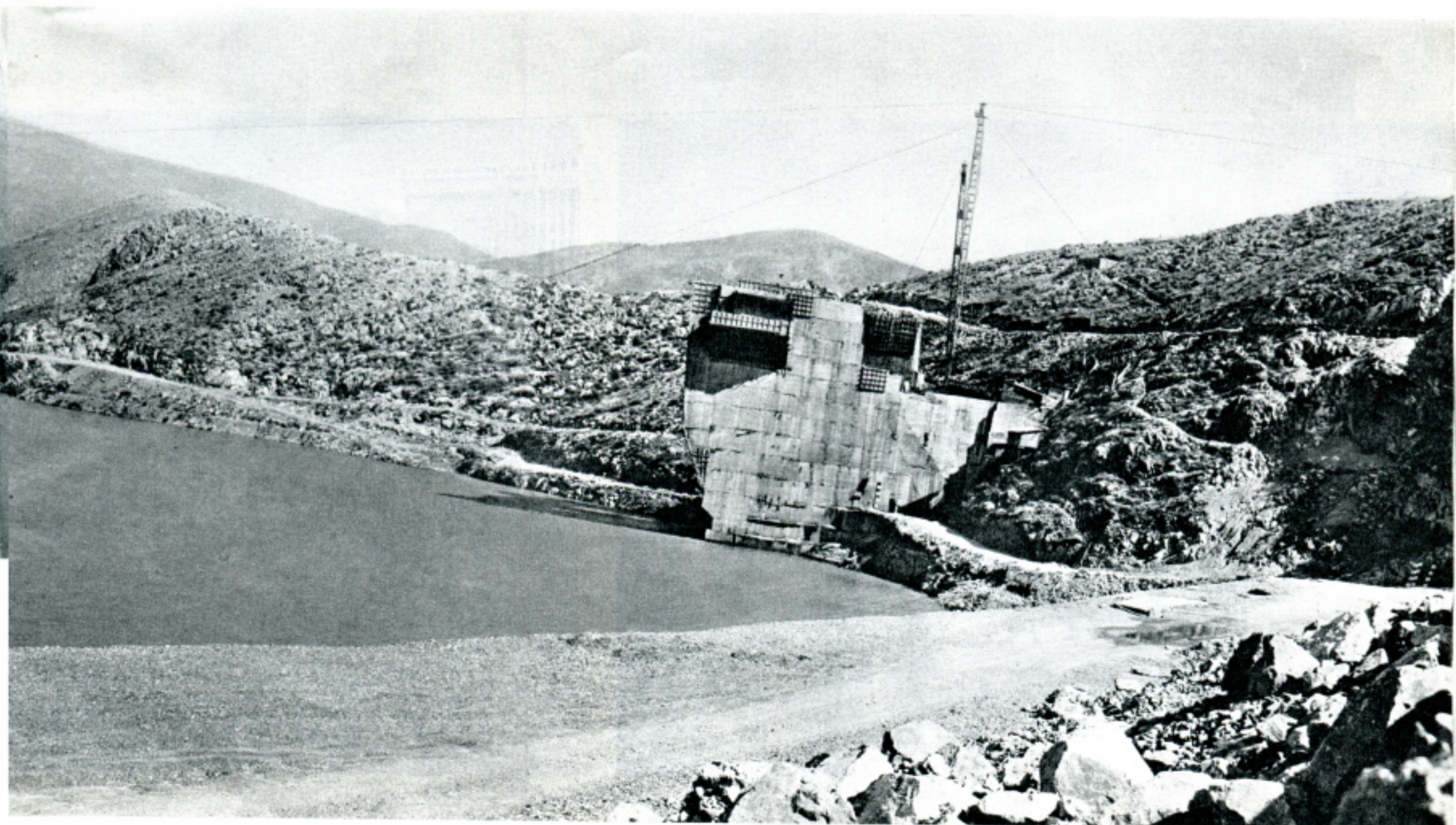
The reservoir of the Hydro-Power Station





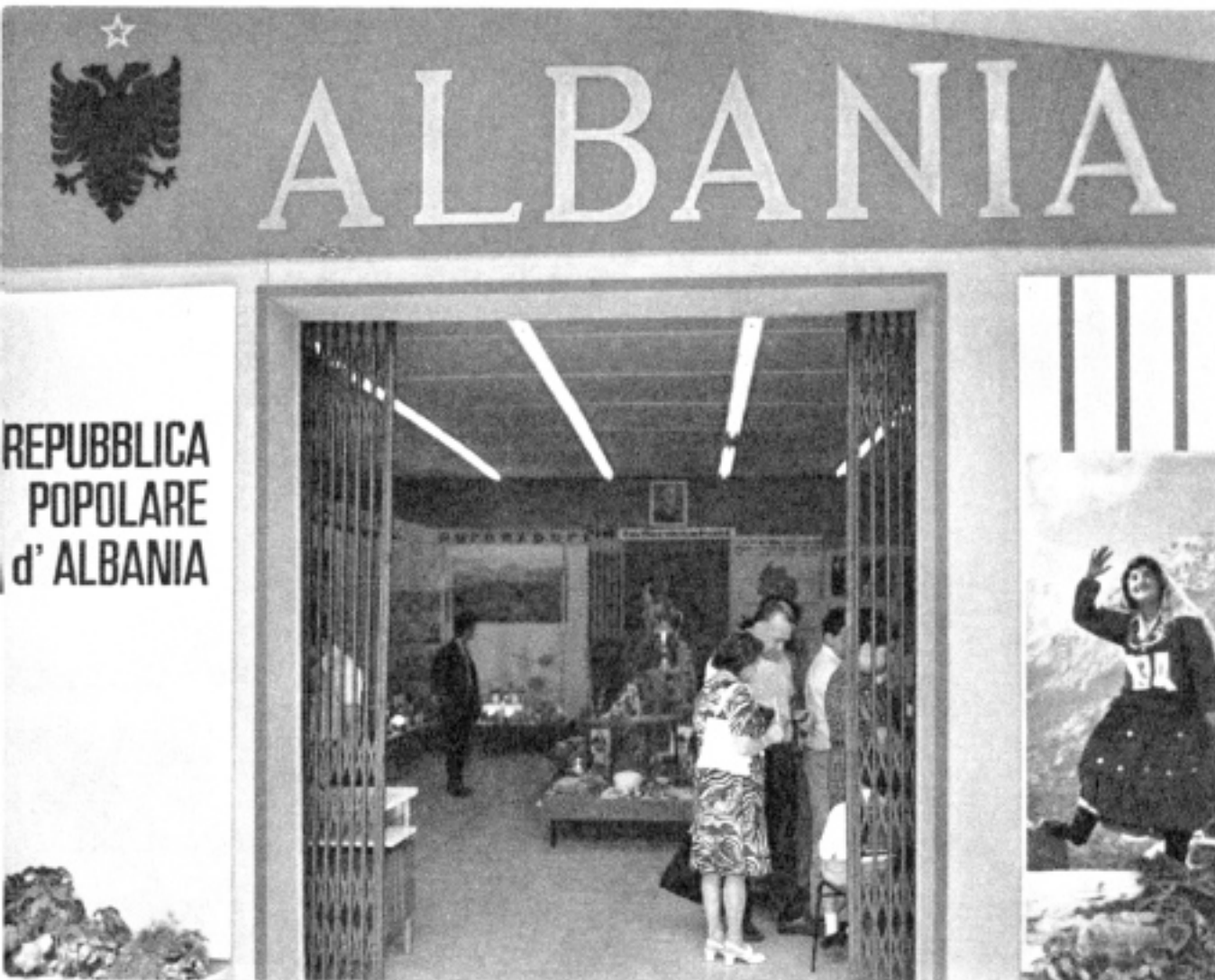
View of the dam.

Photos by A. Kore





Izmir, Turkey, in 1971.



Bari — Italy.

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

At the International Fairs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Chairman of the Association, Olov Ultvedt speaking to those present at the meeting of his impressions from Albania.

The proceedings of the meeting were followed by an Albanian film "This is your way, comrade!"



On the initiative of the Association there was organized a sale of books and periodicals on Albania.





Pupil Zana Shuteriqi of the "Jordan Misja" Art Lyceum during a piano lesson.

Photo by S.Xhillari

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



Valdete Magjistariat work in the Laboratory of Geological Studies.
Photo by P. Kumi



"We, the Sons of This New Age"

Ali Xhiku



Drawing by N. Bakalli.

We dedicate these few lines to one of the most outstanding Albanian literary figures of the 30's of our century, to Milosh Gjergj Nikolla who wrote under the pen name of Migjeni. His life was very short: he lived only 27 years. His literary work is not extensive, but it occupies an important place in the history of Albanian literature in spite of that. His literary works in verse and prose had a great social impact through the breadth of their themes and the force of their ideas and artistic expression. Migjeni lived during a dark period of the history of our people. The peasants, who comprised the overwhelming majority of the population, were in a state of utter misery.

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

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

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

Man, what I can never swallow is the poverty
It sticks in my throat and fills me with despair
To see the pallid face, the inflamed eyes
Of the ghost of a man with supplicant hand
Outstretched still when we have passed
A beggar till the day he dies.

Migjeni is revolted by the great social differentiation; he stigmatizes the inhuman nature of class society. Poverty he writes is an incurable ill of this society.

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

While:

Suffering flickers in childish eyes
A feeble candle's glimmer
Neath roof all spider webs and smoke
Gainst crumbling walls dark-stained with damp
Where ghost-like people shiver.
Where ailing child like spirit possessed
Howls for its mother's hungry breast
And she, cursing the deeds of god and man,
Finding herself pregnant again,
Curses the fruit of her own womb,
Curses her world of toil and gloom.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Population of Albania

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

The population of Albania is characterized by its rapid growth, particularly, during the years of the People's State Power. During the last 30 years it has grown at an average annual rate of about 2.5%. This increase is due to both the high birth-rate and, more particularly, to the pronounced lowering of the death-rate, which has been reduced from 17.3 per 1,000 in 1938, to 8 per thousand of population at present.

As a consequence of the rapid increase of population during the post-liberation period, in 1960 it was double that of 1923. According to the census taken from April 1 to April 15, 1969, the population of Albania was 2,068,000 with a density of 70 persons per square kilometer.

The high rate of growth of population notwithstanding, the rate of economic development exceeds it. In 1968, as against 1938, while the population increased by 94%, national income has increased 7.5 times and total production — 52 times. This speaks clearly, of a pronounced rise in the well-being of the working masses, which reflects the correct line pursued by the Party of Labour of Albania in building socialism in our country.

Albania is one of the few countries in Europe where the number of males exceeds that of females. For every 100 females there are 105 males on the average.

The specific weight of the urban population has increased from one year to another. From 15.4% in 1938, the urban population at present is more than 33%.

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

Albania was once the country with the lowest average the span of life in Europe, while today, in this field too, it compares with most states and even surpasses some of them. In 1938, the average the span of life was 38 years, while, in recent years, it has reached the 67 year mark.

Taking into account the characteristics of reproduction of the population and the trend of its development, the book also gives some forecasts of the future numerical increase. From the figures given it appears that according to the variant of average increase, the population of Albania in 1980 should reach 2,720,000 while by 1990 this number will reach 3,10,000.

Lamartine and De Rada

Handwritten text in French, likely a facsimile of a letter from Lamartine to De Rada. The text is written in cursive and includes the date 'Ischia - 6/9/1844'.

Facsimile of Lamartine's letter to De Rada.

Amongst the letters exchanged by the Arbëresh (Albanian settlers in Italy) poet Jeronim De Rada with Albanian and foreign personalities there is a letter by the French poet Alphonse De Lamartine.

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

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

This letter and their subsequent meeting are connected with the circumstances of De Rada's life and activities.

In the 40's of the 19th century, De Rada began to win recognition in Naples in the field of letters and as a publicist. He began to develop a fiery love of the land of his forefathers which is clearly apparent in his early works the Songs of Milosao and Songs of Serafin Topia, two of his finest literary pieces.

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

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

Our poet Jeronim De Rada, who had just completed his 30th year had reached the full flowering of his career as the author of many published works. His poetic productions, which were well-known abroad, such as "Këngët e Milosaos" (Songs of Milosao), "Këngët e Serafinës" (Serafina's Songs), "Skanderbeu i pa fan" (Ill-fated Scanderbeg), "John Hunyadi" etc. had established De Rada as a poet.

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

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

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

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

In this memoirs (Autobiologjia, Periuda e trette), Jeronim De Rada says that on his way back from Ischia he had paid a visit to Lamartine at the Hotel des Etrangers on the Chiasso seaside. He says: "the words Lamartine said to me would have made anyone feel proud."

Lamartine's letter is a document of special value regarding the Albanian cause at that time and the activities of De Rada one of the standard bearers of our National Renaissance.

**“ANCIENT
AND
NEW
KRUJA”**



The old bazaar in Kruja.

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



Monument raised to National Hero Scanderbeg in Kruja.



Partial view of the ancient town.

Foreigners visiting the museum of the town.



Typical dresses of the Kruja District. Photo by N. Kodheli.



A hearty colloquy of Comrades Enver Hoxha and Mehmet Shehu with the members of the "China" Artistic Ensemble from the People's Republic of China.

Chinese Artists on Our Stages



The talented Chinese pianist Yin Cheng-tsung



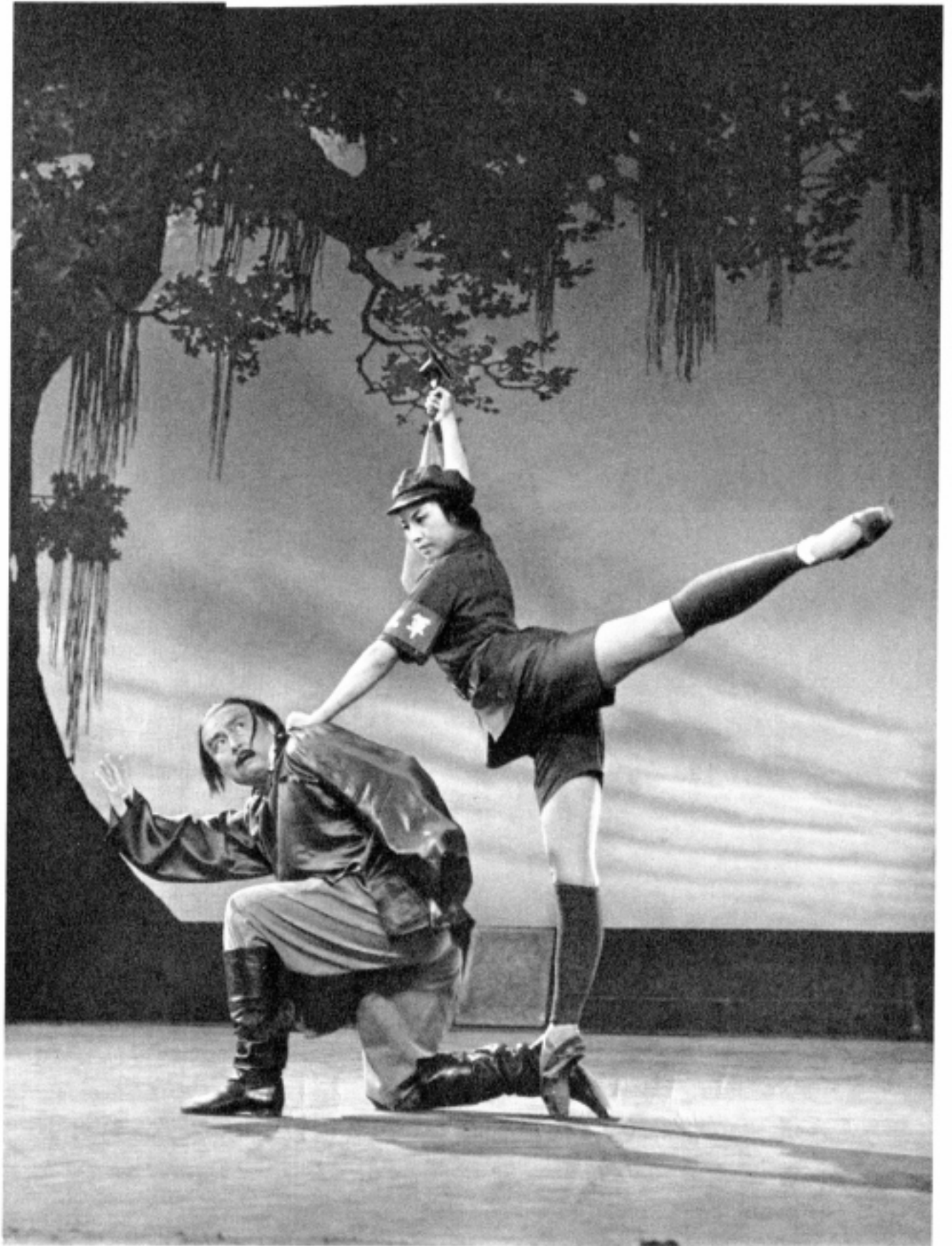
The "China" Ballet Troupe of the People's Republic of China, came to Albania in September this year.

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

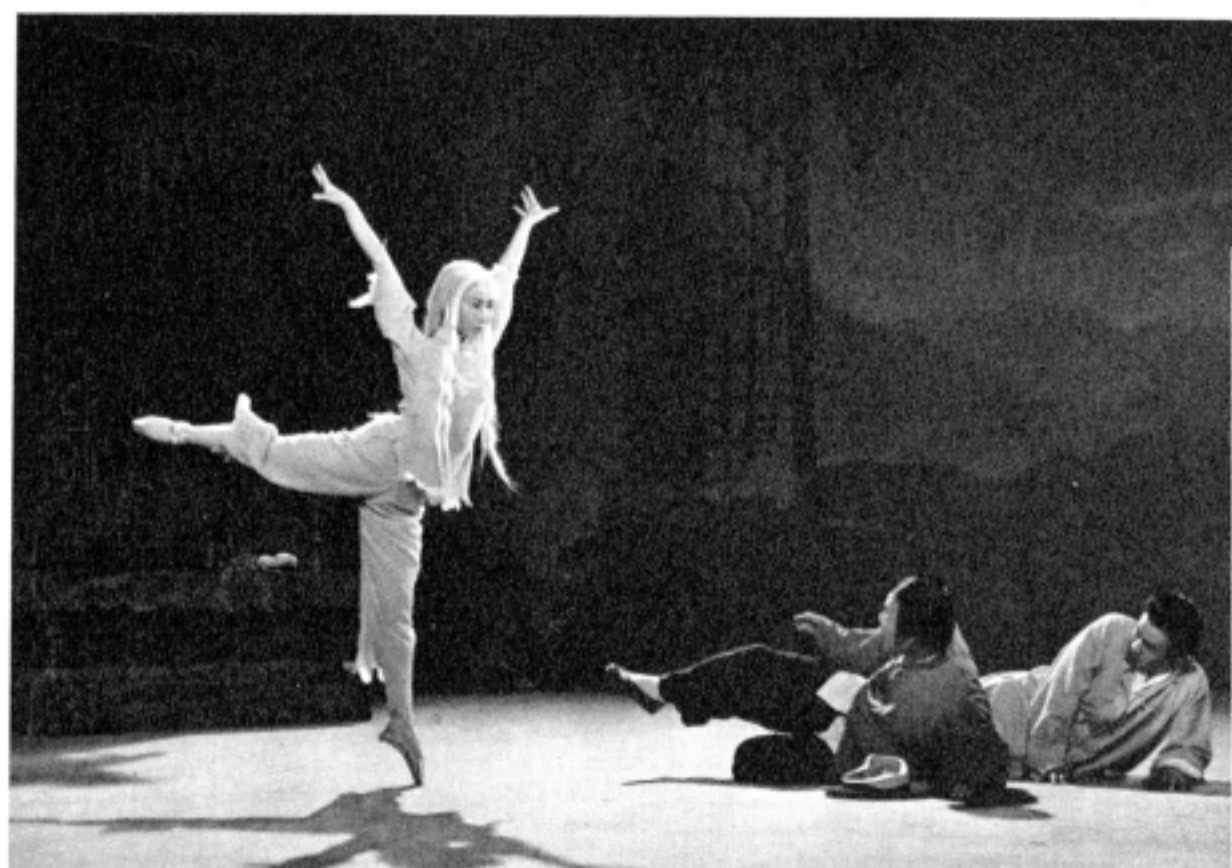
During its stay the Chinese troupe gave a number of performances in the main cities of Albania: Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra, Elbasan, etc. Their program includes the modern revolutionary ballet "The Red Detachment of Women", the ballet "The White Haired Girl" and the piano concerto "The Yellow River". The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

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

Everywhere they went their performances were changed into manifestations of the friendship between our two peoples. The guests also sang songs to our Party of Labour, to the Communist Party of China, to Comrades Enver Hoxha and Mao Tsetung.



Scenes from the modern revolutionary ballet "The Red Detachment of Women".



Scene from the modern revolutionary ballet "The White-haired Girl".



Musical Instruments of Our People





Ramadan Sokoli

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

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

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

All four of the above instruments serve to stress the rhythm. Of the aerophonic genre we have, first of all, some devised of plants like "Picanga" which children make out of grass blades, corn stalks, of apricot seeds ("frysa") or of the bark of young twigs ("gezhoja" or "bil-bil"). These plant devises just as "lugëfyllka" and "Shtambushka" "fuza" and "kallami me leter" are temporary entertainments producing some tune or other. But real tunes of good musical taste, our popular masters extract from the leaf of certain trees blowing at its edge. A "pre-musical" instrument of the aerophonic genre, so to speak, is the "bobla" which is made of the horn of cattle or of the shell of a sea snail. It is used in the southwestern part of Albania by farmers, shepherds, guardians of vineyards, millers, fishermen and others as a signaling means. Whereas the Albanian settlers in Calabria (Italy) use the "vronja" made of a dried pumpkin as a means of alarm. This category includes also the "kapza" or "buria" which children devise in spring from the bark of trees in long strips which they wind into the shape of a funnel.

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

on the tooth.

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

Surleja or zunaja is another aerophonic instrument with a wooden cylindro-conical neck, some holes on the surface and a double tip at the end.

In Laberia we have the bicule or cylediare made of two tapered nozzles carved on a wooden block, one of the nozzles has only three holes while the other four on the surface and one hole on the opposite side.

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

The genre of string instruments begins also with some children's musical entertainments as, for instance, "lodergramthi", "tingerringe"



"ugari" and others.

The most widespread string instruments are: the çiftelia (a strings bakllamaja (3 strings), sharkija (4, 6, 8, strings) sazeja (10 strings) çyri and jongari which have been almost abandoned now. This category of instruments possess some common characteristics in shapes, use, etc. but at the same time they are distinct from one another.

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

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

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

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

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

Songs From the Land of Albania

Prof. Ceceu Maksudovitch

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

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



"Albanian Artists in Ohri"



Albanian Firearms at the Time of Scanderbeg

Riza Drishti

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

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

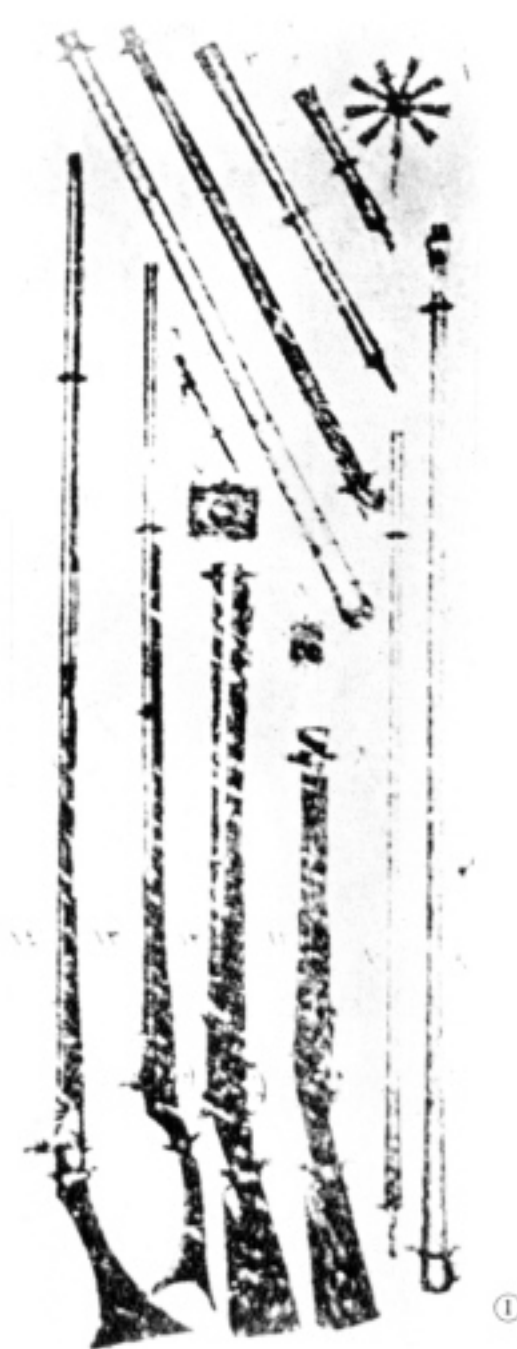
According to Barletti, during the first siege on Kruja in 1450, Scanderbeg's army had about 30 small cannon. In the Battle of Berat, Barletti informs us, Scanderbeg used 5 big guns, 13 small guns and 500 muskets 14,000 fighters in action all told.

During 14th and 15th centuries the Albanians were outstanding miners and metal-lurgists.

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

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

In 14th century two Albanian craftsmen are mentioned as collaborating in the produc-



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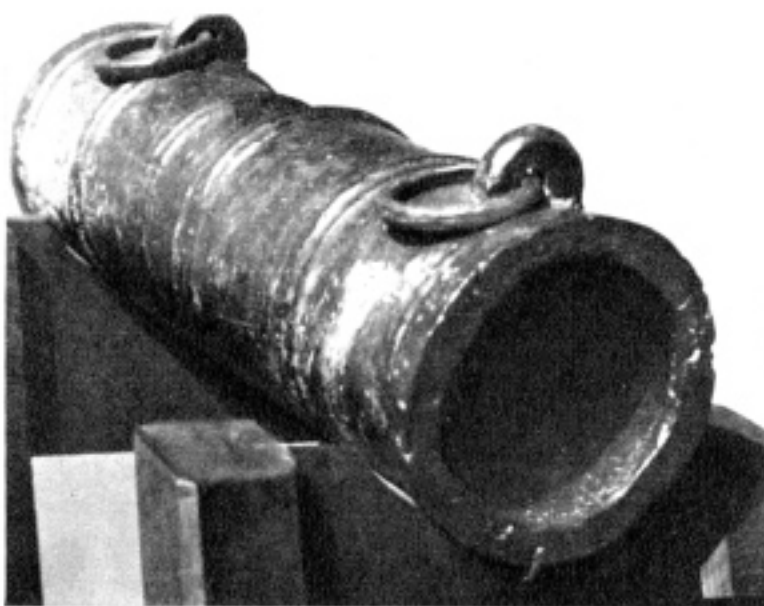


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tion of firearms. These were Stojan Shkodrani and Martin Balistari, the former from Shkodra and the latter from Ulqin both from the principality of the Balshaj. They are famous, especially, for having made two big cannons at Ragusa. At that time, this was a great success of the technology of producing something so rare for that century.

From the middle of 16th century to its end the name of Osman Ali Dibra, an outstanding armorer, was well-known in the arms literature. His name appears in one of the reference books on armorers published in

Italy in 1968 and 1970.
One of the fighters and makers of artillery weapons mentioned in our history is Ded Gjeri. He made a gun which put Vuço Pasha's Turkish army to flight during the Klementi uprising in 1638.
During 17th century mention is made of an Albanian armorer named Hasan who with exquisite skill, made the long Albanian rifle known in Turkish literature as the Albanian "Karafilja". Hasan's name was famous not only in Albania, but also in Asia Minor, Iraq, Iran and as far away as India.

- ① Various firearms kept in the Military Museum in Istanbul
- ② The nozzle of an Albanian "Karafilja" (XVIII century)
- ③ Various cartridge belts made in our country during the XVIIIth century and the beginning of the XIXth century.
- ④ A XVth century gun used by Scanderbag and now kept in the Kruja Museum.

