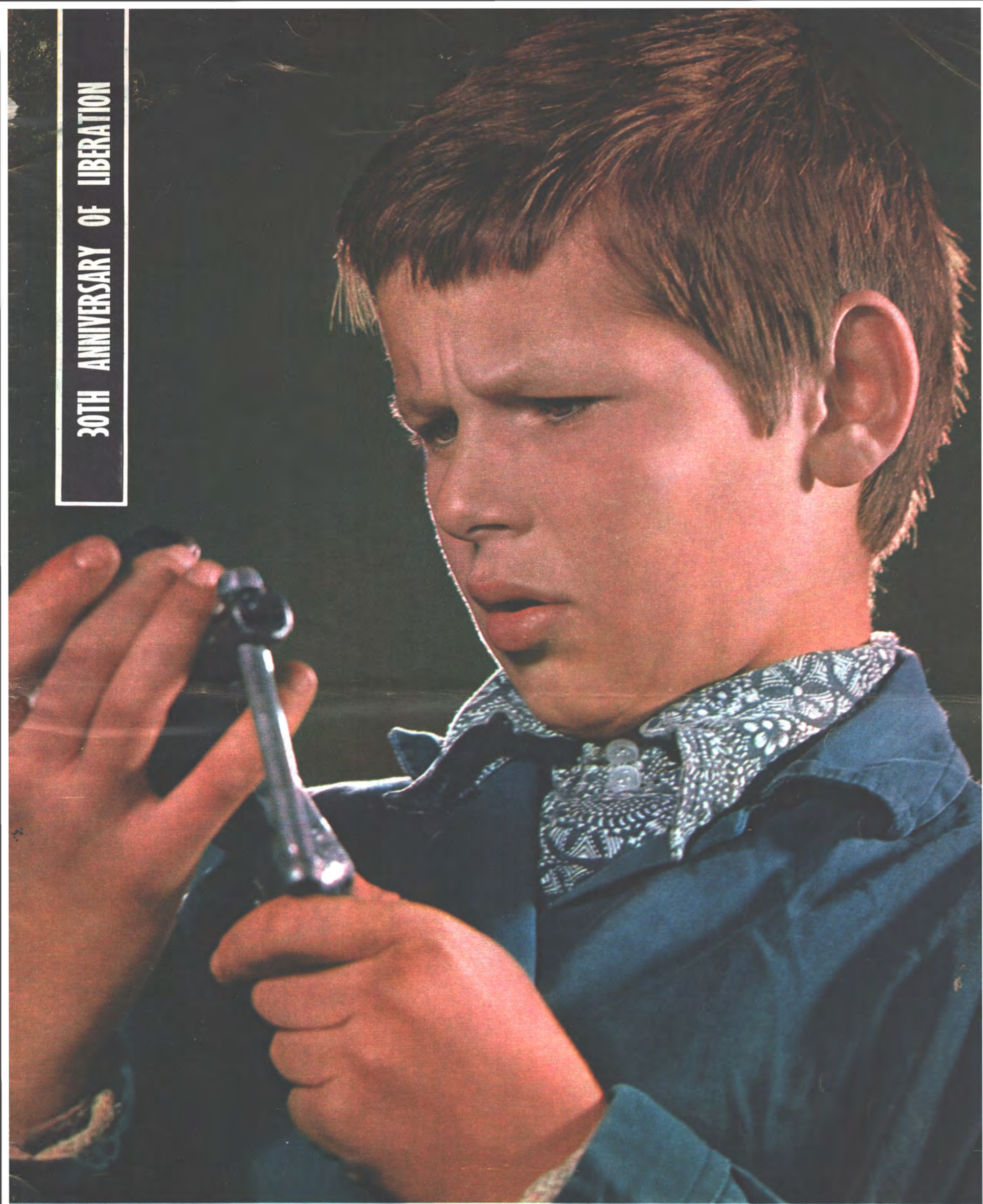


30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION



NEW ALBANIA

1974  
No. 2

YEAR XXVIII

# THE IRON

A new railway line has been built in Albania, running from Elbasan to Prrenjas, from the city where the big metallurgical plant is under construction to the place where the iron-nickel ore is mined.

On March 10, 1974, thousands of young men and women, construction workers, miners and cooperative members, gathered in the public square of Prrenjas to celebrate their victory. The siren of the locomotive is heard in the distance. Starting from Elbasan, it passes over 48 kilometers of newly laid rail, through valleys and mountains, piercing through some 5 kilometers of tunnels, crossing 43 bridges and viaducts, and finally arrives at its last station, the newest railway station in the country. The locomotive is N° 555. Flags flutter over it with the portrait of the beloved leader of our country, Comrade Enver Hoxha, in the foreground. The volunteers who have filled the carriages, lean out of the windows, cheering and shouting with enthusiasm.

We recall for a moment the past years, when the first mass actions began and the first railway in our country linking Durrës with Pegin was inaugurated, during the early post liberation years. We were delighted because Albania was no longer the only country in Europe without a kilometer of railway. Then, from one five-year period to another, the iron arteries of new Albania, the fruit of voluntary work and the sweat of our youth, stretched east and west, north and south. Every part of our 300 km. long railway network has its own history, related to the economic, political and social conditions of the time when it was built.

Just like the other mass actions of our youth, the railway which has just been completed became a big school of education and tempering for 140,000 young men and women volunteers. When the railway was completed, Comrade Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, received in Tirana the representatives of these 140,000 volunteers and congratulated them for their work in this

On the eve of the inauguration of the new Elbasan-Prrenjas railway line, Comrade Enver Hoxha received a group of young volunteers who worked on building this project. Comrade Enver Hoxha talked warmly with the young volunteers, and congratulated them on their latest achievement.



# GENERATION

Whether at work, in school or participating in mass actions to build industrial and cultural projects, the youth of our country are forged with high moral qualities, tempered like steel, becoming more conscious of the prosperity of their socialist homeland, building their own bright future.

marvellous achievement of our youth, praising the will-power, initiative and heroism of the youth of socialist Albania. Highly assessing the ideological and social significance of the voluntary work of our youth, Comrade Enver Hoxha said in his message of congratulations to the young builders of the railway:

"Mass actions have become a second life for our youth. Outstanding in the long list of them are, in particular, the railways, which constitute an extremely important element of our national transport, its powerful artery. These railways have been built by you, dear young men and women, they bear the stamp of your enthusiasm, revolutionary drive and high patriotism. . . .

We build railroads and a number of major and minor projects in industry, agriculture, health, education, culture and so on. But above all, in our country the new person with communist morality and attributes is being moulded capable of building socialism and defending its achievements through to the end. At work, in school, in mass actions of build the projects of the Five-Year Plan, you, young men and women, are tempered like iron in the fire and become more and more conscious so that, under the guidance of the working class and the Party, you strive tirelessly for the prosperity and the defence of our socialist Homeland . . . "

In the philosophical sense, our youth consider their future as the fruit of the revolutionary movement, of the uninterrupted drive forward. For our youth, the completion of one project serves as a new start for other projects. Up to the end of March this line was rightly called the newest railroad line in Albania. But in the coming months it will not be called this any longer. Another railroad has already begun to take shape: For 1974, our youth have been entrusted with the construction of a new railroad which extends from the city of Fieri to Ballsh, where a big oil refinery is under construction.



Comrade Mehmet Shehu, Secretary of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Party of Labor and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, congratulated the volunteers on the day of the inauguration of the new railway.



The town of Prenjas: The big rally of the volunteers and the people.



Some years ago, only cooperative workers and tractors were at work on these fields. Now, from day to day, from month to month, the contours of the giant metallurgical plant are emerging more clearly.

Photo by P. Kumi

# Industrialized Albania

Prof. Hasan Banja

Director of the Economic  
Institute of the Academy of  
Sciences of the People's  
Republic of Albania



For the Albanian people, November 29, 1944 marked the border between two worlds, two historical epochs, two opposing social systems.

Albania was late in embarking on the road of capitalist development and did not pass through it completely. The structure of the national economy was one-sided, mainly agricultural. 87 per cent of the population was engaged in agriculture.

This deplorable backwardness of the country was due to centuries of foreign occupation, to the anti-popular regime and to the predatory nature of the penetration of foreign capital.

When our country gained its independence on November 28, 1912, the world capitalist system had embarked on its highest and last stage, imperialism. One of the typical features of imperialism, as Lenin pointed out, was the export of capital. Through exporting their surplus capital, imperialist and chauvinist states intended to establish their hegemony in Albania and secure great profits. Here, wages were low and land and raw materials were cheap. Through economic expansion, capital investments, the policy of credits and so on, foreign monopoly companies took practical control of the economy of our country.

The penetration of foreign, especially Italian, monopoly capital was greatly favored by Zog's anti-popular regime which, pursuing the "open door" and "most favored nation" policy, through treaties, conventions and a series of agreements with capitalist states like the USA, England, Italy, France and Yugoslavia, granted concessions for the extraction of crude oil, natural gas, coal, copper and other minerals under enslaving conditions.

Pre-liberation Albania had no industry in the full sense of the word. The few industrial units which existed were of limited capacity and primitive technique. Small-scale handicrafts prevailed. The concentration and specialization of production were at their

lowest stage and the distribution of industry in the territory of the country was not made in a rational way. About 75 percent of total industrial production in 1938 came from the light and food-processing industries, which depended entirely on raw materials originating from agriculture and animal husbandry. In 1938, industry provided only 8 per cent of the combined industrial and agricultural production of the country and ensured only 4 per cent of our national income.

The Second World War and the Italian and German occupation of the country dealt a further blow to our national economy. Reckoned per capita of population, the damage caused to our country by the Second World War was among the highest in Europe.

Thus, the liberation of the country in November 1944, found the economy and industry of our country nearly paralysed.

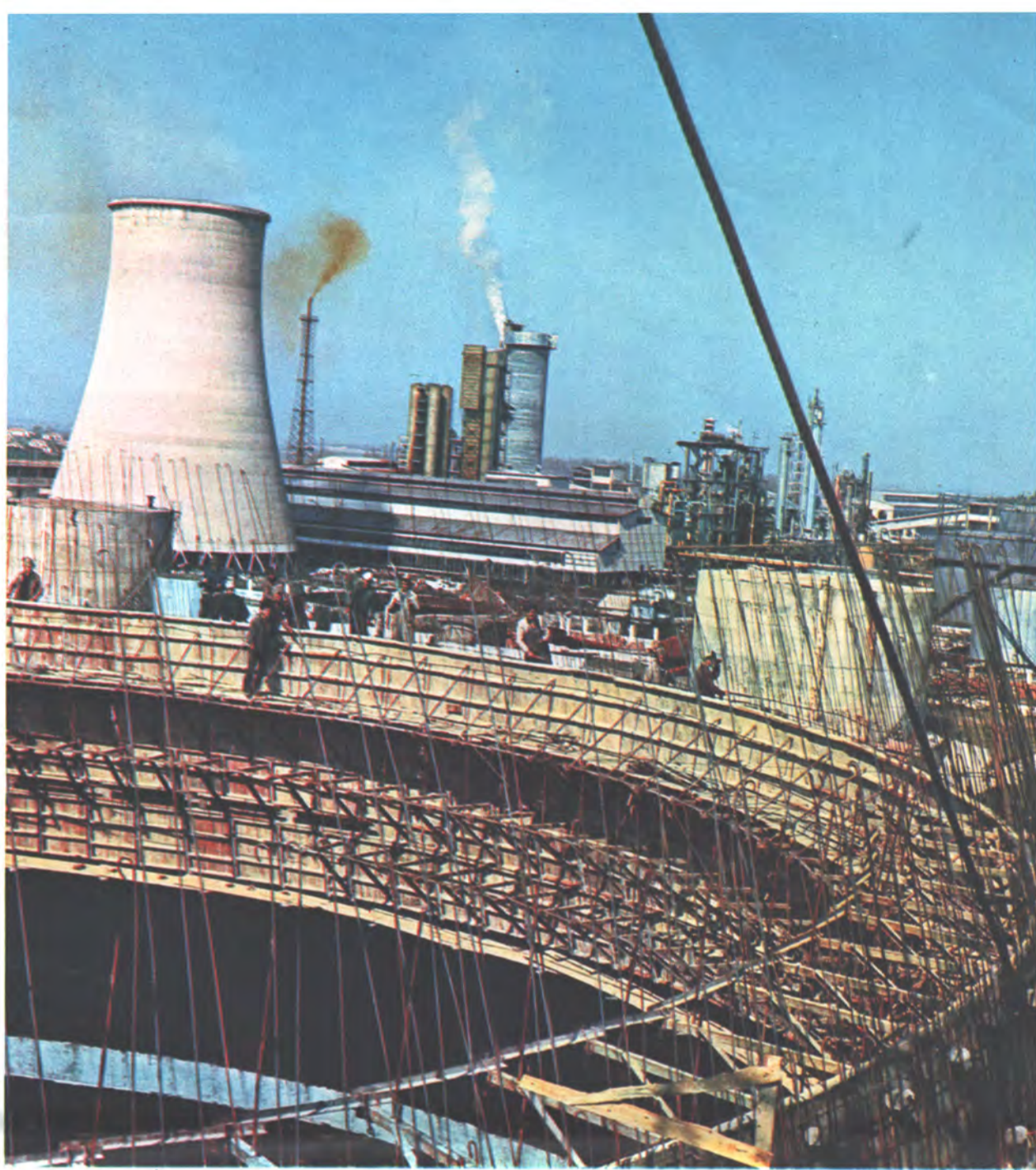
Inheriting such a very weak economic, our people's power was faced with the task of setting it on its feet and developing it along socialist lines. This constituted the second historical stage of the revolution and of our socialist construction, following the successful accomplishment of the political task of liberating the country. During the years 1944 and 1946, under conditions of uninterrupted revolution, our people's state power decreed and carried out a number of revolutionary measures in the domain of ownership of the means of production, by nationalizing the concessions granted to foreign capital and to the local bourgeoisie. The transfer of the means of production into the hands of the working class created the socialist system of our economy and made possible the rapid progress of the country. Nationalization on revolutionary lines of the principal means of production in industry, transport, the nationalization of the national bank, of the credit system, the establishment of a monopoly in foreign trade, etc., set up an economic base for the advanced people's state power on which it could successfully proceed toward building the new socialist society.

The principle of putting the country on its feet and building socialism through industrialization transformed the face of Albania. It is the main trend of the economic policy of our state in its five-year development plans. This leading role of our industry is dictated by the need to increase the working class, to build the material and technological base of socialism, to consolidate and develop the new socialist relations of production, to strengthen defence potential, and to raise the material and cultural level of the broad working masses. By the end of the first and second Five-Year Plans (1951-1960) Albania had changed from a backward agrarian to an agrarian industrial country.

The program of the socialist industrialization of the country has been realized in bitter battle with the overthrown class and the external enemies. They used all sorts of pretexts in their efforts to deny our ability to develop industry, and to retard the rate of progress trying to give it a one-sided character by developing mainly certain branches of our light and food-processing industries. Following the policy of socialist industrialization has nothing in common with the policy of isolationist national economic self-sufficiency which these enemies of Albania reproach us with. Of course, for a small country like our it is impossible and quite unnecessary to develop all branches of industry, especially that of machine manufacturing, all at once. In addition, despite the high level of accumulation which we have in the final distribution of our national income, the total funds in the hands of the state are insufficient to carry out a broad program of industrialization. For this, great internationalist aid has been and continues to be given to our country by the People's Republic of China.

Socialist industrialization enabled our country to make rapid progress even under the conditions of an economic blockade imposed on it. **During the last decade (1961-1970) social production increased 2.2 times, and total industrial production 2.5 times, our national income was doubled, the volume of capital investments has increased 2.1 times and the population has increased 1.3 times.**

**In 1973 total industrial production was over 86 times higher than before the liberation of the country**



Building the power-plant chimney at the industrial zone of Fieri.

We developed the basic branches of industry like crude oil and gas, mining and the power industry. We set up such new branches as the chemical fertilizer, sheet metal caustic soda, copper refining, tractor spare parts, plastic goods and paper industries.

The indices given above are clear proof of the vitality of our national economy, and the rapid development of our industry. They created a sound basis for the whole 1971-1975 Five-Year Plan for the general development of our economy.

In 1973 our industry turned out 52 per cent of social production and nearly 60 per cent of total industrial and agricultural production. The production of the means of production has increased at a particularly high rate: in 1972 it provided 58 per cent of industrial production.

By the end of the 5th Five-Year Plan period (in 1975), industrial production will be 61 per cent of the total industrial and agricultural production taken together.

Proceeding along this course has enabled our country to meet entirely or to an ever increasing degree, our needs for electric power, fuel, motor fuel and lubricants, mineral fertilizers (nitrates and phosphates), cement and building material, spare parts, insecticides, cotton fabrics, shoes and sandals. By bringing full or partially into operation new and powerful industrial works, the ferrous metallurgical complex, the industrial chemical works and others, we will soon meet with our own production our needs for steel, cast iron, various metal pipes and sheet metal, high quality motor fuel, the primary materials for the chemical industry, asbestos cement, plate glass and engineering equipment.

Industrialization created a very sound basis for the further development of our national economy as a whole. It became pos-

sible to proceed more quickly in building the whole material and technical base of socialism, turning Albania in the not too distant future into an industrial-agrarian country with highly developed industry and advanced agriculture.

**From small soap factories to the production of chemical fertilizer. The next step: Petrochemistry**

The policy of socialist industrialization which our state has pursued at every stage of development is that of giving priority to the extraction industry and the heavy processing industry. In this regard, the aim is to consolidate the economic independence of the country by establishing a sound basis for the independent activity of our industry and economy, relying on the conditions and resources of our country. We are therefore developing those branches of our heavy industry which rely on the raw materials and natural resources of our country. One of these branches which is being rapidly developed is that of the heavy and light chemical industry, particularly the heavy chemical industry. With the production of sulphuric acid from copper pyrites and, on this basis, of phosphate fertilizers, sodium nitrate, sodium calcinate, caustic soda, and oil paints, and with the setting up of the new plant to produce polyvinyl chloride (PVC), the deep oil processing plant, the pesticide complex and others, a powerful heavy organic and inorganic chemical industry has been set up. This is a very important branch with great future importance for our economy. The deep processing of crude oil in the powerful industrial complex under construction in our country also makes possible the development of such branches of intensive processing in our chemical industry as petrochemistry, with all the wide range and variety of the



Two sister plants, that of ammonium nitrate and that of urea.

Photos by N. Stefani

by-products which it turns out.

Parallel with this, important projects of our light chemical industry, such as that for the production of different plastic goods have been and will be set up.

During the 3rd Five-Year Plan period (1961-1965), the average annual growth rate of our chemical industry was 19.3 per cent, during the 4th Five-Year Plan period (1966-1970) it was 47.6 per cent, and during the 5th five-year period it is expected to be nearly 18 per cent. In 1973, compared with 1946, (which is taken as the basis for comparison, since this branch of industry was non-existent prior to the liberation of the country), our chemical industry had increased its production 32.7 times over while, as compared with 1960 it had increased it 22.6 times over. In the same year (1973) our chemical industry accounted for nearly 3.5 percent of our total industrial production.

The rapid development of our chemical industry, especially of fertilizers for agriculture, has become a powerful basis for processing our mineral raw materials, increasing our exports and rapidly increasing the productivity of our agricultural crops.

**From the kerosene lamp to the export of electric power, and the designing and construction of hydro-power stations**

The age of steam and electricity had almost by-passed pre-liberation Albania. In 1938, our country succeeded in producing only 9.4 million kilowatt hours of electric power or nearly 9 kw per capita of population. Each of the principal cities had a power plant with an already obsolete Diesel engine. The total installed power potential did not exceed 3.5 thousand kilowatts, and was the property of the Italian monopoly

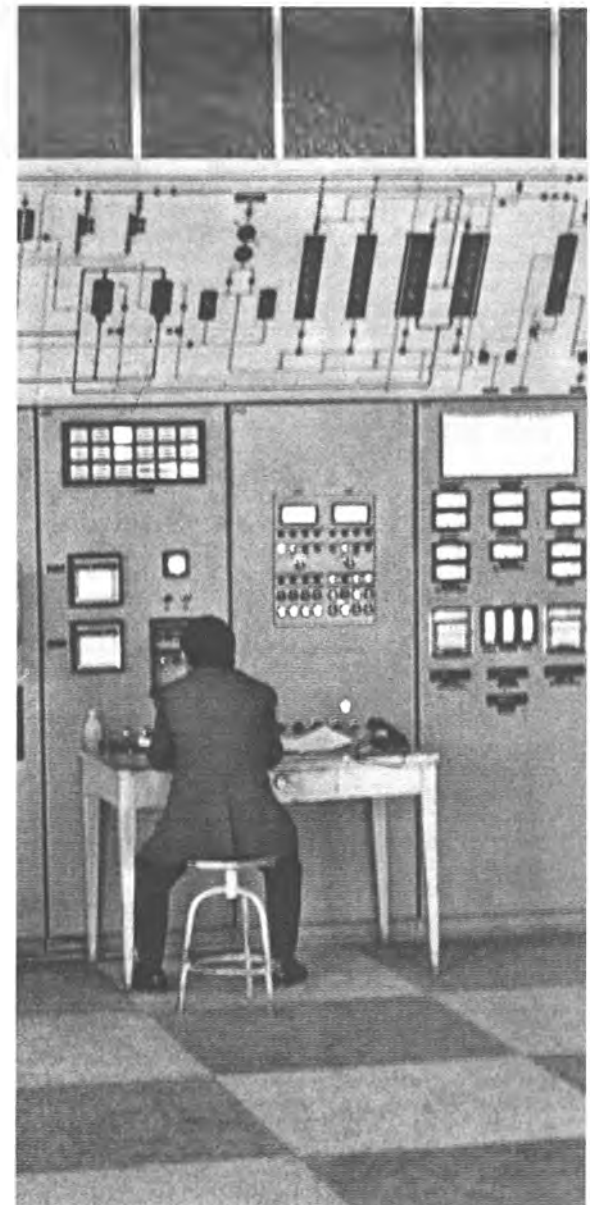
companies. Part of it was also destroyed by the war.

We had to start almost from scratch to set up our modern power industry.

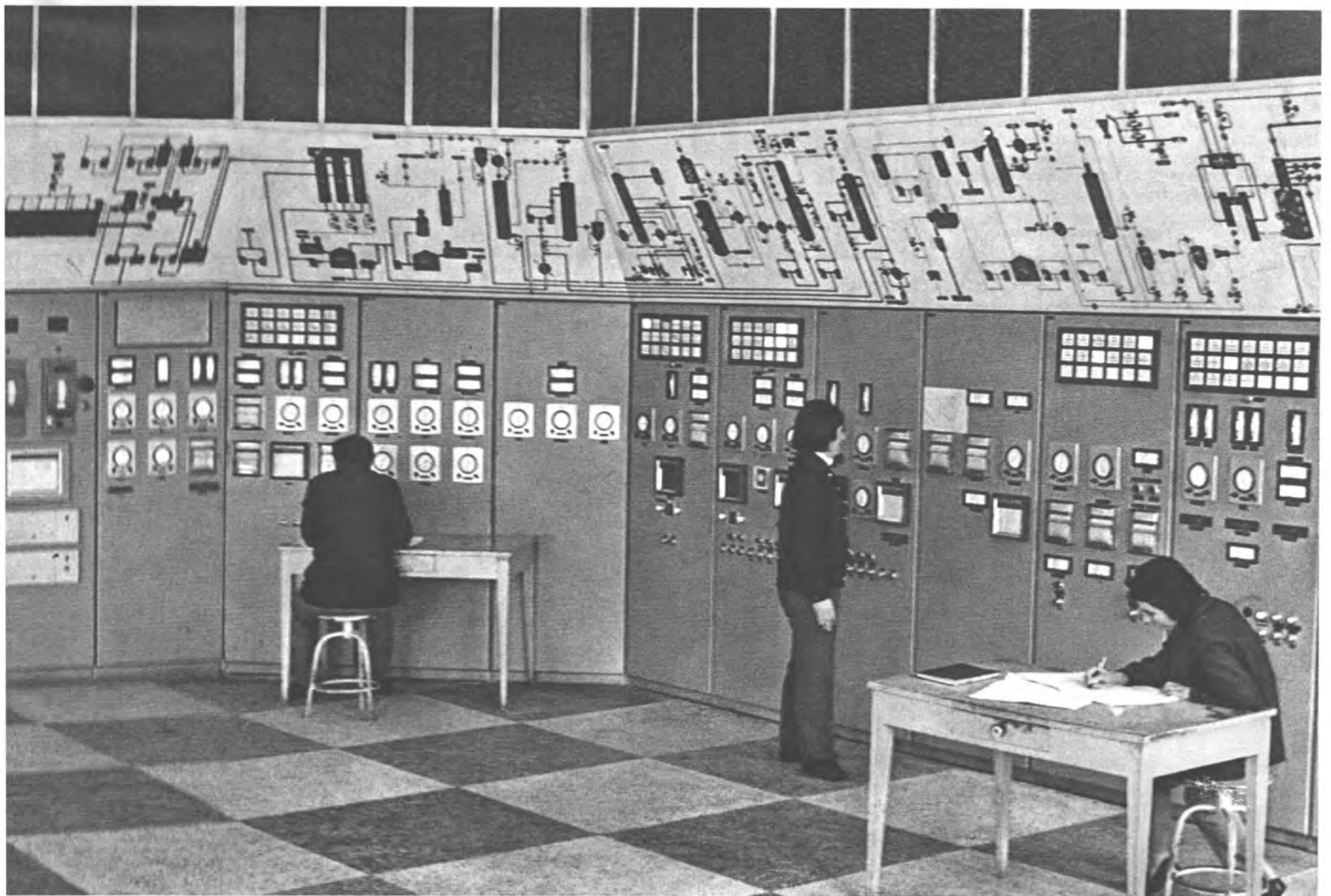
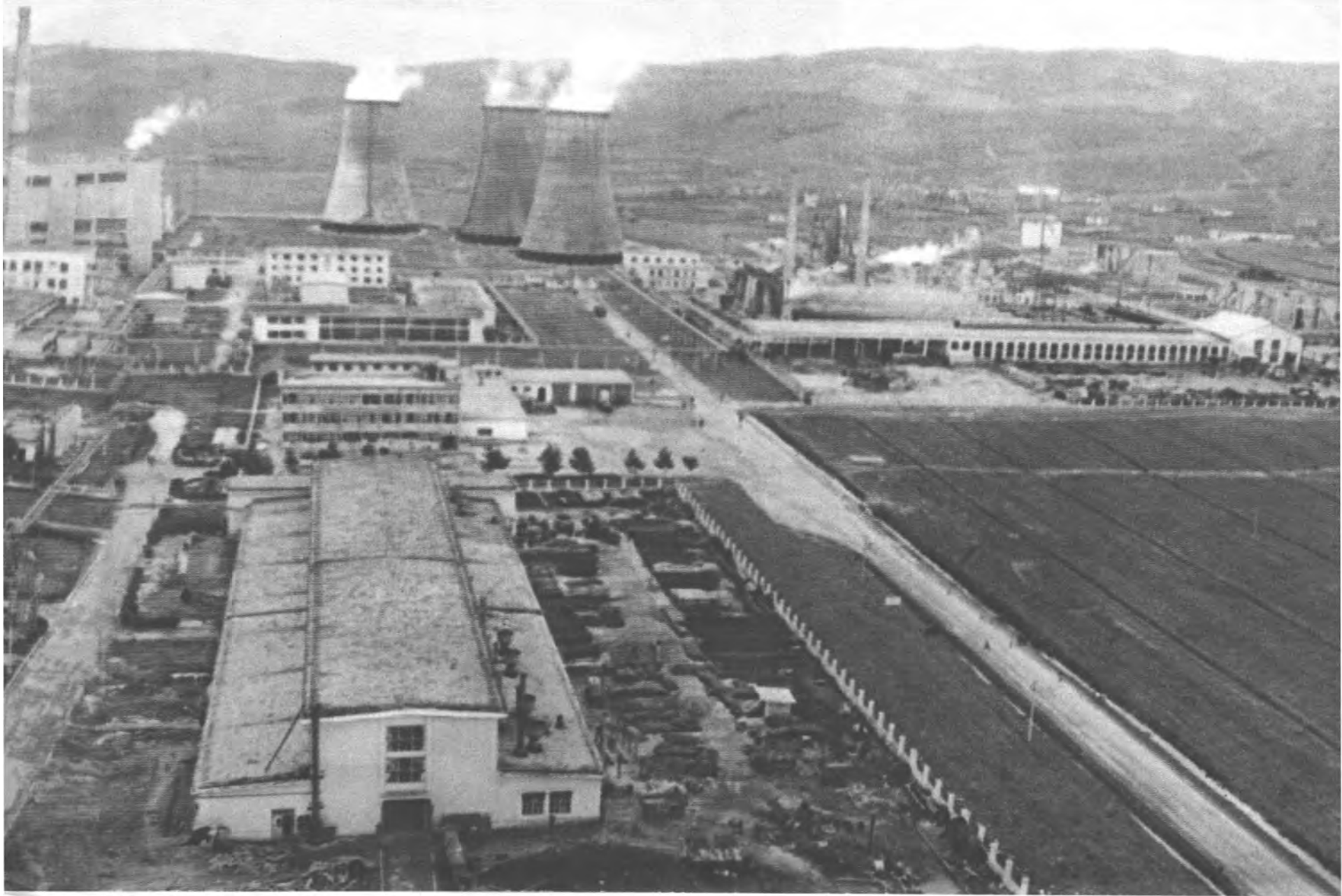
The basic principles on which our people's state power based itself were; **first**, electric power production should develop faster than industry. Thus, in 1973, industry as a whole had increased 86.3 times above that of 1938, while power had increased 164.7 times; compared with 1960, they had increased 3.4 and 7 times respectively. **Secondly**: electric power production should develop on the basis of the concentrated utilization of all our resources. A unified system was set up of the whole republic. Today the high tension distribution network ranging from 220-110 up to 6 kilovolts covers the entire country, with a length of 1 linear kilometer for every square kilometer of surface area. **Thirdly**, electric power developed on the basis of utilizing in the most efficient way the national and local hydro and thermo power resources, aiming at producing electric power at the lowest possible cost.

Today in our country we have an up-to-date power industry based on the latest technology. The capacity of the Vau i Dejës Hydror-Power Plant on the Drini River alone is over 70 times as high as that of all the power stations of the post taken together. Today the "Stalin" Textile Mills in Tirana alone consume in one year twice as much power as the whole of Albania used in 1938.

Very great progress has been made in the field of designing and constructing power plants. Fifteen years ago we did no designing locally in the energy field. The designs for high tension cables were imported from abroad, whereas now we design and build not



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The control centre at the Ammonium-Nitrate Plant.  
Photo by P. Cici

Continued from page 6

only lines and substations up to 220 KW, but also big power plants such as those on the Drini River. A second power plant is now under construction on the same river, with an installed capacity of about half a million kilowatts. In difficulties of construction and the size of the hydro-power scheme, this power plant is a considerable undertaking by European standards. The dam of one of the other power plants which will be built in the near future on this river will be more than 1.5 times as high as the dam of the Aswan Hydro Power Plant.

Next year, when a series of other new industrial works under construction is put into operation, the consumption of electric power will increase at a still higher rate. By 1980 it is expected to be about three times above that of 1973. This will rank Albania with the advanced countries of Central Europe in specific consumption of power.

Ours is one of the few countries in the world which has completed the electric reticulation of the whole countryside. We did this in record time. In our country there is no village or house anywhere which does not have electric light. This created the possibility of introducing electric power into the mechanization of agricultural processes.

Tiny and formerly backward Albania has been exporting electricity to other countries for many years now thus, creating the possibility of linking it with their power systems.

**From simple forges to cast iron and steel manufacture**

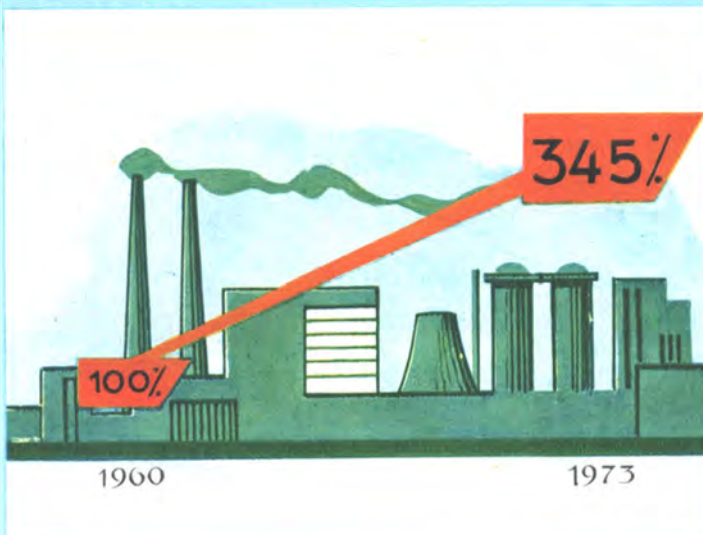
During the years of the people's state power, by continuously accelerating the course of socialist industrialization, first and foremost that of heavy industry, it became possible to extract a wide range of minerals and to set up powerful industrial plants in order to enrich, smelt and process them in the country. In this regard, the policy of our socialist industrialization has substantiated Lenin's thesis that in order to expand production, in order to accumulate in the strict sense of the word, priority should be given to the development of those branches industry which turn out the means of production. The rapid rate of development of industry, in particular the production of the means of production, constitutes the principal factor in the development of our whole economy on the basis of socialist development.

Our country is rich in metallic and non-metallic minerals, such as chromium, iron-nickel ores, nickel silicates, pyrites, crude oil and gas, lignites, quartz, phosphorites and others. During the 3rd and 4th Five-Year Plan periods the full cycle of metallurgy was established, especially in copper, smelting, refining and industrial processing. In the

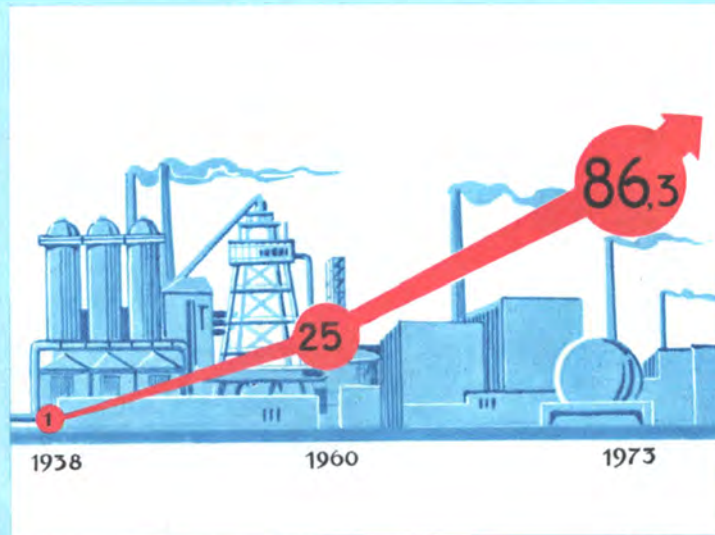
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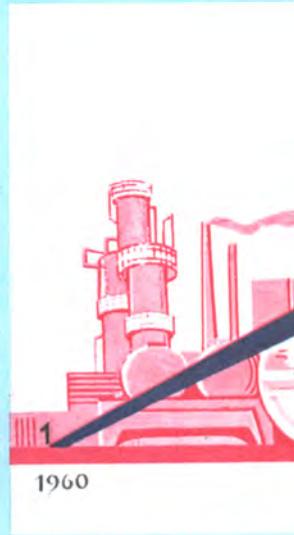
Total industrial production (in percentages)



Total industrial production (in times)



Development of the chemical industry (in times)





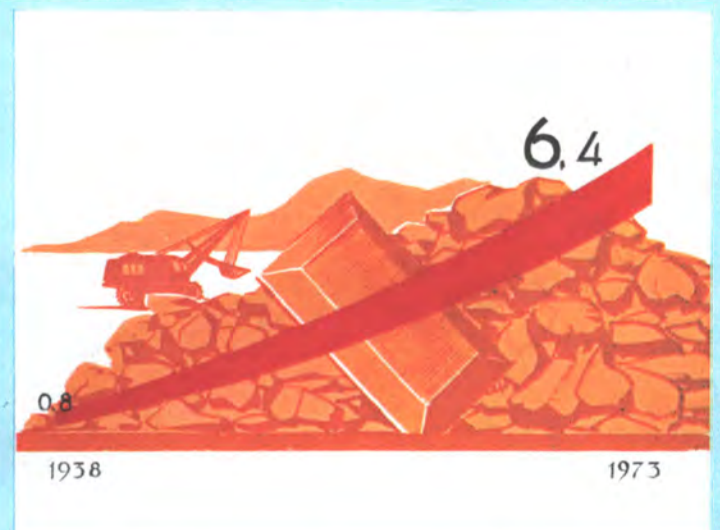
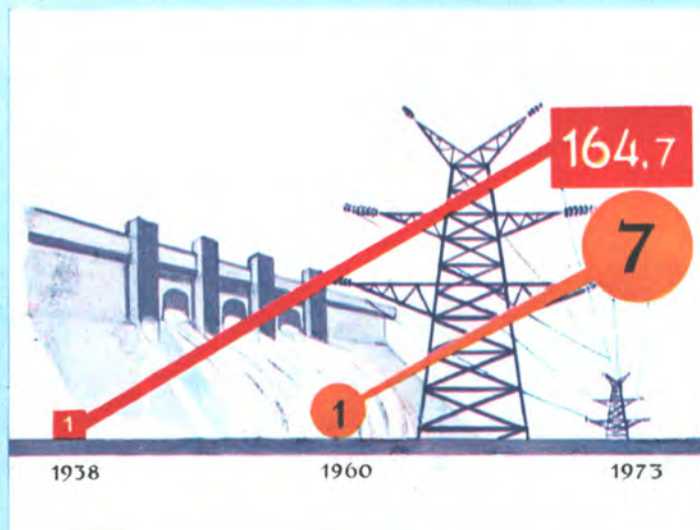
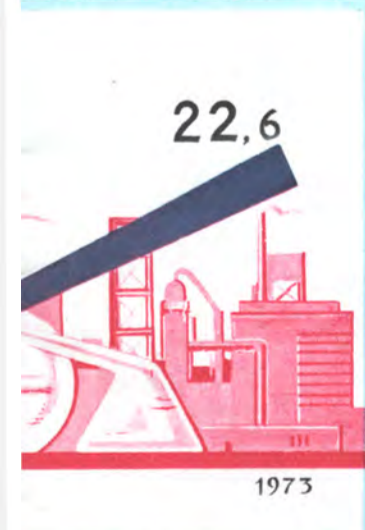


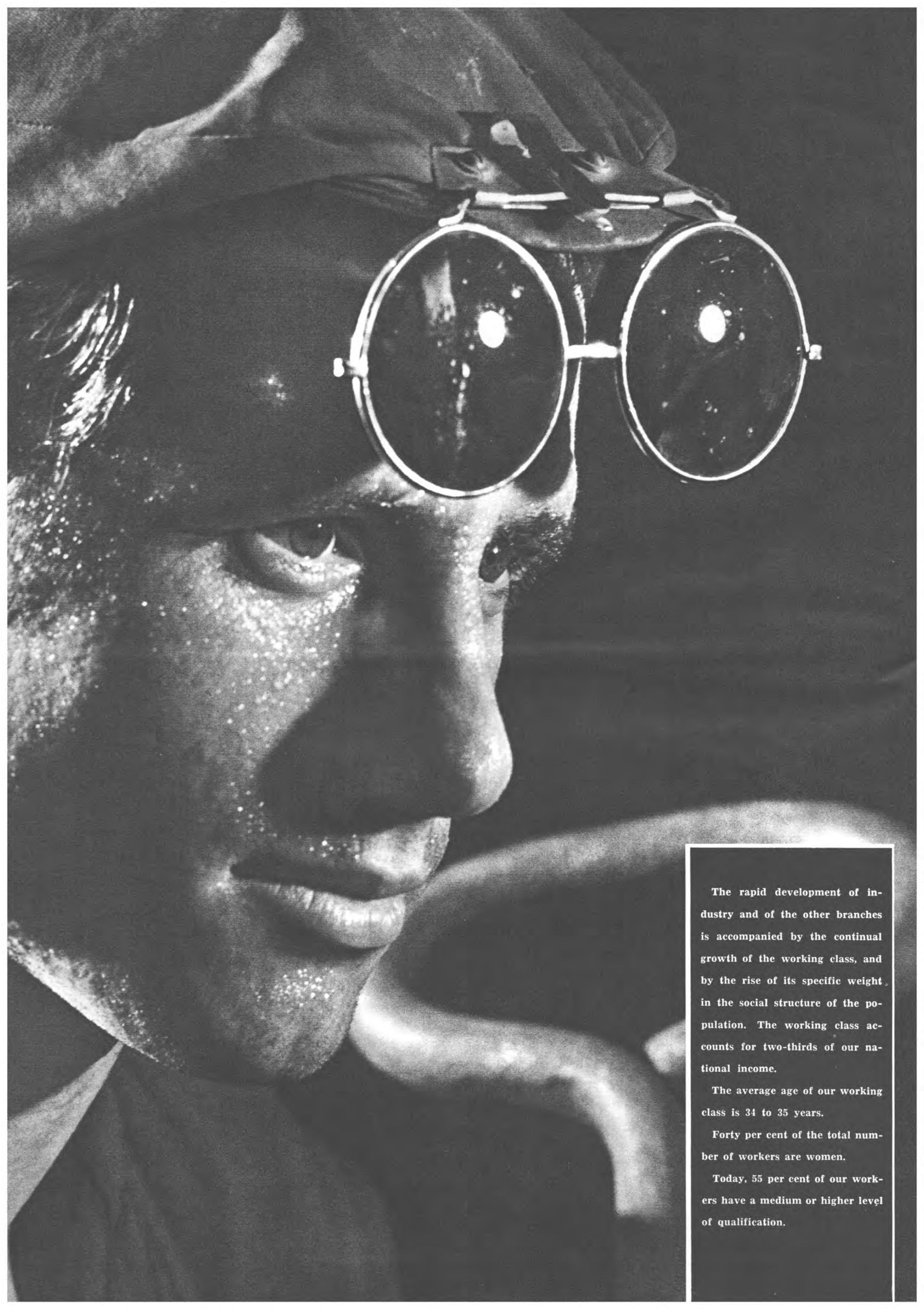
The industrial center in the city of Fieri.

The "Mao Tsetung" Textile Mills in Berat.  
In the picture: The Loom Factory.

Development of electric power (in times)

The specific weight of chromium, copper and ferrous-nickel industries taken together, in total industrial production (percent)





The rapid development of industry and of the other branches is accompanied by the continual growth of the working class, and by the rise of its specific weight in the social structure of the population. The working class accounts for two-thirds of our national income.

The average age of our working class is 34 to 35 years.

Forty per cent of the total number of workers are women.

Today, 55 per cent of our workers have a medium or higher level of qualification.

northern part of our country, big mines have been opened, along with factories for turning out blister copper and for refining and producing copper wires which not only meet the needs of the country but are important export items.

In addition, in our country we are setting up a black metallurgical industry with a full production cycle with the unsparing aid of the People's Republic of China. The exploitation of the great iron-nickel resources in the southeastern regions of the country and the prospects of smelting this ore will make possible the production of various kinds of sheet metal to meet the needs of our industry, building construction, agriculture and export on the basis of our own raw materials.

The setting up of these branches of industry as well as the prospects of setting up branches of non-ferrous metallurgy has made it possible to increase the share of the chrom-

ium, copper and iron-nickel industries.

Their development is very important for the building of the material and technological basis of socialism, for a better estimate of our natural resources, for the increase of the degree of independent action of our economy, and for the strengthening of the defensive potential of our socialist homeland.

**The geographic distribution of our industry. The elimination of backward regions in our country**

In the capitalist society the structure, rate of development and geographic distribution of industry is spontaneous, based on the operation of the law of value, and on competition and chaos in production. Ruthless rivalry among the branches of industry and the search for profits determine the policy of investments and the distribution of capital among those branches where turnover is more rapid and the extraction of profits easier.

Socialist industrialization differs radically from capitalist industrialization both in its methods and resources and in its results. In our country, it is not a question of surmounting the economic and social consequences of the development of the forces of production, but of giving them a socialist content at the very start. By the geographic distribution of industry we intend to do away with economic inequality between the different regions, zones and districts. Unequal economic development is inevitable in the capitalist world. In this lie the roots of the polarization of a country into developed and backward regions. The rational distribution of industry throughout the country also aims at bringing it as near as possible to the sources of raw materials, combustible materials and consumers, in order to avoid unnecessary transport and thus save social labour. In our country, the distribution of industry through-

Photo by P. Kumi



Up-to-date equipment for the chemical industry.

out the territory of our country is determined by the political, social and economic nature of this order, by the operation of the objective economic laws of socialism by the basic economic law of the planned and proportional development of our economy, and by the organized and conscious activity of our socialist state. The existence of social ownership and the absence of absolute rent of land in socialism makes the rational distribution of industry very easy.

All these enable the state to make the best possible distribution of its investments and capital constructions.

Before liberation, the little industry which existed had been distributed without sound economic and technological criteria. It was concentrated mainly in some major cities and there was conspicuous economic differentiation among the various districts. Some of them were typically backward agricultural

districts. In 1938, about 73 per cent of industrial production came from 4 or 5 cities mainly Tirana, Shkodra, Berat, Vlorë and Korça. The overwhelming majority of the small districts and the remote parts of the country had no industrial activity except some very simple handicrafts, silk and woolen work etc. These districts turned out 14 times less industrial and handicraft production per capita of population than the national average.

During the years of our people's state power, thanks to the economic policy of our socialist state and to the huge investments made for the industrialization of the country, branches of industry have been set up and function in every district, as for instance, in Kruja, Mirdita, Kukës and elsewhere. Such are the mineral, extracting, enriching and smelting industry, the power industry, that of exploiting and processing timber,

building materials, and the food-processing and light industry. As a consequence of the rapid development of the forces of production and, in particular of industry, those regions which used to be entirely agricultural have undergone quite a transformation. Thus, for instance, in the district of Gramsh, industrial production in 1972 had increased nearly 9-fold compared with 1960, while in Mirdita it had increased 7-fold.

New industrial centres have sprung up throughout the country and are making great progress.

The industrial map of Albania has undergone radical changes from the backward agricultural Albania of the pre-liberation period. It will continue to change in the days to come as a result of the strengthening of industry and the parallel development of agriculture and other branches in the sphere of material production.

# WORKERS AND THEIR FACTORY

The Copper Wire Extrusion Plant in Shkodra is one of the new factories in our country. The average age of its workers, technicians and engineers is 26 years. What do they think of their factory and their work? What does their factory mean to them? How do they assess their work and what urges them to work better and better?

These questions will be answered by some workers of the factory.

## **Nikolla Biga:**

I was one of the first workers to be employed by this factory I took a course in the technology of wire extrusion and then continued my secondary education as a part-time student, graduating with good marks.

I want to say how much pride I take in my factory. It has become a second home for me, and for my work companions. This is because our happiest memories are connected with it. It educated us, taught us to control processes and handle complicated machinery. In addition, in our factory a warm social environment exists. We get along with one another as if we had been brought up in the same household. We share our joys and sorrows.

I can't forget the case of one of our companions who fell ill, and went to hospital in Tirana. We did not leave him all alone for a single day. Someone was always by his bedside. We would do the same for any of us. We feel like one family.

## **Sadije Isufi:**

I would say that our factory is not only a place where we work but where we learn as well. For each one of us, it is a real school. Most of the workers are young, just as the factory is young. The average age is 26 years. Thus, most of us began our working life in the departments of this factory. All of us attend qualification course or schools. Ours is a modern plant, and in order to learn how to handle its machinery well, we have to improve our education and our technical ability. 240 workers have already finished secondary school and 133 of us are attending school as part-time students. 60 per cent of our technicians with middle school training have graduated from part-time schools. In the factory we have a technological secondary school specializing in wire extrusion. Over 100 workers attend training courses with definite programs. In addition, the system of assistance has given good results in each department, that is, a worker skilled in a particular job helps to train his fellow worker who is less skilled during work time.

There are also young workers who attend branches of the university as part-time undergraduates. I am one of these. I am in my final year studying electricity. I am doing well at my lessons. At present I am in charge of the of the new production lines. I like my work because we have had good results. We have set up production lines to turn out electromotors, collectors, transformers for laboratory use, stabilizers for TV sets and so on.

## **Enver Nurja:**

It is five years since I began to look after the work of the trade union organization in the factory. The others elected me vice-chairman of the committee. I like working as a trade union activist because it brings me in contact with people. Emulation in our

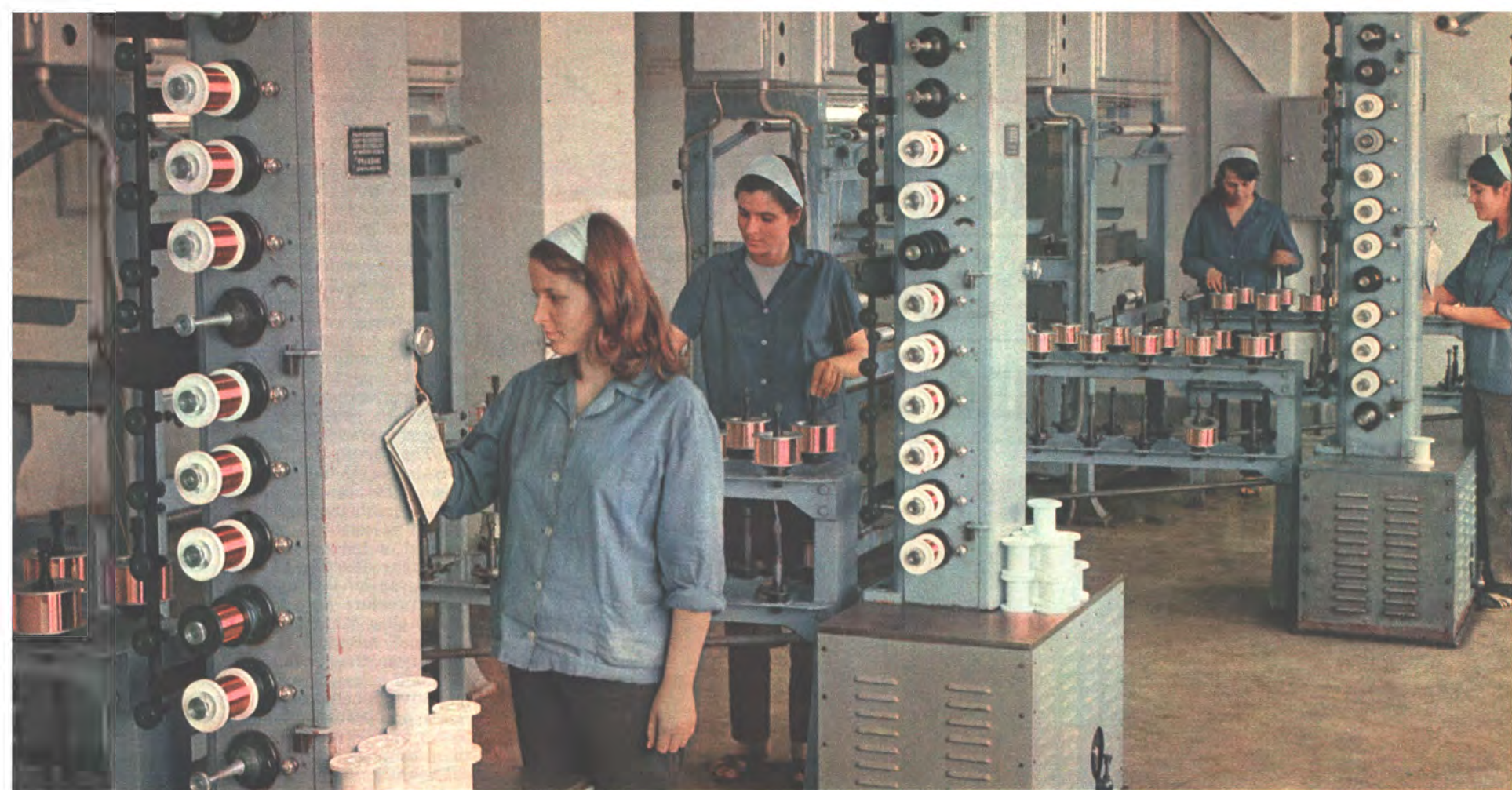


District. A while ago we went to Vlora where we visited the light bulb factory. The workers spoke well about our work, and certain remarks of their helped us to improve our products. Soon we will go to Rubik to learn about the cycle of copper processing. The trade union organization has also organized visits to the sick workers of the plant, some of whom it has aided materially. We have also given parties in honor of the workers on retirement and given them presents.

Our organization is doing good work to protect the health of the workers; they are

workshop is at a high level. It is carried out between individuals, brigades, work shifts and departments. The department where I am employed, that of enamelling, is competing with that of wire extrusion. In this direction our factory won second place on a national-wide scale.

The trade union organization of the plant is lively, carries out many activities. Its main role is educational. With a view to making the life of the workers as happy as possible, it organizes leisure activities, lectures and excursions within and outside the Shkodra



The wires are pigmented here.



View of the wire extrusion sector of the Copper Wire Plant in Shkodra.

Ruzhdi Gërçori, one of the youngest workers of the plant runs the device to cut spools made of plastic material.

made familiar with the rules of technical safety, provided with free milk as a health measure, etc.

**Shyqyrije Kelmendi:**

I very much enjoy life in our factory. In addition to other things, we are involved in a wide range of artistic activities. I mention this because I am fond of art, especially drama. In 1969, I joined the variety group of the plant, and during the last two years I have taken part in the theater group and play leading roles on the stage. Recently, I played the role of the mother in Sulejman Pitarka's

drama "The Fisherman's Family". The group from our plant won the district banner for drama.

I graduated from secondary school and am now attending the studio for actors in the "Migjeni" Theater in this city, as a part-time student. It is a two-year school and I will finish this year.

Our young workers are fond of art. Here we have a song and dance group which won second prize in the district last year, a variety group, and a drama group.

We have many sports activities: we have

good football, basketball and volleyball teams. We also play the popular folk games; many of us are keen on them.

**Rifat Kumja:**

I am one of the oldest workers at our plant. I took part in the work of installing the equipment here. At that time I was a fourth-category worker. When our factory began production, in 1965, I was assigned to the job of a mechanic. I finished the secondary technical school here as a part-time student. To make clear what this plant means to me, I will describe my background: I am an orphan; my parents died while I was still young. Our people's state power send me to boarding school and I completed the eight year school. I was keen on engineering and I was assigned to that job.

This plant is not only mine. Every part of it, every product that comes out of it, is our precious common property. All of us try to prevent any waste of materials. That's why I have asked to be assigned to the brigade in charge of repairing rejects.

All the workers are deeply concerned about the progress of the plant. In 1973 alone they turned out 12 new types of wires and cables, they created the line producing wooden and plastic spools, etc. We now produce dozens of items which used to be imported from abroad. Nearly all the workers think up ways of making inventions and rationalizations. Many of them are outstanding in this respect. To name only a few; mechanics Naim Raboshta, Isuf Bilali and Ndrek Jaku.

**Naxhije Rjoli:**

I have been working in the wire extrusion department for ten years now; I am the mother of two children. I like my work. I am studying part-time in the fourth grade of the technological school.

The wire we produce has gone to the remotest villages and homes, taking electric light to our people wherever they are and together with light they gain culture and mechanization, in short this improves the life of our people.

The complete electric reticulation of our country called for a lot of work and enormous investments. Many kilometers of our wires and cables have been used for this purpose, and the whole cost was borne by the State. This is an advantage we would never have had if private property existed.

You see this little flag here. It was awarded to me for looking after the machine carefully and working well. I will try my best always to keep the flag on my machine, which is kept working rhythmically.

The products of our plant go beyond borders of our country as well. We must turn them out so that we bring honor to the Albanian trade mark and our exported goods.

# The Counter-Offensive of the National Liberation Army in February and March, 1944

Skënder Isak



Partisans of the Vith Shock Brigade.

In the first week of February 1944, it became clear that the Big Winter Campaign organized by the Hitlerite invaders in our country had met with complete failure<sup>(1)</sup>. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, our National Liberation Army, and the whole people, supporting it, harassed the enemy, exhausting all its material and moral resources, and prevented it from achieving its political and military objectives. Through prolonged and arduous defensive operations which lasted about three months, through repeated attacks, rapid movements and stratagems, keeping firm links with the people, the National Liberation Army maintained its military strength and made speedy preparations for a counter-offensive.

In essence, the German Command admitted that its activities during the winter months had failed. The National Liberation Army had not been crushed. Nevertheless, the Hitlerites did not expect that the insurgent forces of the Albanian people could undertake counter-offensive activities before the spring. A report on the situation, dated February 16, 1944, which the Hitlerite Command of the 21st Alpine Army Corps sent to the Command of the 11nd Tank Corps, says: "In essence, the communists have given up their offensive activities; according to our latest information, we must expect strong communist activity again in the spring". Parallel with their ferocious military operations, during the winter months the Nazi invaders tried to mobilize the internal reactionaries both militarily and politically. They armed the "Balli Kombëtar" and the "Legaliteti" bands<sup>2</sup>, incited the formation of certain so-called political parties, and promised, for demagogical purposes, political and economic reforms, such as the so-called "Agrarian Reform" or the "Association for the Economic Development of the Country", which were loudly proclaimed in February 1944. At the same time, the Hitlerites urged the reactionaries to make efforts to collaborate with international reaction in the neighboring countries.

None of these schemes of the enemy suc-

ceeded, because they were based on wishful thinking rather than the actual situation. This reality showed that the National Liberation Army had emerged from the winter campaign stronger politically, morally, and militarily, despite the losses it had suffered. It had the capacity to launch a sudden counter-offensive. The General Staff had already made preparations for this during the winter months, when the National Liberation Army was compelled to go onto the defensive, and they began the offensive when the enemy least expected it.

In the field of military actions, the situation was as follows: The National Liberation Army held firmly or immediately liberated on the eve of the counter-offensive, an area much smaller than that of the liberated zone it had possessed at the beginning of January 1944. The biggest concentration of the National Liberation Army (the 1st, IVth, and Vth Brigades, the IIIrd Skrapari group, the partisan groups of Shpirag and Myzeqe, as well as units of the 1st operative zone Vlorë-Gjirokastra, and the Staff Command of Korça) was in action at this time in a region between Përmet, Erseka, Korça and Berat (see chart). In the meantime, another smaller concentration was engaged in two separate regions of the Vlorë District, namely, on Mt. Cika (3 battalions of the Vth Shock Brigade) and in Mesaplik (2 battalions of the Vth Brigade and other partisan detachments of the 1st Operative Zone. One partisan group engaged in offensive operations on the Konispol-Saranda-Delvina, Jorgucat and Upper Dropulli highway.

The main forces of the National Liberation Army acting in the regions, although under conditions of encirclement, without sufficient armaments and materials, without sufficient provisions and under unhealthy conditions, possessed high morale and a sound fighting spirit, which were the basic premises on which to age a counter-offensive. The Operative Group of the General Staff of the National Liberation Army, sizing up the critical condition of the enemy on one hand, and the inexhaustible energies of the liberation

forces of our people on the other, in a short space of time, prepared for and ordered the launching of the counter-offensive. The objectives of this counter-offensive were of a strategic nature, and their realization would prepare the conditions for the eventual general offensive. This decision was the concrete application of the Marxist-Leninist principle that defense spelt death for the revolution, and that only the offensive ensures victory over the enemy. On the other hand, this was also the way to carry out the directives of the Party and the General Staff to keep attacking the enemy without respite, and to make short work of them.

The counter-offensive was prepared in strict secrecy, and caught the enemy by surprise. The objective of the counter-offensive was to crush the Hitlerite and traitor forces, and to re-establish the situation existing at the end of January in southern Albania.

The realization of the counter-offensive was based on this idea: minor forces should exert pressure on the enemy from the zones of Dangllia, Kolonja and Vithkuq, while the principal forces should launch decisive attacks from the center to the periphery of the liberated zone, to break through the enemy operative encirclement towards Corovoda, Berat and Potom-Gramsh, Lavdar in Opar-Korça and Përmet-Gjirokastra; Later, when the conditions had been prepared, to continue the counter-offensive, starting from the upper reaches of the Shishica River, towards Drashovica (Vlorë) and, on the other side, towards Delvina.

Before launching the counter-offensive, units of the National Liberation Army had successfully carried out a number of counter attacks of a local nature, and concentrated their forces in the Dangllia, Skrapar and Opar District. Although in dire economic straits, the population of the villages supplied the liberation forces with whatever food they could. They also secured small amounts of ammunition for the forces on the counter-offensive. Valuable information about the enemy was received from the regions temporarily occupied by the enemy through the clandestine Party organs, and through the people themselves: the German forces were withdrawing from their permanent garrisons to the fortified cities and centers, leaving behind the traitorous forces of collaborators. The partisan units carried on reconnaissance work within a radius of up to 50 kilometers.

Good work of an ideological and political character was done by the party organizations, the commissars and the political sections in the partisan ranks, in order to enhance the revolutionary spirit of the partisans and the people.

On February 8, the 1st Brigade and the units and detachments of the Berat District, launched an attack on both sides of the Tomori ridge. The IVth Brigade and the detachments of the Korça District launched their attack towards Gopesh-Shenapremte and Selenica e Pishës-Erseka. The Vth Shock Brigade launched its counter-offensive from Dangllia towards Përmet-Gjirokastrë. In collaboration with the detachments of the Berat District, it out-flanked the enemy garrison at Tepelena.

In the meantime, the Vth Shock Brigade and units of the 1st Operative Zone (Vlorë-Gjirokastra), operating in Kurvëlesh and Mesaplik were actively engaged in frustrating the attacks of four battalions, and a Hitlerite group assisted by the Ballists, who were launching their "Und Dennoch" (Once Again) campaign. Partisan forces south of Delvina were engaged in offensive operations.

The counter-offensive began in very rugged, snow-covered mountain terrain. Throughout February, the weather was wet, snowy and stormy. Under these difficult conditions, after several days of fighting, trudging over the mountains, crossing the torrential Devoll and Vjosa Rivers, the units of the National Liberation Army, on February 15, reached Shëmërdhej, the Dardha Pas, Vertop (in the Berat District), Gora and Kolonja, and smashed the "Gams" operation of the enemy east of Vithkuq. In the direction of Përmet-Gjirokastra, our forces emerged on a wide front on the east bank of the Drinasi, from Tepelena to Libohova.

As already pointed out in the last issue of this magazine, three battalions of the 1st partisan brigade were ordered, on February 11, to march towards the Shëngjergj Region in Central Albania. This heroic incursion of the 1st Brigade also had repercussions on the concentrated action of the counter-offensive, as well as on activating the partisan units in the central and northern parts of the country. A concentration of forces of the National Liberation Army (the Vth and VIth Brigades and other units of the 1st Operative Zone) was also set up in the district of Gjirokastra.

Continuing the counter-offensive successfully, the units of the National Liberation Army liberated Mokra on February 21, while in the direction of Berat, they defeated the enemy at Gllava and forced their way to Mallakastra. The Vth and VIth Brigades and the other units of the 1st Operative Zone launched their counter-offensive towards Kuç-Drashovica and Kuç-Senicë (Delvina). After a week of fighting they cut the Tepelena - Vlora Highway.

Sizing up the successes already scored, and setting out the tasks lying ahead for the counter-offensive, the General Staff of the National Liberation Army issued, on February 20, the following instructions: "... Our No. one enemy is the invaders. We must keep this well in mind. ... The enemy and the reactionaries are making preparations to attack us. ... We must frustrate their preparations. They aim at crushing the living forces of our army. We must crush their forces. ..." The Party intensified its ideo-political work among the ranks of the army and the population and as a consequence, there was an enhancement of revolutionary optimism and of confidence in victory, binding the people more closely to their Liberation Army.

Thus the drive of the counter-offensive kept gaining momentum. Our forces operating in the Korça District advanced and liberated the districts west of the Korça-Pogradec and Korça-Bellovoda Highways and the right bank of the Osumi River, then re-established the situation at Devolli and Morava. The newly-formed VIIth Brigade took upon itself the task of launching fierce attacks on the left bank of the Osumi River towards Berat.

Up to March 14, the Vth and the VIth Brigades, having cut the Tepelena-Vlora Highway, launched attacks on the Vajza-Drashovica highway and encircled the Hitlerite troops in the Mavrova, Kropisha and Penkova Region, on March 31 they captured Mavrova, the fortified center of the Hitlerites, and frustrated a counter-offensive by the enemy. During the second ten days of March, the forces of the VIth Brigade and those of the IIIrd Group of the 1st Operative Zone marched deep into Mallakastra and freed Ballsh. By March 31, they had succeeded in cutting the Fier-Berat Highway, re-establishing the situation that existed there on November 10, 1943.

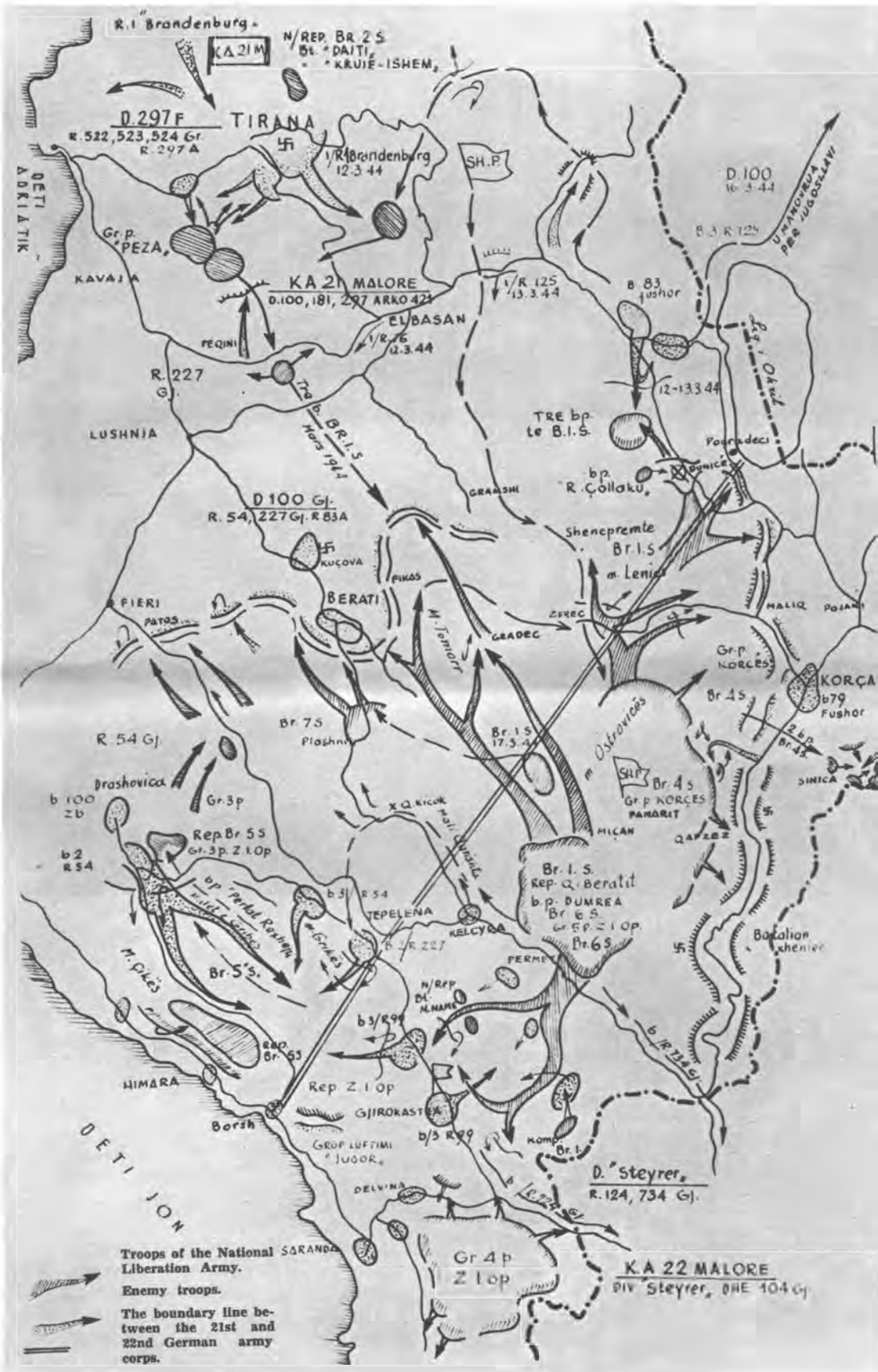
The counter-offensive lasted 52 days, having begun from a situation of operations under encirclement in a narrow mountain district; thanks to the leadership of the Party and the General Staff, headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha, it gave results of major strategic proportions. By the end of March, the National Liberation Army had succeeded in liberating districts stretching from the Prespa and Ohri Lakes to the Ionian coastline, from the Gramshi District in the north to the southern border. Thus, the opportunity was created to expand the ranks of the National Liberation Army, which doubled its effective, setting up two new brigades and filling the gaps in the brigades that had suffered losses. The economic conditions of the remote mountain areas were also improved, since the units of the National Liberation Army occupied or came nearer to the fertile areas. Under the guidance of the Party organizations and the National Liberation Councils in the liberated areas, the peasants set to work and completed their spring sowing.

While this operation was going on, Comrade Enver Hoxha, Secretary General of the Albanian Communist Party and Political Commissar of the General Staff of the National Liberation Army, instructed the Party Committees to intensify the Party organizational

and propaganda work within the areas occupied by the enemy too. "All those underground there, and in other cities, all the youth and all the sympathizers who want to take to the mountains, should join the ranks of our army" — this is what Comrade Enver Hoxha wrote to the Secretary of the Regional Committee of the Albanian Communist Party for Tirana at that time.

The successes scored during the counter-offensive showed once again what the people in revolution can do, when they are guided with courage and wisdom by a Marxist-Leninist revolutionary Party like the Albanian Communist Party.

- 1) See "New Albania" № 1/1974
- 2) Organizations collaborating with the Hitlerites.



Plan of the counter-offensive of the National Liberation Army against the Hitlerite forces in February and March, 1944.



A hearty reunion during the Conference.

## The Torch of the Revolution

Shevqet Musaraj

Member of the Presidium of the National Committee of War Veterans

**T**HE spring of this great jubilee year of the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the country brought special joy to the old city of Korça one of Albania's best known cities with regard to its patriotic and revolutionary traditions. It was here that the Third National Conference of Albanian War Veterans held its proceedings.

The delegates elected by the district conferences of war veterans to attend this Conference included mothers and fathers of martyrs, former partisans, both men and women, of particular distinction, men and women comrades scarred with battle-wounds,

old veterans, on the pension now but still active in social work, state leaders, servicemen on active duty, officials, and outstanding workers, who continue to perform, honorably and successfully, the tasks entrusted

to them.

Fresh energy, and inexhaustible will-power and inspiration, are injected in our veterans by the magnificent transformations that have come about in their beloved people's Albania, which, from the backward and neglected country it was 30 years ago, has become a developed country with enough defensive potential to cope with all dangers, and with great authority on the international scene. In this free, sovereign, prosperous homeland, they see the realization of the most daring dreams of their youth and, the dreams and the legacy of the 28,000 martyrs who did not survive to see the fruits of their sacrifice.

Feelings of pride and the fiery militant spirit have been aroused in the hearts of our veterans by the honoured place, the consideration and the special concern which our

socialist state and the people as a whole, have always reserved for our war veterans.

Shining proof of the love and consideration of our people and youth for the freedom fighters was given in the magnificent reception accorded to the Conference by ancient Korça. The city's families, at their own urgent request, invited the 350 delegates to the Conference for supper in their own homes, just as they had invited the partisans and those in hiding during the war; in the delegates' company they spent a memorable evening recalling the heroic events and episodes of the partisan years and the 30-year long struggle we have waged against adversities, and internal and external enemies, in order to bring about these joyous times, and the prosperity of socialist Albania.

It is this kind of thing that gives our war veterans fresh energy to raise higher the



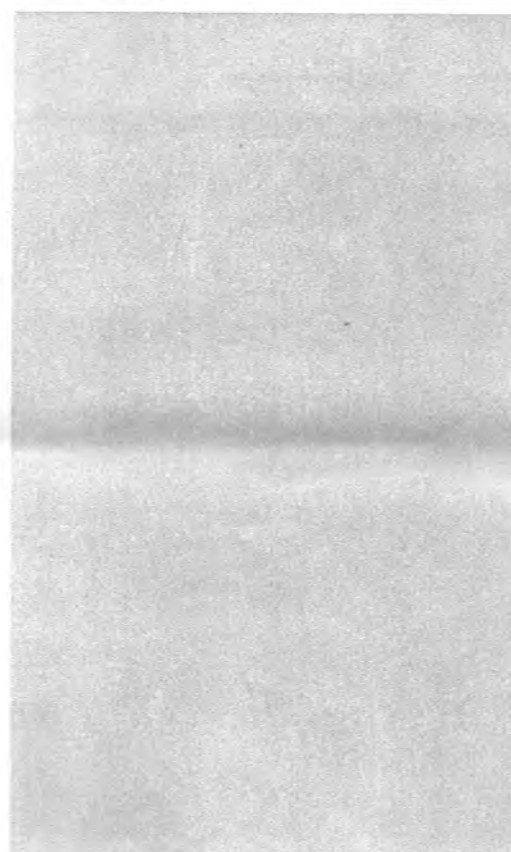
banner of the patriotic and revolutionary traditions of the people, in order to have these glorious traditions illuminate the path of the present generation, and the nation's future.

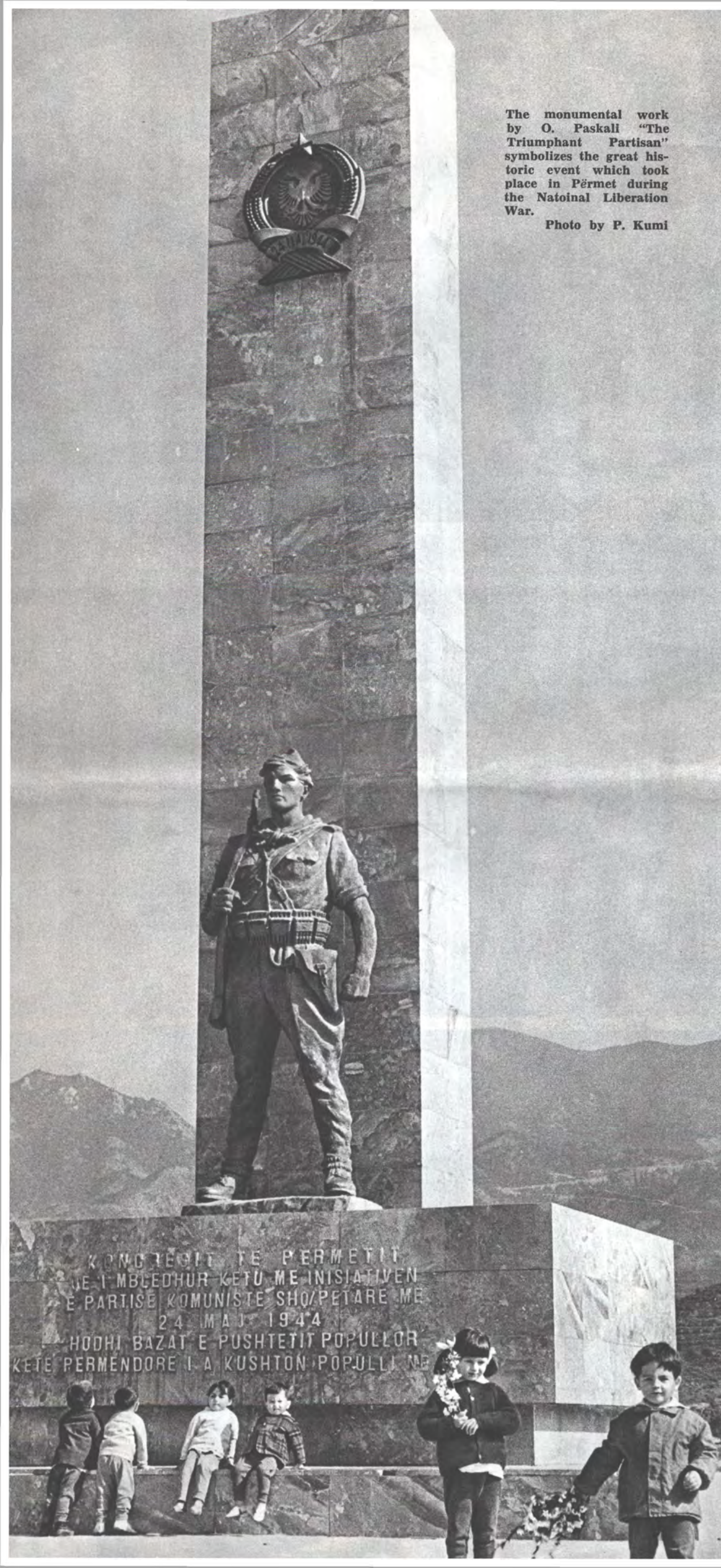
The moving message of greetings which the organizer and legendary leader of the National Liberation War and the people's revolution, Comrade Enver Hoxha, sent to the Congress, stirred and inspired the hearts of the delegates and the veterans.

The high value which our leader set on the activity and role of the veterans, as "the bearers of the best patriotic, progressive and democratic traditions, and the ideals of the National Liberation War" was for them a further source of energy and inspiration, which led to that solemn and unanimous pledge of the delegates, from the oldest to the youngest (who had been a 14-year-old partisan during the war) that they would carry out, with conscious revolutionary conviction, their leader's instructions to exert all their efforts in all fields of socialist construction and defense, and be always tireless promoters and propagandists of the heroism of the National Liberation War and of our socialist achievements and educators and ardent counselors of the younger generation, imbuing them with a high sense of love of country, so that they are prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for the prosperity and defence of the motherland under whatever circumstances, and against whatever peril may threaten it.

As was stressed at the Conference, and as is happening in our daily practice, socialism is not built by one but by a number of generations. Every generation performs heroic deeds and puts its seal on each different stage of revolution and socialist construction. It is the duty of the older generation to prepare the following one, from all points of view, to continue on the road towards communism without a break. It is the duty of younger generation to safeguard and add to the heroic work and glory of the preceding generation, and to utilize the great experience of their parents and grand-parents, in carrying society constantly forward and in strengthening our socialist homeland and making it even more prosperous. Thus, in our country, there are no breaks and no gaps between the stages of revolution and between the generations that make the revolution. Our revolution is one and inseparable, just as our working people are one and inseparable. Our younger generation loves and looks up to the heroic and revolutionary past of our people and is inspired by this past in its daily struggle to build socialism and defend the homeland; it holds dear and respects the old revolutionaries and learns from their advice and experience. We, the old revolutionaries, on our part, do not forget that the more we set the example of vanguard fighters, the more we work and live like revolutionaries, the better examples of inspiration and mobilization for the young we will be.

Always active and tireless militants within the ranks of the people and youth, old in years but young at heart, our war veterans will continue their valuable work to the end of their lives, in order to deserve, for all time, the honoured title of heroic partisans of commanders and commissars of the revolution.





The monumental work by O. Paskali "The Triumphant Partisan" symbolizes the great historic event which took place in Përmet during the National Liberation War.

Photo by P. Kumi

## The Congress That Solved the Problem of Political Power

Apostol Kotani

Fellow of the Institute of History

From the beginning to its victorious end, the war against the fascist invaders and traitors to the country was closely linked with and incorporated into the struggle to crush the old exploiting regime and to establish and consolidate the new revolutionary state power.

**T**HIRTY years ago, on May 24, 1944, the First Anti-fascist National Liberation Congress was held in the free town of Përmet. The Përmet Congress was a great democratically elected people's convention. It was attended by representatives of all the people who had taken up arms and fought for over five years on end against the fascist and Nazi invaders and traitors to the country. It solved in a revolutionary way the historic task that faced our people, namely, the problem of the political power which was to be established as a result of our great liberation war. The problem of political power is the basic problem of every revolutionary. At the Përmet Congress, our people, led the Communist Party (now the Party of Labor), solved this problem themselves and in their favor.

This became possible because, for the first time in their history, the Albanian people had, and still have, a really worthy leadership loyal to the last, the Albanian Communist Party which, founded on sound Marxist-Leninist principles, through its correct line of action, its wisdom, keenness, far-sightedness and determination, inspired, mobilized, organized and led our people in their great National Liberation War and, later, in socialist construction.

The Party did not force its leadership on the people, but aroused the masses by its correct and far-sighted line and program.

In the process of this war, the problem of political power became the fundamental problem of the common cause of our people's revolution, national liberation and social-economic emancipation. From its very beginning to its victorious conclusion, the war against the fascist invaders and traitors to the country was closely linked with, and incorporated into the struggle to crush the old exploiting regime, and establish and consolidate the new revolutionary regime.

It is to the great merit of the Party of Labor of Albania that it did not wait until the whole country had got rid of the invaders and the traitors, or until the whole old local and central state apparatus had crumbled to pieces, but acted at once and set up the new revolutionary power of the National Liberation Councils, both in the freed areas and in areas still occupied by the enemy. In our country, the process of overthrowing the old regime in a revolutionary way, and of establishing a new one, began as far back as the spring of 1942, when the armed struggle of our people had not yet turned into a general armed uprising. It began at the grass-roots, in the villages and outlying districts, and later reached the main centres.

While working out the form and content of the power of the National Liberation Councils, the Party always had in mind that they should be the organs of the alliance of the working class with the laboring peasantry, the basis of the people's democratic regime, and the real organisms of the National Liberation War. It did not allow power to be shared with the exploiting classes and traitorous organizations, and launched the slogan: "The National Liberation Councils are the sole organs of people's state power in Albania".

With the intensification of the war of our people against the fascist invaders, these new organs of state power passed the critical test of the war, and continued to become more and more consolidated.

In the spring of 1944, when the Hitlerite hordes were being dealt hard blows, the Nazi forces and the entire internal reaction were making preparations for a new offensive against the national-liberation movement, and attempts were being made to set up an "Albanian government in exile" to be brought to Albania with the aid of the arms of Anglo-American reaction, it became the imperative duty of the Albanian people to take active military and political steps to frustrate these attempts of the enemy, and to turn the situation in favor of the revolution.

In the field of politics, it was considered as a basic duty to set up people's political, legislative and executive organs capable of representing the Albanian people with dignity

both within the country as well as in the outside world, and recognized as the sole government emerging from the will of the people. This historic task was best accomplished by the historic Congress of Përmet, which gave the people the highest organs of legislative and executive power, namely, the General Anti-fascist National Liberation Council with its presidium, and the Committee with the attributes of a Provisional Government, thus solving the problem of political power in favor of the armed people.

The Congress took a series of other decisions of historic significance in the military, economic, social and cultural fields. Thus, it decided to bar the return of ex-King Zog, to recognize no other government which might be formed within or outside the country contrary to the will and the interests of the people, as well as to repudiate all enslaving agreements concluded with the former anti-popular regimes. It was also decided to further improve the National Liberation Army and to continue the war with greater fury in order to hasten the complete liberation of the country.

The historic decisions of the Përmet Congress caused great enthusiasm all over the country. For the people in arms who were shedding their blood, they became a major source of inspiration, while among the ranks of internal and external enemies they caused uneasiness and panic. The schemes of the Anglo-American imperialist reactionaries met with complete failure. This reality could not have failed to be brought to the attention of the representatives of these Powers in Albania. In a commentary on the "situation in Albania" dated August 25, 1944, one of the members of English mission to Albania admitted: "I believe that for the time being the Allies should give up any attempt or aim to set up a government in exile, since the appropriate time for this has passed for good". Further on, he adds that the problem now is: "how to get our men inside the government in order to capture the fortress from within, how to sow internal discord between Tosk and Geg (northerner and southerner). They failed to achieve this objective.

Following the Përmet Congress events in Albania developed speedily in favor of the people who had risen up. As a result of the general offensive of the National Liberation Army, the complete liberation of Albania was a near prospect. This raised the problem of turning the Anti-fascist Committee into a Democratic Government, a task which was carried out by the 2nd meeting of the Anti-fascist National Liberation Council at Berat in October 1944. One month later, on November 29, 1944, the whole of Albania was liberated.

With this historic victory, the Albanian people achieved national liberation and, at the same time, overthrew politically the exploiting classes of the country which had betrayed the national interests and aligned themselves with the occupationists. The Albanian people became masters of their own destiny and took political power in their own hands.

The 30th year period from the Përmet Congress to the present is characterized by concern and constant effort to consolidate the people's power, to preserve its revolutionary class content as a form of the dictatorship of the proletariat, to democratize and improve it continually in conformity with the progress of the country, to build the socialist society.

With the existence of a strong state power it became possible to safeguard the achievements of our people's revolution, to do away with the survivals of fascism and reaction, to break the resistance of the overthrown exploiting classes, to withstand the many provocations, plots and pressures of the imperialists and their stooges and to liquidate foreign intervention and the hostile and sabotaging activity of the internal enemy. It became possible to build the economic basis of socialism and to embark on the new historic stage of the complete building of socialist society.



## An Illustrated Volume on Monuments of Albanian Architecture

**R**ECENTLY, there was published an illustrated book on "Monuments of Architecture in Albania", produced by the Institute of Cultural Monuments. The explanatory notes are in Albanian, English and French. Through the many photos (mostly coloured) the reader sees one object after another from the different epochs and styles of the material culture of the Albanian people. In every picture the reader sees, in retrospect, the tireless work, talent and creative spirit of our forefathers who, besides their skill with the spear, sword, or rifle, could use the builder's tools with equal talent.

Centuries rolled on, one social formation yielded its place to another, foreign invaders and Vandals destroyed and built to suit their own interests, foreign "scholars" plundered our country greedily to enrich the museums of their own states and the anti-popular regimes and ignorance did their job too; but in spite of this a good number of our monuments survived to immortalize the noble national culture and ideals of our ancestors.

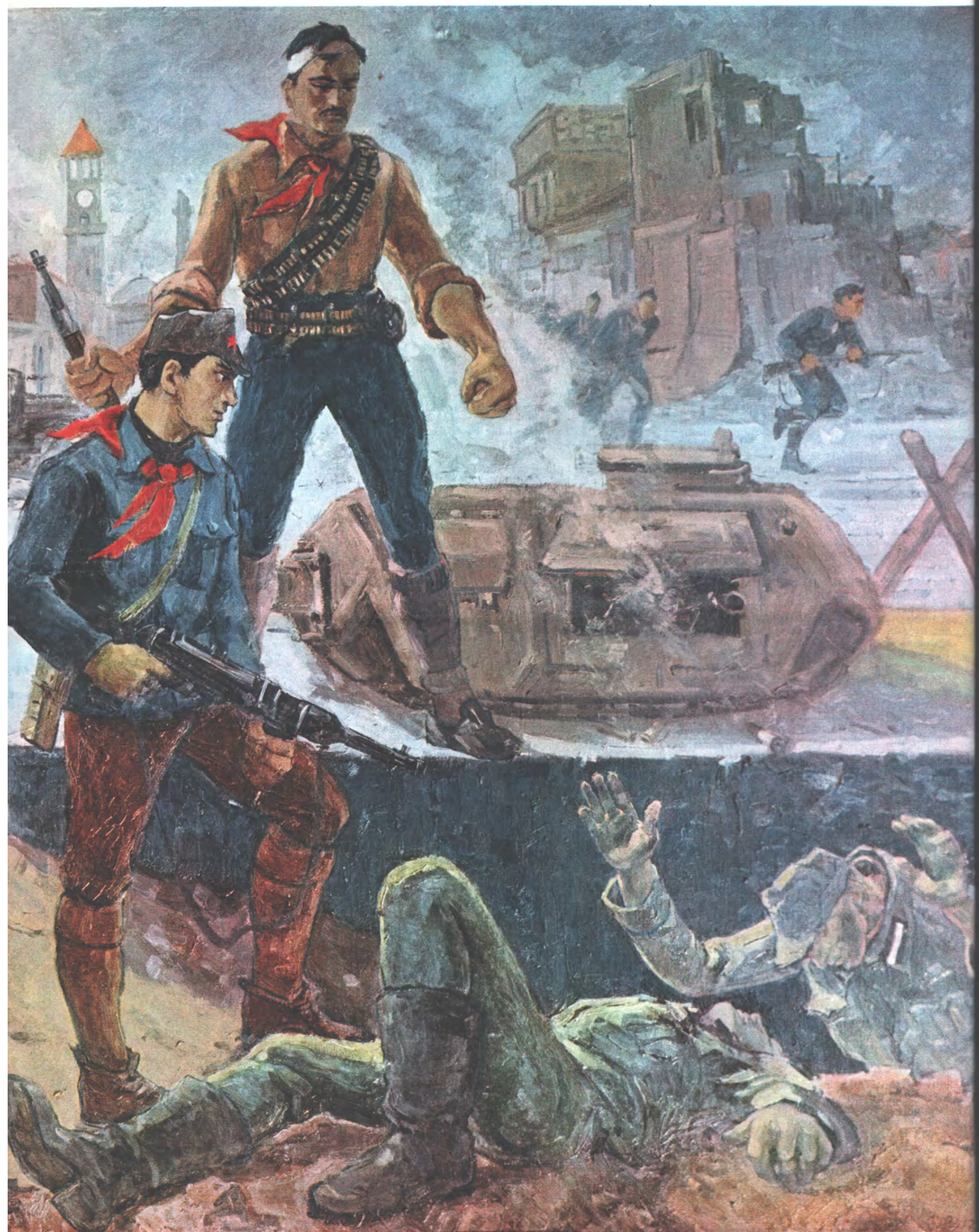
In this book, the reader gets a close-up of the ancient Illyrian cities, surrounded by fortifications of huge rocks, the medieval strongholds, and the Albanian castles, with their narrow loopholes; in all cases, it becomes clear that they were built for the purpose of protecting the lawful inhabitants of this land, with their honour, dignity, culture, mother tongue and customs.

In these houses, you can see every detail in stone or in wood, worked with exquisite taste, coupled with a fine appreciation of function; this created material values of artistic and architectural importance. The architectural solution to the problem of environment, very often rocky hill country, and the interior decoration, shows the skill of our gifted master builders.

An important place in this book is given to the historical monuments where memorable events in the history of our country have taken place.

The book also shows, to some extent, the work which is being done today to preserve and restore the monuments of culture.

The layout and printing of the book is well done and attractive.





In addition to themes dealing with socialist construction the painters of our country devote particular attention to the theme of the heroism of our people during the National Liberation War. On these two pages of our magazine we are publishing three tableaux, namely, "The Liberation of Tirana", "The Partisan Bonfire" and "The March of the Partisans" by authors Qamil Prizreni, Abdullah Cangonji and Aristotle Papa respectively.

# Our Readers Ask Us

This year our people celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of liberation of our country and the establishment of the people's state power. The achievements of the revolution are many and brilliant, and bear no comparison with the past. One vital aspect for our people is the elimination of unemployment, and the guaranteed right to work. This has already become an integral part of socialist life in Albania.

In the past, the Albanian had to go abroad in order to earn a living. One could find them employed in the hardest jobs for instance in the coal mines in France or in the United States of America, in construction sites in Australia or on farms in Argentina. Many of the families left behind by those who went abroad in search of work had been through bitter times. It often happened that instead of receiving aid from their relatives, they received the sad news of their death abroad. Very often, those who survived returned to their homes worn out and ill, or physically and mentally crippled. That's why the places where those who emigrated were seen off were called by the people "the field of tears". Many songs of grief and lamentation were written about the course of emigration, the brides who had to manage without their husbands, or the children who grew up without their fathers, who had gone to foreign lands to earn their daily bread.

But this is now a bitter memory of the past. Socialist Albania has guaranteed work and a livelihood to all its citizens.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania (article 25) reads: "The State guarantees its citizens the right to work for remuneration according to the quantity and quality of the work they do". This right of the citizens of Albania, stipulated in the Constitution, is not purely on paper. It is guaranteed by the political and social-economic conditions of the socialist order. It is based on the existence of the political power of the working class and on the existence of the dictatorship of the proletariat, which runs the economy and the whole life of the country.

The elimination of unemployment and the realization of the right to work spring from the abolition of private ownership of the means of production, the establishment of social ownership of such means, the overthrow of the exploiting classes, and the abolition of exploitation of man by man.

It is in these conditions that the objective economic laws have free play under socialism. The development of the people's economy and the other sections of social activity do not come about spontaneously. This development does not aim merely at speedily increasing the forces of production, but at achieving the political, ideological, social-economic and other objectives which will bring about the successful construction of the full socialist society in our country. Involving all able-bodied people in work which benefits society is one of the main objectives of our current and future plans for the economic and cultural development of our country. The rate of development of the economy of the People's Republic of Albania is so rapid that a lack of manpower is sometimes felt in certain sectors. This occurs even though the rate of work productivity and the degree of mechanization of work processes in many sectors increase from one year to another.

Under these conditions, the productive forces of the country have shown rapid progress. At no time in the past has Albania witnessed such high indices of economic, cul-

In the letters addressed to our Editorial Board by readers from different countries, readers have asked how work for all has been guaranteed in the People's Republic of Albania.

In order to have this question answered, we passed it on to Comrade Qimo Kocani, Chairman of the Committee of Employment and Wages, who writes:

## Guaranteeing the Right to Work



tural and social activity. Our people's revolution shook out of lethargy the energy, ability and talents of the whole people, which were formerly latent, and set them in motion, giving them the opportunity to develop and flourish endlessly. Thus, while the population of the country in 1974 has doubled since 1938, the number of workers employed in the state sector of economy, culture, etc., during the same period has increased 22-fold.

Prior to the liberation of the country, one member of an urban family worked to maintain 4 or 5 other members whereas now on average one out of every two people is at work.

Considerable transformations have also come about in our socialist countryside. Under the conditions of feudal land ownership, the rate of employment before liberation was at its lowest. In many rural regions of Al-

bania, the women were confined to their houses. Nor did all the men work all the time. The gloomy clouds of unemployment and poverty loomed over the countryside.

The socialist collectivization of agriculture created the conditions for a wide participation of the peasantry in productive work. Now it is difficult to find an able-bodied man in the countryside not at work.

The able-bodied men are employed according to plan. The plans for the economic and cultural development of the country are drawn up to meet the need to find jobs for all those capable of working. The rate of increase of the productive forces is much higher than the natural increase of the population and of those capable of working. Thus, the volume of investments in 1972 was approximately 300 times as high as in 1938.

While pursuing the policy of developing the forces of production, our socialist state sees to it that they are distributed, according to correct criteria, throughout the whole territory of our republic. The criteria of distributing the forces of production take into account not only the sources of raw materials but also the need to find jobs for all able-bodied workers. Therefore, in addition to developing industry in the cities, new industrial town and centers have sprung up in the countryside, in the northern zones and so on. At present there are no regions in Albania where industrial projects have not been set up. There are regions like Mirdita, which before liberation was considered to be a backward agricultural region; at present the volume of its annual industrial production is equal to that of Albania as a whole in 1938.

Under the conditions of free education which exist in Albania, the right to work is also guaranteed through the acquisition of the skills each person wishes to learn. Before liberation, 80 per cent of the population were illiterate; now one in three people is involved in education, 8 year schooling has become compulsory for all.

Before liberation the number of professions in which Albanian workers were engaged was 85, whereas now that number has risen to 3,000, most of which are connected with the use of machinery.

The number of workers with medium training is now 23 times as great as in 1938, and that of those with higher training is over 50 times as great.

The right to work has been realized equally for men and for women. The Albanian women have become a significant force in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country. Whereas before liberation, women made up 3 per cent of the number of workers, at present they make up about 40 per cent of the number of urban workers, and over 50 per cent in the countryside. Women make up over 20 per cent of our cadres with higher training, and over 43 per cent of the cadres with medium training. Now over 30 per cent of our chemical engineers, 32 per cent of our doctors, 50 per cent of our pharmacists and 33 per cent of our teachers are women. Under these conditions, the woman feels virtually equal at work with her male counterpart and also is becoming more and more equal in the other sectors of life and activity.

By utilizing its natural resources, relying on the achievement attained and on its own efforts, socialist Albania will forge ahead in order to create more and more opportunities for work, progress and a secure life for its citizens.

# Tracing Her Course of Life

Shaban Vani

This is Eftimi Lito. I met her at the spinning—mill N° 1 of the "Stalin" Textile Combine. She was talking to some activists of the trade union organization about some young women workers and how they were getting along in their studies.

I look at her and, for a moment, it seems to me that the years have marked time. This happens when you see someone continuously and the traces of the years do not immediately strike you. But it is almost 25 years since I met Eftimi as a textile worker.

Her life is tied up with the textile mills. She started her career as a worker when the mills were first built. The "Stalin" Textile Mills were the first great industrial undertaking in the history of Albania. In 1950, Eftimi, who was just fourteen, enrolled in a one-year course for loom workers, along with hundreds of other girls. For the Albanian women, who had been confined within the four walls of their homes, this was the second revolution, following the war for the liberation of the country, in which the Albanian women took up their arms and fought. The long list of martyrs includes hundreds of women and girls.

Now opportunities were opened for the Albanian women to apply their talents, ability and force, and to show themselves as active builders of the new life. The textile mills were the first and broadest front up to that time.

Imagine the state of mind in which a woman found herself when she crossed over from a simple household environment to complicated machinery waiting to be put into operation. But greater than this difficulty was the desire to give society the first fabrics, bearing the trade mark "Made in Albania". Eftimi too was happy that for the first time in our country textiles were being produced by modern machinery and in abundance.

Eftimi Lito took good care of her machines.

One day a small red flag appeared on her machine. It was put there by the activists of the trade union organization of the loom factory. Eftimi was deeply moved. The presence of that flag said much about the good work of this loom worker. Another day Eftimi's name appeared in the list of honour on the notice board. Then her photo was put up in the emulation center of the mills. At this time the number of machines run by this girl kept growing, reaching 24. She was in charge of a whole sub-section. Within eight hours she did the work of two days. The papers wrote about this girl of the Textile Mills.

Together with three other comrades she was awarded the high title of "Heroine of Socialist Labour", at the age of 23.

The Textile Mills became a second home for this girl; here she passed from one school form to another and experienced the emotion that comes from being admitted as a member of the Party of Labour of Albania. At the age of 26, she was elected as a representative of the People's Assembly, the highest legislative organ of our country.

After seventeen years of work in the loom factory, Eftimi was elected chairwoman of the committee of the trade union organization of the textile mills. This is her fifth year in that post. She herself says that this job is very demanding. The establishment employs nearly 6,000 workers, has 87 organized trade union groups, and over 500 activists, more than 70 per cent of whom are women and girls.

The trade union organization of the textile mills does a lot of good educational work with the people. Many educational and cultural activities are organized. Dozens of artistic groups of textile workers give public performances. There is a cultural centre with halls for dramatic performances and films, a



Eftimi Lito in company with activists of the Trade Union Organization.

well-stocked library, and different clubs. All of these constitute a significant sector of the work of the trade union organization.

The chairwoman of the committee tells us that the problem of safety at work occupies an important place in the activity of the organization. School attendance is also a concern of the organization. This school year 764 textile workers are attending part-time secondary school, studying textiles, mechanics and electricity. Eftimi also told us about the qualification courses set up in every sector and factory.

She says, "Working in the trade union organization has its own joy and satisfaction. It is working with the people".

The chairwoman of the committee speaks enthusiastically about the people in the tex-

tile mills. "Educating the new person" she says "is the primary concern of the trade union organization, and the results are very good. This is seen in the high sense of duty at work, in the harmony that exists among the people, in the collectivism, mutual aid and correct behavior that characterize our workers".

Eftimi is fond of talking about the workers of the textile mills. But she comes up against one difficulty: she does not know which worker to mention first, or to speak more favourably about. So many changes have come about in the life of each. They have advanced, they have risen.

Eftimi Lito's life is a concrete example of the way the women of our days have progressed and advanced.



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- ① Engineer Leposava Simja supervises the work on a new industrial project which is under construction in Shkodra.
- ② Soprano Myzejet Mullaj of the Opera and Ballet Theater in Tirana during rehearsal at the studio.
- ③ Xhaneta Nova, teacher of literature at the secondary "Asim Zeneli" School of general education in Gjirokastra.
- ④ Distinguished lathe worker at the Tractor Spare Parts Plant in Tirana.



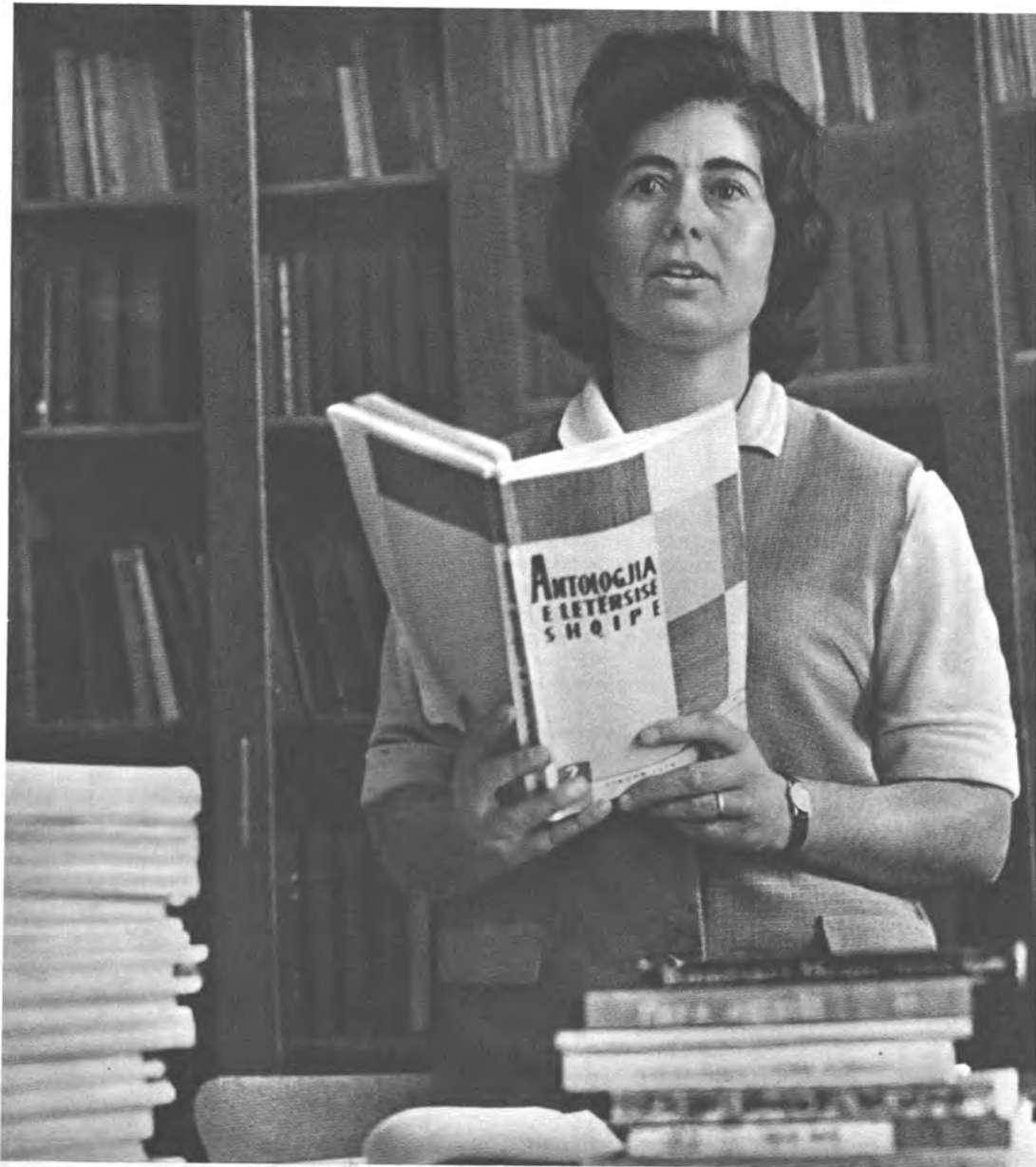


The whole process of development of the people's revolution in Albania shows that the struggle for freedom and that for the emancipation of women have been parallel, and that the one has complemented the other.

The struggle of six thousand women partisans and of tens and hundreds of thousands of others who contributed to the cause of the liberation of the country from foreign occupiers is a glorious page in the history of our people's revolution.

In passing from one stage of socialist construction to another, the role of women has kept growing. The Albanian women play an active role in building socialism, and stand out for their creative and organizing ability. During the early post-liberation years 95 per cent of our women were illiterate, while now 43 per cent of our specialists of medium training and 31 per cent of our specialists of higher training are women.

The results attained during these three decades in the People's Republic of Albania in the emancipation of women go to show that socialism is the only system which creates all the necessary conditions for the emancipation of humanity, and hence of women.



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④



# A MOTHER!

Naum Prifti

"You must go!" the commander said to me, "and you go with him" he said to Nasi, who was leaning against the gate, "Set out right away and be back in the morning!"

My heart almost failed me, as I stood there motionless. I didn't want to disobey my commander's order, but I was reluctant to do what he had ordered. My legs wouldn't carry me. It would have been easier for me to attack a fortified bunker or stop an enemy tank barehanded than to carry out his command. Probably it was not even an order, but a simple request, bluntly put, under the circumstances it couldn't be otherwise. I was to go to the family of my comrade, and give them the sad news of Baki's death.

Baki had been killed that day, and we had not yet buried him. The commander had said that he would be buried the next day. The loss of my closest comrade had come as a great shock to me, and I was beside myself. I couldn't believe that we would no longer march side by side up the high mountains, that I would never hear his jokes on the way again.

They had laid Baki's body in a room of a village house. They had covered him with a grey coat and his face with his cap. He looked as though he was fast asleep after a long, tiring walk. We partisans sat around him, smoking now and then in silence, or exchanging random remarks, while out-of-doors we felt the warmth of the spring evening. Through the open window came a honeyed breeze from the plum and cherry trees in bloom.

I was standing at Baki's feet, looking at his Alpine boots, worn by the long mountain treks. I asked myself: "Why won't Baki walk again? How can it be possible?" I felt as if Baki would soon push away his great coat with his hands, and sitting up, would say:

"Did you really think I'd died? It was only a joke."

And then we would all walk out of the room. He would take up the rifle he had left by the window and I, as the steward of the unit, would ask permission from my comrades to give him an additional ration of bread. But I knew quite well that this was only wishful thinking. I remembered that I had had a similar illusion, the day my father had died, dreaming that he would rise from his death-bed.

In our unit other comrades had been killed and partisans had gone to their families to carry the sad news to them, but I had never been assigned such a task before and had never realized how difficult it was.

"You left us, Baki!" I said as if blaming him and I realized that up to that day, we had been happy, but we had not been aware of it; now we knew, and it made me angry. But now, if Baki were to rise, we would feel happier than we ever had before.

"You left us, Baki! How can I give the sad news to your mother?" I must have spoken aloud, without being conscious of it myself, because Petrit, the commander of our unit asked:

"Haven't you gone yet?"

Miserable as I was, I said to him:

"Please, comrade commander, my feet won't carry me. Send somebody else. . ."

He frowned and gave me a harsh look.

"Go on, go, don't stand there blabbing!"

He didn't know how to speak nicely, and couldn't choose his words. He used whatever words came to hand. Often he didn't say anything, but we understood what he wanted to say by watching his face.

I got up and began to fasten my coat. His words were like a blow in the face. What could I say — Baki had been my closest comrade? It was true. But while I had lost a friend, he had lost a brother. So, facing him, I felt awkward.

We were told to be on our guard against the enemy, and set off. Heavy-hearted as we were, we didn't take much notice of the advice, and in all those years of war I don't remember travelling any road or walking as carelessly as we did that night. In the state I was in, nothing that might happen to us that night mattered in the least.

"He was a brave man" Nasi said.

He was referring to Baki, and the battle that had been waged that morning. We were well aware of Baki's courage; we had seen him in other battles, so his death came as a shock to all, and seemed a hard blow to our unit. The bullet struck his chest, as he was hurling a hand-grenade at the enemy, and he fell to the ground at once. We

took him, wounded to a villager's house, to care for him, but he did not live more than two hours.

And now we had to carry the sad news of his death to his family. On our way, Petrit's choice of me for this job was proved right, no one could find the path to Baki's house at night as easily as I, who came from the same village.

"Have you brought such news before, Nasi?" I asked my companion, hoping he might have some experience of such a mission.

"No, never!" he said, "I'm new to such work".

"Suppose you do it tonight?"

"It's too difficult for me," Nasi said, "I can't do it". Then reminded of something, he added "After all, this task ought to be yours, since you're from the same village and know the customs better than I do".

I didn't insist; he was right. I thought out the words in which to tell the news, and walked on stamping on the hard stones. Which would be better, to blurt out the news at once, or to beat about the bush? What were the right words to use in such cases? I couldn't think of anything to say; the words had no connection with one another. I wished the journey might never end, so that I need not raise my hand knock at Baki's door.

But the walking did end, and we reached the village at about ten o'clock. No light could be seen anywhere. It was war time, and people went to bed early. Baki's house too was dark and silent as the grave, I jumped over the wall to the courtyard and tapped lightly on the window.

"Who's there?" I heard a woman's voice. It was Baki's mother, Nasibe.

"It's me, Mehmet, with another comrade!" I said under my breath.

A match was struck, and the room lit up. At once the crisscross shadow of the window bars fell on the courtyard, for as long as the lighted match flared. A candle was lit; it gave a dim yellow light, too weak to cast a shadow.

Someone came to open the door and we stepped inside. Nasi and I kept our eyes on the ground and didn't dare look people in the face. A child's wailing and the rhythmic rocking of a cradle came to our ears, but we could not tell whether it came from the next room or from a neighboring house.

"What's wrong with that child? He's been crying all night!" Mother Nasibe wondered. She was used to welcoming partisans whenever they came, day or night so our visit seemed to her quite normal. She didn't notice that we were silent; she must have thought we were just tired after our journey, because after a while she ordered a young girl who came into the room:

"Bring the boys something to eat, and make up their beds, they're tired!"

"We're not going to stay," I said, "we have come. . . , we have come. . ." and the words stuck in my throat; I didn't know how to get them out.

"Do you come from the unit?" she asked.

"Yes," I answered.

"How are my boys?"

I fell silent and lowered my head.

"What has happened, Mehmet?" she asked, standing up.

I plucked up courage, went to her and put my hand on her shoulder: "Mother Nasibe, we have come to bring you very sad news, but you will bear it as mothers of partisans do bear it. Baki has left us. . ."

She clasped her hands on her chest; I noticed her fingers trembling and her eyes staring vacantly into the room. Nevertheless, she did not cry out . . . , or wail, as I had expected. A woman who happened to be at the door placed her hands on her head and began wailing. Her lamenting could be heard all over the house.

I told Mother Nasibe some details and told her that we were to return to the camp that same night.

"I am coming with you to have a look at my son" she said.

We waited for her to get ready, and then all three of us left the house together. Behind us we left a house without light, and hearts overcome with grief. If Mother Nasibe had not come with us, I would have thought that our task was over: what had to be said was said, and our work would have ended there. But now I thought anxiously



Illustrations by Z. Shoshi

about the moment when she would see her son's body. She would fall on Baki's body, embrace it and wail over it till she could weep no longer. But this would be a shock to the comrades of the unit. We were not used to hearing women wailing in our unit, and I was afraid the others would lose their manly, soldierly bearing for a moment.

We did not weep for fallen comrades; we would have felt ashamed and when secret tears did come, we turned our heads aside so that our comrades might not see it. We were used to swallowing our tears, and they weighed heavy within us, together with our sorrow and our anger.

We walked the whole way in silence. I went first, the mother in the middle, and then Nasi. What could she be thinking of all along that weary road? Perhaps she was remembering moments from her son's life. . . . Baki as a baby, his mother rocking him in a wooden cradle; in his sleep, his face shone with a warm, clean, soft smile, like something you could touch. . . . or was she remembering the time when her child clambered down from her lap, and staggered along, taking his first three or four steps towards his elder brother. Or his ink-stained fingers during his school days, and his face reddened by the chill breeze of the winter. Playing with his ball one day he broke a window pane, frightened his father would scold him, he went to his aunt's house, and slept there that night. Little, unimportant things, now far away in time past.

In the morning, as the sun was rising, we arrived at Vithkuq. The news that Baki's mother had come brightened all the partisans.

Mother Nasibe entered the room where we had laid Baki, and the partisans there immediately stood up. Her eyes rested on her son's body, but only for a moment, then she looked again at the faces of the partisans. Calm, silent and stately, she shook hands with all the partisans, as if to console them for the loss of their comrade, and to show them that Baki belonged more to them than to her. Only after completing this ceremony did she approach her son's body, sat by his side, lifted the cap from his face and kissed him on the forehead.

She did not weep or lament, and we did not see tears in her eyes. I knew that their house was the house of fighters, and that men were ashamed to weep or wail, but how could she as a mother endure it? Where had she found the strength to stay as silent as a statue, when her son's death had destroyed part of her heart, part of her body?

She stayed there at Baki's side, touching his face lightly as if to comfort him, and repeating:

"Mother's son, your comrades will avenge you!"

I watched her big, deep thoughtful eyes which expressed, both pain and pride, I watched her short, slightly bent nose, her poised movement and it seemed to me that she was the mother of all the fighters. She had my heart-felt admiration, and I wanted to hold her to me closely.

Although we were short of bullets, when we buried our comrade we fired a volley in his honor. We wished we could fire a whole barrage, but we had no artillery in our unit.

Baki's mother took leave of us, and returned to the village that same day, to receive the people who would come to console her. I saw her off to the outskirts of the village, and when we took leave of each other I said to her:

"Well done, Mother Nasibe! You are strong and brave. I thought you would cry, but you acted like a man."

She made a reply which left me open-mouthed. In an astonished tone, she said:

"Why should I weep? He was killed, he didn't die!"

For her dying and being killed were two very different things. Dying was a misfortune, a disaster, a monster, while being killed was an act of manliness, and the blood her son had shed on the altar of freedom was something bold and fine. How well she knew how to tell the difference.

Thinking about the meaning of those words, I returned aimlessly to the room where Baki had been laid. His rifle was still by the window. Commander Petrit, who until that moment had borne it very well, after his brother's burial, was weeping alone in the room. I saw his tears running into his black moustache. He heard me come in and shouted.

"What are you doing here? Distribute the bread among the partisans, and tell them to get ready!"

I went outside to speak to the head of the village council who had just brought two sacks full of food.

"Who can think about food?" I wondered. But I shared out the rations all the same. I thought no one would eat, but I was wrong. The partisans ate their food in silence, without joking, as they usually did and got ready for the road.

In the afternoon we set out from Vithkuqi. Now our unit had one comrade too few and one rifle too many. The commander said to me on way, "give Baki's rifle to the first volunteer who joins our unit!"

"All right," I said, but I had other plans in my mind. I would take Baki's rifle and would give my own rifle away. I wanted to have a remembrance of my close comrade, and as long as I was still alive, I wanted his rifle to go on firing in my hands.

# FROM SCHOOL



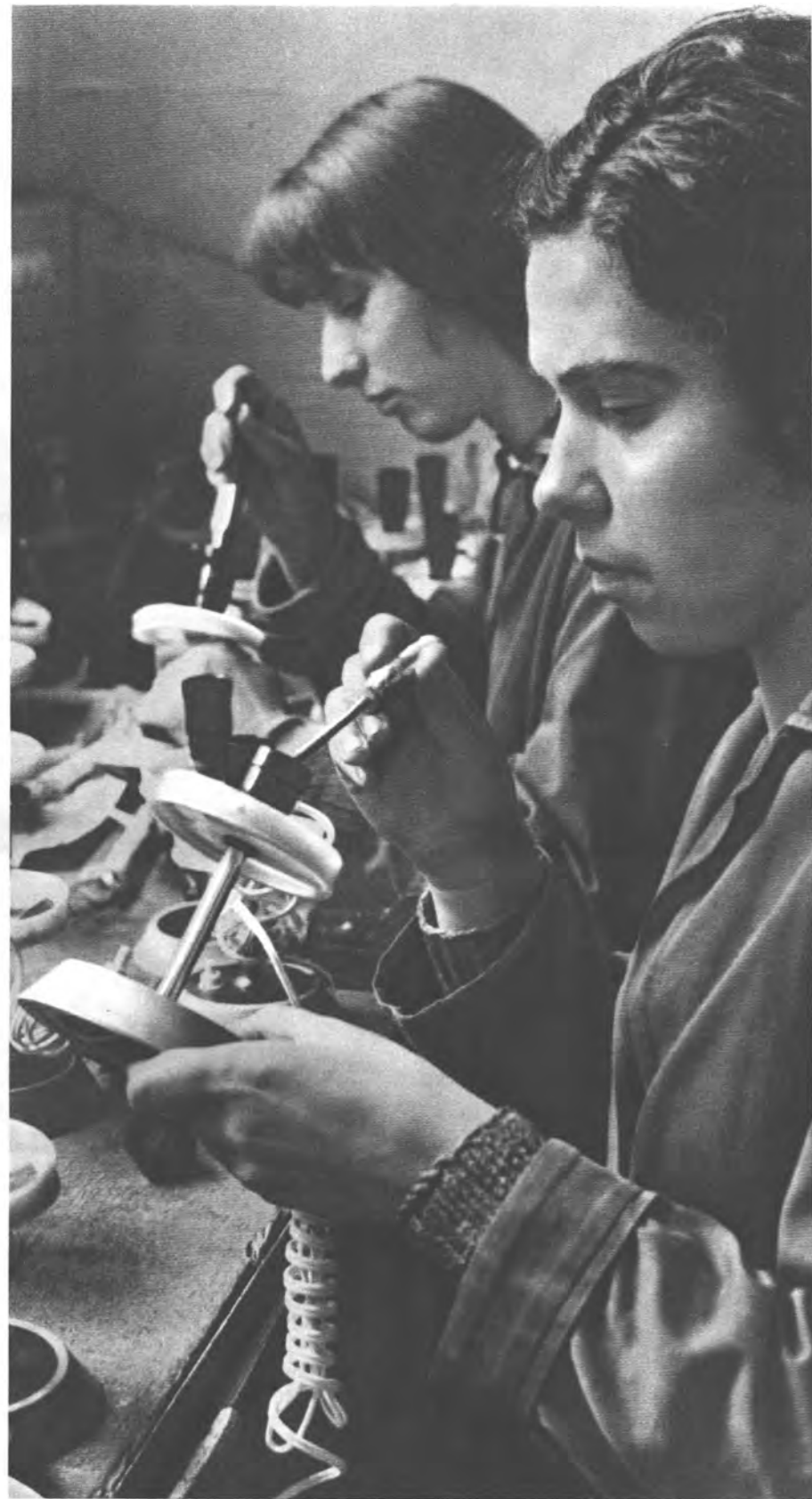
The "Sami Frashëri" Secondary School of general education is one of the outstanding educational institutions in our capital. Here, the students are given not only a general culture but are also trained in such a way that each one of them may take an active part in the life of the country and render their contribution to production once they have finished the course. For this purpose, the student body and the teaching staff themselves have set up

a good basis for practical work, a whole complex of workshops including lathes, woodworking machines, the machinshop, the electric sector and that of arts and crafts.

The school program includes such subjects as electricity, mechanics, woodworking technique, technical drawing and so on. These subjects are connected with practical work in the production center.

The students do their practice work according to a definite schedule. During the first and second years they do it for several hours a day, while in the last two years they spend whole days in production under conditions similar to those of the workers in the enterprises. Their work is supervised by their teachers and qualified out various kinds of lamp shades, wooden ornaments, etc. Their products are attractive, and meet, specified

# TO PRACTICAL LIFE



Students doing practical work.

standards. Thus, the school helps in meeting part of the needs of the home market.

But the principal importance of the organization of productive work lies in the fact that having been through the secondary school of general education, each student, in addition to general culture, has also learned a particular skill, so that after graduation, each can start work at the corresponding enterprise. Practical work figures in the school programs

of all the general secondary schools in our country. In those schools where the production basis has not yet been set up, the students do their practical work at various local enterprises. The students have to pass their examinations both in general subjects and in practical ones. Together with their school graduation certificates they also receive their certificates as qualified workers. The various

enterprises are obliged to employ them straight after they graduate.

Students who graduate from the general secondary schools must spend a probation year in production according to the skill they have been trained in at school. After this period of probation, if they wish they may pursue higher studies, on the basis of their inclinations and the judgement of the collective where they have been employed.

# Moissi



Portrait of Alexander Moisi (by Arlik) (Title of Book).

## He Was the Most Famous Theatrical Performer in Europe

Alexander Moisi.



In the role of Faust.



### A Contemporary Publication Writing on Alexander Moisi

A great deal of literature, a rich collection of photographs, and valuable filmed and recorded data exist about Alexander Moisi. The new Albanian culture is searching out and collecting the scattered evidence of the valuable treasures of our people. Some time ago, an Austrian reader of this magazine sent us a book on the world-famed Albanian actor, published when he was still alive. Here we would like to examine this book for our readers.

The title of the book is "Moissi-der Mensch und der Künstler in Worten und Bildern" (Moisi — the Man and Artist in Word and Picture); it was published in Berlin, in 1927, and the editor was Hans Bohm. The book has 98 illustrated pages, containing 104 photographs; it contains three essays by Alexander Moisi himself, and some forty odd pieces (articles, memoirs, remarks, opinions and impressions) by people involved in the art world who were intimately acquainted with Alexander Moisi.

Through these writings and illustrations, one gets a picture of the man himself, or rather of some aspects of this great artist of Albania origin. In 1927, when the book was published, Alexander Moisi was certainly the greatest stage actor in Europe. He had collaborated with the most prominent pro-

ducers, in a hundred or so theatre companies from various countries, and had played nearly a hundred principal roles, interpreting the major characters from the drama of every age. On the stage of hundreds of cities and capitals, Moisi had left an indelible impression on those who had the good luck to see, admire and applaud him. He had fascinated and cast a spell on all, with his melodious voice, his mobile face, his flowing movement, in short, with his fine artistic talent.

One of those writing in this book, Ferenc Molnar (p.93) compared Moisi to "a bird of passage, with the fiery temperament of a singer, the sweet harmonious poetry of the south, plying straight to the north, always on the wing, always moving on thus, with his beautiful art, this most beloved, generous wayfarer through the history of theater in our time links the north with the south and the south with the north, steadily, with out ceasing".

The force of this "extraordinary image of the theatrical world" of those years is well conveyed by the notes of critics Maximilian Harden ("His Course") and Julius Bab ("Moisi's Debut in Berlin") together with the observations of authors or playwrights Gerhardt Hauptmann, B.Bjornson, Luigi

Pirandello, G.Kaiser, Stefan Zweig, Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Ferenc Molnar, Fr. Werfel, Labund (Alfred Henschke's pseudonym) as well as the writings by producers Felix Hollander and Stanislavski, and those by the artists Elisabeth Bergner, Feodor Shaliapin and others. All of them had good words to say about Alexander Moisi, making a just assessment of the unparalleled technique he used. Some critics said that Moisi used his voice just as a musician uses his instrument. The authors of this book have pointed out that Moisi did not use the modulation of his voice and the variegated color of his speech on the stage as a mere ornament, but in order to bring out clearly the deep inner meaning of the words he spoke. On page 43, B.Bjornson writes, "In his speeches, Moisi touches our hearts because his language sounds like beautiful music, in sorrow and in joy. We treasure the marvellous sound of his voice in our memory".

On page 62, we read these lines written by Tatiana Tolstoy, the daughter of the great Russian writer: "A great Frenchman said 'Genius is patience'. Yes, patience and hard work. Because he loved his art, Moisi perfected his technique to an unprecedented degree. When you watch him creating a character on the stage, you do not ask whe-

ther he-plays well or badly. He becomes the hero to such a degree that you live with him through all his emotions. You do not ask what he has done to be alternately a king, a vagabond, a saint or, on the other hand, a villain. He is what he is, and that's enough". Further on, she says that Alexander Moisi "... is endowed with all the elements that go to make up a great artist. He has a very sweet nature, and a pure and deep spirit. Moreover, Moisi is sincerely devoted to his art. If Moisi had nothing save his beautiful voice, his great spirit and his talent, these would have given moments of great inspiration. But in order to make his work complete, he had to work hard".

Let us quote this opinion by G.Hauptman (p.41): "Moisi's particular characteristics strike one at once as placing him among the great actors of Germany. His talent is based on these, more so than with any other actor".

This opinion is further supplemented and deepened by these words of H. von Hofmannsthal (p.51): "Moisi is an actor of strong features, rarely met with in others at any time. He is not one of those actors whose strength lies in their metamorphosis, but quite the contrary: his strength lies in the fact that he expresses his own nature in a pure and delicate way, and in this characteristic of his art, he has influenced a whole generation of actors a very high degree and has obliged the public to see dramatic characters in a new way. We can even say that if it were possible to erase from our minds the image of him on stage, as he was, still certain astonishing dreams would remain, arising from his distinctive genius."

How well Stefan Zweig has described the great artist (p.56): "A southerner, always a man of the south, who, in order to keep from freezing, brings with him everywhere the sun of his homeland. He needs the warmth of people and feelings, companions and friends. ... he wants the people around him to be alive, full of passion in their conversation, ready to flare up. No, you don't hear lukewarm words from him, ... but ideas which sum man up from head to foot, which size up all of time. ... Therefore, when you are in his company, you always learn something new from the deepest truths of the world".

There is a good deal of inaccuracy in the book. Although Moisi had publicly pro-



In the role of Phedia in Tolstoy's: "The Living Corpse"

**In the role of Hamlet.**



claimed his Albanian nationality, certain writers, critics and biographers who have taken up writing about his life still attributed various nationalities to him purposely or unintentionally distorting the truth on this matter. The Nazis in particular, confused Moisi's origin by calling him "a Jew" or "an artist without a country" (this caused him a lot of trouble at the end of his life). But our Moisi was neither Jewish nor an artist without a country; his homeland was here in Albania where his father and forefathers were born and lived, in the town of Kavaja, and where his kinsfolk, bearing the same surname, live to this very day. If circumstances, or rather the need to earn a living forced his family to emigrate, Moisi never denied his homeland, but always longed for it.

Towards the close of this book, the editor, Hans Bohn clarifies the question of Moisi's nationality to a certain point:

"Alexander Moisi was born in Trieste. His father, Constancine, was an Albanian from the coastal city of Durrës. His mother was Italian, and his native tongue Italian. When he was six years old he went to Durrës, his father's home town. There he went to primary school. He learned to read and write in Greek and in Albanian. At that time there were no schools for other lang-

uages in Durrës. At ten years of age, he returned to Trieste. There he continued his studies in Italian schools. At seventeen, he went to Vienna, without knowing a word of German".

In a letter written to Moisi in 1925, the great master of the Russian stage Stanislavski said:

*"Great men and artists like you belong to the whole world".*

Alexander Moisi died as an Albanian citizen, he was accorded Albanian citizenship at his own request in 1934.

The Albanian people hold this artists, sprung from their ranks, in high esteem. In our country various articles and monographs have been written about the life and activity of this fellow countryman, commemorative conferences have been organized and a documentary on his life has been made by the "New Albania" Film Studio. A number of streets and institutions in Albania are named after him, for instance, the Professional Theater at Durrës and the Palace of Culture in the main square there. The Presidium of our People's Assembly has posthumously awarded Moisi the title of "Artist of the People", which is the highest title in the field of arts in the People's Republic of Albania.

**"Cuca e Maleve"  
(Daughter of the Mountains)  
on the Screen**



**"Cuca e Maleve"  
(Daughter of the Mountains)  
on the Screen**



The new film "Cuca a Maleve", made at the "New Albania" Film Studio, has recently been released to cinemas throughout the country.

"Cuca e Maleve" evokes the struggle of our people against the forces of reaction; it was first staged in the theater, and later as a ballet. Now our audiences can see this ballet as a well-made film. This film is a new version of the ballet which not only preserves but develops the sound ideas of the original. The film directors give a new interpretation of the original ideas and impart to them a timely freshness, deepening their content. This can be seen in the way the heroine typifies the daughter and fighter of the people, giving clear proof of her superiority and that of the masses of our people towards our enemy. A highly optimistic spirit is evident throughout. The whole film, especially the finale, which is one of the best choreographed sequences, praises the heroism of the Albanian women, and the heroism of the rank and file of our people in general.

Its success lies particularly in the artistic force with which these ideas are transmitted, through the beautiful music, the virtuous dance performances, the appropriate film technique used, the color, lighting, background and lovely costumes.

The credit for this film goes to the dance troupe and the collective of the "New Albania" Film Studio, to producer Dhimitër Anagnosti, to the fruitful and creative collaboration of the film makers and performers with choreographer Agron Aliaj, and the powerful, emotive music of composer Nikolla Zoraj.





# Archaeology

## The Statuette of Diana

Petrika Lara-Archaeologist

The cave in which the archaeological objects were discovered.



There are many limestone caves and formations on Mt. Mali i Thate, northeast of the Korça Plain. Natural caves have been used by man ever since prehistoric times for shelter, habitation and worship.

The latest cave discovered on Mt. Mali Thatë is that near the village of Shëngjergj, in the Korça District. The cave has the shape of a tunnel 12.5 meters long and 4.3 meters wide. It is 3.5 meters high at the entrance and become lower and lower as you go in. 7 meters from the entrance, there is a hollow cavity which is filled with water all through the year.

Cleaning work done in the cave has brought to light a rich store of interesting archaeological material.

From an analysis of this material, it appears that this cave was used, not to live in but as a pagan shrine. According to Seneca the Roman statesman and philosopher, these sacred shrines were to be found in caves, springs and forests.

Judging by the objects found there, we come to the conclusion that the cave was used for this purpose for a long period



of time, from the IVth century B.C. to the IVth century of our era.

This is demonstrated by the fragments of valuable vessels painted with black varnish (VI-III centuries B.C.), ornaments made of bronze like earrings, fibula (clasps, resembling safety pins), rings, brooches, bracelets, etc., as well as 35 coins. Animal bones were also found there.

One of the most interesting findings is the bronze statuette, 11 cm. tall representing the goddess Diana. It is well preserved and stands on a slightly inclined square pedestal. The left foot is placed forward and the right foot rests on its toes, with the heel raised, showing Diana in motion. She wears leather sandals. In the palm of her left hand she holds a hemispherical bowl. Her right hand is raised to shoulder height, and is reaching toward the sheaf of arrows behind her right arm.

This is intended to show two of Diana's roles, namely, huntress and giver of gifts.

This statuette of Diana, discovered on Mt. Mali i Thatë, is a type of sculpture which belongs to the Roman period, and first emerged then.

The study of Albanian grammar has a tradition of 350 years and a brilliant history. Past scholars of our country aided the study of the grammatical structure of the Albanian language, and their work deserves the attention of our present scholars. The study of the Albanian language during the third decade of the 17th century came as a logical consequence of the use of the language by the writers of early Albanian literature during the 15th and 16th centuries.

The first attempts to take up the study of the grammatical structure of the Albanian language were made in 1936 and are connected with the beginnings of Albanian education in north and south Albania. At that time, Albanian schools existed in Valja, Mirdita (1632), in Pllana a village near the Mati River (1638), in Troshan (1639), in Himara (1630-1642), in the city of Shkodra (1698) and so on with such teachers as Gjon Shqiptari, Filip Shkodrani, Dhimitër Dhërmiu (Gjilek) and others.

It is an important fact that Albanian grammatology began however simply, with local authors. The first steps in the study of Albanian morphology were taken by Albanian scholars under the difficult conditions of Ottoman occupation and in the struggle of the Albanian people to develop the elements of national culture. Frang Bardhi (1606-1643) left the first traces of Albanian grammar in the northern (geg) dialect, in a text written in the vernacular. He lacked the necessary scientific basis for such a task although he had the rudiments of a lexicographer. He can be considered as the forerunner of Albanian morphology with the grammatical notes appended to his Latin-Albanian Dictionary which was published in 1635.

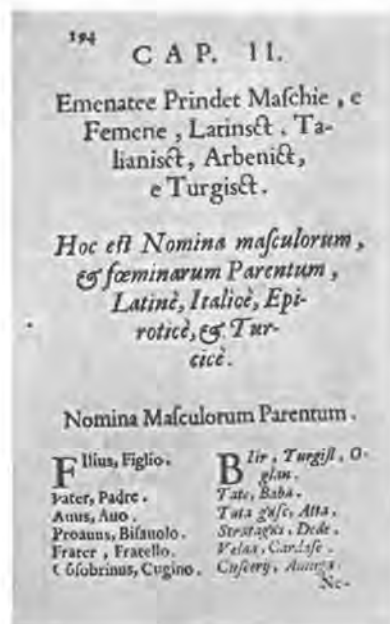
Andre Bogdani (1600-1685) was an outstanding figure of our national culture in the 17th century. He was well versed in Albanian, Latin, Italian, Serbo-Croat and Turkish. He was one of the early students of the mother tongue, a hard worker and indefatigable scholar of the Albanian language who assemble a thesaurus of the language. The fate of his Latin-Albanian Grammar, which according to his grandson, Pjeter Bogdani, was lost, is a bitter fact which leads us to conclude that there were other losses of this kind because it is impossible to imagine that works on our language were written only by the few authors whose books have survived to this very day. His work, written before 1683, was intended for use in the schools of the time. In our days, the Kosova scholar Dr. Prof. Jashar Rehepagaj writes, in connection with the manuscript of Andre Bogdani's Grammar: "There are signs that this work has been found". It would be very useful to Albanological studies if this grammar were to be found and written about for, unfortunately, all we know about it today is the fact that it was written, but not that it still exists.

Towards the end of the 17th century, we have the manuscript "Exercises in Albanian Grammar" written by Nilo Katalanos (1637-1694). It is of interest to scholars to note that his grammatical work is not written in the dialect of the Albanian settlers, in Italy for although the author was of Italian origin, he was from the Albanian colony in Sicily and knew Albanian well. His work is written in the northern dialect based on the works of Budi, Bardhi, Bogdani and others. This is of special importance to the history of the written Albanian language because it shows that southern authors also wrote in the northern dialect, proving that there was an attempt to coordinate the dialects of the written Albanian language during the 17th century. A close study of this manuscript would throw light on many unknown elements of great significance for the historical morphology of the Albanian language. According to the information given by the 19th century Arbereshi 1) scholar, Zef Krispi, an eminent Hellenist, in 1836 this work was held in the Library of the Arbëreshi seminary in Palermo. The Arbëreshi poet and folklorist Zef Schiro informs us that in 1917 Katalano's Albanian Grammar was in his possession. A further investigation of this bibliographical source would enable us to find the whereabouts of this important grammar.

# The Beginnings of Albanian Grammatical Studies (XVII-XVIII)

Prof. Jup Kastrati

Dean of the Albanian Language Faculty at the Higher Teachers Training Institute in Shkodra



A page from Frang Bardhi's Vocabulary

During the 18th century, the economic development of our cities brought with it cultural development as well. The spread of culture in foreign languages, the opening of Greek schools in Elbasan, Berat, and Korça, the network of schools in the south, the center of enlightenment in Voskopoja, the penetration of the progressive ideas and the philosophical and didactic thinking of Leibnitz, Locke and others, the repercussion of the French Revolution on the coastal cities, on Shkodra and Janina, the development of the figurative and plastic arts, the pursuit of higher studies in the universities of various countries by some Albanians, the strengthening of national individuality and the need to consolidate the mother tongue in order to be understood by the broad masses of the people, account for the development, study and application of the written language. It was in this atmosphere that some Albanian linguistic works were produced like Francesco Maria Da Lecce's Italian-Albanian Dictionary in 1702, which remained in manuscript form, the Etymology by the Arbëresh scholar Gjergj Guxeta, a manuscript of the year 1756, the Greek-Rumanian-Albanian Dictionary by Teodor Kavalioti in 1770 and the Italian-Albanian Dictionary by Nikolla Keta in 1763. It was during the eighteenth century that Francesco Maria Da Lecce published the first grammar of the Albanian language. According to Ndre Mjeda, this was the first grammar ever published by the Balkan peoples. The book was compiled as far back as 1702 but was published in 1716. The author has entered the history of Albanian linguistics as the compiler of the first published grammar of the Albanian language. During the 19th century, when foreign linguists became interested in the Albanian language, Da Lecce's Grammar was a great source for them. A number of scholars either utilized it or based their studies on it such as Adelung in 1809, Hobhouse in 1813, Leake in 1814, (who mentions but in reality does not consult it), Poqueville in 1820, Severin Vater in 1822, Xylander in 1835, Hahn in 1853, Hopp in 1854, and a number of others. It also serves us to this day to get to know certain grammatical forms of the Albanian language at the beginning of the 18th century. The book also has certain conspicuous shortcomings. The grammatical notes are often superficial and lack a scientific basis. It lacks a rational criterion. The conjugations of verbs and cases of nouns are classified in quite an empirical way. The author was a foreigner who stayed in Albania for twenty years from 1692 to 1713. Here he learned Albanian, as he himself says, in the way he heard it spoken. Albanologist F. Miklosich presupposes that Da Lecce may have been an Albanian settler in Calabria of Italy. However, Da Lecce's own comment on his work, we think, gives no ground for such hypothesis. We find no notes in his grammar to make us believe that the Albanian language is his mother tongue, although it is historically known, according to scholar Panareo, that during the years from 1508 to 1655 there had been Albanians in the Italian province of Lecce. Da Lecce's Grammar shows that its author was a cultured man of his time and, certainly, a very thorough linguist.

The manuscript of another Grammar of this time in the northern dialect, dated Durrës, April 12, 1710, is held in the Grotteferrata monastery near Rome. In 1927 the Arbëresh scholar Nilo Borgia gave a very detailed description of this little vocabulary of the Albanian language. There are two other grammars of the Albanian language from the same century in manuscript, works which were compiled by foreign authors, one by Didacus da Desio, the other by Germanos of Crete, compiled about the year 1750.

Thus, the grammatical notes or grammatical works by Frang Bardhi, Andre Bogdani, Nilo Katalanos, Francesco Maria Da Lecce, Germanos of Crete and the manuscript of Grottaferrata are the beginning of the history of Albanian grammatical studies which, during early part of the 19th century, laid the foundations of a linguistic science, advancing through the hard work of a number of scholars who took up the study of the grammatical structure of the Albanian language.



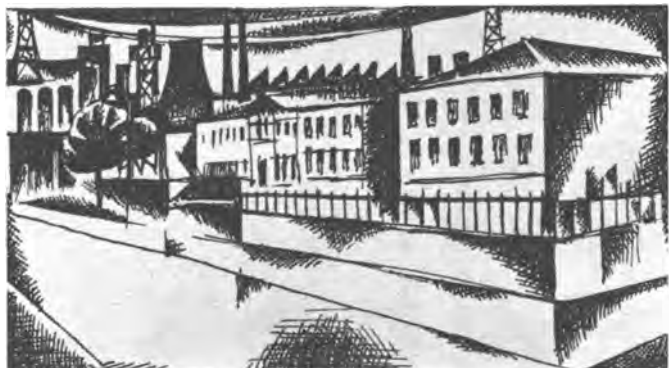
## The Bread of Industry

The existence of coal in our country was known as far back as 1914. But the work of mining did not begin till 1935, in Krraba, later in Priska, in the Tirana District and Mborje-Drenova, Korça.

By 1938, the quantity of coal mined amounted to 3,800 tons. This was the highest production of coal prior to the liberation in Albania. This figure reflects the very backward state of industry at that time.

Today, the smallest mine in the country yields ten times as much coal as that extracted from all the mines of the country in 1938.

By 1975, the production of coal is expected to be 1,250,000 tons.



## The School for Middle Technicians

At the beginning of 1947, the "7 Nëndori" Polytechnic was opened in Tirana, on the basis of the Technical Institute of the capital and the vocational schools in Shkodra and Korça. That year the polytechnic had 180 students, 11 teachers and 10 branches: engineering, agricultural engineering, electricity, mineralogy, geology, agriculture, building construction, road and bridge building and hydrotechnique.

25 years later, from this secondary school we had progressed to a school of architecture and an industrial secondary school in Tirana, an agricultural secondary school in Durrës, a mining and engineering school at Prrenjas, in the Librazhd District, a petroleum engineering secondary school in Stalin City, an industrial school in Elbasan, and others.

Today, the "7 Nëndori" Polytechnic has 2,000 students, and a teaching staff of about 100. Here we have trained about 5,000 middle technicians in all branches, who are employed all over the country.



## 500 Drivers from the Same Village

The village of Dhërmi lies on the coast of the Ionian Sea. It is one of the biggest and most picturesque villages on the Albanian Riviera. After thirty years since the liberation of our country, the villagers of Dhërmi also look back on the course they have pursued, summing up their achievements.

In this village now new schools have opened and two electric power plants have been set up, along with an olive press, a holiday centre and over 150 new houses; the village has been entirely electrified, every house has its own radio and many have TV sets.

Hundreds of boys and girls have been through higher educational institutes and now many of them can be met all over the country; 40 of them are engineers, and 12 are doctors.

Dhërmi has a tradition of producing drivers, and has turned out 500 of our best professional ones.



## A Great Mediaeval Musician

Jan Kukuzeli lived in about the 12th or 13th century. He was born in Durrës; from there he migrated to Constantinople, where he became master of the Byzantine Imperial Choir. But he did not stay there long; he left secretly and went to Mount Athos where he became a simple monk in the Laura Monastery. For hundreds of years that island was inhabited by monks alone. There he composed many musical pieces and worked out his theoretical essays, inventing at the same time the musical notation which was called after him, "Kukuzelic". He died in this monastery and was buried there. In compliance with the established rules, three years after death, the skeleton of the deceased were removed from their graves and placed in a sanctuary. This was also done with Jan Kukuzeli's skeleton, the skull being kept in the sanctuary of the old chapel in a silver reliquary decorated with rubies and sapphires.

When foreigners visit Athos they are shown the place where the Albanian musician left his mark.

It was on this rock that Kukuzeli so often sat and admired the emerald color of the sea. Jan Kukuzeli, this poor orphan child from Durrës was a good singer. His voice took him to Constantinople. When Jan Kukuzeli sang in the church of St. Sofia, people came from all around to hear him.



## The First Albanian Drama

We find the beginnings of Albanian dramaturgy in the early works of the Albanian settlers in southern Italy (Arberesh). Thus, the author of the first Albanian drama, "Emira" is Anton Santori, an Arberesh. He is the earliest author known so far. He has taken his theme from the life of the Arberesh peasants.

This play is in 5 acts. Its first 3 acts appeared for the first time in the newspaper "Flamuri i Arbërit" published by Jeronim De Rada during the years 1886-87.

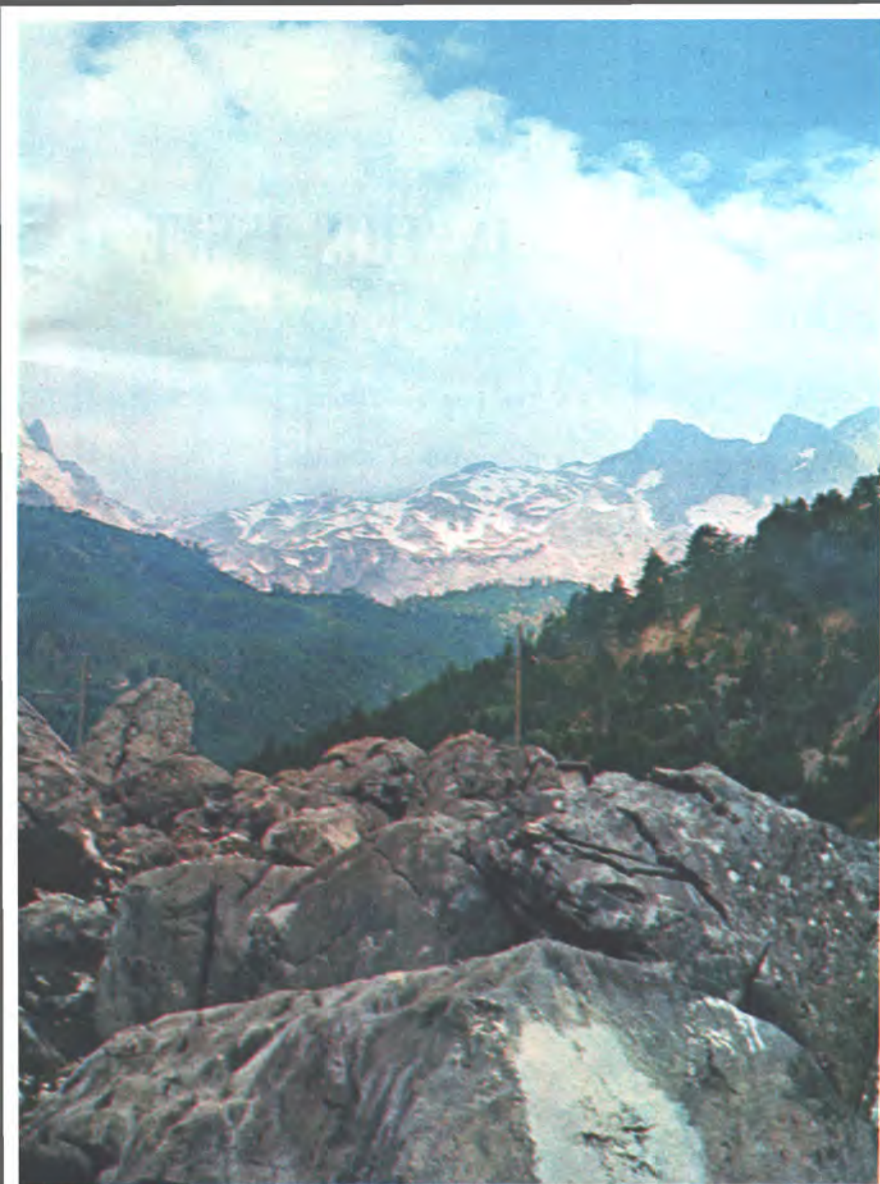
Some years ago this drama was published in our country, edited by Prof. Ziaudin Kodra, and with an introduction by him. Santori's "Emira" was preceded by another drama by an Albanian author, but one written in Turkish. This was Sami Frashëri's "Besa" which was staged in Istanbul in 1874.



# TOURIST ALBANIA

In these pictures you see the Alps of Albania. The landscape is variegated: whereas for months at a stretch the tops are covered with snow, the valleys below are covered with verdant grass with numerous waterfalls. Its fauna is rich.  
They are utilized for sports and for rest homes for workers.





# Letters to the Editor

A.H. — Syria

Although I am a new reader of your magazine, I assure you that I am a true supporter and admirer of it. Your magazine deserves praise in all respects, in its content, the clarity of its articles, purity of language, quality of its photographs, especially the colored ones, layout, etc. I think it would be helpful if the descriptions of the great economic projects which are being built in your country were accompanied by small sketch maps to indicate where the project is built. I take this occasion to ask you to mail to me a map of Albania. At the same time I would like to have some information about tourism in your country and the address of the institute which handles the organization of tourism.

I send my greetings and best wishes for the realization of the objectives you have set for the publication of your magazine, as well as for the construction of your country, which is creating a new life.

G.W. — The Federal Republic of Germany

I have received the last issue of your magazine. I take advantage of the occasion to thank you once again most sincerely for the valuable and very interesting political, cultural, historical and economic information which you give us through your magazine about your heroic country.

Through your marvellous magazine I congratulate the editorial board of the "New Albania" Magazine as well as the great Albanian people who faithfully uphold Marxism-Leninism, wishing them still greater success in all spheres of life.

R.L. — Canada

I greatly enjoy reading your magazine. It allows me to get in contact with your country and its socialist experience. I am fascinated by your country. In order to learn more about it, I would like to exchange opinions with a young Albanian of my age (23). I would be very glad if any one would write to me in French or English. I would also like to visit your beautiful

country; I am certain that this would be a very valuable experience. Could you give me some detailed information about the possibility of staying in your country?

Thank you once again.

V.S. — Sri Lanka

I am very glad to tell you that I am a regular reader of your magazine. I have it by me continually and read it with great interest. The materials published in it are very interesting. Through it every one can learn that your people are a great revolutionary people with an experienced leadership and a correct policy. I wish to get to know your beautiful country and its brilliant achievements as well as possible, I do not know how to go about getting an Albanian pen-friend. If this were possible, I would be very pleased. In addition, I would like to have some political material, stories, albums and so on.

O.H.R. — Peru

It is impossible to estimate the militant vanguard role which "New Albania" Magazine plays in the field of struggle against the imperialist and other reactionaries of every caliber for a new world freed from oppression and exploitation.

"New Albania" is inspired by a genuine revolutionary line, the line of the glorious Party of Labor of Albania and its distinguished leader Enver Hoxha.

I am confident that you will not spare your efforts in the days to come too to render your contribution in favor of awakening the oppressed peoples.

C.R. — France

I was fortunate to have the opportunity of reading some issues of your magazine.

I greatly appreciated the quality of the articles and their socialist objectivity, especially the article on the new Albanian education. The photography is also outstanding.

I would be very grateful if you could send me your beautiful magazine regularly.

## IN THIS ISSUE

■ The iron generation	1
■ Industrialized Albania	2
■ Workers and their factory	10
■ The counter-offensive of the Albanian National Liberation Army in February and March 1944	12
■ The congress which solved the problem of political power	16
■ Guaranteeing the right to work	20
■ Tracing her course of life	21
■ A mother!	24
■ He was the most famous theatrical performer in Europe	28
■ "Daughter of the Mountains" on the screen	30
■ The beginnings of Albanian grammatical studies	32
■ Letters to the editor	36

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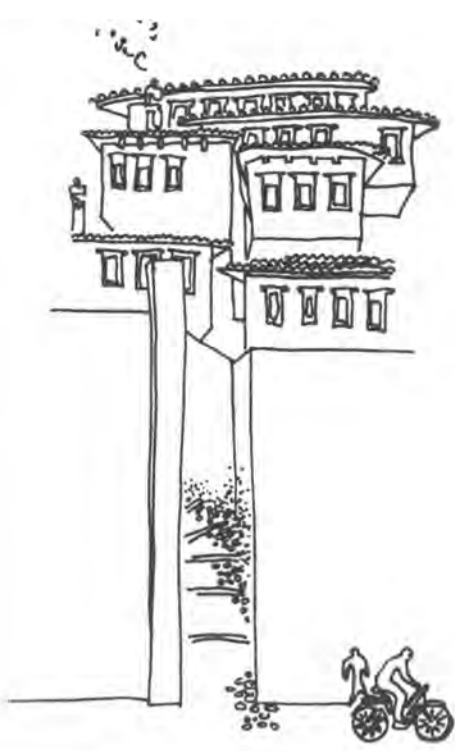
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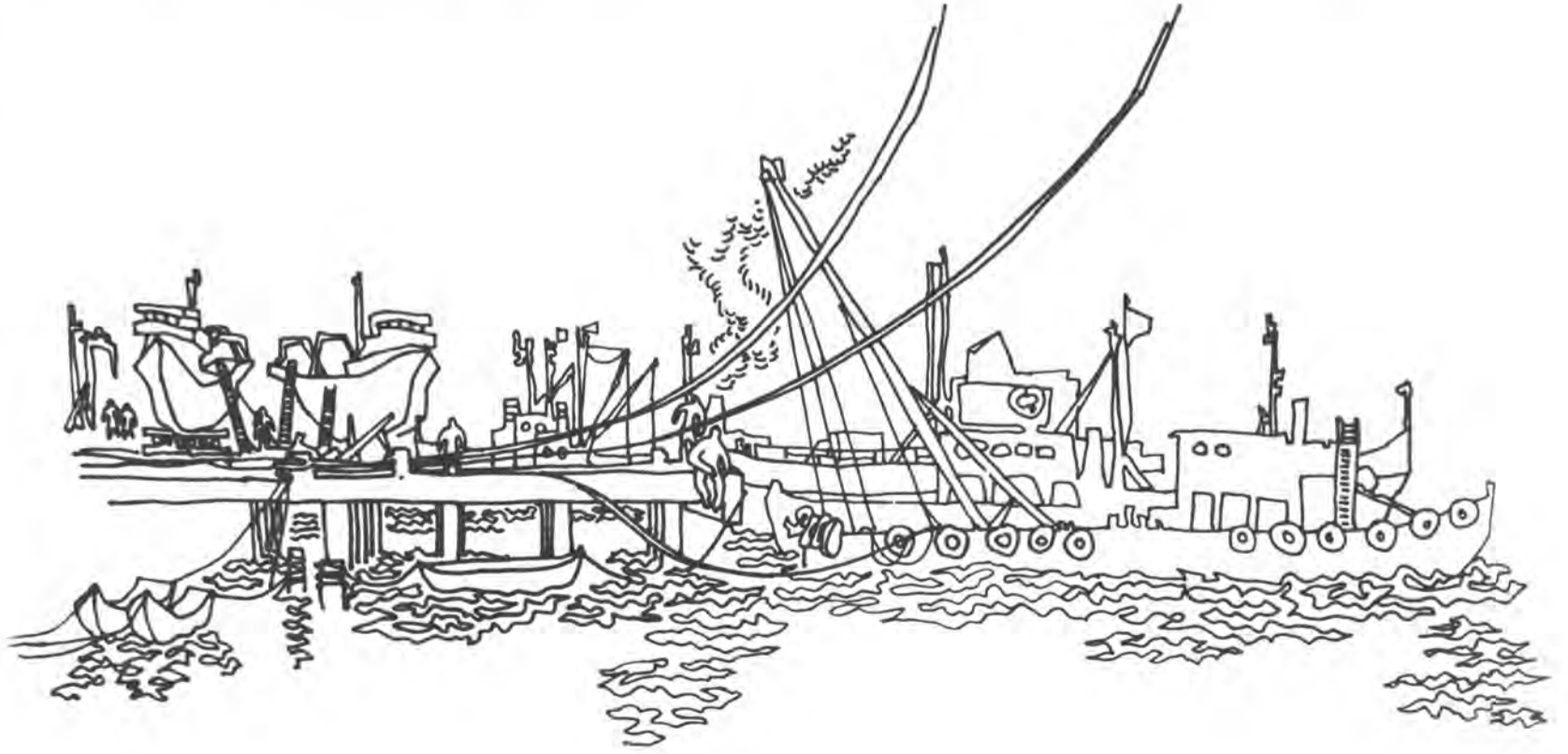
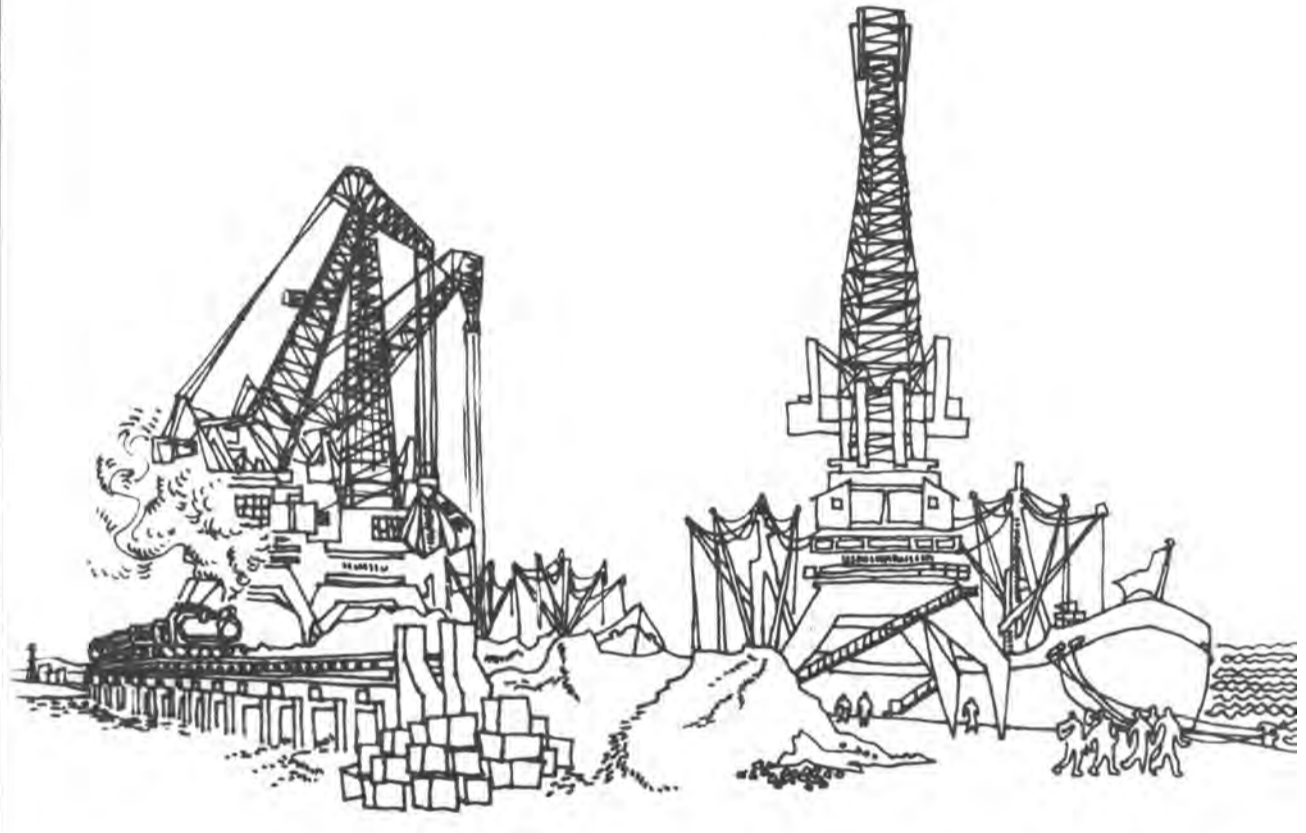
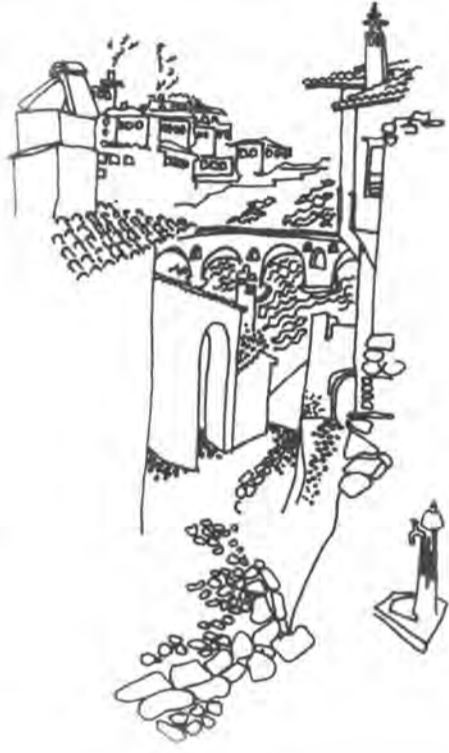
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**FRONT COVER:** Student Arthur Pilika of the first class of the "Naim Frashëri" Secondary School of general education in Tirana doing his practical work.



Drawing by Zemir Mati





## Works of Albanian Arts and Crafts

The beautiful Albanian Arts and crafts date back to antiquity. Today, under the conditions of the all-round development of our country, this tradition is carried on and enriched with new motifs and elements.

