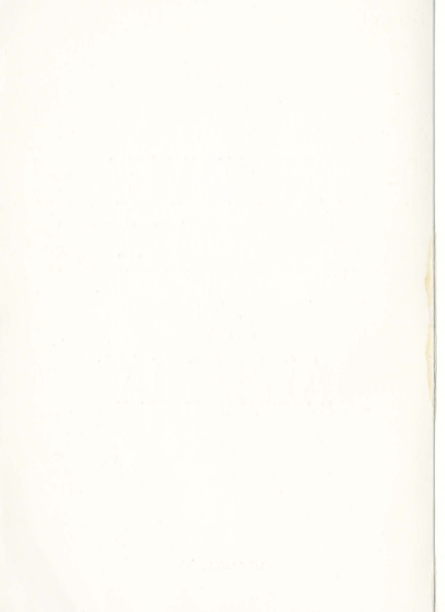


TWENTY YEARS
OF SOCIALISM
IN
ALBANIA

TIRANA 1964



TWENTY YEARS
OF SOCIALISM
IN ALBANIA

PROGRESSIVE BOOKS & PERIODICALS LTD.
721 GERRARD STREET EAST,
TORONTO 8, ONTARIO

THE -NAIM FRASHËRI- STATE PUBLISHING HOUSE

TIRANA, 1964

TWENTY YEARS
OF SOCIALISM
IN ALBERTA

PROGRESSIVE BOOKS & PERIODICALS LTD.
121 GERRARD STREET EAST
TORONTO, ONTARIO

THE CANADIAN LIBRARY, 110 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO

TORONTO, 1981

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	3
The state system in the People's Republic of Albania	14
Development of national economy in the People's Republic of Albania during 20 years	47
Cultural revolution in Albania	76
The raising of people's welfare in the People's Republic of Albania	103

INTRODUCTION

None of the figures of speech used by poets is as fitting to the history of the Albanian as its comparison with Phenix, the mythical bird, which as often as it was consumed by fire of its own act, rose again from its ashes and began its life again with renewed vigor.

The Albanians are the descendants of the ancient Illyrians whose history begins much earlier than the Homeric tales. In this territory of lofty mountains and deep blue seas, of awe-inspiring mountain paths and green vales, of age-long forests and alluvial plains, of precipitating streams and rivers and the largest lakes in the Balkans, the Illyrians tilled the fields and set up workshops, built forts and founded cities, carried on trade and minted coins, built ships and bravely plied nearby and far away seas and oceans during the first millenium before our era. Then they set up their own independent states with kings and armies, with friends and allies, with slaves and slaveholders; and then they waged regular wars, at times to win at others to lose, at times to conquer at others to defend themselves. But during the second century before our era, everything that they had achieved during the thousand years of development and progress was crushed to smithereens. Illyria was vanquished by Rome. The independent states were done away with and, what is worse, the bulk of the Illyrian people were subjugated for five centuries and a half by the iron rule of Rome, which, with its military, political, economic and cultural potency jeopardized the Illyrian ethnological race itself. Under the severe punishments for repeated uprisings, as a result of deportations to far away regions as slaves or undesirable elements and of a wave of Romanization that spread on the eastern coast of the Adriatic, the Illyrian population had shrunk into a handful and were writhing under the agony of extermination at the end of this long and bitter domination.

In 395 the Roman empire was split into two and the

territory of Albania, as every one knows, remained within the boundaries of the Byzantine Empire. The pressure which the Empire at Constantinople exerted for more than nine centuries added to the equally harsh pressure of the subsequent settlement of the Slav population in these regions, made it look as if the ethnical doom of the Illyrians was sealed. But the Illyrians who were always present there, shriveled on those steep mountains and awe-inspiring mountain ledges, and even in those green vales and hills almost by the sea, spread again all over the fertile fields, took part in the uprisings against the Byzantine Empire and by the end of the XII century laid the foundations of a separate state. Their state was short lived for it was swallowed up by the superior force of their neighbors. Albania was run over not only by the age-long Byzantine rulers but also by the Bulgarians, the Anjou forces and by the Servians. But the Albanians held their own. Never did their enemies become masters of their natural fastnesses, and even when they succeeded to penetrate there, they could hold them but for a short period. Never were enemy laws and ordinances carried into execution in their lofty mountain regions. On the contrary, the country continued to forge ahead with renewed vigor, as if trying to make good the time lost. Cities were again set on their feet and grew at an unparalleled rate, fields began to flourish again under cultivation, art and culture started to thrive as never before in the country. And what was expected to come was not long in coming. After the middle of the XIV century a series of small feudal estates sprang up in Albanian territory on the ruins of the timeworn Byzantine Empire and of the ephemeral Servian Empire, which as a result of wars, as things go, were fused into larger feudal principalities which further developments could not fail to lead to the formation of a common Albanian state.

Just when the country was swept by the enthusiasm of this historical process, the Ottoman Turks made their appearance at the outskirts of Albania. The valiant, never vanquished population had of course no intension of kowtowing to this other foreign rule. But plunged into feudal chaos Albania was ill-prepared for resistance. The Ottoman Turks just walked over it towards the end of the XIVth century. Anti-Turk uprisings for liberation soon broke out one after another but, unfortunately, they were isolated one from the other and they were led by fastidious chiefs. Hence they did not yield the results desired.

But in the fall of 1443, when the gifted captain George Kastriot alias Scanderbeg, placed himself at the head of the liberation movement the Albanians rose as a body and followed him. Scanderbeg managed better than any one else in the middle ages to draw the broad masses of people under his banner, for none but he succeeded in giving the liberation war a popular character. This alone can account for the fact, of which many historians are still skeptical about, that the Albanians joined the colors of their own free will, as volunteers not recruits, in order to fight so formidable an enemy as the Ottoman Turks were during the XV century. This alone can account for that nearly legendary epic that unravelled itself on the mountains, dales, plains and castles of Albania for nearly a quarter of a century, at a time when Central Europe and the Balkan peninsula had been obsessed with panic at the irresistible onslaught of the Turkish crescent. With Scanderbeg at the head the Albanians held the enemy at bay and defended Europe from an impending invasion. A proof of this lies in the twenty-two and more battles of unequal strength waged in this narrow strip of land and won by the relatively small number of unarmed Albanians.

Face to face with an enemy whose sources of men and wealth never went dry, as the Ottoman Empire was, the defeat of the Albanians, few in numbers, badly equipped and abandoned by other states, was inevitable. The Turks conquered Albania at last. A dark period followed for the country after this defeat. The country suffered innumerable losses in men. The population was decimated as a result of massacres and flight to foreign lands in order to escape reprisals, towns were razed to the ground whereas whole villages turned to grassy lands. The Turks enforced their laws and did their uttermost to force their faith on the remaining population. This attempt continued for centuries. But the hopes of the Turks to link this country and these people with Istanbul came to naught.

The Albanians offered renewed resistance to this new danger. The mountains, as usual became hotbeds for freedom. Not even in towns did the Turks have much success. In the XIX century the Albanians lined up with renewed vigor, in a new combative front, in the front of fighting for freedom with a view to throwing off the yoke of the age-long invader and to re-establishing the national, independent state, not the feudal but the democratic state. This period known as the Albanian National Revival makes up one of the most brilliant

pages of the history of this country. The struggle was a hard one for it was waged not only against the Turkish rulers who were still too strong for the Albanians but also against the Great Powers which backed the Turks as well as against the chauvinist governments of the neighboring countries which abided their time to chop up Albania once it had cast off the Ottoman yoke. The struggle was a hard one for it had to curb the power of the local feudal chieftains who had cast their lot with Turkey, for it had to overcome the religious and regional dissensions sown by the age-long invader. The Albanian democratic and revolutionary patriots were not intimidated by these hardships but carried on their heroic struggle by pen and sword till the desired end of the proclamation of Albania's national independence was achieved on November 28, 1912.

The Great Powers did not recognize Albania's independence as the national convention in Vlora had proclaimed it on November 28, 1912. After many typical negotiations of imperialist diplomacy, Albania was recognized on July 29, 1913 as an «independent» state but under the supervision and warranty of the Great Powers: the country was forced to respect under all circumstances its neutrality and the boundaries which had left nearly half of Albania's territory on the other side and to accept a constitution elaborated by the Big Powers and to accept a foreign prince to rule it without asking the masses of the Albanian people who would submit to that constitution or to that prince and without consulting with the national Government at Vlora, which, over and above this was forced to resign. This was a serious insult to the heroic Albanian people who had never submitted to the will of foreigners. But the times were too delicate for an armed protest against the Great Powers. The international situation was fraught with risks for Albania, who had hardly ever seen a bright day. It was springtime when the prince Fürst zur Wied landed in Durres in 1914. The world was at the threshold of the First World War. Negotiations were about to yield their place to fire-arms. Albania's sycophants, old and new, hurried to take advantage of the «control» of the Great Powers and await the propitious moment to jump on their prey.

Only a few weeks had passed before it became evident that «international control» meant «international fetters». 15 months had hardly passed by since the time the Great Powers had proclaimed Albania's neutrality that they themselves violated

it. The same powers which had guaranteed Albania's «independence» buried it alive. The first to set their foot on Albanian territory were the Italian army. Almost simultaneously the Greek troops poured into the country from the south. Then the Servian, Montenegrin, Austro-Hungarian and French troops followed suit. The country which had nothing to do with the war turned into a battlefield. The losses it incurred were colossal. But the worst came in April 1915. England, France, Czarist Russia and Italy, four of the six Great Powers which had signed on July 29, 1913 the document recognizing the independence of Albania and had guaranteed its frontiers, the selfsame powers with the selfsame representatives in the very building in London where they had signed this document not later than 15 months before, sat down and signed another shameful treaty whereby Albania's independence was brought to an end and Albania's territory was parcelled out to the neighboring states.

At the end of the First World War Albania's position became again critical. The country, terribly devastated by the war was about to be chopped up and parcelled out to Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy. At the 1919 Peace Conference in Paris where the victorious powers met to draw up the new map of the world, it became evident that Albania had no supporters to back it up. Albania was occupied by the armies of those powers which were deciding its destiny. Its hands were tied but its sons did not let the Paris tribunal issue its fatal verdict. A National Congress meeting at Lushnje, a little town of Albania, on January 21, 1920 said its categorical «No!» to the negotiators in Paris. Then from decisions to acts! An uprising broke out in June 1920 in the most vulnerable spot of imperialist designs on Albania — in the Vlora region which Rome considered the Gibraltar of the Adriatic. Through their heroism the Albanian fighters from towns and countryside overpowered the superiority of arms of the enemy and compelled the Government at Rome to start negotiations with the Albanian Government and sign an agreement on August 2, 1920 at Tirana, to withdraw Italian troops from the occupied regions and to recognize the independence and territorial integrity of Albania.

Albania, which escaped perdition thanks only to the incredible exploits of its sons, set then to work and built its state and social system, its economy and culture. The democratic forces, in perpetual conflict with the conservatory and reactionary forces of the country, did their uttermost to lead

Albania to progress, civilization and democracy. The progressive forces enjoyed the support of all the people who aspired to be emancipated from feudal oppression and to put an end to their backwardness. Triumph came with lightning speed for the reactionary forces were toppling to their fall. In June 1924 the bourgeois democratic revolution broke out and scored success. A democratic government of a revolutionary pulse was set up in Tirana with Fan Noli at its head. Albania began to breathe freely. It was groping its way for a better future. But the enthusiasm was untimely. The dark forces of reaction headed by Ahmet Zog and sponsored by foreign powers, organized abroad, crossed the frontier and entered Albania and in December 1924 overthrew the government of the June revolution.

Ahmed Zog ascended to power as President of the Republic, at first, then from September 1928 as the King of the Albanians under the name of Zog I. But this is of no primary importance. It is the policy he pursued, or better still, the results of that policy, that are of importance. As President or King Zog was a dictator, a semi-oriental despot, or as a little Sultan, as he was sarcastically dubbed in the country. He considered and treated Albania as a large personal estate of his. The state treasure was his preferred field for plunder. He liked to be called a «reformer» but no serious transformations ever took place except an earsplitting noise about intended reforms for the progress of the country. In spite of his pledges to carry out land reform, so essential to Albania, and though laws were promulgated, committees were set up and experts were mobilized, the land owning gentry remained where they had been. No serious investments were ever made whereas the millions which were received as loans from abroad were used to build government palaces and gloomy jails. Freedom of speech and of the press and of conscience yielded their place to a regime of police repressions. Unemployment, want, oppression, violence, corruption, hunger — this is the picture of Zog's internal policy.

In Zog's foreign policy the picture is more tragic. He owed allegiance to the foreign powers who brought him to power, therefore he pursued the policy of the open door towards them. In 1925 alone the Italian capitalists were given a series of concessions in the field of exploiting mines, banks, trade and agriculture. In 1926 there was signed in Rome «The Pact of Friendship and Security», and in 1927 «The Pact of Defensive

Alliance» in which Italy was given the right of military intervention in Albania not only when and if this country were attacked by a third power but also when Zog's regime itself would be threatened by internal uprisings. In subsequent years the dagger was plunged even deeper. The Italian state loans which were spent for non-remunerative investments, and inability to be paid back at the specified time, placed Albania under the financial dependence of Rome. The Italian military missions and the Italian fascist organizers, who spread among the ranks of the army and of the Albanian administration accomplished the task of peaceful penetration of Rome. The result of this policy became soon evident. On April 7, 1939 the Italian fascist troops attacked Albania, disorganized and betrayed as it was, and after a short resistance occupied it.

Albania, which had not yet enjoyed in full the fruits of independent life, seemed again to have been turned to ashes. The enemy who occupied the country was very powerful, so powerful as it thought to occupy the whole of Europe with his northern ally, Hitlerite Germany, by his side. The enemy was well prepared to poison the conscience of people with his inhuman fascist ideology. But a still greater evil lay ahead. Mussolini was obsessed with the idea of repeating Rome's older policy of turning the Adriatic into an Italian lake. This lake idea implied the Italianization of the eastern coastline of the Adriatic, just as Rome once tried to Romanize these regions. One year after occupation the number of Italian workers brought to Albania surpassed the number of Albanian workers in the country. They started to make a survey of the plains of the country and to draw up plans to remove Albanian peasants into the remote regions of the hinterland. The towns swarmed with fascist cultural institutions, Italian enterprises and firms of various kinds and, at the same time, with numerous Italian troops to pursue the policy of aggression against other Balkan states from the territory of Albania.

In order to call the attention to the world to his indomitable strength the head of the Italian fascist imperialism threatened it from Rome that in union with Nazi Germany he would build the new order everywhere. In the towns of Albania the fascists utilized every occasion to display their armed forces equipped with artillery, tanks, and armored vehicles accompanied by military planes. But the Sons of the Eagle, as poets have made it their habit to call the Albanians, lost no

heart. As a response to their armed forces and fascist demagoguery, they staged anti-fascist demonstrations in town streets filled with «carabinieri» and even under the very noses of the highest governmental authorities. The wave of arrests, imprisonments and deportations swept the country. But no one was dismayed. The lofty mountains were always there unshaken to welcome the freedom fighters. And freedom fighters were not long in coming. The first batch of freedom fighters took up their rifles and betook themselves to these natural fastnesses in winter 1940 and more of them in the spring of 1941. And this is the way the armed struggle of patriotic Albanians began against the foreign fascist invaders.

The mountains became, as usual, the lair of the first freedom fighters but the places where they came from were the towns and the villages. These fighters had been workers, peasants and school children. These bands were few at the start but those who were waiting to take up arms and join their ranks were innumerable. The fight was far from equal. On one side there were the enemies armed to the teeth with the most reactionary circles of the country with them, while an army lacking arms and organization, armed only with the love of the country and hatred for the enemy and disdain for the collaborating traitors in their hearts. This liberating struggle and this popular army required a manager's head, an organizer's hand, a compass to guide them.

The major international political and military events that took place during the summer and fall of 1941 — the attack of Hitlerite Germany against the Soviet Union and their rapid advance deep into the land of the Soviets — brought about a radical change in Albanian political opinion. The bourgeois nationalist personalities intoxicated by the untimely successes of the Hitlerite troops and by the wily promises of the Italian fascists of making Albania a big state, gave up participating in the patriotic war and, what is worse, collaborated with the foreign invader. On the contrary, the patriotic forces, workers, peasants, young scholars, followed the line of infallible reasoning that the more the anti-fascists fought the nearer would be the day of the collapse of imperialist fascism and, as a consequence, the nearer would the day of the liberation of Albania be.

The Albanian Communist Party, the guiding head of which the country stood in greatest need at this historical moment, sprang from the ranks of these pure patriotic forces in a

strictly clandestine way, on November 8, 1941, precisely when the German Hitlerite armies were fighting in the vicinity of Moscow. Right from the start the new party expressed in its program and in its first pamphlets that idea that occupied the mind and that desire which occupied the hearts of these workers, peasants and honest intellectuals, namely, an uncompromising war against the foreign fascist invaders and, at the same time, a struggle to build a free, democratic, people's Albania, without those despicable eels that had sucked the blood of the masses of the people, that had betrayed the highest interests of the country, that had paved the way for the April 7, 1939 occupation of the country by fascists and who were now collaborating with the foreign fascist invaders.

Right from the start the Albanian Communist Party (now the Party of Labor of Albania) placed itself in the lead of the National-Liberation War and concentrated its whole attention to expanding, broadening and intensifying the patriotic war. It enlisted in its ranks all the revolutionary communists and through them got in touch with the masses of the population in the towns and on the countryside, in work centers and in town wards, in schools and in clubs. It came in touch with all free fighters wherever they were, organizing regular armed units. Through its guerilla units the Communist Party extended the armed contest within the towns too. It succeeded in feeling the pulse of the popular masses and in always being at head of them better than any one else.

Only a few weeks had passed by when the whole country, towns and their suburbs, village and roads of communication, heard the partisan rifle shots resounding with a new intonation never heard before, and with a revolutionary impulse never seen so far. The slogan issued by the Albanian Communist Party -no compromise with the enemy, total war until victory is achieved, until Albania is liberated-, became the watchword of the masses of workers and peasants. Under its leadership these masses never wavered, neither under the police repressions of the fascists, nor under the punitive expeditions of the armies of the enemy. The communists stood always in the vanguard of the National-Liberation War and their daring exploits surpassed those we read of in legends. They guarded sacredly in their hearts the Party's call: «a hero fallen in the field of battle a hundred others rise in his place»

Under the leadership of the Albanian Communist Party

and its staff headed by comrade Enver Hoxha, the National-Liberation war, strengthened by almost daily successes over the enemy and his collaborators, became more and more intense. The sum total of military successes brought about political successes. In less than a year after the founding of the party the National-Liberation Front was established with many nationalist elements taking part in it and, at the same time, the basis of the new democratic regime was laid which would be established in the liberated regions and on which independent Albania would rest. The partisan army turned from bands and small units to bigger military formations, to battalions. July 1943 saw the formation of the General Staff of the National-Liberation Army which grew from day to day and scored success after success. The rush of thousands of volunteers to the ranks of the patriotic army made it necessary to form larger army units — the storm brigades.

The events of September 1943 resulted in the replacement of the Italian troops, which had capitulated, with German armies. This placed the Albanian National-Liberation War in a new stage, in the most heroic stage of its career. The new invaders were stronger and more ruthless towards the partisan movement. They found here a willingness to collaborate on the part of all the Albanian bourgeois nationalist elements who were taken aback by the incredible of the National-Liberation Army. Two of the major organizations of these trends, the organization of the so-called «Balli Kombëtar» (=the Nationalist Front) hurriedly set up by the bourgeois nationalists, and the «Legality» party which aimed at bringing the despised King Zog back to Albania, became the gendarms of the German invaders. But the attempts of the «Balli Kombëtar» and of the «Legality» parties failed in a very deplorable way. There were no more people in Albania likely to waver to the extent desired by the anti-communist demagogy. The Hitlerite commanders thought at the time that they could master the situation by launching wide-scale military operations against the areas liberated by the partisans. During the 1943-44 winter a number of German divisions passed through the whole of Albania spreading fire and sword, clashing arms with partisan brigades and setting fire to the villages of the country. The same terror reigned in towns. Members of «Balli Kombëtar» and of «Legality» accompanied them most shamefully in these criminal actions. After these operations the Hitlerite armies and the

-Ballist- and -Zogist- bands returned to the towns all worn out with exhaustion claiming that they had crushed the National-Liberation Army. But the partisan army had offered firm resistance and the lie of the enemy came out. News kept on coming to the towns and villages that the partisan forces were growing day by day, that new brigades were being formed with lightning speed and that these queer partisans were appearing more often in the suburbs of the towns. Moreover, the historic Congress of Permeti, made up of delegates gathered from all parts of Albania met in the liberated town of Permeti in May 1944 and chose the highest organs of the new Albanian state, among which the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Committee with the attributes of a provisional democratic government and under the leadership of Comrade Enver Hoxha, the most distinguished leader of the patriotic war.

Subsequent events marked the apogee of the National-Liberation War. The Hitlerite armies launched a second major offensive against the partisan army assisted this time too by Kuisling, Ballist and Zogist detachments, but this shared the same fate with the first. The desperate efforts of the English and American military missions that had come to the regions liberated by the partisans in order to organize a wide anti-communist front against the National-Liberation Army, had no effect either. On the contrary, the National-Liberation Front became stronger and stronger for it was backed up by the broad masses of people. The National-Liberation Army which grew from brigades to divisions and to army corps launched the decisive offensive to liberate the country from foreign armies and collaborating bands. This triumphal march that led to the liberation of one town after another reached its culmination after 19 days of bloody battles in the streets of the Capital and wound up with the liberation of all of Albania on November 29, 1944.

On November 29, 1944 Albania did not only win again its freedom and independence trampled under foot by the foreign foes but it also won the people's power which was denied to it up to this day by the feudal landholders and the capitalist bourgeoisie. On November 29, 1944 Albania became not only independent but also a people's democracy. It is in this double victory that the basis of present day Albania lies, of Albania which under the leadership of the very same party, forges ahead toward socialist edification with confidence in itself.

THE STATE SYSTEM IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The establishment of the new socialist order in Albania is the greatest achievement of the people's revolution, the heroic long-suffering Albanian people ever attained. It was the first time in their age-long history that the rule of exploiters was overthrown and that all power reverted to the working masses guided by the working class. The establishment of people's rule marked a major fundamental turn in the historical fate of the Albanian people and the beginning of a new stage in their life. Albania was wrested once for all time from the imperialist and capitalist system; the Albanian people embarked on the broad and brilliant road to socialism where everything is done in the name and for the good of the working man.

The people's regime was born in the heat of battle of the National-Liberation War. In its first document in November 1941 the Albanian Communist Party (now the Party of Labor of Albania) laid before the communists and the Albanian people not only the problem of national-liberation but also that of the assumption of political power by the working masses, the struggle for a «free, democratic and people's Albania». This idea took concrete form in September 1942 at the historic Conference of Peza where communists and various anti-fascist patriots had got together.

It was at the village of Peza, 18 km southwest of Tirana, liberated by partisan units that the National-Liberation Front was formed in which all the patriotic forces of the country regardless of convictions, regions or faiths would line up to fight the fascist invaders and local traitors. The National-Liberation Front would be led by the General National-Liberation Council the members of which were elected among communists, nationalists, democrats, representatives of the communist youth, of the anti-fascist women and so on.

It was also decided at the Peza Conference that National-Liberation Councils with members elected by the people should be set up throughout the country to carry out their functions freely in the liberated regions and in a clandestine way in the regions still writhing under fascist domination. The National-Liberation Councils had a double function, on one hand to mobilize people for an armed uprising and, on the other, to replace the fascist local organs of the administration and thus prevent the old feudal bourgeois organs of administration from coming back to power. The National-Liberation Councils were, so to say, the nucleus of the new people's democratic government pending the meeting of the Constituent Assembly after the liberation of the country.

The Peza Conference had in this way decided to fuse two historical processes into a joint revolution — the national-liberation war to achieve the independence of the country and the people's revolution to establish the people's democracy in Albania.

After the Peza Conference, National-Liberation Councils were set up throughout the country, in towns, and in villages, despite the attempts and unparalleled terror and persecutions of the enemy. They began to exercise their function freely and regularly in Peza, in Skrapari, Kurveleshi, Çermenika, Martaneshi, Opari, Mallakastër and other regions. The vitality and all round activity of the National-Liberation Councils raised the prestige of the National-Liberation Front both at home and abroad. This induced the Great Allied Powers — the Soviet Union, England and the United States of America — to recognize in 1942 the liberty and independence of Albania and the right of the Albanian people to decide the regime and form of government they desired once the war was over.

The expansion of the national-liberation war and the increase of partisan ranks raised the problem of creating a regular army of volunteers. To this end the General National-Liberation Council meeting at Labinot on July 10, 1943 decreed the creation of the General Staff of the National-Liberation Army which at that time numbered nearly 10 thousand fighters in its ranks. This event signaled the further invigoration of the armed struggle against the fascist invaders and traitors to the country.

«The statutory laws and regulations of the National-Liberation Councils» were drawn up and passed at the Second National-Liberation Conference held at Labinot on September

4, 1943. «The National-Liberation Councils in the liberated regions» the statute has it, «represent the civil authority of the country; they are the nucleus of the political power of the Albanian people». It further states that «after liberation the peoples will themselves choose the form of government». The bylaws specify that the National-Liberation Councils are «the real democratic organs of the people's power», that «they are elected in a democratic way» and that the right to elect and be elected is enjoyed by all persons 18 years of age and above «regardless of political or religious convictions, provided they are not spies and traitors to the country».

In occupied districts the National-Liberation Councils were charged with the duty to use all methods or means to help the National-Liberation Army, to organize and lead the struggle of the people against the invaders.

In liberated regions all the former organs of the administration like the municipalities, the prefectures, the courts of justice, the police, the gendarmerie and so on «are cancelled and cease to function...» and they are replaced with the National-Liberation Councils which «exercise all the administrative, executive, judiciary and other functions».

After the 1943-44 winter campaign undertaken by the nazi invaders who had replaced the Mussolinian hordes following the capitulation of fascist Italy, the struggle became more acute. The forces of the National-Liberation Army liberated nearly all of the southern region of Albania and launched a counter offensive throughout the country. At this time and under these circumstances the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Congress met at Permeti on May 24, 1944. Nearly 200 delegates took part in the proceedings of this Congress elected openly or in a clandestine way throughout the country and representing the whole masses of people who had adhered to the National-Liberation War: revolutionary communists and honest nationalists, workers, peasants, intellectuals, men, women, the youth, fighters of the National Liberation Army, rear activists and so on.

The Permeti Congress passed a series of acts of historical significance. It elected the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Council as the highest legislative and executive organ of the sovereignty of the people. The latter appointed on its part the Antifascist National-Liberation Committee with the attributes of a Democratic Provisional Government.

The Permeti Congress decided that the question of the kind of regime in Albania should be settled immediately following the liberation of the country and, in connection with, that the return of King Zog to Albania was banned and no other government formed in the country or abroad would be recognized except the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Committee. The Congress also decided to re-examine all political and economic agreements entered into by the former governments of Albania and mainly by Zog's government and all such agreements prejudicial to the sovereignty of the people or to the economic interests of the country be declared null and void.

Towards the close of the Permeti Congress the occupation forces of the enemy undertook another big military operation but with no effect. By the end of August the partisan forces had liberated the greatest part of the country. In September 1944 when favorable conditions had been created as a result of the crushing blows of the glorious Soviet Army to the fascist axis, when the local organizations of traitors were breaking up and thrown into confusion, when the warlike spirit and enthusiasm of the Albanian people had been aroused as never before, the National-Liberation war entered its final stage and the National-Liberation Army which numbered in its ranks nearly 70,000 fighters, launched a general attack for the complete liberation of Albania.

Over three-fourths of the territory of Albania was liberated and the country was now faced not only with the military task of carrying the war to its successful end but also with political, economic, social and cultural tasks of a free and independent country. The Anti-fascist National-Liberation Council held its second meeting in the liberated town of Berat and turned the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Committee into a democratic government of Albania. The Anti-fascist National-Liberation Council adopted the law on elections for the National-Liberation Council which would take place when the country had been completely liberated, the law on the rights and duties of the National-Liberation Councils, according to which they were charged to exercise only the functions of the state power leaving the political functions to the National-Liberation Front. The Conference adopted at the same time the Declaration of Rights of Citizens, warranting them equality before the law, freedom of religion, of conscience, of meeting,

of speech, of association and of the press, of private ownership, of personal security and the freedom of private initiative in economic life, the equal rights of men and women both in political as well as in social activity, the right of secret, equal and direct ballot, the right to elect and be elected to all citizens who had completed their 18 birthday with the exception of those deprived of this right by law, the right to complain against any decisions taken by any organ of the state power, the right to education and so on. The Declaration banned all fascist and pro-fascist organizations and prohibited their activity in the country.

In the programmatic statement the Democratic Government submitted to the plenary session of the Anti-fascist National-Liberation Council, the elected Premier Enver Hoxha pledged, on behalf of the government, that it would carry out the decisions of the Permeti Congress.

After the complete liberation of the country achieved on November 29, 1944, the old state administration ceased completely to function and a new state apparatus was set up ranging from the Ministries and central Directorates to the courts of justice and the police. Elections were held throughout the country in January 1945 to choose the people's councils in villages, towns and provinces which became the political organs of the new power in the center and in the outer regions.

The Democratic Government took a series of important steps of an anti-imperialist and anti-feudal nature annulling all agreements that put the country under bondage, confiscating the property belonging to foreign capital and to the war criminals, putting the agrarian reform laws in application and foreign trade under state supervision. Industrial production and distribution of goods were also put under state control. Labor legislative measures were also promulgated for the first time in the country. They set the working day at 8 hours and the workers were entitled to a 15-day paid leave yearly and so on.

The electoral campaign to choose representatives to the Constituent Assembly started in the fall of 1945. 90.02% of the citizens enjoying the right to vote went to the polls on December 2, 1945 and 91.88% of them cast their votes for the candidates of the National-Liberation Front. The Constituent Assembly convened in Tirana proclaimed Albania a People's Republic on January 11, 1946, whereas in March 14 of the same

year it approved the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania. The Constitution upheld the achievements of the Albanian people attained in the National-Liberation War and sanctioned the people's councils as the basic organs of the new regime.

The new democratic state played a decisive role in the whole life of the country right from the start. The tasks of the socialist revolution started to be carried immediately following the triumph of the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution. During the years 1946 and 1947 all industry and mines were nationalized without remuneration, doing away with private capitalist production and setting up a new socialist sector, the second stage of land reform was reached assuming a socialist character since it did not only do away with landlord estates but it dealt a hard blow to the landed gentry. These measures laid the way open for agricultural collectivization and for the socialist transformation of the countryside.

In the post-liberation period one of the main functions of the Albanian socialist state has been and continues to be that of organizing, directing and developing of the socialist economy and culture on the basis of objective laws of socialist production and culture. This function assumes special importance because of the economic and cultural backwardness which Albania inherited from the past. It was only under the leadership of the Party and of the people's government that Albania could put an end to its age-long backwardness and embark today on the sure road to socialism.

Another function of the Albanian state is to crush the resistance of the disowned classes who strive to hamper the progress of the country and turn the wheels of history backwards and the defense of the homeland from the attacks of the bourgeoisie and of the international reactionaries. The socialist state in Albania has successfully carried out other functions like that of supervising the quantity of work and respecting the socialist principle of distribution according to work done, the function of socialist education, the function of close collaboration with and mutual fraternal aid to the countries of the socialist camp, the function of supporting the national-liberation revolutionary movement, the function of the struggle for peace and socialism.

During the period of complete edification of socialist society the organizational, economic, cultural and educational function

assumes special significance while the function of repression becomes more and more lenient and is pointed mainly to the activities of foreign reaction.

The road of the people's regime has been fraught with hardship and suffering. But in battle with these obstacles the Albanian socialist state has grown stronger and stronger. This is mainly due to the development of socialist democracy, to the growing participation of the working masses in state affairs.

The masses of people in the People's Republic of Albania exercise their sovereignty through the highest organ of the state — the People's Assembly, as well as through the People's Councils. According to the article 5 of the Constitution all the organs of state power are elected by the citizens and all the representatives of the people are responsible to their electors and may be recalled at any time by them. It turns out as a result of this disposition that this responsibility extends not only to the acts of the representative himself but also to the state organ into which he has been elected.

The principle of close link of the organs of state and administrative power with the broad masses of workers is one of the most important principles of the functioning of these organs.

The quintessence of the popular nature of power in the People's Republic of Albania lies in the fact that only continuous basis of the whole power, of the entire state apparatus is the organization and participation of the masses in the management of state affairs, is the participation in the government of the country of those classes which had been the object of political oppression and ruthless economic exploitation in the former feudal-capitalist regimes.

The first steps of the new Republic were characterized by the participation of the broad masses of people in governing the country. Right at the start the organs of state power set to work in raising the popular masses to the level of enabling them to take active part in running the state apparatus effectively. This system has been carried out and has found concrete expression in the way the state organs are built and in the way they carry on their work. The participation of the working masses of the city and of the countryside in People's Councils, the large percentage of representatives of these masses in the highest organ of state power — the People's Assembly, itself shows best that the organs of state power are mass organs, are

direct organs of the masses. Thus, through their representatives the people participate directly in governing the country and in directing all its political, economic and cultural life.

... In the make up of the state various forms have been set up to draw the masses of workers in the administration of the state, forms which have been perfected all along the process of development and consolidation of our state of the people's democracy.

... The activation of all the people in governing the country has continually enhanced the proficiency of the state organs, has linked the organs of the masses closer with the masses, has multiplied their efficiency both in seizing the state problems and raising them as well as in solving them always in the interest of building socialist society. The participation of the working masses in running the country has made it possible to find gifted organizers among workers and peasants as well as to assign them in various posts of leadership in the state apparatus.

... The forms of participation of the working masses in governing the country are many and diverse. Thus, thousands of workers take part in congresses, conferences and council meetings called together by the organs of the administration, as well as in various committees that are set up to help the organs of state power both at the center and in localities. Various state problems of economic, cultural and other natures are brought up and decided upon at these meetings. In addition to this of special importance are the activities of the various branches of governing, especially in the economic sector.

A considerable number of workers participate in running state affairs through the organizations of the masses, the social organizations (Trade Unions, Union of Workers Youth, the Democratic Front and other voluntary unions). The Trade Unions exercise broad powers. According to the article 229 of the Labor Code, they are entitled to represent the workers in all state organs and to intervene when the occasion arises to defend the right of workers. They are entitled to take part in drafting laws dealing with matters of production, of wages and salaries, of workers protection and to hear reports from state organs on these problems. The Trade Unions conclude collective contracts with various enterprises, take part in organizing socialist emulation, direct and administer social insurances and pensions, resting homes for workers and their children, supervise

the carrying out of the provisions dealing with work insurance, take part in proposing candidates for election to the state organs and carry out all the functions specified in their bylaws. The working masses take active part in all legislative actions in our state. The Constitution of the Albanian state itself has been passed after a detailed study in which all the workers have taken part. The same procedure has been followed with other laws, especially with those of the five-year plans of economic and cultural development, with the school reform law and so on.

The numerous initiatives of the working masses, inventions and rationalizations, realization and over fulfillment of state plans are various forms of the people's self-government. In addition to these the country is governed also through supervision as well as committees set up in state enterprises to improve the work of production, to organize, guard and administer socialist property and other material wealth, to organize campaigns against waste and so on.

Our socialist democracy, the participation of the broad masses of people in running the government of the country do not exempt the managers of the state apparatus or of the economic enterprises and organization from individual or collective responsibility. The suggestions and proposals of the workers to improve work are put into execution by the leaders or heads of institutions or organizations. The organizations of the masses, the social organizations do not substitute the state or government organs but help them. The state organs may accept the proposals and suggestions of the masses of the social organization, give orders to put them into execution but the responsibility is all theirs.

As a result of the development and consolidation of the Albanian socialist state and of its policy of internationalist solidarity with socialist countries, of its policy of peace and friendship with all other countries, particularly with the neighboring countries, based on the principles of equality, non-intervention, mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual benefit, on the principles of peaceful coexistence among states of different social systems, its authority and influence in the international arena has been enhanced. Despite the attempts of imperialist reaction to oppose it, Albania has been a member of the United Nations Organization since 1955 and maintains diplomatic relations with more than 30 states of the world.

The fundamental law of the People's Republic of Albania is its Constitution and all other laws must conform to it.

The first part of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania speaks of the fundamental principles of our socialist state.

The first article of the Constitution defines the form of the Albanian state as a People's Republic, that is, as one of the forms of the socialist states of the dictatorship of the proletariat; whereas the second article defines the nature of the state as a state of workers and laboring peasants. All power in the People's Republic of Albania belongs to the workers of the town and of the countryside, represented by the People's Councils which make up the political basis of the state.

The economic basis of the Albanian state is made up of the socialist ownership of the means of production, that is of the common property of the people in the hands of the state, and of the property of the cooperative organizations. All mines and other sub-soil resources, waters, spring fountains, forests and pasture grounds, industrial enterprises, the means of air, rail and sea communications, posts, telegraphs and telephones, radio broadcasting stations and banks are common property of the people. Foreign trade and the management and supervision of internal trade is also in the hands of the state. The state directs the economic development of the country, planning it and taking all measures to fulfil the plans.

On the basis of the article 11 of the Constitution private property and private initiative in economy are guaranteed but monopolies, trusts, cartels etc. created with a view to dictating prices and monopolizing markets to the detriment of national economy are banned. Land belongs to those who till it. No large estates can be in the hands of private individuals. Thus, all doors are closed to capitalist speculation on land in Albania.

The Constitution proclaims work as a duty and a matter of honour for all citizens in pursuance of the principle "who does not work, does not eat". All should do what they can and be paid for what they do. The chapter on the rights and duties of citizens concludes the first part of the Constitution. The second part of the Constitution describes the organization of the state while third part speaks of the emblem, of the flag and of the Capital of the country. The Constitution contains 97 articles all told.

The revolutionary transformations that have taken place in our country were consecrated in the Constitution of the

People's Republic of Albania. Amendments have been made to the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania to conform with the consolidation of the people's democratic state and with the achievements attained in the reconstruction of the country. One of the most important amendments is that of the year 1950 where the first article reading: «Albania is a People's Republic, in which all the power emanates from and belongs to the people» was made to read: «The People's Republic of Albania is a state of workers and laboring peasants».

This amendment defines the class nature of the state and consecrates the major economic transformations. The number of citizens in each electoral zone to elect representatives to the People's Assembly has been lowered from 20,000 in 1946 to 8,000. This measure has turned the People's Assembly into a wider platform for the people and has enhanced its authority. As a consequence of the development of the various branches of economy amendments have been made to the Constitution as far as the number of Ministries, the administration and the people's councils are concerned.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania consecrates the rights and prerogatives as well as the real freedoms of the workers attained in their revolutionary fight under the leadership of the working class and of the party in power. The realization of the economic and social reforms of a democratic character, the elimination of the dregs of feudalism, the reversal of the old relations in production, the rise and development of the socialist sector of economy did away once for all time with exploitation of man by man.

The whole power of the People's Republic of Albania belongs to the workers of the town and countryside. All citizens are equal before the law and no privileges are enjoyed today because of origin, position, nationality, race, religion, wealth or cultural grade.

The citizens are guaranteed their freedom of speech, press, organization, meetings, assemblage and public manifestations, freedom of conscience and of religion, they are guaranteed immunity of person and inviolability of their home and so on.

In the past the woman was not even respected as a human being. She enjoyed no rights whatsoever, the state had no consideration for her whatsoever. She was sold and bought like cattle. Others decided the destiny she had to meet. She was economically dependent on her husband, she was his slave. Fanaticism was another deplorably bad custom to which woman

had to submit. The woman in former days was debarred from society and had to yield obeisance in the family. After liberation she was emancipated. The law prescribed equality of rights for men and women. In its article 17, the Constitution says: «A woman enjoys equal rights with a man in all fields of private, political and social life».

Parallel with other rights the citizens are guaranteed the right to work and this guarantees the material existence of man and enables him to develop his personality in a broad and all round way.

The right of a man to work is guaranteed mainly through the planned organization of the people's economy, as a result of which all economic crises and unemployment in Albania are eliminated.

On the basis of the article 13 of the Constitution work lies at the root of the social order in the People's Republic of Albania.

Work is no longer a day to day toilsome and torturing burden but a matter of honour and heroism for all workers. It is no longer a means to enrich others. The worker now works for himself, for the society. Work has become a means of education for all workers.

With a view to determine relations in work, to raise its efficiency and the welfare of workers and safeguard their health, a whole system of legislative acts have been passed in the People's Republic of Albania, which make up labour legislation with the Code of Labour as its basis. The Labour Code is another guarantee for workers and employees. It is the highest expression of the aims of the people's regime to improve the worker's conditions of work and living.

Inspired by the Stalinist principle according to which «man is the most valuable asset» the People's Republic of Albania devotes special attention to the health and life of workers. Parallel to limiting the hours of work, providing repose through yearly, weekly usual and supplementary vacations with pay for workers the Labour Code obliges the employers organizations to assure hygienic conditions of work under technically safe devices, like proper ventilation, proper lighting and cleanliness in work centers, proper protection to avoid machinery accidents, equipment, as the case may be, of workers with special work clothes free of charge, with slickers boots and other protective means like eye-glasses, gloves, helmets

and so on. In the branches of production likely to cause poisoning the workers are provided with milk and other neutralizing means, etc.

Taking into account the physiological peculiarities of women and their needs as mothers who bring up children, the law envisages special protection for women workers. It prohibits the employment of women in hard jobs that may impair their health. Special treatment is reserved to expectant mothers or mothers who suckle their babes. Mothers suckling their babes, in addition to the usual leave of absence before and after childbirth, which may last up to fifteen weeks, are entitled to interrupt their work in order to suckle their babes without a cut in their pay.

Labour legislation affects the young too. First and foremost, it is prohibited to employ children in work before they have attained 14 years of age. Youngsters from 14 to 16 years of age are entitled to a 6-hour day's work on equal pay with the grown ups. Youngsters are also exempted from night work or heavy work that might impair their health. They enjoy other special guarantees like prolonged vacations and so on.

All workers and employees without exception are insured by the state free of charge. As such they benefit from medical aid, free of charge, receive pecuniary aid for the time they may be sick, for food and clothing for new born children, for special diet, for funeral expenses, they receive pensions for invalidity, old age and so on. On the basis of a law passed by the People's Assembly on January 1, 1964, all citizens without exception receive medical aid of every kind free of charge.

In the socialist system there exist no contradictions between a worker and the enterprise. Both of them strive to achieve the same results — to increase production to improve the material and cultural conditions of the workers. The vanguard workers, the most outstanding shock workers head the list of honor at the socialist enterprises.

But in the People's Republic of Albania there are no rights without obligations. Thus, the citizens are duty-bound to guard and strengthen social property, which is the sacred and inviolate basis of the people's democracy, the source of power of the homeland, of the welfare and culture of all workers, they are duty-bound to defend their socialist fatherland.

Strict observance of the law is one of these obligations. Officials of the enterprises and of the Ministries are duty-

bound to apply these laws to the letter and to make others observe them in the same way.

Socialist justice, as one of the leading principles of state activity of socialist democracy, requires that laws should be strictly and continuously observed by all the enterprises, institutions and social and cooperativist organizations.

As part of its juridical superstructure, the electoral system of the People's Republic of Albania stands on the socialist economic basis of Albania. This economic basis, with the means of production in the hands of all the people, who benefit from its material goods, provides an electoral system purely democratic.

The electoral system in the People's Republic of Albania is made up of the articles of the Constitution, of the electoral (more precisely, the laws on the election of the People's Assembly, of the People's Councils and of the People's Courts of Justice) as well as of the other rules, regulations and acts which, for one reason or another, are connected with elections. The Constitution contains the most fundamental norms which are then elaborated in other juridical acts.

The electoral system of the People's Republic of Albania aims at assuring the sovereignty of the people at elections as well as between them, that is why the people are not only given the opportunity to choose the person or persons they like but also to back them up and supervise their work and even to recall them in case the need arises. The electoral system in the People's Republic of Albania aims at safeguarding the inviolable electoral rights of citizens, at assuring by all means the free expression of electors' will, at bringing home to the electors the political significance of elections and as consequence, the voluntary participation of all electors at the ballots.

Electoral rights in the People's Republic of Albania include the right to elect and the right to be elected, equal for all. Every citizen who has completed his 18th year of age enjoys the right to elect and be elected to all elective organs. The electoral right is enjoyed by all regardless of economic reasons, sex, social state, religious, cultural standing and so on. It is an equal right for every elector, man or woman, civilian or military, has but one vote of equal value with other votes, because elections are held in electoral zones of equal numbers of people (e. g. every 8000 inhabitants elect one representative to the People's Assembly) and because all the representatives enjoy equal

rights. Our suffrage is direct for the electors vote directly for their representatives to the village people's council or to the people's courts of justice or even to the People's Assembly. The method of voting by secret ballot paper in separate cabins for each individual at the election centers and under the supervision and concern of the organizations of the masses which send their representatives to the various committees, and under penal sanctions for those who violate the secrecy of the ballot, assure absolute secrecy in voting.

The organization of elections for all instances envisages a number of obligations both for the organs of the state as well as for the political and social organizations of the people. The voters themselves do nothing on their part to be registered in the electoral lists. These lists are drawn up for every election by the competent organs of the People's Councils and include all persons who complete their 18th birthday on or before the day of elections. Excluded from these lists are only the names of persons who have been deprived of their right to vote by law (in practice this number has been infinitesimal) as well as of persons suffering from mental deficiencies. The day of elections is announced not later than two months prior to elections. Every elector has the right to appeal to competent organs as high up as to the court of justice for corrections of eventual mistakes considering the omission of his name or of any other's in the electoral list.

The electoral zones which are set up on the basis of the number of residents assure the equal representation of every group of residents. The candidates proposed to be elected meet in these zones with the electors and get acquainted with them and their needs.

The electoral committees supervise the elections, check the registration of the candidates, count the number of votes and announce the results of the voting putting the names of the representatives elected in the register.

The electoral committees are made up of representatives of trade and cooperativist unions of the People's Republic of Albania, of the Democratic Front, of the youth and women's organizations, of cultural, technical and scientific organizations and of other social organizations of the masses. The electoral committees include also the representatives of the workers and employees in enterprises and ministries, of military detachments, representatives of the meetings of peasants in agricul-

tural cooperatives and villages, the representatives of workers and employees in state agricultural enterprises.

Representatives of the social organizations authorized by their organizations are entitled to attend the numbering of votes by the electoral committees. This privilege is also reserved to reporters. Thus, elections are guided, supervised and controlled by the workers themselves.

According to the dispositions of the electoral law the right to nominate candidates belongs to the social organizations and associations of workers, to the organizations of the Party of Labour of Albania, to the Democratic Front, to the Trade Unions, to the organizations of youth and of the women and to cultural organizations. This right may be exercised both by the central organs of those organizations as well as their organs in the districts, or directly in the general meetings of the workers and employees in the enterprises, of soldiers in their detachments, of peasants in their agricultural cooperatives or in the villages as well as in the meetings of the workers and employees of the state farms. No taxes, guarantees, bail and so on are required for nomination of candidates either from him or from the organizations which propose him. It is enough if the candidate enjoys the right to election, if the organization confirms in written its intention of proposing his candidature as well as if the candidate himself states in writing that he accepts his candidature for that organ and in the name of organization proposing him.

At the pre-electoral meetings more names are brought forth for discussion and approval than the number to be elected. The pre-electoral meetings are characterized by the spirit of criticism and self-criticism. The electors there pick out the persons who really deserve the trust of the electors for that post, the persons most willing and devoted to the service of the people, the most capable men to carry out the task assigned to them. To attain this objective the electors at these pre-electoral meetings discuss at large and in a critical way the activities of the representative of the people, of the new candidates and proposals and suggestions are forwarded by the masses. When candidates are proposed the electors are not only entitled but also duty-bound to express their approval or disapproval for each candidate and if the occasion arises to propose their own candidates.

The election day is always on a holiday. Ballots are cast within the same day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the territory of the People's Republic of Albania. Those persons who cannot be at the place they have been registered on election day will be issued a certificate to vote at any voting center in the Republic. Voting centers are set up in hospitals, for the sick or the electoral committee of the voting center takes a specially prepared ballot box to those who cannot move and they vote wherever they may be. Invalids who cannot write their ballot paper themselves are allowed to take a person they may trust to enter with them in the voting cabin. Those who serve in the navy and under sail at the day of voting can cast their ballot in the center of voting set up in board the ship they are on.

The candidate who receives one more vote than half the number of voters registered in the electoral zone is proclaimed the winner. The result is announced by the electoral committee, which gives to the winner a certificate. If the majority is not won the elections are repeated in a two weeks period.

The electoral system in Albania is thoroughly democratic. The first concern of the legislator is to make it easier for the elector to exercise his right as a free elector of a socialist state. This concern and the great activity of the political and social organizations during the electoral campaign are reflected in the almost full participation of the electors at the ballot box and in the fact that the candidates proposed by the workers themselves at the meetings organized by the Democratic Front during the electoral campaign have received nearly all the votes at the ballot.

The main principles of the organization and activity of state organs are defined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania and they lead to the realization of state power by the people. These principles are at the root of the other laws.

The highest organ of state power in the People's Republic of Albania is the People's Assembly. Being made up of representatives elected by direct vote by the people, the People's Assembly exercises the sovereignty of the people in the name of the people it represents. The activity of the People's Assembly aims at carrying out the main functions of direction and supervision of the people's democratic state. The sphere of action here is very broad. It includes practically all the economic, political, social and cultural fields, for there are laws that

govern the activities of the state and social organs in all fields. These laws on their part determine the juridical form of the line pursued by the Party of Labour of Albania in building socialism in Albania. The Constitution of the Republic recognizes the leading role of the Party of Labour.

The concentration of all state power in the hands of the People's Assembly is a vivid expression of the socialist democracy of the state system in the People's Republic of Albania. All state organs are dependent on the People's Assembly, a thing which finds expression in the very wide competence which the Constitution gives to the People's Assembly.

The People's Assembly approves the laws, the state budget and the economic plans of the Republic.

The People's Assembly appoints the upper state organs as the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Government, the High Court of Justice of the Republic, appoints the Attorney-General and his Deputy-Attorneys.

Legislative power is exercised by the People's Assembly alone.

The fundamental principles on which work of the People's Assembly is based are defined in the Constitution of the Republic. They are further developed in the edicts of the People's Assembly which contain also the rules of procedure pursued during its sessions.

The basis of the work system of the People's Assembly are its sessions. It holds two regular sessions a year, one usually in the spring and the second before the end of the year. This last session approves the state budget for the following year. The People's Assembly is called in irregular sessions upon the initiative of the Presidium of the People's Assembly or at the request of one-third of the representatives.

The carrying on of the work of the People's Assembly by sessions gives the representatives an opportunity to have a specific occupation in their daily lives and thus be in continuous contact with the people. As a matter of fact, no kinds of activity and legal profession is unsuitable to the functions of a deputy. Therefore the representative of the People's Assembly come from all categories and from all professions. The make up of the present legislature includes 214 representatives among whom there are workers of industry, of agriculture, of education and culture, jurists, physicians and so on, 25 of them are women.

To direct its work in sessions the People's Assembly chooses

at the beginning of each legislative period a presiding committee made up of a chairman, two vice-chairmen and a secretary. But up to the choice of this committee the first meeting of each legislature is presided by the oldest member of the house. Tradition has it and the bylaws sanction it, that before beginning its proceedings the first session of the newly elected body, ten of the representatives most advanced in years get together and choose one of their number to preside at the meetings until the mandates of the representatives are verified and the presiding committee of the People's Assembly has been chosen. The group of Elders carries on a lively activity taking the initiative on matters of practical activity of the People's Assembly, especially during the first session of every new legislature.

The People's Assembly approve its agenda itself. But taking into account the time limits set forth in the bylaws for distributing the draft laws and reports of committees not later than 24 hours before they are taken up for discussion, the presiding committee of the People's Assembly takes steps to hand to the representatives the necessary material to start work in their sessions in time. During the sessions the agenda may be amended by decision of the People's Assembly.

In order to make a detailed study of the drafts presented to the People's Assembly, the latter appoints committees according to the needs and in the manner specified by the dispositions of the bylaws. The present as well as the former legislature prior to this have appointed the following permanent committees in addition to the auditing committee: the juridical committee, the budget committee, the economic committee, the committee for social and cultural problems and the committee for foreign affairs. The People's Assembly can set up also temporary committees for specific matters and it can also increase or decrease the existing committees, it can at any time dismiss or replace the members of these committees in part or as a whole. When committees are set up the People's Assembly appoints the chairman of each of them while the members of each committee, choose their own vice-chairman and secretary. The various draft laws introduced in these committees undergo a detailed study and discussion. The committees often send their members and various experts to examine on the spot the activity of the state organs or enterprises connected with the draft law under study. Useful work in this direction is done by the budget and economic committees to secure a rise in

incomes, a lowering of expenditure and sounder work in the field of social production. The committees may at times set up sub-committees which are of necessity presided over by a member of the committee. These subcommittees may call representatives who are not members of these committees and specialists who are not representatives to the People's Assembly, to come and work with them. All state organs are obliged to give to the committees of the People's Assembly all the necessary information and other help in order that these committees may fulfil their tasks successfully.

The committees express their opinion to the People's Assembly through a written report. A copy of this report is presented in writing to each deputy not later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. When opinions in the committee differ the report is drawn up by the majority, but the members of the minority have a right to defend their views at the meeting of the People's Assembly.

The laws promulgated by the People's Assembly pass through a number of phases. The initiative to introduce laws lies with the Presidium of the People's Assembly, the Government, the committees of the People's Assembly and each representative. A condition which the initiator is required to fill, is to introduce the draft law in writing, drawn up in the form of a law and accompanied by an exposition. Only amendments to the Constitution cannot be introduced by any representative. In this case initiative can be taken by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, by the Government and by a group of representatives containing two-fifths of all the representatives of the People's Assembly. The draft law is first taken up by the competent committee and then by People's Assembly in a plenary session. The discussion at first is made on the draft law in principle and the voting is taken on it in principle. Then every article is taken up and voted upon separately. Amendments to the law are voted upon before the initial draft. Then the final vote is taken as a whole. A final vote is also taken of the amendments passed during the discussions. The promulgation of laws is a matter of pure procedure. The law is announced by the Presidium of the People's Assembly and bears the date of its approval at the session. The Presidium has no right to suspend or put any other obstacle in promulgating laws.

The Presidium of People's Assembly is its permanent organ. It exercises the functions of the collective presidency of

the state. The Chairman of the Presidium acts in relations with the outside world but all decisions and decrees are taken collectively in the meetings of the Presidium. The competences of the Presidium as a head of state, are wide and defined in the Constitution of the Republic.

The Presidium of the People's Assembly calls the sessions of the People's Assembly; sets the time for elections; decides on the compatibility of laws with the Constitution, provided this decision is later approved by the People's Assembly; interprets laws; promulgates laws that have been published; issues decrees (when decrees contain juridical regulations they are to be introduced for approval at the next session of the People's Assembly); exercises the right of indulgence in conformity with the law; awards decorations and titles of honor; ratifies or denounces international treaties except when it deems it propitious that the ratification or denunciation of such treaties be made by the People's Assembly; on the proposition of the Government appoints or recalls the envoys extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary; receives letters of credentials and of recall of diplomatic representatives of foreign states, appoints and recalls the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the People's Republic of Albania; between two sessions of the People's Assembly it proclaims general mobilization and the state of war in case of an armed aggression against the People's Republic of Albania or when this is necessary to fulfil the obligations arising from the international treaties of mutual defence against an aggression; on the proposition of the Chairman of the Government appoints and dismisses ministers between two sessions of the People's Assembly; on the proposition of the head of the Government sets up committees in the ranks of the Government and appoints their chairman; on the proposal of the Government designates the undertakings of general importance to the state which should be under direct management of a Ministry or a government committee; on the basis of the decisions of the People's Assembly or on the proposal of the Government proclaims people's referendums on various issues. According to the Constitution the right to approve the state budget is confined to the People's Assembly and to it alone, thus, the competences of the Presidium are limited in this direction. But the Constitution on the other hand, has assigned a series of competences to the Presidium of the People's Assembly which it exercises also when the People's Assembly

is in session. Thus the task of the Presidium as a collective head of state is brought in line with its responsibility to the People's Assembly which appoints and may discharge it at any time.

The representatives to the People's Assembly enjoy a series of rights closely linked with the discharge of their duties as representatives of the people. The Constitution guarantees to them parliamentary immunity. In the People's Assembly they are entitled to pose questions and summon the ministers and government to a debate. The representatives to the People's Assembly are entitled to a monthly remuneration, to the free use of all state means of transport and to other privileges. Having so many rights the representatives to the People's Assembly are at the same time conscious of their duty; they know that the people have trusted them and that this trust is to be rewarded with active and conscientious service to the people.

According to the article 61 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania the Government is the highest executive authority of the People's Republic of Albania.

The Government is appointed and dismissed by the People's Assembly. At the first session of each legislature the head of the Government hands the resignation of his Government to the newly-elected People's Assembly. The resignation of the Government is put to vote and may or may not be accepted. When the People's Assembly accepts the resignation of the Government, a representative or a group of representatives propose that a certain person be charged with forming the new Government which he is going to head. The list introduced by the new head of Government is discussed in the People's Assembly and if it is approved a decision is passed on the appointment of the new Government.

The Government of the People's Republic of Albania is a true organ of the people as it is appointed by the People's Assembly which, on its part, is an organ chosen directly by the people.

The Government is responsible to the People's Assembly to which it renders account for its work. Between two sessions of the People's Assembly it is responsible to the Presidium of the People's Assembly.

The Government acts on the basis of the Constitution and of laws and it issues ordinances and supervises their application and the application of other laws in power.

The Government draw the general economic plan of the state and the general budget of the state and present them to the People's Assembly for approval and supervise their application, they direct the credit and monetary system, take all steps necessary to secure and defend the constitutional order and the rights of citizens, direct the general organization of the army, maintain relations with foreign states, see to it that treaties and international obligations are observed, they introduce the projects drafted by them or by each Minister to the People's Assembly, draw up the internal organization of the Ministries and of the dependent institutions, set up committees and institutions to carry out economic, cultural and national defense measures.

According to the article 64 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania the Government is made up of the Chairman, deputy-Chairmen, Ministers, the President of the State Control Commission and the President of the State Planning Commission.

The head of Government proposes the make-up of the Government, presides at meetings and directs their activity, represents the Government both in the country and abroad.

The President of the State Control Commission and the President of the State Planning Commission are of the same rank as the Ministers. The Ministers head their Ministries. According to the article 69 of the Constitution there are 13 Ministries.

The State Control Commission and the State Planning Commission are of equal rank with the Ministries.

The Ministries direct the work of the institutions, enterprises and organizations dependent on them.

The activities of each Ministry are directed by the Minister who examines the most important problems with his deputy — Ministers, with the leading employees of the Ministry and with the Ministerial Board.

In addition to the work of directing their Ministries the Ministers take part in solving all important problems taken up at the Ministerial Council.

According to the article 68 of the Constitution, the Ministers issue decrees and instructions, within the bounds of their competence and conformable to laws, seeing to it that the laws, decisions and ordinances of the Government are carried out to the letter.

Speaking about the program of the Government of the People's Republic of Albania to the People's Assembly on July 16, 1962, Premier Mehmet Shehu said: «The program of the new Government of our People's Republic, just as that of its predecessor, consists of carrying out to the letter the line of the Party to build socialism in our country, to protect the highest interests of the people, of the homeland and of socialism from any foe, to defend peace. In its internal policy the program of the Government aims at carrying out the task assigned by the IVth Congress of the Party regarding the 3d five-year plan, at building socialism and at continually raising the welfare of the people. In foreign policy the program of the Government aims at consolidating the position of the People's Republic of Albania in the international arena, at defending our socialist fatherland against any eventual danger from outside, at strengthening the fraternal friendship and collaboration between socialist countries, at strengthening the unity of the socialist camp on the basis of the principles of marxism-leninism and of proletarian internationalism, at giving unreserved support to the national-liberation and anti-colonialist struggle of the oppressed peoples, to the revolutionary struggle of the international working class, to peaceful co-existence with other non-socialist countries and to strengthening peace in the Balkans and in the world».

This program was enthusiastically hailed by all the Albanian people who have full confidence in their people's Government.

On the basis of the article 71 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania the local organs of state power, the People's Councils, together with the People's Assembly make up the political basis of the Albanian state.

The fundamental principles of the organization and activity of the People's Councils are consecrated in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania and are further amplified in the law on the people's councils of November 26, 1953. This law is still in force, though slightly ammended during subsequent years. The principles on the organization and activity of the people's councils specified in the Constitution and laws of the People's Republic of Albania, aim at giving the local organs of state power a truly representative character, at making the repeated control of the masses on their activity most effective, at securing the active participation of these masses in the daily work of these local organs of state power.

The system of People's Councils is built to conform to the

territorial administrative division of the country delineated in the decision of the People's Assembly of February 1958 and its modifications. The whole of Albania's territory is divided into counties. The city of Tirana is an administrative unit by itself. The country is divided into localities and towns. The locality is an administrative unit made up of a number of towns and villages or of a number of villages, or of a number of towns. Big towns are subdivided into districts.

To correspond to this administrative division of the territory of the country there are in the People's Republic of Albania people's councils of counties, towns, localities, villages and districts.

The People's Councils are elected for a three-year term of office by citizens who have reached their 18th year of age by direct, secret and general ballot.

Time and again the People's Councils call meetings of the electors to whom they render account of the work they have done. The electors have the right to recall the people's councils or any member of the people's council who has not deserved the trust of the people in him, before the termination of the three-year term of office.

The lower People's Council is dependent upon and renders account to the People's Council of superior rank: village, locality, town and county. The city of Tirana makes an exception and is of county rank. Thus, there is a double dependence of the People's Councils, on the people and on the higher People's Council.

The People's Councils meet in regular periodic sessions and in extraordinary sessions; the regular sessions are called by the Executive Committees of the People's Councils while they are called in extraordinary sessions by their Executive Committees or at the request of one-third of their members, or at the request of the superior People's Councils and their Executive Committees or at the request of the higher organs of state power or of the state administration.

The meetings of the People's Councils are valid if there is a quorum present.

In order to carry on their work the People's Councils choose their Executive Committees and various other committees from their ranks. The People's Councils carry out most of their work through their Executive Committees while through the various

other committees they exercise control over the enterprises, institutions and organizations within their jurisdiction.

It is the duty of the People's Councils to direct the economic and cultural life within the territory under their jurisdiction, to supervise the application of laws, to keep public order, to safeguard the rights of citizens, to look after the realization of the economic plan and of the local budget, to choose their executive committees, to dismiss them or any of their members when they fail to fulfill their tasks, to set up permanent as well as temporary committees. The County People's Councils and the Tirana People's Council are authorized to choose the judges and assistant judges of the district courts of justice.

According to the article 73 of the Constitution the People's Councils are authorized to issue decrees and ordinances conformable to the Constitution and other laws and with instructions from higher organs of state power. The People's Councils may annul the decisions and ordinances of the executive committees chosen by them as well as the decisions and ordinances of the lower people's councils.

The Executive Committees chosen by the People's Councils are the local organs of authority. There are no executive committees of people's councils in villages. The work of the Executive Committees in the villages is done by the People's Councils themselves.

The Executive Committees of the People's Councils are chosen by the latter at their first meeting after elections. The Executive Committees consist of the chairman, deputy-chairmen, secretary and committee members.

The Executive Committees have their separate departments and offices. Thus, for instance, they have their department of industry, agriculture, education etc.

The Executive Committees draw up and send to the People's Councils for approval the economic and cultural plans for the territory under their jurisdiction and supervise their application, they draw up and send to the People's Councils for approval the plan of the local budget and take steps to see to it that it is carried out, they see to it that laws, decrees, decisions and ordinances of the government and of the other higher organs, as well as the decisions and ordinances of their own People's Councils are carried out and they take steps to safeguard socialist property and to protect the rights and interests of the citizens living in their territory.

The Executive Committees are dependent on the People's Councils that have chosen them and on the higher executive committees. The higher Executive Committees direct and supervise the work of the lower Executive Committees. The higher Executive Committees may annul also the decisions and ordinances of the lower Executive Committees. The Executive Committees of the higher People's councils exercise supervision over the activities of the lower People's Councils, enjoying the right sanctioned by the Constitution to suspend the execution of the decision and ordinances issued by them when they are contrary to law or not in proper form, and they may request the higher people's councils to annul them.

The Executive Committees are entitled to issue decisions and ordinances while the chiefs of the departments and offices of the Executive Committees to issue orders and instructions.

Justice in the People's Republic of Albania is exercised by the Higher Court, the Circuit Courts, the People's Courts and the Courts-martial.

In their work the courts of justice are in duty-bound to protect from any encroachment:

a) the social and state organization of the People's Republic of Albania, the socialist system of economy and socialist property,

b) the political, work, dwelling rights and the personal rights and interests as well as property rights of citizens.

c) the rights and interests guaranteed by law of the state institutions, of the enterprises, cooperatives and other social organizations.

The courts of justice carry out these duties by trying penal cases in juridical sittings and by meting out the punishment specified by law to traitors and criminals as well by settling conflicts connected with the rights and interests of citizens, of state institutions, of enterprises, cooperatives and social organizations.

Tribunals are the same and equal for all citizens regardless of their social standing, of their wealth, standard of culture, nationality, race or religion.

They are independent in exercising their functions, they pass judgment on the basis of law and pronounce their sentences in the name of the people. The judges pass sentences based on the law and on their inner conviction. No person or organ can interfere and give instructions to judges regarding the decision they are to take.

Court sittings are held with doors open except in cases when it is necessary to guard a state, military or diplomatic secret, when sexual cases are being tried or when crimes are committed by children under 16 years of age. In all cases, however, the decisions must be announced publicly.

All trials are conducted in Albanian, those who do not know Albanian speak through interpreters.

Another characteristic that determines the democratic character of judges is the fact that they are elected; the people's judges are chosen directly by the people while the circuitous, martial and high courts of justice are chosen by organs which are themselves chosen by the people, namely the People's Assembly. Any person enjoying the electoral rights, that is, any citizen 18 years old and above, can be a judge.

The participation of people in trials is determined also by the fact that the courts of justice examine the cases before them through a juridical body made up of a judge and two assistant judges who are also chosen by the people.

With the exception of those of the High Court of Justice all decisions of the tribunals may be protested within a specified period of time. Annulment of sentences that have passed the final stage can only be demanded by the Attorney-General and the President of the High Court of Justice.

According to the article 85 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania the following tribunals function in the country; the High Court of Justice, the Courts-martial, the Circuit and the People's Courts.

The High Court of Justice is the highest organ of justice in the People's Republic of Albania. It is chosen by the People's Assembly for a period of four years.

The High Court of Justice supervises the work of all tribunals, examines complaints and protests against decisions taken by the Circuit Courts and Courts-martial, it also takes up and passes on the request of the Attorney-General or of the Chief Justice of the High Court on issues of breach of law by sentences that have taken final form.

The High Court of Justice is made up of the Chief Justice, the vice-Chairmen, the members and assistant-judges with these boards: for penal cases, for civil cases, for military and for disciplinary cases.

The penal and civil boards of the High Court of Justice take up issues of special importance in session made up of the Chief Justice or a member of the High Court and two assistant judges, whereas complaints, protests and requests in defence of breach of law against sentences that have taken definite form are taken up in the sittings of three members of the High Court.

The military board of the High Court may take up cases of the first instance in a sitting of three members of the military board.

The examination of request in defence of legality presented by the Attorney-General or the Chief Justice of the High Court against decisions of the boards of the High Court is made by the plenum of the High Court made up of the Chief Justice, vice-chairmen and all the members of the High Court. The Attorney-General also takes part in the plenum and the Minister of Justice may also take part in it.

The Courts-martial are chosen by the People's Assembly and between two of its sessions by the Presidium of the People's Assembly for a three-year term of office. The Courts-martial are made up of their chairmen, vice-chairmen and assistant judges. The Courts-martial try only offenses against the state and crimes committed by army men.

The Circuit Courts are chosen by the People's Councils of counties under their jurisdiction for a 3-year term of office.

The Circuit Court is made up of its chairman, its members and its assistant-judges and tries penal and civil cases which the law has left to their competence. The Circuit Court takes up also complaints and protests against penal and civil sentences passed by the people's councils.

The Circuit Court has its penal and civil boards which try cases in the first instance by a body made up of the court and two assistant-judges, whereas the complaints and protests against decisions of the People's Courts at a sitting of three members of the court.

The number of Circuit Courts, their seats and territorial jurisdiction are fixed by the Presidium of the People's Assembly on the recommendation of the Ministry of Justice.

The people's courts of justice are elected by the people by general, equal, direct and secret ballot for a three-year

term of office. They try first instance cases in sessions of one people's judge and two assistant-judges.

The number of people's courts of justice, their seats and their territorial jurisdiction are set by the People's Assembly at the proposal of the Ministry of Justice.

The right to propose candidates for people's judges and people's assistant-judges belongs to the worker's organizations and associations as well as to the general meetings of workers, employees, peasants and army men in their centers of work or of service.

People's judges render account to the electors for their work and the work of the people's courts and may be recalled at any time by their electors if they have abused their trust.

The Attorney-General's office is an organ of the People's Assembly. The main duty of this office is the enforcement of laws and the protection of state and social property. Guided by this principle the Attorney-General's office supervises and checks if the decisions, ordinances, orders and instructions of the local state institutions and organs conform to the Constitution, to the laws, decisions and ordinances of the Government. It supervises the correct and strict application of laws and other legal dispositions by the local institutions and state organs, by the social organizations, persons of authority and by citizens, supervises the correct and uniform application of laws by the organs of justice, starts the indictment for penal offenses and follows it up to all instances in all the courts of the People's Government of Albania, supervises, on the basis of special dispositions, the legitimacy of the acts and the regular activity of the organs of the Ministry of Interior.

The Attorney-General and his assistants appointed and recalled by the People's Assembly, head the office of the Attorney.

The Attorney-General directs all the work of the office issuing orders and instructions both of a general nature as well as for specific cases. The Attorney-General is responsible to the People's Assembly for the work of his office.

The attorneys of counties, the military attorneys and their assistants are appointed and dismissed by the Attorney-General to whom they also render account for their work.

The organs of the office of attorneys are independent of all local organs and depend only on the Attorney-General.

The organs of the attorney's office are built on the prin-

ciple of full centralization. The attorney of higher rank is entitled to suspend or annul every anomalous act of the attorney of lower rank. Whereas the principle of democratization finds expression in the appointment of the Attorney-General and his assistants by the People's Assembly.

The attorney has the right to protest against the verdicts given by the courts of justice within his jurisdiction. The Attorney-General has the right to present a demand to defend the law against unappealed verdicts, by ordering, at the same time the suspension of the execution of the verdict against which the demand is made.

All the state organs, institutions, social organizations and citizens are obliged to give the attorney the informations, explanations and other material he needs if he asks for them.

No one can be held in custody for more than three days without the approval of the attorney and no one can be arrested without a verdict of the court or the approval of the attorney.

Attorneys are assisted in fulfilling their functions by the people's attorneys who are elected by the people in every district, village or work center.

Through their work the attorneys help enforce socialist justice, form socialist conscience among citizens and build socialism in our country.

All the achievements the Albanian people have attained in building and strengthening their state of the People's Democracy are due to the leading and organizational role of the Party of Labour of Albania, a party of the marxist-leninist type.

The role of leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania in the state and social life of the country is recognized by the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania. In the article 21 of the Constitution we read that the party "is the organized vanguard of the working class and of all the laboring masses in their struggle to build the basis of socialism, and it is the nucleus of leadership of all the organizations of the workers, both social as well as of the state".

The policy of the Party of Labour of Albania is the basis of existence of the people's democratic order in Albania. The Party leads the development of the country along the only correct path which is based on the objective laws of development of society, on the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, on the experience of the fraternal Marxist-leninist parties.

The Party of Labour of Albania leads the people's democratic state within the bounds of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania. The members of the Party of Labour of Albania play a leading role in the state organs, for in choosing their representative to the state organs, the workers place their trust first and foremost on the members of the Party of Labour of Albania.

The highest expression of the role of leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania lies in the fact that the state organs take no decisions of importance without the respective instructions of the Party. The Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, the laws on economic plans, acts of legal importance regarding the electoral system, with the organization and functions of the local organs of state power etc., were elaborated and enacted on the initiative and under the guidance of the Party of Labour of Albania.

The Party of Labour of Albania guides not only the activity of the state organs but also that of all the organizations of the masses in Albania, to wit, the Trade Unions, the Union of the Labor Youth of Albania, the Union of the Albanian Women, the cooperatives and other organizations of the masses. This, of course doesn't mean that these organizations submit to the Party. The Party guides them by the force of its authority and prestige.

To make its role of the leadership felt in the life of the country the Party of Labour of Albania sets up the groups of the Party in all the elected organs of the democratic people's state and in the social organizations. These groups are set up, as the article 69 of the statute of the Party of Labour of Albania has it, wherever there are not less than 3 party members present. The groups of the party are in duty bound to strengthen the influence of the Party and the application of its policy among the non-party members, to enforce state discipline, to fight against bureaucracy, to supervise the carrying out of the directives of the Party. The party groups are dependent on the respective organs of the Party (on the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Party committees) and are guided in their activity by the decisions of the leading organs of the Party.

The organizations of the masses of workers led by the Party of Labour of Albania, join in the Democratic Front. The Democratic Front is a powerful organization that links the

broad masses of people with the Party. Under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the Democratic Front mobilizes the Albanian people in their active fight to build up socialism in Albania.

United in the Democratic Front around the Party of Labour of Albania and the People's Government, the Albanian people are dead set on overcoming all obstacles, lying in the way to socialist edification.



Twenty years of free life have shown the vitality and superiority of the socialist order in our country. The unparalleled successes which the People's Power has scored in all spheres of life of the country have further strengthened and turned Albania into a granitic rock on the Adriatic sea-coast.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL ECONOMY IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA DURING 20 YEARS

November 29, 1944 marked the most glorious victory in the history of the Albanian people: the complete liberation of Albania from the fascist yoke and from the fierce rule of the reactionaries and traitors to the country. The enemies were crushed. A dark epoch in which oppression, exploitation, injustice and ignorance prevailed came to an end and on its ruins there arose the new epoch of new Albania. There really came for Albania that epoch which was sung by the great Albanian poet, Naim Frashëri:

Happy will be he that will live
to see her free!...

The 20-year period of the free life, of the people's power, it is the period of the country's regeneration, of the renewal development and all-round progress of Albania; it is the period of the flourishing of the people's inexhaustible energies, but recently oppressed and choked by the feudal system that ruled in the country. Twenty years, a comparatively short period but full of great events which are linked with the revolutionary changes in the life of a country and people, social and economic transformations which led from the overthrow of the exploiting classes, landlords and bourgeoisie to the building of socialist society.

Social-economic reforms — an indispensable step for the country's development

Before liberation Albania was the most backward country in Europe, with marked vestiges of feudalism. King Zog's rule left the country and the people in great poverty. The keys to

the national economy were in the hands of foreign monopolies which aimed at colonizing Albania. Thus, commerce, animal husbandry, forests, mines, agriculture, treasury, posts, maritime and air communications, etc. were sold to foreign powers through conventions, concessions and other means. Such companies as «S.V.E.A.», «A.I.P.A.», «E.I.A.A.», «Anglo-Persian Oil», «Standard Oil of New-York» and other companies were exploiting Albania's wealth. At that time the Albanian people were suffering, unemployment was high, there were also cases of death from hunger.

The economy at that time was of a semi-feudal and semi-colonial nature. It was very primitive and backward. Agriculture relied mainly on hand implements, on wooden plough and small partitioned production. As regards industry, there could be no question about it. It existed rather in the form of handicraft. Even those few workshops that existed were very primitive. The home bourgeoisie was not concerned at all with building up an industry, and the less so the ruling regime. Foreign monopolies likewise were not making any investments as they were getting the raw material from here and processed it in their own countries. To this miserable situation in the country's economy was added the great educational and cultural backwardness of the people. Over 80 per cent of the population were illiterate.

War brought great calamities to the Albanian people. In addition to considerable casualties the nazi-fascist invaders and the traitors to the country caused many material damages. They set fire to the villages and cities, took away hundreds of thousands of head of cattle, blew up bridges, destroyed roads, mines and schools. Albania is one of the countries that has suffered much heavier damages than many other countries. Thus, in such conditions, the new people's power was faced with great difficult tasks concerning the country's social and economic restoration. From the very outset (from December 12, 1944 and onwards) a series of measures were adopted which aimed at settling in the first place the agrarian problem (the principal question of the democratic and anti-feudal revolution) as well as the democratisation of the country's life, the uprooting of the fascist vestiges, liquidation of the resistance of the overthrown classes, opening of new horizons for the allround development of the country, etc.

Taking into account the fact that one of the century-old aspirations of peasantry, one of their greatest dreams, had been the seizure of land for which they had fought against the ruling beys and landlords, the People's Power promulgated on August 29, 1945 the law on the land reform. Before the implementation of the land reform 7 landlords owned 14, 554 hectares of land, distributed in such a way as an average of 2,079 hectares of land belonged to every family. 4,713 rich landlords possessed 91,133 hectares of land, that is 19 hectares of land per family. The state domains included 50,000 hectares of land, while 128,961 middle and small landowners had 237,668 hectares of land. 21,544 peasant families did not have even a span of land. In brief, the latifundists and big landowners who accounted for the 3 per cent of the peasant farmsteads, together with the state domains, possessed almost half of the arable area of that time, while the rest of the land belonged to the middle and poor peasantry, which accounted for the 83 per cent of the peasant farmsteads. 14 per cent of the farmsteads were completely landless. Such a situation shows the great difference between the peasant groups concerning the land ownership as well as the marked inequality in the feudal-bourgeois oppressive and exploiting social order.

The land reform was carried out very quickly. It was completed on November 17th 1954. It was one of the principal reforms of the people's power, fully liquidating big landowners and eliminating the feudal relations in the country-side. Important is the fact that this big revolutionary action was carried out with the broad participation of poor peasantry under the leadership of the working class, through the poor peasant committees. The implementation of the land reform brought about the following results: there were completely expropriated 8,714 landowners with 54,499 hectares of land and 287,944 olive trees; there were partly expropriated 10,641 landowners with 64,947 hectares of land and 125,259 olive trees. Religious institutions were deprived of 3,163 hectares of land and 61,024 olive trees while the state domains remained untouched. There were set up in them the State Agricultural Enterprises (state farms). The land reform measured and distributed altogether 320,000 of hectares of land, 474,277 olive trees and 5,923 draft animals. 48,667 poor families and 21,544 landless families received a total of 155,195 hectares of land, 238,727 olive trees and about 6000 draft animals. Thus the land reform

expropriated without compensation the big landowners, the beys and religious institutions, partly those that owned over 5 hectares of land, the kulaks as well as all those who did not cultivate the land themselves.

The people's power could not leave aside the other problems of the farmsteads. It carried out a series of measures which led to the nationalization of the shareholder companies, of the industrial enterprises (set up during the fascist occupation) and which were property of foreign capital. In the early days after the liberation there was confiscated all the property of the traitors to the country, who had collaborated with the invaders, there was carried out the state control on production and distribution in the industrial enterprises, there were established state prices in the wholesale private trade, trading of gold was forbidden, the state control was established on foreign trade, extraordinary taxes were imposed on merchants that had speculated during the war, etc. During the 1945-1946 period there was carried out the nationalisation of the whole industry that belonged to the local bourgeoisie, there was established the full state monopoly on foreign trade, the wholesale domestic trade was taken over by the state. Transport, banks, etc., which were a property of foreign capital, were nationalised. There were taken over by the state a total of 90 shareholder companies and foreign capital enterprises. Mines were also nationalized. Thus, the key sectors in economy, — industry, transport, banking system, wholesale trade, etc. — were definitely taken over by the state. Thus, there came into being the state sector of economy which had a socialist character and served as an economic foundation for the gradual development of the backward economy on the road of progress.

These essentially revolutionary reforms, which met with the unanimous support of the working masses, brought about the elimination of the economic domination of foreign monopolies and the local bourgeoisie, created that indispensable economic foundation without which the political power should be endangered and the up-building of socialism could not be started and finally there came into being socialist relations in production, such as in industry, commerce, transport, etc, laying thereby the foundations for a planned economy.

The indispensability of carrying out these reforms was dictated by the needs and historical conditions in which Albania was immediately after liberation. The reconstruction of the

country had to be done, the wounds caused by the war had to be healed and the country's life had to be normalized within the shortest possible time. And this could not be done without liquidating the exploiting social order. The people translated into reality the reforms and other measures adopted by the Government, showing a great patriotic enthusiasm.

On the other side the People's Power aimed at building up a socialist society. To attain this aim social economic changes had to be made without fail on socialist foundations, creating socialist relations in production in all the sectors of national economy, and build up the material and technical basis of socialism and carry out the technical revolution. This is why the people's power acted with so much dynamism and rapidity carrying out a series of reforms of great political and economic-social importance. Upon the liquidation for ever of the economic basis of the exploiting classes, and consequently of the exploitation of man by man, the Albanian people started the work for the building of a new life, developing at an unprecedented rate all the sectors of national economy.

New socialist industry — the pride of the P.R.A. of the people's power and the Albanian people

The Albanian people had always dreamed of having their own national industry. In the course of history, alongside with the struggle for freedom and independence, the most distinguished representatives of National Revival, people of a broad outlook that were concerned with the future of the homeland, have gone on record for the establishment and development of a national industry. Of course, this remained only a wishful thinking because at that time this dream could not be translated into reality due to the fact that Albania was a very backward country; she was under the rule of foreigners and later of the feudo-bourgeois cliques which left her in a profound darkness. Albania's wealth was exploited by foreign monopolies which did not even think of setting up here any kind of industry.

Before liberation, in the full meaning of the word, there could be no question of industry. This sector, within the general framework of the entire economy, accounted for only 9.8

per cent of production. At that time there were in Albania only a few very small factories and workshops of a local nature, employing a very small number of workers (in 1938 there were not more than 3,000 workers all over the country, who had to work 12-14 hours and more daily) and a very primitive technique in which the hand-work prevailed. This «industry» was producing in the first place some consumption items to meet the country's needs, such as macaroni, flour, hides, soap, cigarettes, oil. Some progress had been made by the oil industry, but it was entirely in the hands of foreign companies. Power industry, too, was quite backward. In the year 1938 there were only 18 power stations with a total generating capacity of 3,200 kws with an annual production of about 3,000,000 kwhs. During the occupation years of 1939-1944, this capacity rose up to 4,700 kws with an annual production of 6,500,000 kwhs. Likewise, there were some very primitive mines, which were exploited without any technological criterion by foreign monopolies and local owners. Other industrial branches did not exist.

The heavy rule of various invaders, the preservation of marked vestiges of feudalism up to Albania's liberation, the antinational and anti-popular policy of the ruling classes, the great ravages caused to Albania by the second world war — all these bear witness to the fact that, just as in all the other sectors, in the industrial sector backwardness had been exceptionally great.

On the threshold of the country's liberation those small and scarce industrial branches were giving less than 50 per cent of the 1938 production. As a matter of fact, the situation was as follows: No mine was functioning, they had been either blown up or closed. Raw material was lacking — such as coal, petrol; there was a lack of other auxiliary materials as well as many machines. Such was the picture of the so called industry immediately after the country's liberation. Thus, in such conditions, the People's Power had to start its difficult struggle for the construction of an entirely new industry which could serve as an important foundation for the development of the other branches of national economy. With regard to Albania industrialization was an objective historic and economic indispensability. The need for the country's industrialization was dictated, in the first place, by the indispensability of strengthening the positions of the working class as a leader of all the working

masses for the up-building of socialism; secondly, by the need to produce as many items as possible at home in order better to meet the growing material and cultural requirements of the working people; thirdly, by the immediate demand to help in the socialist transformation of agriculture and, fourthly, by the national duty to lessen imports as much as possible so that to put an end to the country's dependence on foreign countries. Therefore, the People's Power, since the early days of its activity, considered the country's industrialization and electrification as a first-rate task.

Of course, at the beginning industrialization started with light industry, but the People's Power did not neglect heavy industry; it even developed it at fast rates. This is because the material and technical foundation of socialism cannot be built up only with the light industry. Moreover, without developing heavy industry Albania's great riches could not be exploited, work could not be provided to the labour force, national income could not be increased nor the purchasing power of the working masses could grow.

The organisation of new industry required a big and difficult work. After the taking over by the State of all factories, mines, etc., there was carried out their merger into big production enterprises. Foundations were laid for a planned industrial production. As a result of these measures, industry managed, as early as in 1946, to give 96 per cent of the 1938 production, and in 1947 work began on the basis of annual plans. Important investments were made so that in 1948 Albania's industrial production exceeded twofold the pre-war level.

Within the framework of the development of the entire national economy, the People's Power mapped out the perspective economic plans. Thus, during the years 1949-1950 the two-year plan was carried out. There were invested in it more than 4,150,000,000 leks, of which almost 50 per cent in industry. Proceeding from the principle that industry constitutes the basis of the socialist, economic organisation and that Albania's transition from backward technico-economic and semi-feudal state, to the building of socialism, was to be done directly overpassing the stage of the developed industrial capitalism, the People's Power undertook the construction of the first big industrial projects.

Under the first 5-year plan (1951-1955) there were set up and put into operation some 150 factories, workshops or new

State or cooperative industrial production enterprises, in the sector of the construction, mining and handicraft Ministry. The most important industrial projects that were constructed and put into operation during the first five-year plan period include: the «Stalin» textile combine in Tirana, the «November 8th» sugar combine in Korça, the «Nako Soiru» wood-working combine at Elbasan, the cotton ginning factories at Fieri and Rogozhina, the «Vasil Shanto» tobacco fermentation works in Shkodra, the «V. I. Lenin» cement factory in Vlora, the «Lenin» hydro-power station in Tirana, the rice ginning factory in Vlora, the tannin extraction factory also in Vlora, etc. During that five-year plan period capital investment reached 17,246,000,000 leks, about half of which were used in the young industry. By the end of the first five-year plan the industrial production grew 11 times as compared with the year 1938, and 179 per cent as against 1950. Under the first five-year plan Albania was transformed from a backward agricultural country into an agricultural-industrial one. And for this there were not required more than 10 years after liberation.

The first five-year plan was an historic period in which the Albanian working people learned how to work concretely for the up-building of socialism, for a planned economic and cultural development and how to manage the national economy. This was the five-year period of the formation of a new, militant and heroic working class.

The second five-year plan (1956-1960) brought new victories to the Albanian people. In the field of industry the main task of this plan was the development especially of mining industry, the exploitation of new mineral resources, the expansion of power industry, the food and other industries. But the main feature of industrial production during this period has been that of development of means of production at faster rates than that of means of consumption.

During the second five-year plan period there was completed the construction of and put into operation over 250 important economic, social and cultural projects. The most important among them have been the «Karl Marx» hydro-power station, the high tension lines with a total length of 400 kms. for the distribution of electric power to the country's main industrial centers, the oil processing plans in the City of Stalin and Cerrik, together with the pipeline, the Alarupi coal mine, the Kurb-

nesh copper ore mine, those of iron-nickel at Pishkash and Çervenake, the chromium ore mines at Tropoja and Martanesh, the copper concentration factory at Kurbnesh, the brick works, the velvet cloth factory, the glass works in Tirana, the fruit and vegetable preserve factories, the grape processing factories, the tobacco fermentation plants as well as many other projects.

During this period there were set up new industrial branches such as the oil processing industry, the iron nickel and chromium ore extraction industry, the metal, wood, glass and ceramics, textile, food and other industries. The extraction of oil, coal, chromium, copper and bitumen, the production of electric power, building materials, etc., were increased also.

The total volume of industrial output for the 1956-1960 period was completed in 4 years and 9 months, that of mining industry in 4 and a half years, while the level of industrial production established for 1960 was reached one year ahead of schedule. At the end of 1960, in less than six months, there was produced as much as it was produced in 1955, or the 1938 production was reached in 1960 in less than 15 days. The "Karl Marx" hydropower station alone produces in 3 days as much electric power as there was produced during one year throughout Albania. The Tirana city is supplied today with 25 times more power than the whole of Albania was supplied in 1938. If the 1938 industrial development level were to be preserved, to realize the total production of coal which was realized in 1957, it would take 64 years, for chromium — 23 years, electric power — 14 years, etc. As early as in 1957 Albania produced per capita: electric power 18 per cent more than Turkey, coal 4.7 times more than Italy, and nearly 30 per cent more than Greece; chromium 20 times more than Greece, 16 times more than Yugoslavia, nearly 3 times more than Turkey, cotton textiles 1.5 times more than Turkey, 25 per cent more than Greece and 14 per cent more than Yugoslavia.

Taking 1960 as a basis, compared with 1938, the textile industry production grew 95 times, that of food industry 24 times, coal 78 times, crude oil 6.7 times, wood industry 65 times, cement 8 times, power 21 times, etc. During the years 1951-1959 the average annual rate of the growth of industrial production in the Peoples' Republic of Albania has been 20.6 per cent, while in Greece 8.8 per cent, in Yugoslavia 11.3 per cent, in Italy 8.3 per cent, in France 6.3 per cent and in Belgium 2.6 per cent.

In the year 1960 the industrial production in Albania, as compared with the pre-war increased about 25 times. To realize the industrial production of only the first 16 years of the People's Power, it would take the Zogu regime, if the 1938 production level was preserved, 153 years. Important successes have been achieved also during the first 3 years of the third five-year plan. In the year 1963 the total industrial output, as against 1938, grew 30 times. At present the 1938 production is achieved in less than 13 days. During the month of October 1963 alone, the total industrial production was 2,9 times larger than the whole of the 1938 production.

In 1963 the total industrial output was fulfilled, as against the plan, by 101,3 per cent and was increased by 6,7 per cent as compared with 1962. According to the industrial branches, the plan of the total industrial production has been fulfilled by: power industry — 101,5 per cent, coal industry — 101,7 per cent, chromium industry, 100,6 per cent, copper industry — 103,5 per cent, building materials industry 100,6 per cent, wood industry — 101,3 per cent, glass and ceramics industry — 103,5 per cent, clothing and footwear industry — 103,5 per cent, food industry — 102,1 per cent, etc.

Until 1955 Albania occupied one of the last places in the per capita production of power. In 1938 Albania produced twice less power than Turkey per capita of the population. In 1962 Albania produced nearly 25 per cent more power per capita than Turkey. In 1961, as against 1950, power industry in Albania was increased by 1,081 per cent, in Greece — 380 per cent, in Italy — 238 per cent, in Yugoslavia — 412 per cent and in Turkey — 375 per cent.

A great success for light industry has been the creation of the textile and food industries. In 1938 the small textile workshops produced a total of about 358,000 lineal metres of fabrics, or 30 cms per capita of the population. After the construction of the «Stalin» textile combine (which includes 4 factories: textiles, woolen fabrics, velvet cloth and dyeing and where there are working and living as many people as the city of Gjirokastra counts today) the demand for home-made textiles was met. The textile industry produces about 27 million lineal metres of cotton textiles annually. During 1962 there were produced about 16 lms of cotton textiles per capita of the population. The per capita growth rate of cotton textiles in Albania in 1962, as against 1938, has been over 40 times higher, while in Greece — 3,9 times, in Yugoslavia — 2,3 times, in Italy —

1.5 times and in Turkey — 2.2 times. Today Albania produces 75 times more cotton textiles than before liberation and about 24 times more than in 1950.

In 1963 the plan of the textile items was fulfilled: in cotton fabrics — 100.7 per cent, woollen fabrics — 100.1 per cent, cotton ready-made garments — 107.0 per cent, woollen ready-made garments — 111.5 per cent, knitted goods — 103.9 per cent etc.

After the construction of many new factories, food industry too assumed a rapid development. In comparison with the year 1938, the per capita production of foodstuffs has grown 17 times, although during this period the population grew by 35 per cent. In 1962 they produced more than in 1955 per capita of the population: beer 1.9 litres, sugar about 4 kgs, etc. In 1960, as compared with 1955, the food industry production grew by 205 per cent.

The 1963 plan was fulfilled with regard to the main items of food industry as follows: macaroni 101.5 per cent, sugar 103.5 per cent, liqueurs 100.3 per cent, marmalade 106.5 per cent, vegetable preserves 107.9 per cent, fish 100.9 per cent, butter 105.9 per cent, cheese 100 per cent, etc.

As a result of the large-scale development of industry, new industrial towns have sprung up in Albania, such as Memaliaj, Bulqiza, Pishkash, Patos, Maliq, Kurbnesh, Cerrik, Roggodjina, the Textile-workers Town, etc.

The young Albanian industry ensures about 40 per cent of the country's national income as compared with 4.5 per cent it ensured before liberation. It is capable of playing the leading role in the whole national economy and serving as a powerful support for its further development at fast rates.

Big prospects

The third five-year plan (1961-1965) is aimed at transforming the country from an agricultural-industrial country into an industrial-agricultural one. This plan will mark a big stride forward in the building of the material and technical basis of socialism, in the further development of the country's socialist industrialization, first and foremost of heavy industry and mining industry in particular, as the main link for the development of the other branches of national economy. In compliance

with this, the third 5-year plan envisages that in 1965 the total industrial production will grow by 52 per cent more than in 1960, of which the heavy industry production or the production of means of production, will grow by 54 per cent.

In 1965 there will be produced 84 per cent more electric power than in 1960, and 51 per cent more crude oil. Only the oil production which is envisaged to be extracted in 1965 is equal to the whole production achieved during the 1951-1956 years. The total mining industry production will be 49 per cent larger than in 1960. At the end of the current 5-year plan period there will be produced 46 per cent more coal. The chromium industry production will grow by 20 per cent more and the copper industry production will be nearly three times as large as in the year 1960. At the end of the current 5-year plan period there will be produced about half a million tons of iron-nickel ore.

During the third 5-year plan period there will be completed the study and designing for the creation of the ferrous metal industry on the basis of the iron-nickel ore. The light industry production will be 62 per cent and that of the food industry 43 per cent more than in the year 1960.

The third 5-year plan is the five-year period of large-scale construction work and investments. Suffice it to mention the fact that the total investments volume in this period will be nearly equal to the total volume of investments of the first and second five-year plans taken together. To accomplish the tasks laid down for the increase of the industrial and agricultural products, for the development of transport, for public education, culture and health, there will be constructed over 400 various projects. Among the principal ones in the industrial sector are: the big chemical metallurgical combine at Laç for the production of blister copper, of 70,000 tons of sulphuric acid, 170,000 tons of granulated superphosphate and cuprum sulphate to meet the country's needs, the nitric fertilizer plant at Fieri with an annual capacity of 112,000 tons, a mechanical works, the bitumen coking plant in the City of Stalin, paper and cardboard factories, two cement factories, one of them with a total capacity of 400,000 tons of cement annually, the chromium concentration factories, two wood combines, brick factories, shoe factories, the big «Mao Tse-tung» cotton textile combine in Berat, the copper metallurgy plant at Kukës, the expansion of «Ali Këlmendi» food combine in Tirana, etc. During the current five-year plan period there will be completed and put into operation the hydropower stations of Bistrica, Shkopet (completed last year and

called after Friedrich Engels, with an established capacity of 24,000 kws) and a heat power station at Fieri. All these three power units will have a total capacity of 100,000 kws. As a result, the high tension network will be extended by a 3000 km. high tension line and 12 substations. There will be open new and big coal, iron-nickel and other mines. The construction on these projects will make possible the creation of new branches of heavy industry such as electric metallurgy for the production of iron-chromium and copper, and chemical industry for the production of phosphoric and nitric fertilizers. By the construction of the chemical and metallurgical combine and nitric fertilizer plant there will be produced annually 200,000 tons of superphosphate and nitrate fertilizers which will greatly help in the development of agriculture.

The characteristic of the third 5-year plan is that further industrialization in Albania will be carried out on the road of transforming Albania into an industrial-agricultural country, not at the expense of agriculture and not by making it mark the time, but by developing it at greater strides.

As is seen, the future of industry, just as that of the whole country, is bright. The Albanian people, powerfully relying on their own forces as well as on the internationalist aid of the friendly countries, in the first place of the People's Republic of China, are translating into reality these majestic tasks, overcoming many difficulties and obstacles on their road.

Socialist transformation of agriculture

To build up the new economy on socialist foundations, the State power had to adopt a series of measures of a revolutionary nature. One of these was the land reform as a starting point to draw agriculture out of backwardness and to open the roads of its development. It is known that agriculture provides the food of the people, the raw material for industry, an important part of national income, etc. But agriculture, in its pre-liberation conditions, could never meet these requirements.

Before liberation Albania was simply a backward agrarian country. In 1938 about 88 per cent of the population were engaged only in agriculture. Agriculture accounted for 92,4 per

cent of the incomes. It had a primitive character. Only 9.6 per cent of the total area was cultivated, while the rest was left untilled or was covered with bogs, swamps and bushes. More than 3/4 of the farm land were meadows, of the 221,000 hectares of arable land 52 per cent were sown to maize. Grain crops accounted only for the 95.8 per cent of the cultivated area, while the other crops such as tobacco, vegetables and potatoes as well as fodder crops covered only 4.2 per cent. The land cultivation was carried out through primitive means, with wooden ploughs. At that time there were only 30 tractors and even these were property of foreign exploiting companies. The other agricultural machines were quite unknown. There was no question, at last, of the use of chemical fertilizers, insecticides, etc., for these, too, were unknown. Nothing was done for land reclamation. Only 13 per cent of the sown area was under irrigation (that is 29,000 hectares), whereas the best and most fertile plains, such as Myzeqe, the plains of Korça, Vurgu and other plains, suffered from flood waters. As a result of the very low agrotechnical level the agricultural yields were very low. It is a fact that, although the grain crops held the largest area of the fields the people's bread was never ensured due to low yields. All this great backwardness in agriculture was a result of the great dismemberment of the peasant agricultural husbandry, of the domination of semi-feudal relations and the wanton exploitation weighing on the shoulders of peasantry.

The peasants, in major part landless, were obliged to rent the land in very difficult conditions giving to the landowner the 1/3 or half of the quantity of production. Moreover, many taxes and obligations weighed on peasantry. In brief, such was the state of agriculture before liberation.

Immediately after the establishment of the People's Power they thought about and acted to draw agriculture and animal husbandry out of backwardness, to embark it on the road to progress. A huge job had to be done to lift agriculture to the level of the new demands of the socialist system. From the very outset, without having carried out yet the land reform, the State granted a credit of 4 million francs to farmers to ensure seeds, orders were placed abroad for agriculture machines and implements. In some regions large-scale actions were launched for reclaiming the fields. After the land reform this aid was increased still more and it was manysided — through agrarian credit, selected seeds, pedigree cattle, fertilizers, insecticides, by training cadres for agriculture, etc. Thus, during the 1946-1950

period the agrarian credit granted by the State to the labouring peasantry reached 156 million leks. Under the first five-year plan (1951-1955) it reached 859 million leks or over 5 times more than during the 1946-1950 period. Under the second five-year plan the State supplied agriculture with 67,000 tons of selected seeds, 14,000 tons of chemical fertilizers, 4 million of fruit saplings, 51,000 pieces of various agricultural implements, 4,480 tractors (in terms of 15 HP), etc.

Owing to these measures, agriculture was improved and embarked on the road of progress. After the accomplishment of land reform the sown area reached 305,000 hectares or 35 per cent more than in 1938. Other agricultural crops were also planted such as sugarbeet to supply the sugar industry with raw material; cotton, also for the textile industry, etc. In 1950 the area sown to cotton, from 290 hectares in 1938 was extended to 15,797 hectares or 52 times more; the tobacco area — from 2,600 hectares in 1938 rose to 4,620 hectares or 177 per cent, and sugarbeet — to 1,350 hectares. The areas planted with vegetables and potatoes also grew considerably. Alfalfa, from 1,000 hectares that were sown in 1938, reached 8,600 hectares in 1950. Due to these changes in the structure of agriculture, the latter began to assume an intensive character. A great help in this direction has been furnished also by the Machine and Tractor Stations (MTS) which became important centers of implementing the agrotechnique in agriculture.

Collectivization of agriculture

In the conditions of a dispersed individual agricultural husbandry the small peasant production was unable to ensure any visible development of the productive forces in agriculture. It could not ensure the uninterrupted supply of the urban population with consumption goods and of industry with agricultural raw materials. Therefore, the People's Power raised the problem of the organisation of agriculture on socialist foundations, that is of its collectivisation, which means the merger of small farmsteads into big socialist collective farms. This was an historic indispensability because while industry had advanced at fast

rates agriculture continued to develop at slow rates. In 1950 the total volume of agricultural produce, in spite of the successes achieved, was only 18 per cent larger than that of the year 1938.

To carry out the collectivisation of agriculture was not an easy job. A large-scale convincing work had to be carried out with the peasantry, who, after having realized the vital importance of the problem, embarked en masse and on a voluntary basis on the road of collectivisation.

The collectivization went through two important stages. In the first stage (1946-1955) there were prepared the objective and subjective conditions for the collectivisation of agriculture. In the second stage (1956-1960) they passed over to the collectivisation on a broad front and to its full completion. The first agricultural cooperatives were set up as early as in 1946. By the end of the year 1955 their number reached 318. This slowness is explained by the fact that at the beginning the setting up of cooperatives should neither be sped up nor mark the time. Moreover, as a beginning, conditions had to be prepared for the total collectivization of agriculture. After 1955 the rate of collectivisation was accelerated. It was successfully completed in 1959. Thus the multiform agricultural husbandry was transformed and instead there was created a single one — the socialist agricultural husbandry. The economic foundation of socialism was built up not only in the towns but also in the country-side. Capitalist economy, the exploiting classes and the exploitation of man by man were liquidated definitely and for ever. The victory of the cooperativist order in the country-side is a great historic victory of the socialist construction; it is a real revolution both in the economic system of the Albanian countryside and in the life and conscience of the peasants themselves who account for the overwhelming part of the country's population.

Today in Albania instead of about 150,000 primitive small dispersed farmsteads, there exist 1,165 agricultural cooperatives with 72,7 per cent of the number of the peasant families and 86,7 per cent of the area in the use of peasantry. They have 64 per cent of the whole animal husbandry of the country. Socialist agriculture includes today over 88,6 per cent of the Republic's sown area.

The second five-year plan went down in the Albanian people's history as the five-year plan of the triumph of the socialist revolution in the Albanian countryside, as the five-

year plan of the carrying out of the re-organisation of agriculture on socialist foundations and this great historic task was accomplished one year ahead of schedule by the third Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

As a result of the collectivisation of agriculture, the areas of the cultivated lands were expanded, yields were raised and the wellbeing of the peasants was improved. The arable area in 1960 grew by 113 per cent as compared with the year 1955 or more than doubled as compared with the year 1938. At present, rice alone is sown 6 times more, industrial crops — over 15 times, etc. As early as in 1959 Albania produced more than in 1938 of the following items: grain crops — 1,7 times, potatoes and vegetables — about 3 times, tobacco — about 7 times and cotton — 145 times, etc.

The total agricultural produce is at present 2,4 times larger than that of the year 1938.

Animal husbandry, too, developed at a fast rate. Under the second five-year plan, for example, the number of cows grew by 30 per cent, of sows — 59 per cent, poultry — 32 per cent, bees — 56 per cent, etc. The production of milk increased by 41 per cent, meat — 59 per cent, wool — 47 per cent, eggs — 60 per cent, etc.

In 1963, the total agricultural production was 37 per cent larger than in 1960 or 235 per cent larger as compared with the year 1938. The average production per capita of the population was last year by 39 per cent larger than the average agricultural production per capita of the population in 1938. In 1963, as compared with the year 1962, the total agricultural produce grew by more than 8,0 per cent. There were produced in excess: grain crops — 1,2 per cent, rice — 72 per cent, cotton — 32 per cent, tobacco — 53 per cent, sugar-beet — 20 per cent, distichous barley — 44 per cent, vegetables — 21 per cent, beans — 68 per cent, etc. The olive production in 1963 was about 4 times larger than the average production for the 1945-1962 years.

During the year 1963 agriculture was provided with some 900 tractors in terms of 15 HP. As compared with 1962, in 1963 agriculture was supplied in excess with: seeds — 32 per cent, cultivators — 62 per cent, plows — 7,7 per cent, grafted saplings 75 per cent, insecticides — 9.4 per cent, etc.

For the realization of land reclamation projects the State

has invested within 10 years about 113 billion leks, while the aid in the form of agrarian credit for the agricultural cooperatives has been nearly 5 billion leks. During the second five-year plan alone there were reclaimed 17,000 hectares while there was cultivated a total area of 71,000 hectares of new land, 43,000 hectares were improved and the area under irrigation reached 135,000 hectares or 150 per cent as compared with the year 1950 and about 5 times more than in 1938.

An important role in the development of socialist agriculture is played by the MTS (Machine and Tractor Stations). Their motive force has increased with every passing year. From 10 MTS with 60 tractors (in terms of 15 HP) in 1947, today we have 28 MTS with 7,100 tractors (in terms of 15 HP). Owing to the increase at fast rates of the number of tractors, Albania has achieved brilliant results in the increase of the number of tractors for every 1,000 hectares of cultivated land. Thus as early as in the year 1959 Albania had for every 1,000 hectares of arable land 5.1 physical tractors, while Yugoslavia — 3.9, Spain — 2.1, Portugal — 1.9 and Turkey — 1.7 hectares of arable land.

The volume of mechanized work has grown more than 5 times as against 1955, whereas the tractor park grew 3 times. Today Albania, compared with the sown area, has more mechanized means than Greece, Yugoslavia and Turkey.

The State agricultural enterprises, too, (SAE) which were set up as early as in 1945 and which are socialist enterprises of the highest type in agriculture, play a great role in the development of agriculture. They, with their modern technique, with their highly mechanized agricultural work, give an abundant production and help industry with raw material, they supply the agricultural cooperatives with selected seeds, saplings, pedigree animals, etc. We have at present 31 state agricultural enterprises.

The volume of work accomplished by the machine and tractor stations and the agricultural enterprises during the year 1963 grew by 18 per cent as compared with the year 1962. The state agricultural enterprises (national and local) have delivered to the state in excess: rice — 26 per cent, cotton — 94 per cent, sugar-beet — 16 per cent, vegetables — 5.6 per cent, potatoes — 113.0 per cent, beans — 142 per cent, olives — 99 per cent, olive tree saplings — 93 per cent, vine saplings — 49 per cent, milk 1 per cent, wool 73 per cent, etc.

The successes achieved in the field of agriculture are a clear proof showing that socialist transformation is the only way to take agriculture out of its backwardness. These successes are a sound foundation for its future.

What do figures show for the future?

The third 5-year plan envisage that the total volume of the agricultural production, during the five years taken together, should grow by 48 per cent as compared with the second five-year plan period. By the year 1965 the total volume of the agricultural and live-stock production will be 72 per cent larger than in the year 1960, with an average annual growth of 11,5 per cent. The main task of agriculture during the third 5-year plan period is the growth of the production of bread grains, the ever better satisfaction of the people's needs with foodstuffs, the provision of industry with raw material and the expansion of exports. The cultivated area will reach 515,000 hectares or 88 per cent more than in the year 1938, some 63,000 hectares of new land will be tilled, the irrigated area will reach 200,000 hectares or about 7 times more than in the year 1938.

Under the present 5-year plan the production of bread grains will grow by 95 per cent, cotton — 65 per cent, tobacco — 112 per cent, sugar-beet — 75 per cent, vegetables — 113 per cent, potatoes — 100 per cent, the live-stock production will grow by 59 per cent and the production of fruits and grapes by — 90 per cent. In the year 1965 the machine and tractor stations and the agricultural machinery of the State Agricultural Enterprises will accomplish a volume of work by 93 per cent larger than in the year 1960. The number of tractors (in terms of 15 HP) in 1965 will reach 9,000 or 11 per cent more than in the year 1960.

During the current five-year plan period the number of heads of all kinds of live-stock as well as their productivity will grow in order to meet better the needs of the population and industry. As against 1960, in 1965 the number of cows will grow by 23 per cent, sheep — 20 per cent, goats — 19 per cent, sows — 33 per cent, poultry — 90 per cent and bees

— 55 per cent. The average yield per cow will reach 1,100 kilograms of milk for the whole of the Republic and 3000 kilograms for the state agricultural enterprises. The meat production will grow by 34 per cent, milk — 58 per cent, wool — 44 per cent, butter — 37 per cent, eggs — 81 per cent, etc.

This plan provides also for the development of fruit-growing. There will be planted 3,700 000 olive trees, 1 million citrus fruit trees, about 7,700,000 vines, over 6,800 hectares of vineyards, 8,500,000 fruit trees. From 40,000 hectares under fruit trees, olive trees and vines in 1960, the area under such trees reach about 71,000 hectares in 1965. In a more distant period, up to the year 1980, the number of olive trees will grow still more, up to 10 million, of which 7 million will be in production. The agricultural husbandries growing olive trees will be granted by the State an average yearly credit of 50 million leks to increase the number of olive trees. In addition, the number of citrus fruit trees will also increase.

Under the current plan the agricultural cooperatives and peasantry are expected to produce 83 per cent of the bread grains, 86,6 per cent of the cotton, 99,7 per cent of the tobacco, 91 per cent of the milk and 91 per cent of the meat, and other items which are to be produced throughout the Republic. The state investments in the agricultural sector for the land reclamation and irrigation projects, for the mechanization of agriculture, the agricultural constructions etc. reach 10,568,000,000 leks or 3 times more than during the previous five-year period.

Agriculture will be supplied with more selected seeds, about 5 times more chemical fertilizers, with 4 times more fruit tree saplings, etc. In the year 1965, as compared with the year 1960, the value of the total agricultural produce per every 100 hectares of farm land will grow from 1,900,000 leks to 3,100,000 leks. While the main production for every 100 hectares will grow as follows: grains 77 per cent, meat 28 per cent, milk 50,7 per cent etc.

Once agriculture yielded a little productivity in agricultural crops. For example, maize 5-6 quintals per hectare, wheat still less. But by the end of the third five-year plan period the per hectare yield will be as follows; wheat 13,6 quintals, maize 14,6, rice 23,5, cotton 12,5 quintals, tobacco 8,0, sugar-beet 244, vegetables 145,0, potatoes 100,0, etc.

These data show great solicitude displayed by the People's Power for the future of socialist agriculture. They bear witness

at the same time to the further consolidation of this sector which in these 20 years of free life has undergone great revolutionary changes on the road of prosperity and socialism.

Great unprecedented impetus in the construction of flats

Prior to the second world war the situation concerning the dwelling houses in Albania had been miserable. In general the low mud houses were predominant in towns whereas huts in the countryside. To this situation were added also the great damages caused by the war. From the data given by the American economist D. Ozep, a professor at the Washington University, it follows that Albania is one of the countries which suffered more damages than some other countries. During the second world war, according to the per capita of the population, Albania was damaged 6 times more than Britain, 4 times more than Italy, about twice more than France, etc. In the big material damage, the main weight is represented by the dwelling houses. The German and Italian fascist invaders burned down in villages and towns 62,475 houses.

After liberation the people and the State Power set to the work to liquidate the aftermath of war in all directions. The housing problem was also the main task in construction. During the 1945-1949 period there were repaired more than 9,000 dwelling houses and there were built up 1,100 dwelling flats. During the first 5 years after liberation, through the credits granted by the State Bank, the population built for themselves 22,000 dwelling houses.

During the 5-year plan periods the rate of construction of dwelling houses grew considerably. During the years 1945-1962, for instance, the State Power constructed 28,000 dwelling apartments. During the years 1961-1962 alone there were constructed as many dwelling apartments as there were built up during the years 1951-1955. During the first 5-year plan period there were built up by the State as many dwelling houses as could be housed in them the population that had in 1962 the towns of Berat, Lushnja and Saranda taken together; while during the second five-year plan period there were constructed so many as to house in them the population that had in the year 1962 the towns of Korça, Fieri, Erseka and Delvina taken

together. Finally, with the constructions that have been carried out during the last 10 years there would be enough buildings to house the population that had before liberation four of the country's largest towns — Shkodra, Vlora, Korça and Elbasan. During the same period there were built up in villages more than 47,000 new houses. Through credits the State has provided the possibility to the town dwellers to construct dwelling houses for themselves. During the second 5-year plan period there were built up by the population itself over 90 per cent more dwelling houses than during the first 5-year plan. During the years 1961-1962 alone there were built up by the population itself about 12,000 dwelling houses. In this way the aspect of the towns and villages of Albania has changed and continues to change entirely at an accelerated pace.

It has been calculated that the investments made after liberation, would be realized by the Zog regime, proceeding with the 1938 rate, during more than 530 years, that is by the year 2470. This is a clear proof of the majesty of the historic socialist period, in which, according to the words of Marx, "one day will be equal to twenty years".

Under the third 5-year plan there will be constructed 20,000 of dwelling apartments. Practically, the population will receive about 4,000 apartments every year or about 13 apartments for every work day as against 7 under the second five-year plan. With the construction of these apartments it will be possible to house some 100-120 thousand working people and every year it will be possible to construct a town in which to live about 20-26 thousand inhabitants, that is there will be constructed one town like Elbasan every year.

Under the third 5-year plan there will be constructed as many dwelling houses as to house in them the population that had in 1962 the towns of Durrës, Elbasan, Berat, Pogradec, Patos and Krujë taken together. For the construction of dwelling houses there will be spent 6,500,000,000 leks or 75 per cent more than during the second 5-year plan period.

This picture shows how the Albanian towns and villages are being renewed and embellished every day with more new constructions, projects of the new socialist life. It shows the great solicitude of the State Power for man.

Development of socialist trade

After liberation domestic trade was socialized and the State monopoly was imposed on foreign trade. Thus, there came into being the wholesale and retail State trade. Possibilities were created to fix unified prices for the entire Republic. There came into being also the cooperative sector in trade, at the beginning the consumer cooperatives.

The consumer cooperatives brought together the efforts of the peasants to animate the goods circulation between the countryside and the town, creating thereby a suitable form for the consolidation of the economic ties between the working class and the labouring peasantry. They became an important link in organizing collective trade in the countryside. Towards the end of the year 1955 more than 80 per cent of the peasant farmsteads were members of the consumer cooperatives. The consumer cooperatives expanded their activities by processing the livestock and agricultural products, especially for the country's inner areas.

Socialist trade developed and expanded in compliance with the growing demands of the population. The private sector narrowed ever more. The small private merchants gradually embarked on the road of socialist transformation being included almost all of them into the trade collectives, which help in supplying the market. In 1960 socialist trade sold to the population more than in 1955 of the following items: bread — 83 per cent, fats — 72 per cent, sugar — 77 per cent, cotton textiles — 41 per cent, woolen textiles — 59 per cent, shoes — 92 per cent, etc. The level of the trade service, technique and culture has considerably grown.

In 1963 the plan of the retail trade turnover in socialist commerce was fulfilled by 101,8 per cent, by the construction industry enterprises — 101 per cent, by the consumer cooperative organisations — 100,4 per cent, etc. As compared with the year 1962, the retail trade turnover in socialist trade grew by 6,7 per cent, and there were sold in excess to the population: fats 9 per cent, milk 4 per cent, cheese 13 per cent, sugar 7 per cent, macaroni 18 per cent, rice 10 per cent, wine 13 per cent, beer 6 per cent, vegetables and potatoes 24 per cent, soap 9 per cent, cotton textiles 33 per cent, knittings 35 per cent, socks 21 per cent, shoes 23 per cent, etc.

The People's Republic of Albania is maintaining broad trade relations with more than 25 countries in the world and with many

international trade organisations and firms of various countries. The volume of foreign trade has constantly grown. Last year, for example, the foreign trade turnover, as compared with the year 1962, grew 12 per cent, exports 17 per cent and imports 9.5 per cent. The People's Republic of Albania has the largest volume of trade exchange with the socialist countries. This of course is due to the very nature of socialist economy. Thus, about 90 per cent of the total volume of the imports and exports in 1963 was carried out with the socialist countries. The volume of goods exchange with these countries has grown with every passing year. Thus for instance with the People's Republic of China the exchange volume grew 5.4 times more than in the year 1960 and over 20 per cent more as compared with the year 1962. With the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia in 1963 the goods exchange grew 43 per cent more than in 1960. Trade has developed in satisfactory way also with other socialist countries, such as the German Democratic Republic, the Rumanian People's Republic, the Bulgarian People's Republic, the Korean People's Democratic Republic, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Cuba.

For the first time in 1963 trade agreements were concluded with some other countries, such as France, Pakistan, Guinea, Malv, Morocco, Algeria, etc.

In the future this sector too, will develop alongside with other sectors of national economy. Thus, for instance, the total volume of goods turnover for the socialist trade in 1965 will reach 30,800,000,000 leks or 38 per cent more than in 1960. The total volume of the goods turnover for the five year of the third 5-year plan taken together is almost equal to the volume of the goods turnover realized during 10 years of the first and second 5-year plans taken together.

The supply of the population with mass consumption goods in 1965 will increase as follows in comparison with the year 1960: bread — 18 per cent, flour — 6 per cent, fats — 68 per cent, meat 83 per cent, fish — 124 per cent, potatoes — 122 per cent, vegetables — 40 per cent, milk — 113 per cent, sugar — 126 per cent, rice — 118 per cent, soap — 44 per cent, cotton fabrics — 61 per cent, woolen fabrics — 53 per cent, various footwear items — 113 per cent, cement — 117 per cent, bricks — 163 per cent, etc.

The socialist trade sector plays a great role also in export. The volume of exports in 1965 will be 50-55 per cent larger than in the year 1960.

The socialist market has shown a great superiority to the capitalist private market.

Communication — important sector of socialist economy

One of the most backward sectors in the past was that of communication. It is natural that this sector, too, in Albania suffered great damages during the war. Thus, here, too, the work had to be started from the beginning. Motor-car parks were set up with the nationalized vehicles. At a record time there were reconstructed the demolished bridges and roads. Communication was restored. The state imported large numbers of motor-vehicles to come with the numerous tasks of the country's reconstruction and construction.

From the early years after liberation the Albanian youth undertook great actions, such as the construction of the Tirana-Durrës-Elbasan railway, the Kukës-Peshkopi main road, the Milot-Uizë «Road of Light», etc. These and many other actions were successfully carried out. Hundreds of kilometres of railroad (built up for the first time in Albania) and ordinary roads connected the country's different centers greatly facilitating thereby the circulation of the population and goods.

The work for the extension of the roads, for their asphalt-ing continued at fast rates. Likewise the network of motor-vehicles grew considerably. In the year 1955, for instance, the automobile transport carried out work of 135 million ton-kilometres and transported about 3,400,000 tons of goods. Under the first 5-year plan there were asphalted 165 kilometres of roads, the big Durrës port was supplied with mechanized means of loading and unloading, etc. During the second five-year plan period for the maintenance of the road network there were spent some 700 million leks, there were asphalted about 190 kilometres of national roads and there were opened about 290 kilometres of new roads.

Facts are such that today the motor transport in less than 8 days accomplishes that work which was accomplished by the motor transport during the entire year of 1938, while the sea transport carries out the 1938 work within nearly two days. In the year 1960 we had a bigger transport capacity than in the year 1955 in the following measure: trucks 88 per cent, towing over 5 times, buses 71 per cent, taxis 170 per cent, rail-

way goods transport 111 per cent and passenger railway transport 8 per cent, sea transport 265 per cent. Sea transport carries out at present more than 10 per cent of the transport of goods of the Republic's import-export. We must always bear in mind that we completely lacked a trade fleet. It was created and developed only after the country's liberation and effects today long distance sailings linking Albania with the outside world.

Likewise, to increase the air links with the outside world a modern airport was constructed near Tirana, equipped with all the necessary means for the flights.

Communications, too, have gone ahead: their service has been broadened and improved being equipped with modern apparatus and setting up new telegraphic lines. Albania has now 5 radio-stations as against 1 in 1938, and a new powerful radio station is under construction which will be put into operation by the end of the third 5-year plan.

In 1963 the transport plan for passenger per km. was fulfilled by 109 per cent, for tons per km. 102.9 per cent and for the number of passengers 117.3 per cent. As compared with the year 1962 the volume of work in tons was 4.1 per cent larger than and in passengers 21.4 per cent. The plan for the internal sea transport was fulfilled in ton miles 104.9 per cent. The foreign sea transport fulfilled the plan by 106.7 per cent.

Achievements in the communications field are great. They have contributed to the further consolidation of this sector and they are a sound foundation for its broader development. Under the third five-year plan there have been adopted such measures as to help in developing of all kinds of transport, and the material and technical basis will be strengthened, etc. Thus the volume of the transport work in 1965, as compared with the year 1960 will grow for the automobile transport of the Ministry of Communications by 41 per cent, the railway transport — by 105 per cent and the sea transport by — 2.2 times. Always in comparison with the year 1960, by the end of the current five-year period the capacity of trucks will increase by 21 per cent, the tow-trucks by 96 per cent, while the sea fleet will increase its tonnage twice as much. Last year the new Vorë-Milot railway line was built up and put into operation, and according to the forecasts work may be launched in view of the construction of another line — the Elbasan-Pishkash line which later may be extended to Korça. In view of the expansion of the motor-road network and its improvement during the

third five-year plan period it has been envisaged to open 400 kms of new roads, to improve and asphalt 300 kms of streets, expand the luggage-van, locomotive and other parks. Although the railway transport is only at its initial stage (there were no railways before liberation) today it accounts for more than 14 per cent of the total volume of the land transport and by the year 1965 it will represent 19 per cent of the entire land transport.

The sea transport, too, has further developed. New boats are added to the merchant fleet reaching the total tonnage by the end of the third 5-year plan 18,500 tons. The sea transport under the third five-year plan grows by 124 per cent or 42 per cent in the internal sea transport and 130 per cent in the external sea transport. At the same time the big Durrës port is to be extended, the loading and unloading mechanization is to be further modernized to handle at the same time 16 ships and other sea means, and a new shipyard for the metal ships repair is to be constructed.

In this way, transport progress will be an important factor for the further development and consolidation of national economy.

Handicraft on the road of progress

Handicraft in Albania is of long standing. The Albanian people have traditions in the artistic hand-work. We produce carpets, silver objects, silk items, various articles of mass consumption and for export, which are wellknown also abroad. But the conditions of craftsmen in the past were always bad because nobody was concerned with them. The country's economic dependence on foreigners resulted in an excessive development of concurence and in that the home products remained unsold.

The possibilities of development and progress of this sector were created only after the country's liberation, when the old production relations were upset and new relations were created on socialist foundations. Only in the conditions of the socialist construction of the country, when the whole national economy was being transformed into a socialist economy, only then became possible to talk about transforming the little production of goods into a big socialist production.

After the great economic reforms which were carried out

immediately after liberation, a special interest was taken also in handicrafts which had to be collectivized in order to overcome the backwardness and to make its valuable contribution to the consolidation of national economy. Thus, by the end of the year 1946 there had been set up 48 handicraft cooperatives of different trades such as tailors, shoemakers, silver-smiths, joiners, copper-smiths, shirt-sewers, tinkers and others. At the beginning, these cooperatives were small, lacking experience, they had scarce and primitive means of work. But later they became stronger, they were expanded and increased their production. Their task was to increase the production volume in order to meet the needs of the population, to increase assortments and especially the items for the countryside, broadly to exploit the raw materials, etc. These and many other tasks were successfully accomplished. Thus under the first 5-year plan there was achieved a considerable growth of production. As compared with the year 1950 the production grew by 59 per cent more. During this five-year period, in addition to other articles, the handicraft cooperatives produced 239 articles which formerly were imported from abroad. Such are the glass products, the aluminium and tin utensils, kitchen-ranges, white pottery products, toys for children, agricultural implements, etc.

Under the second 5-year plan the tasks of handicraft were still greater. This plan was fulfilled 9 months ahead of schedule. By the end of 1960 the production volume grew by 19,2 per cent more than envisaged by the 5-year plan. The average annual growth from 15,9 per cent envisaged by the plan, was fulfilled by 188 per cent. Under this 5-year plan, as compared with the year 1955, the handicraft produced in excess: pieces of furniture 4 times, fabrics 8 times, footwear 2 times, cotton and woolen readymade garments about 3 times, rolled tin products, over 2 times, etc.

In the year 1963 the Central Union of Handicraft Cooperatives fulfilled its production plan by 103 per cent. As a result, mass consumption products and the artistic products for export grew considerably. The handicraft cooperatives, during 1963 produced 200 kinds of new goods as compared with 142 envisaged by the plan.

The third 5-year plan provides for a further increase by handicraft of the production of the mass consumption goods. Thus the total production volume will grow, as compared

with 1960, by 166 per cent. The production of carpets will grow more than 5 times, ready-made garments more than 2 times, fabrics 2 times, various basket-making articles more than 10 times, etc. The production of shoes and sandals and of many other articles will considerably grow. The filigree artistic products and other items which are in great demand for export will also be increased.

Thus, the handicraft sector, too, actively contributes to the satisfaction of the needs of the working masses for different goods which are indispensable in the daily life. It is an integral part of national economy which is developing and becoming ever stronger on the road to socialism.

* * *

To present somewhat summarily the progress of the Albanian economy during these twenty years of free life as well as its bright prospects, these few pages are insufficient. However, they clearly show what Albania was, what it is at present and what it will become in the future. Such a tremendous progress as the one made by the Albanian economy in such a brief period is absolutely incomparable. This is because the socialist system has shown its great superiority and that this superiority is clearly seen everywhere in Albania which has greatly changed. This superiority is finally seen in the figures and facts which speak for themselves.

CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN ALBANIA

To embark on the road of building the socialist society, after the establishment of the working people's power, it was indispensable to start the country's socialist industrialisation, the socialist transformation of agriculture and the carrying out of socialist revolution in the field of ideology and culture.

The more backward a country will be when the people assure the possibility of development on the new socialist road and the graver the inheritance from the past is, the more difficult becomes the realisation of the above tasks. Precisely in such conditions was Albania 20 years ago.

But during 20 years of free life the Albanian people have achieved such successes as clearly testify to what can the working people do when they are masters of their own destinies. A really brilliant page of these successes are the achievements in the field of cultural revolution.

I. The tasks of cultural revolution in the People's Republic of Albania and the conditions in which their realization began

From the very outset our cultural revolution was faced with the following main tasks:

To exert a direct influence on the emancipation of the people from darkness and ignorance bequeathed by the past, to become the principal means in making the education and culture the all country's spiritual and cultural wealth, a property of the working people.

To become a powerful means for the release of the working people's energies and capabilities which were suppressed in the past and for a broad development and thriving of talents from the rank and file.

To influence the general rise of the educational and cultural and technico-professional standards of the working people

and, together with this, the raising of the level of their political and social conscience, ensuring thereby also two of the indispensable foundations for the raising of labour productivity.

To create the new people's intelligentsia, issued from the fold of the working people, large in number and of different profiles, forged in the spirit of loyalty towards the interests of the working people, willing to serve without reservation the common cause of the people.

To promote the radical change of the content of the spiritual and cultural life of the people, the creation of a new culture, national in form and socialist in content, the realisation of the socialist education of the young generation as well as of the whole working people.

These numerous and difficult tasks had to be carried out in conditions of a grave economic and social backwardness inherited from the past, and especially in conditions of a marked cultural and educational backwardness. In Albania, the capitalist relations were interwoven with the feudal relations. Capitalism not only was comparatively new, but also weak and slightly developed. The fundamental tasks of the democratic-bourgeois revolution were not solved. Under such circumstances there were not put forward to be settled even those educational and cultural tasks which the developed capitalist countries in Europe had already settled in general. Such tasks were the liquidation of illiteracy, the realization of the compulsory primary education, the establishment of a complete school system with its main links, the creation of a minimum network of educational and cultural institutions and of a necessary minimum of intelligentsia, etc.

Albania was the country of a mass illiteracy. In the last year of the pre-war period, during the 1938-39 school year, more than 80 per cent of the country's population were illiterate. In regions with a majority of peasant population especially in the mountainous regions the number of illiterates reached even to 90-95 per cent of the population. Over 90 per cent of the population in countryside were illiterate. The same situation existed also among women. There were villages with hundreds of inhabitants where not a single woman could read and write, and only two or three men were able to do so.

Miserable was also the situation of the primary education. In the 1938-39 school year there existed only 643 elementary schools attended by 52,024 pupils. During eighteen years of a more or less stabilized life of the Albanian State, from the year

1920 up to 1939, there were not added more than 120 elementary schools. In the 1938-39 school year elementary education throughout the country encompassed only one third of the children of the respective ages, while in villages only one fourth. In that year there existed elementary schools only in 529 villages or in 20 per cent of the countryside.

In towns the elementary education was a five-year one, while in villages, alongside with a few five-year schools there existed also many schools of four or three classes. The village children that finished those schools, even if they liked to, they could not follow their studies any further as they were not admitted because they had not an adequate education. Practically, they were schools without an outlet.

However, such a situation and rate of development of elementary education was considered by Zog's regime and its representatives as normal. It was considered in the ruling circles that 900 elementary schools were enough for the one million population of Albania. Thus, this had to be the maximum limit which would plunge the Albanian people into perpetual illiteracy and ignorance.

Still more miserable was the situation of the middle education. The unfinished middle education was never raised as a serious problem. There were set up a few five and six grade schools as well as some professional schools which opened and closed from time to time, had different terms, were unstable and often did not impart the necessary education to follow the higher course of the middle school, thus being they, too, schools without an outlet. Finally, this degree of education was reduced to the lower courses of middle schools of general and professional education. Of such schools, state and private ones together, there were, in 1938-39, only 11. Concretely, in the 1938-39 school-year the lower courses in 11 middle schools were attended by only 4,619 pupils.

The fact that the division of pupils in schools of general and professional education started after graduation from the elementary school speaks for itself. As a unique general education, the people's children could at the most acquire only five-year elementary education.

During the school-year 1938-39 there were attending the higher course of the 11 middle schools of the country only 1696 pupils. In addition to the gymnasiums there were only 3 pedagogical middle schools, 1 technical school and 1 commercial school.

The pre-school education had not been organized. There existed nominally only 23 kindergartens. The education for adults without quitting their jobs not only did not exist, but the problem of its creation, was not yet thought of.

Likewise, there was not thought of even the question of higher education in the country. During the 1938-39 school year only 61 students, enjoying state scholarships, were following their higher studies abroad. That year Albania had altogether 330 higher education specialists, of whom only 45 engineers, only 35 agronomists, etc.

In the school-year 1938-39 Albania had 58,500 pupils and students all told. Thus, approximately out of every 18 inhabitants of the country only one attended school regularly. There were in all 1,640 teachers, pedagogues and nurses.

But even such a situation of the middle education scared Zog's regime and its representatives. Although Albania was covered by the illiteracy and ignorance they tried several times to threaten the country with the bugbear of the alleged overproduction of intellectuals.

It is understood that in such a situation there could not be a question of organizing the education on a sound state national basis. Concession given in the field of public education to foreigners and the Roman Catholic clergy to open private middle schools, boarding-schools and other educational institutions, were exploited by them for their own imperialistic and reactionary aims.

Especially scarce was woman's participation in public education. During the 1938-39 school year there were only 16,457 girls (31.6%) out of 52,024 pupils attending the elementary schools; in the lower courses of the middle schools of general education out of 2,563 pupils only 723 (28.2%) were girls, and in the higher courses of those schools only 20 (2.4%) out of 817 pupils were girls. In the middle technical professional education there was not a single girl. And even in the middle pedagogical education the total number of pupils included more boys than girls (377 boys and 298 girls).

Still more miserable was the participation of the village women in public education. The village elementary schools were attended by a total of 30,542 pupils, of whom only 6,782 (22.2%) girls. There were many village elementary schools which were not attended by even a single girl. There was no question of village girls attending schools of higher learning.

The network of cultural institutions in the past was also very limited. In 1938 there existed in Albania only five small libraries, two museums, no profession theater, only 16 private cinemas, which had principally commercial aims. In villages there was not a single cultural institution. Publications, too, were very much limited.

Throughout the country there did not exist a single institution or center of scientific studies.

During the war, of course education and culture could not grow and develop, they were only damaged.

This is the heritage Albania received from the past as regards the situation of the institutions and educational and cultural network immediately after liberation at the end of 1944.

But we must not forget the other aspect of the matter. In the field of culture and education, too, the Albanian people inherited also powerful patriotic, democratic and progressive traditions, created during history, during their struggles and efforts for independence and freedom, for land and bread, for light and education.

The Albanian people are an ancient people with an ancient culture. But the successive invasions hindered their development and progress. Especially hard was the five-century Turkish occupation which ended only in the year 1912. The Turkish invader waged a ruthless assimilating struggle against the Albanian people and their national culture to such an extent as they prohibited the learning of the Albanian language, the publication of Albanian books, the opening of Albanian schools, etc.

The Albanian people, however, were not subdued; they struggled and won. This struggle is known in the history of Albania also by the name of National Revival. The national revivers blazed the path of national education and culture and they did it through war and blood-shed, through sacrifices and martyrs. They created the powerful traditions of our national education and culture. They created the traditions that the Albanian school should serve as a cradle of patriotic and progressive ideas. These traditions were constantly fostered in the freedom-loving and patriotic spirit of the Albanian people, in their national potentiality and vitality, in their good customs, in all these features formed during the multi-century struggles.

All these powerful traditions, despite the miserable situation which we inherited, were a source of inspiration and a firm support for a regenerated people, masters of their own destinies, who set to the constructive peaceful work with all their energies.

II. The principal achievements of cultural revolution and some of their characteristic features.

After the country's liberation the Albanian people heroically struggled to defend and consolidate the achieved gains and set to a constructive peaceful work with all their energies guiding themselves by the militant slogan «Hold a pick in one hand and a rifle in the other». As regards the constructive peaceful work the principal guiding slogan at the beginning was: «More food, more culture for the people».

The problem of the quick and broad development of education and culture was raised as one of the greatest present-day problems. Of course, at that time there existed two possibilities, two paths of development. The first path, was the path of the so-called «normal and gradual development» to ensure «quality», gradually to ensure qualified educational cadres, etc.; the second path, was that of a revolutionary development at an accelerated pace, giving priority in the early period to the expansion of education, by combining the roads of normal development with those of accelerated development, especially by combining the training of educational cadres both in normal and accelerated roads. The Albanian people chose the second road, which was a revolutionary socialist road. Only on this road they could settle the vital issue of the rapid development of education and culture.

Thus, the early years after liberation were years of an impetuous development in the field of public education. To show this, suffice it to mention a very characteristic example. During the 1945-46 school-year there existed 1,097 elementary schools. One year later, in 1946-47 their number rose to 1,609. So within a year the number of elementary schools increased by 512, almost as many as there were opened during the entire existence of the independent Albanian State until 1938-39. And it must be said that these 512 schools were all newly built schools in villages by the state expenditures as well as

by the material contributions and voluntary work of the population itself. During that year the number of elementary school teachers increased also by 543, which is equal to one-third of the entire educational staff that Albania had in 1938-39. For the 1946-47 school-year, there were trained through accelerated courses some 500 young teachers from the ranks of boys and girls students who had graduated only some middle school classes. Service as a teacher in the countryside became a patriotic duty for the middle school boys and girls.

The 1946 public education reform

But problems in question were great and numerous. The question was that the whole of the public education was to be organized on sound socialist foundations. For this purpose the 1946 educational reform served as a basis

On August 1946 the People's Assembly passed the Law on the Public Education Reform in the People's Republic of Albania. This law established the educational system in its whole structure all its links and degrees, pre-school education, general and professional education for adults; it established the structure of the general education school with its 11-year term and its basic links — the 4-year elementary and the 7-grade education as incomplete middle education. Directions were given for drafting of new programmes and textbooks and for radical scientific and ideological changes in the field of public education and its content.

The 1946 educational reform and the comprehensive measures adopted for its implementation paved the way to the radical democratization of public education. The most important measures which made this democratization possible were the following:

— Realisation of the compulsory general education, at the beginning of the four-year elementary education and the opening of prospects for the future realization of the unique 7-year education;

— Provision of free education to all children of the people and for all school categories and the abolition of any kind of school taxes in all educational levels.

— Realization of the unique character of the school through the unique 7-grade schools and the general education or professional middle schools, and through the liquidation of

schools without outlets and the free passage from one school degree to another, abolishing the admission examinations, competitions, etc.

— Reduction of the middle school term — from 13 to 11 years as a more convenient and advantageous term also within the general state and social framework, and for the working parents.

— The wide spreading of the school network, aiming, in all possible cases, at opening schools there, where children are.

— Gradual establishment of a broad network of state boarding schools and a broad system of scholarships for children of working people, especially for peasants' children.

This educational reform sanctioned also a series of other democratic and socialist principles of public education, such as the full state character of the school, its full secular character, full equality of both sexes in the field of public education, full national character of the school, right to education in the national language, etc.

In the same way the road was opened also to the creation of a new people's, democratic school with a socialist content, basing its teaching and educational activities on the socialist ideology, on modern science and pedagogy, on the needs and interests of the working people and socialist society.

Liquidation of illiteracy in Albania.

But however solid the new foundations of the public education system might be, the cultural revolution could not embark on the road of its realisation without liquidating illiteracy from among the masses of youth and adult population. The Albanian people well understood Lenin's teachings that socialism cannot be built with illiterates.

In fact, the fight against illiteracy started as early as during the national-liberation struggle in the partisan detachments and in the liberated villages and areas. On the threshold of the country's liberation the leader of the Albanian people Enver Hoxha issued the slogan «No illiterate in new democratic Albania». After the liberation it became one of the most principal militant slogans mobilizing the entire people. After the liberation the fight against illiteracy became one of the biggest state actions of that time. Anti-illiteracy courses were set up everywhere: in villages, town quarters, industrial

enterprises, economic, administrative and cultural institutions, mines, agricultural enterprises, military detachments, construction sites, etc. Later, in the last stage such courses were set up also at schools. These courses were directed, in addition to teachers, also by other working people, government employees, grown up school pupils, etc.

The fight against illiteracy in Albania went through two main stages. The first stage included the years 1945-48 when a big job was done to clarify and persuade the illiterate people that they should enrol themselves to attend courses and learn, and effectively organize anti-illiteracy courses, to draw up plans and teaching programmes for them, to compile textbooks and to appoint and prepare the persons that would direct them. During this stage, placing this problem on the road to its settlement through the work of the educational organs and teachers of social organisations, as well as relying on the desire and enthusiasm of the population itself, it became possible for over 119,000 illiterates including 50,000 women, to learn reading and writing.

However, these rates of liquidating illiteracy had to be accelerated. The year 1949 witnessed a radical turning point in this sense. On September of that year, the People's Assembly approved the "Law on obliging the citizens to learn how to read and write". All men and women up to the age of 40 years old who were illiterate must attend anti-illiteracy courses. On November 1949 there was organized a national conference for the liquidation of illiteracy. There was set up also a Central State Commission under the Council of Ministers.

On this basis the liquidation of illiteracy was proclaimed a big and planned state action. The first five-year plan (1951-55) provided for the task to liquidate illiteracy among the people within the age envisaged by the respective law. Thus a still more systematic and organized fight began, directed by the educational organs, schools and teachers.

Courses were opened in any place where more than 10 illiterates could be registered. The illiterates of the isolated groups (of 2, 3 or 4 persons) and who had not attended before regular anti-illiteracy courses were taken voluntarily under patronage by individual persons.

The programmes of anti-illiteracy courses were unique. In addition to reading and writing, people were also acquiring some elementary knowledge about arithmetic, history, geo-

graphy and natural history. In towns, classes began on September 1st and continued for 9 months, lasting 3 hours, 3 times a week. In villages, for reasons of agricultural jobs during the summer season, classes used to begin on October 1st and continued for 6 and a half months, accomplishing 12 school-hours a week.

As a result of such an organisation at the end of the first five-year plan, during the 1955-56 school-year illiteracy was eliminated in Albania among the people upto 40 years of age. Illiterate people of more advanced ages learned also later on to read and write. Altogether upward 345,000 persons attended courses and liquidated illiteracy.

Many of those who finished anti-illiteracy courses attended schools for adults and strengthened and increased their knowledge. Facing the danger of returning of many illiterate people who finished anti-illiteracy courses to their previous conditions if they did not exercise in reading and writing, reading groups were set up at schools and on the initiative of social organisations, and a great importance was attached to the creation and extension of evening elementary schools for adults. These forms of work are still continuing especially in villages.

The final solution of the elementary education problem.

It was a great and difficult problem for a country in which three fourth of the population was made up of peasantry, where only one fourth of the pupils were attending the elementary schools in villages, and where schools existed only in one fifth of the villages. To realize the elementary education all over the country, thousands of schools, several thousand of teachers and other means were needed. The work became more difficult because Albania was a country with an accentuated mountain geographical configuration with small, scattered and thinly populated villages.

However, without settling this problem there could not be question about carrying out the complex tasks of the cultural revolution.

Alongside with the anti-illiteracy courses, during the national-liberation struggle, on the initiative of the village national-liberation councils and teachers and population, elementary schools were also opened. This explains the fact

that immediately after the end of the war, during the 1944-45 school-year 928 elementary schools functioned in Albania, as against 643 during the 1938-39 school-year, although it is known that many schools were closed, damaged and burned during the war. This fact clearly shows that the people's thirst for education was now freely and impetuously manifested.

In August 1946, together with the educational reform, there was approved the law on general and compulsory elementary education, under which elementary education became compulsory for all children, boys and girls from the age of 7 years, compelling to attend the elementary school even the children of 8, 9 and 10 years of age who had no education. In accordance with this law it was allowed that the application of school obligation be postponed to three years in small villages where schools did not exist. With the supplements made later this law was effectively carried out in Albania.

In the 1946-47 school-year the elementary education included, along with all the children of the towns, also all the children of 7, 8, 9 and 10 years of age of the villages where schools were open. The number of pupils grew considerably: from 77,240 in the 1944-45 year to 134,524 in 1946-47.

The number of elementary schools increased from year to year expanding to all the country's regions and villages, at the beginning, in the bigger ones with more than 300 inhabitants and, gradually, also in the smaller ones.

The pupils were obliged to attend school when their residences were at a distance of 3-4 kms from the school. Thus, many village schools had to be opened even there where the pupils were few. For this reason, alongside with the elementary schools with 4 or more teachers, there were set up and still exist schools with three, two and one teacher, sometimes a single teacher leading two or four classes at the same time.

Due to such forms the elementary education was expanded to all the corners of Albania, even to the most distant mountain villages.

During four or five school-years (from 1946-47 to 1950-51) the problem of elementary education was completely settled.

The following table shows the growth of the elementary education during the period of its expansion and realisation all over the country; it is compared with the 1938-39 school-year:

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1938-39	643	52,024	1349
1944-45	928	54,360	1743
1945-46	1097	77,240	2069
1946-47	1609	134,524	2612
1947-48	1751	151,817	2772
1948-49	1909	162,437	3729
1949-50	1970	164,781	3930
1950-51	2023	150,819	4023
1957-58	2212	151,908	4362
1963-64	2481	218,487	6716

These schools include now all the children of respective ages, with very rare exceptions of highlanders' children living in distant houses. This question is now being discussed and its solution being prepared, by drawing these few hundreds of children into boarding schools.

Realisation of the compulsory general 7-year education.

A country building up socialism and striving for a comprehensive economic and cultural progress, no matter how much backward it may have been in the past, cannot be content confining itself to compulsory general elementary education. It lays down the task of realizing also the compulsory general incomplete middle education as a unique system for the people's children, after the completion of which they may follow the general or professional middle education, the lower technico-professional education or as apprentices they may get prepared to go directly to work.

From the very first stage of the development of the cultural revolution, when the main problems in education were the realisation of the elementary education and the liquidation of illiteracy, the development of 7-year education started likewise. During the 1945-46 and 1946-47 school-years there were set up the unique 3-year schools, from the fifth to the seventh grades, that is the lower course of the middle school. The establishment or decentralization of these schools made it possible to open such schools also in sub-prefecture centers, in small towns and village centers, in a word even there where no complete middle schools existed. Beginning with the 1947-

48 school-year, the unique schools were merged with the elementary schools thus forming the unique 7-grade schools.

The following table shows the growth of this category of education in the early years after liberation, as compared with the 1938-39 school year:

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1938-39	11	4619	191
1946-47	34	6305	248
1947-48	107	12180	387
1948-49	146	15812	561
1951-52	222	23890	946

Practically, in the 1951-52 school-year the unique 7-grade education encompassed the overwhelming majority of children in towns whereas in villages there were opened 140 seven-grade schools. At this time the elementary education problem had been fully resolved. Thus the transition to the compulsory general 7-grade education became possible.

In 1952 the People's Assembly approved the respective law, under which all children of 7 up to 16 years old were obliged to attend the 7-grade school when such schools existed at a distance of 4-5 kms from the place of residence of the children. In towns the general compulsory 7-grade education was put into application immediately, as early as in the 1952-53 school-year, whereas in villages, this was done gradually alongside with the opening of new schools.

The realization of the 7-grade education was a still more difficult action, especially as regards the question of providing teachers, premises and school equipments and also on account of the backward mentality of a part of village parents who for some time thought that the 8-grade education was superfluous to their children especially to their daughters. A lot of difficulties were caused also by the mountainous geographic configuration and the comparatively slight density of the population in mountain areas as it was necessary to open seven-grade schools even there where 15 pupils and sometimes even less, for the fifth class were ensured.

However, through a persistent all-round work it became possible for the 7-grade education also to expand to the whole country. The following table shows its growth during several school-years:

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1951-52	222	23890	946
1952-53	255	30261	1061
1957-58	400	42882	2168
1963-64	686	93523	4316

During the 1963 school-year throughout Albania the fifth forms of the 7-grade and 8-grade schools included 85 per cent of the pupils who finished the fourth grade of the elementary school, while in villages only 77.3 per cent.

Creation and development of the professional education.

A country wanting to develop quickly all the economic and cultural branches, embarking on the road of industrialization, needs qualified workers and specialists and technicians of all the profiles. The satisfaction of these needs requires also the organization of the professional education.

In the first stage after liberation there were set up many accelerated courses, with and without quitting jobs, by various ministries and economic enterprises. Beginning with the 1948-49 school-year, on the basis of the unique 7-grade general education there began the creation and extension of a network of middle schools of the professional education of main branches. The following table shows the growth of the professional middle education comparing it also with the 1938-39 school-year:

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1938-39	5	879	34
1948-49	13	1995	190 *
1957-58	30	7111	377
1963-64	31	14399	685

(* This figure comprises the teachers of all the secondary schools, since this year's official statistics have not separated the number of the secondary vocational schools.

An important place in the professional secondary education system is held by the pedagogical secondary schools which train teachers.

Alongside with many professional middle pedagogical and agricultural schools there exist also professional middle schools of other profiles: industrial-technical, mining and oil, technological, economic, construction, medical polytechnicum, artistic lyceum, a special physical culture school, etc. This way, Albania has been able to ensure the training of middle technicians of the main profiles for all the economic and cultural branches.

The professional middle education could be expanded so much because alongside with town children, these schools admitted also many village pupils. For this purpose, the State has made and is making available numerous scholarships to peasantry. Suffice it to recall that during the 1953-54 school-year 64% of the total number of pupils in professional middle schools enjoyed state scholarships.

After liberation, the lower technico-professional education was also organized on sound foundations. In addition to the work that is being done in this direction within various economic enterprises and institutions, beginning with the 1950-51 and 1951-52 school-years there were set up the labour reserve schools for industry, agriculture, construction, communication, commerce, public health, etc. At the beginning these schools admitted both pupils having finished seven-grade schools and pupils comparatively grown up who had not finished the 7-grade school. Later, when the situation was stabilized, these schools began to admit only pupils having finished the 7-grade school. These schools, depending on the branch for which they prepare qualified workers, are 1-3 grade schools. The pupils finishing them have the possibility to acquire a full middle education by attending evening or correspondence middle schools for adults.

Development of secondary education

In the early period after liberation, when the creation of middle professional education was indispensable, although the number of pupils increased also in the middle schools of general education, for a time the number of schools did not grow. Later, when the network of the professional middle education was stabilized and the need arose to ensure students

for higher education, then the impetuous growth of the middle general education began. Here follows a table showing this process:

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1938-39	6	817	46
1950-51	6	1150	91
1955-56	7	2930	150
1956-57	17	4147	203
1957-58	29	5180	250
1960-61	42	6690	467
1963-64	64	13807	757

Now there exist general education middle schools in all district centers, at new industrial settlements, in centers of many inhabited localities and populated villages.

Middle education has now greatly expanded. Here follows a table which shows the development of the general and professional middle education for several years.

School-year	Schools	Pupils	Teachers
1938-39	11	1696	30
1948-49	20	3192	190
1957-58	59	11983	627
1963-64	95	28206	1442

Now the schools of general or professional education are being attended by the overwhelming majority of youth and girls in towns and also by a good part of village youth. In the 1963-64 school-year there were enrolled in Albania's middle schools 64.5 per cent of the pupils who finished the 7-grade schools; while from villages only 49 per cent.

Creation and development of higher education

Higher education in this country developed entirely from the beginning. As early as in 1946 the two-year pedagogical

institute opened in Tirana, beginning the training of teachers for the unique 7-grade school. But our country needed numerous cadres with higher education. In the first years a part of these cadres was trained abroad with state stipends, mainly in the Soviet Union and in the other European socialist countries. But to meet the country's needs, higher education had to be organized without fail at home.

In 1951 there were opened the higher pedagogical institute, a higher agricultural institute and the higher polytechnical institute. In 1952 there were opened also the higher medical institute and the higher economic institute, in 1954 there was set up the higher juridical institute. In 1957 all these institutes of higher learning, with the exception of the agricultural one, were merged and formed the State University of Tirana which has 7 faculties, training higher cadres for 24 specialities. Later there was opened also the State music conservatory, the higher drama school and the higher institute of fine arts as well as another two-year pedagogical institute in the town of Shkodra.

In this way, after having created her higher education, Albania is able today to train specialists with higher education of broad profiles for the main economic and cultural branches. The following table shows the increase of the number of students in Albania:

School-year	Total number of day, evening and correspondence students.	Only day students
1938-39	—	—
1947-48	62	62
1951-52	376	336
1953-54	1147	857
1957-58	3351	3437
1960-61	6703	4499
1963-64	12165	6279

The expansion of higher education has taken place with so much impetus that every year have been and continue to be enrolled at higher schools all the students graduating from the general middle education schools some of those graduating

from the professional middle schools and many others coming from production jobs and administration. Such a large-scale attendance of higher school has been made practically possible by the means of stipends accorded to students by the state. Suffice it to say that during the 1963-64 school-year 71.5 per cent of the students have studied with state stipends.

In the year 1962 there were in Albania 68 students in 10,000 inhabitants — quite a high index. During the 1963-64 school-year the number of students in Albania has been 7 times higher than there were pupils in the country's middle schools during the 1938-39 school-year.

The creation and development of education for adults

This category of education was created from the beginning and started to take a concrete shape as early as during the 1946-47 school-year.

The evening elementary school in the country has been and remains a two-year school. In the course of the two years it gives to the working people the programme of the elementary school. The evening and correspondence seven-grade schools had two-year courses at the beginning and later they became 3-year schools like the day-schools.

The evening and correspondence middle and higher schools have had and continue to have, as a rule, terms equal to those of the respective day schools or one more year.

The adult working people attending evening and correspondence schools, by special government provisions and decisions, enjoy many facilities such as leaves during the examination period, reduced working hours during the courses, etc. etc. Thus, for instance, in order to attend regularly the 7-grade and middle schools the working people have leaves of three hours a week during the working hours (6 hours are granted to women with children having no other persons in their families to take care of them), to pass examinations at evening elementary and 7-grade schools they are given leaves of 10 calendaric days, at the evening middle schools — 15 days, at correspondence middle schools — 20 days, those attending higher schools — 6 hours a week from their weekly job, and 20 days to pass annual examinations (for correspondence courses 30 days) and many other facilities for consultations, lodging, and for some categories also the payment of daily expenses.

During the 1963-64 school-year 56,758 pupils and students have attended schools without quitting their jobs.

Creation and development of new intelligentsia

The development of all links and categories of education mentioned above ensures conditions for the creation of a new intelligentsia from the midst of the working people, in the first place from the midst of peasantry and the working class. The following table shows the growth of cadres with higher education of some of the main specialities.

Specialities	1938	1962
1) Engineers	45	1322
2) Agronomists	35	834
3) Physicians	102	613
4) Other specialists	198	4311
T o t a l	380	7130

At present the textile combine in Tirana alone counts more engineers than did the whole of Albania in the year 1938.

In 1962 Albania had 19,264 specialized cadres with middle and higher education, of whom 12,134 with middle education and 7,130 with higher education, in addition to thousands of other technicians and specialists who have not completed their studies, but who have a rich experience and are studying to acquire the respective education.

Development of pre-school education

This category of education, too, has been created almost from the beginning to lighten the burden of working women in upbringing and educating their children, as well as to promote social

education in the socialist spirit, and it has expanded at fast rates as shown on the table below:

School-year	Kindergartens	Children in them	Educators
1938-39	23	2434	40
1947-48	136	10002	224
1957-58	330	17148	700
1963-64	450	24036	1111

A general review of the development of education

During the 1963-64 school-year all the categories of the Albanian schools were regularly attended by some 400,000 students. This means that 2 out of every 9 of the country's inhabitants regularly attend school. This is a very high index showing the big leap realized within twenty years in a country where, before liberation, only 1 out of every 13 inhabitants attended school.

During the 1963-64 school-year the teaching and pedagogical staff of all school categories reached the figure of 14,600, 9 times more in comparison with the pre-war period.

The number of girls attending school has increased considerably. From the total number of 408,717 students or 171,367 of them or 42 per cent are women.

In the capital of Albania, Tirana, more than 50,000 pupils and students, are attending schools, e. g. one of every three inhabitants or as many as there were throughout the country in the school year 1938-39.

This great development of education in quantity and breadth has been coupled also with a gradual improvement of the quality of teaching and instructive work in the schools, by the qualification and perfection of the teaching cadres, by the enriching of the educational and material basis. All of these things have rendered possible to achieve an all-round socialist education of the younger generation in the Albanian schools.

Development of art and culture

During the same period there has been set up also a broad network of cultural and artistic institutions in towns, in industrial establishments and in villages.

In 1938 there did not exist a single professional theater, while in 1963, 23 such theaters were functioning, of which 6 were drama theaters, 15 variety theatres, an Opera and Ballet Theater, a Puppet Theater for children, a Folk Songs and Dance Ensemble, and an Army Song and Dance Ensemble. In all these troupes 700 artists are working.

In Tirana alone there exist 7 artistic troupes: the Opera and Ballet Theater, the People's (drama) Theater, the State Variety Theater (containing the core of the future circus), the Soldier's Variety Theater, the Children's Puppet Theater and two song and dance ensembles. The cities of Shkodra, Durrës, Elbasan, Vlora and Korça have two theaters each: drama and variety theaters.

In the year 1962-63 the artistic troupes gave 3,048 performances which were attended by 984,980 spectators.

A considerable part of the theaters, and in the first place the variety theatres, give about half of the number of their performances in villages.

At the same time at the work establishments, villages, schools and military detachments and everywhere there have been set up thousands of artistic collectives of art amateurs, performing regularly for the public.

Such an increase of the troupes and artistic activity has been coupled also with a powerful development of the very literature and arts. In literature, especially in poetry, the Albanian people have inherited distinguished values and well-known poets. After liberation, alongside with poetry an impetus was taken also by those literary genres which were formerly developed comparatively less such as prose, (short stories and novels) drama and comedy. For the first time there were developed the complex musical genres: operas, ballets, symphonies, the first operettas. A large-scale development was assumed also by the fine arts. Writers and artists closely connected themselves with the people. The young Albanian art developed and continues to develop on the basis of socialist ideology and the method of socialist realism.

Cinema, too, has become a means of education and cultured recreation. Instead of 17 cinemas that existed in 1938, in 1963 there functioned 38 cinemas, in addition to cinema halls under the economic enterprises and agricultural cooperatives, and in addition to the ambulant cinema apparatus. The «New Albania» film studio has been set up long since. In

addition to chrorical and documentary films, it has produced also several feature films.

The network of cultural institutions has spread all over the country. Instead of 5 State libraries and 2 museums that existed in 1938, there functioned in 1963, 23 State libraries and 18 museums, in addition to thousands of small libraries and inuseum corners set up by the economic enterprises, agricultural cooperatives, schools and various institutions.

For the first time cultural institutions were set up near the working centers. Thus in 1963 there were 22 clubs and houses of culture for the working people of the towns, 587 red corners set up directly at work establishments and 1409 houses of culture and cultural centers created in villages. In these institutions the working people have the possibility to read books, to listen to various concerts, speeches and lectures and to participate in different circles to develop their talents, to view exhibitions, etc.

A great development has been assumed by the spreading of book and press and other propaganda means. While in 1938 there were published 6 newspapers with a mass monthly circulation of 222,800 copies, in 1963 there were published 13 newspapers with a circulation of 2,681,708 copies; instead of 15 reviews with a monthly circulation of 22,500 copies there were published 31 reviews with a circulation of 106,000 copies, instead of 61 books with a total edition of 183,000 copies there were published 573 books with an edition of 3,687,000 copies; instead of 3,000 radio sets, in 1963 there were 70,913.

Development of Albanian science

In the field of science the work started from the beginning because in this field there was inherited nothing, with the exception of a certain tradition of Albanological studies in the field of linguistics and history. The organized scientific work began from the first year after liberation, especially when the Institute of Sciences was set up in 1947. This work assumed a further impetus when higher schools were opened and especially with the creation of the University, into which the Institute of Sciences and the other institutes of higher learning were merged.

The biggest scientific research and work centers in Albania are in the State University of Tirana and in the higher Agricul-

tural Institute. The scientific work there is carried on by the chairs, laboratories and different stations and it is presented also on the numerous scientific bulletins which are published by these two institutions. Within the State University there exists, as a separate institute, the Linguistics and History Institute which is engaged on Albanological studies. At present the center of the Albanological studies has been definitely transferred from abroad, where it was formerly, to Albania. This was clearly shown also by the Albanological conference which took place in November 1962 and which was attended also by foreign scientists.

In the recent years there have been founded also other scientific institutions such as the Industrial Research Institute, the Geological Research Institute and the Institute of the History of the Party of Labour of Albania. A scientific research work is being carried on also by the Hydrometeorologic Service Board and by the Central State Archives as well as by many study bureaus and groups under the government departments, institutions and various economic enterprises.

The young scientific cadres are trained also through work. In 1963 there were 68 scientific pedagogical workers having the scientific title of «docent», 64 with the scientific degree of «candidate of sciences», 13 with the scientific title of «professor». In view of the training of new scientific cadres there exists also the institution of «post-graduate course» created under the higher schools. In 1963 the course was followed, quitting the jobs, by 148 post-graduates. Now there is being organized also a post-graduate course quitting the job.

On some peculiarities of our cultural revolution.

It must be pointed out first of all that the cultural revolution in Albania has been developed in close connection with the ideological revolution and as an integral part of it being powerfully based on socialist ideology, on Marxist-Leninist theory and on the healthy national traditions. The new Albanian culture is socialist in content and national in form. It has come into being and was developed in struggle with the influences of foreign imperialistic and cosmopolitan ideology and the degenerated and bastard culture based on these ideologies.

Another peculiarity is the very fast rate of its development and of the realization of its main tasks. This phenomenon has been conditioned by the need of eliminating as soon as pos-

sible the consequences of the heavy backwardness inherited from the past and to meet the requirements which, under these conditions, are laid down by the country's socialist construction. This fast rate is seen in many directions, in the settlement of the elementary education problem within a five-year period, in the liquidation of illiteracy within a decade, in the simultaneous development of all the branches of public education, in the creation and development at the same time of all the types of cultural institutions, etc.

Another important peculiarity is also the simultaneous development of the cultural revolution in its main directions, in breadth and depth, in quantity and quality, but with a marked domination of the first direction. It is self-understood that from the quality viewpoint the situation of education and culture is still relatively backward in comparison with the extension and great quantitative growth. Thus, for instance, our school, despite its great expansion and development, has still some qualitative weaknesses such as the insufficient progress of school-children and students in their studies and a certain detachment of learning from life, which has been inherited from the old school. The same thing may be said also of the other sectors. This phenomenon, too, is conditioned by the inheritance from the past and by the difficulties of the times, difficulties of growth and expansion.

Finally, the cultural revolution in Albania has developed and continue to develop with big material and financial expenditures. In addition to the usual budget expenses there may be mentioned here also specific expenditures conditioned by the need of fast rate development, of stimulating such a development as well as by the geographical configuration, mountainous in general, and the comparatively slight density of the population. These kinds of expenditures are made in granting scholarships, in opening schools in living centers where there are few pupils and where their education becomes costly, in creating artistic institutions in small towns and centers and for their upkeep, etc.

But all these expenditures are indispensable. They are inherent in a socialist society which makes of education and culture a real property of the people. It is precisely for this reason the expenditure for education and culture hold a very important place in the State budget. In Albania, in 1964 these expenditures account for 11,7 per cent of the budget.

III. Prospects of further development of cultural revolution

Now that the Albanian people have entered the period of the complete construction of socialist society, the forging of new man and further deepening of the ideological and cultural revolution come to the forefront.

Just as until now, in the future, too, the cultural revolution will develop in both directions — in breadth and depth. But the relationship between these two directions will begin to change. A characteristic of the new stage will be a more accentuated development in depth and quality, the further strengthening of the socialist content of the ideological and cultural front. At the same time there will continue also a development in breadth, the quantitative growth. And even in comparison with the past period, this growth in many directions will be still greater.

New prospects of development have opened to the people's education. In June 1963 the People's Assembly approved the law «On the reorganisation of public education in the People's Republic of Albania». Prior to the passage of this law, for three years in succession, a broad public discussion developed about education problems on the basis of the theses published by the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania «Concerning the close connection of school with life and the further development of the people's education system».

After the 1946 education reform, this law, this reorganisation, was another great education reform in new conditions of development. The principal aim of this reform is the implementation of the principle of connecting school with life and work in all the links of the education system. At the same time it is aimed at the all-round qualitative strengthening of school, the all-round strengthening of socialist education as well as at further raising the cultural and education^{al} standards of the whole population and especially of the younger generation.

Under the new law, from the compulsory general 7-grade education they will pass to the compulsory 8-grade general education. This passage for the fifth classes was effected partially during the 1963-64 school-year and will be completed

with the beginning of the 1964-65 school-year. For the other classes the passage will be made gradually, from year to year. The new 8-grade school will indeed be an incomplete middle school of general polytechnical education which will give the students also the necessary training for life and work, it will turn them out to life more grown up and more matured. The 4th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania which took place in 1961 laid down the task that the 8-grade general compulsory education within this decade, until 1970, should expand throughout the entire country and include all the children of respective ages.

On the basis of the 8-grade school there will be set up all the other categories of schools — the lower technico-professional education, general and professional middle education, the middle schools for working people without quitting their jobs.

In all the categories of schools, including here also the general education middle schools and the higher school, the pupils and students, depending also on the profile of their training, will engage also in useful social activities, physical work and production work, they will be educated in the spirit of the love for work.

In addition to the 8-grade schools the network of middle schools has to be extended also. It has been envisaged that by the end of the current five-year period (in the 1965-66 school-year) their number will be about 100, but it is apparent that this figure, too, will be exceeded. Now there are being opened full middle schools of general education also in big populated village centers. The number of students of the professional middle education and of the higher education will grow considerably. By the end of the current five-year plan in the day higher education schools alone there will be more than 7,000 students. In the education for adults without quitting jobs there will be an increase both in the number of schools and pupils.

The number of cadres with higher education, too, by the end of the current five-year period will reach 9,700, while the number of middle technical cadres will reach 25,700.

In 1965 in the industry and mining sectors there will be one specialist with middle and higher education out of every five workers, one agronomist with higher education for every 600 hectares of land, and one technician with agricultural

middle education for every 330 hectares of land, one physician for every 1600 inhabitants of the population.

These extension, growth and qualitative improvement processes will take place also in all the other sectors. There will be an extension of the activities of artistic institutions as well as of the network of the village cultural institutions, aiming at the creation of cultural centers even in most distant mountain villages. The number of all kinds of publications will considerably grow.

The scientific research work will develop also in other sectors and directions. Alongside the promotion of Albanological studies, agricultural and geological researches and studies will be made also in the field of technical and natural, economic, medical, juridical, pedagogical and other sciences. The Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Government of the People's Republic of Albania have laid down the task of working out a 10-15 year plan for the further development of sciences.

Literature and arts are developing on the right path. Alongside with the developed genres that have a tradition, genres comparatively younger are thriving and will apparently thrive also in the future. Such comparatively younger genres are the novel and shorts stories, drama and comedy, opera and ballet, sculpture and picture, feature film, symphonic music, light music, etc.

While Albania has now overcome and in certain directions surpassed many advanced countries as regards the number of schools, teachers and students per capita of the population, and the number of artistic performances and published books, per capita, with regard to the percentage of budget expenditures in the field of education and culture, etc, without speaking of the very fast rates of development of these sectors, she is striving to overcome those countries also with regard to the very educational and cultural standards of the entire population. She has embarked on this road and will reach also this aim.

THE RAISING OF PEOPLE'S WELFARE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

On November 29, 1944, there occurred the greatest turning point in the history of the Albanian people. The old regime characterized by oppression and exploitation of the dominant class, was done away with forever and the basis for the edification of a new social order was laid. The regime of people's democracy was founded, a new state was created, and thus the century-old dream of this long-suffering people was realized.

Through the measures and economic reforms achieved during the years following the liberation of the country the appropriate conditions for the planification of the economy were brought about, unemployment and exploitation of man by man were wiped out and the people took their destiny into their own hands, thus winning their freedom and their rights in all the fields of economic, political and social life.

Great successes have been achieved during these twenty years: a modern industry has been created, the socialist transformation of agriculture has been accomplished and the cultural revolution realized. The people are building their own prosperous life, socialism.

* * *

Oppression, exploitation, unemployment, poverty and starvation, ignorance and diseases were inseparable companions to the people in the past regimes. Terror of war, reprisals, robbery, murdering and its other losses caused to the people and their property made their life still worse.

The eve of liberation found the country in a distressing

situation; the people could not procure even their daily bread and lived dipped into the feudal darkness.

As a result of the submission of the country to the Italian imperialism, the economy was dominated and purloined by the foreign capital, who disposed of the key positions, such as mines, banks, foreign trade, etc.

The very low level of the country's producing forces in the past was expressed in the first place by the lack of industry. The industrial production during that period made up only 9,8% of the global production. Industry represented only 4,5% of the national income.

Agriculture was very backward and primitive too. Feudal and semi-feudal relations dominated the life of the village. About 31% of the tilled area was owned by the big land-proprietors who made up only 3% of the peasant families; 83% of the whole peasantry owned only 60,4% of the total area of land, 21,500 peasant families were landless. Farm work was carried with hand tools. Consequently, although Albania was an agricultural country, it did not produce even half of the corn crops necessary to supply people's demand in grain.

Immediately after the liberation the state of the people's democracy took over the task of rebuilding the new order of things, aiming at the improving of the life of the people. The revolutionary programme of the party and of the government rendered enthusiastic the large masses of the people, who rushed forward into a colossal work to implement this majestic programme. Within a few years great changes were brought about in the fields of economy and culture.

The people was convinced from life itself that the people's power principal task was the improvement as early as possible of the working masses material and cultural conditions, which is the fundamental law of socialism.

To reach this goal as early as possible, since the first months after liberation, there were nationalized and declared people's property, banks, mines, factories and all transport means. The estates of the high trading and speculative bourgeoisie were confiscated and have become people's property. Foreign concessions were put to an end. The debts of the peasant-folk and of the working people were sponged out, thus delivering them from the speculators and usurers who had sucked their blood. Foreign trade became a state monopoly.

The socialist sector of economy was created, which brought about possibilities for an harmonious and proportional development of the country's economy. The revolutionary measures, whose foundation was laid during war, were furtherly expanded. On January 11, 1946 Albania was proclaimed People's Democratic Republic. Through their struggle the people buried the old regime of the feudals and bourgeoisie, smashed out from the root the oppressing apparatus of the ruling classes and set up the regime of the people's democracy, as one of the forms of the proletariat dictatorship, which, for the first time in their history, assured to the Albanian people all the democratic rights and liberties, and mercilessly crushed out the attempts of the internal vanquished and expropriated enemies, as well as the plots of the imperialists and their agents.

In this way the ruling power, from an oppressive and exploiting instrument to the prejudice of the people, was transformed by our people's revolution, into an instrument in the hands of the people in order to crush out and eliminate capitalism and exploitation of man by man.

Since 1946, through the great economic and social reforms, there were successfully performed the duties concerning the phasis of the democratic bourgeois revolution and our country entered into the phasis of the edification of the foundations of socialism.

Thanks to this new policy possibilities were created for the development of our economy according to plan: The economy began to be restored. New ways of communications were opened, the first railway in Albania was constructed, schools, factories and sanitary institutes were set up, agriculture and livestock breeding expanded, etc.

The agrarian reform, which was achieved during the first years after the liberation marked the first revolution in the social and economic relations of the village. It has completely eliminated feudal relations in production, it has liquidated the class of landowners, it has gratuitously given land to the working peasants. The agrarian reform limited, and then through measures and the ulterior development, liquidated the differentiation concerning peasantry, which has existed along the centuries and according to which a difference was made between the rich and the poor. In consequence of the agrarian reform the working peasant, for the first time, became master of his land

and began to work and produce for his own account, to procure his food and live better, to improve his economic, social and cultural conditions. As a direct consequence of the agrarian reform, 70,211 families took 172,659 ha of land, 474,227 olive-trees and 5,929 beasts of burden, etc.

Another victory, which had a decisive importance in the establishment of new relations in the village in matters of distribution, was the collectivization of agriculture, which successfully ended in 1959. Collectivization of agriculture constitutes the second revolution, the most revolutionary turn in the social economic relations in the village. Instead of a little individual economy parcelled out, there was created the great socialist production, which gave full possibility to the rapid growth of the countryside. The socialist transformation of agriculture in the village made possible the liquidation of the exploitation of man by man, the liquidation of agrarian stoppage, which at the time of private property domination was a big social sore. In harmony with the new economic and social conditions, the contradiction between the private character of property in agriculture and the social character of industrial property disappeared, and thus the economic basis of socialism was laid in the village, too. The establishment of socialist relations in production resulted in the fact that the distribution of goods was made in the interest of the cooperativist peasantry and all the people.

The process of distribution in the village is improving more and more. The state has taken such measures as the carrying out of the statute type of the agricultural cooperatives, the construction of a right system of accumulation, the construction of a right system of imposts and taxes, the increase of accumulation prices, the annulment of duties and taxes in arrears and other measures of this kind, which have increased the quantity of production and incomes of the peasantry.

The distribution and redistribution of social products played an active part in the improvement of the economic, social and cultural situation. If we estimate to 100 the average of the real income per capita of the peasant population in 1950, in 1962 this average reaches 165 and in 1965 it will reach 199. In 1955 peasantry paid imposts and taxes in cash and in production amounting to 2 billion and 116 million leks, in 1961 they paid only 874 million leks, that is to say two and a half times less. Before the liberation the peasants handed over

up to 45% of the amount of grain produced, while now they sell to the state at fixed prices about 25 percent of it.

The substitution of the small agricultural production by the great socialist production created propitious conditions for the development of the productive forces and for the multilateral progress of the village. The victory of socialism in the village strengthened even more the alliance between the working class and peasantry, it modified the very nature of the working peasantry and instead of the individual peasantry a new class — the cooperativist peasantry was brought up, and new relations were established between the town and the village. Those were relations of cooperation and mutual help between two friendly classes of common interests.

Socialist industry has given and continues to give a great help to the village. From the liberation up to the end of the second five-year plan the state invested 3 billion leks for drainage works, while during the third five-year plan (1960-1965) the state will spend for the same purpose another 4 billion leks. The result of all these drainage was the reclaiming of large areas of land in the Myzeqeja, Maliq, Vurgu, Thumana, etc. marshlands and lagoons, heretofore permanent sources of malaria that shortened the life of the peasant-folk, now are transformed into fertile lands. The land under cultivation has increased from 292,000 ha in 1938 to about 500,000 ha in 1964 and irrigation possibility has increased 6.8 times for the same period.

The state has also given a great help to the village especially in mechanization of agricultural works. In 1933 there were in all 30 tractors while in 1964 their number has increased to 7026; the autocombines which were wholly unknown before the liberation count now 443.

In 1962 compared to 1950, agriculture was supplied with more selected seeds — 2.6 times more, chemical fertilizers — over four times, insecticides — 8.3 times more, animal drawn agricultural implements — over four times. Only in 1963 the peasantry received 1,381,000,000 leks as loans.

A great help was also given to peasantry by the state agricultural enterprises through their progressive examples, agrotechnical advice, their specialists at the disposal of the countryside, etc.

The economical assistance which was given to the peasantry and the tireless work they themselves have done in

order to assure better and happier days, have brought about an evident progress in the village life.

During the years of people's power the educational and cultural level of the working masses in Albania has risen in an incomparable way.

To prove the backwardness of the people in the past, it suffices to say that 80 per cent of the population at that time were illiterate. Two thirds of the children were doomed to remain illiterate, too. The foreign invaders and the dominant classes were interested in keeping the people in ignorance and darkness in order to oppress and purloin them more easily.

After the liberation education and culture became property of the masses. In 1955 illiteracy in Albania was done away with for all the people up to forty years of age. Since the liberation of the country primary education became obligatory and now the eight-year school is obligatory, also.

Prior to the liberation of the country there were only 643 elementary schools and 11 secondary schools, whereas there were no cultural, artistic or professional institutes, while now there are 2481 elementary schools, 686 seven-year schools, 98 secondary schools and 7 high institutes of learning, besides the State University of Tirana, frequented by more than 9000 students. In 1964 alone there were graduated 749 high cadres, or 2 times more than the total number of all high cadres existing in 1938.

A wide network of different pedagogic schools have been set up to prepare as rapidly as possible teaching cadres and today the country boasts of a whole army of 13,000 teachers, of whom only 1600 are inherited from the past. Now the city of Tirana alone has more teachers than there were throughout Albania in 1938.

During the school-year 1963-1964, there were registered in all the schools 400,000 pupils and students. Only in higher schools there were registered 12,165 students.

All the expenses are met by the state. Education in PRA is given free of charge. Schools are equipped with all kinds of didactical means and the necessary texts are very cheap. The state allots considerable funds for the education of orphans awarding scholarships. In order to make things easier for pupils and students, the state has opened everywhere refectories and boarding-schools, where the youngsters in fact

pay only a part of the value of their food and of the other expenses, which are met in greater part by the state.

For those who don't have the possibility to frequent day-schools, the state has set up other ways so that they may raise their qualification and get the necessary education. Only during the years 1955-1960, more than 130,000 workers attended lectures or other sorts of specialized courses obtaining the title of qualified workers. Workers and functionaries can continue the evening-schools or pursue their studies through correspondence courses without interrupting their work. Workers attending evening-schools work with a reduced schedule undergoing no reduction in their salary. They enjoy the right of a special paid leave so that they may prepare their examinations and the leave varies according to the kind of school they attend, and it may be even of a period of 45 days, besides the usual and complementary leave. Besides these favours they enjoy other facilities, too, with the purpose that all of them may get the possibility to get the appropriate education. During 1963-1964, 56,758 workers inscribed themselves to evening schools or to correspondence courses.

Cultural institutions were opened for the first time. In 1963 there were 22 culture-clubs and palaces and 29 culture-houses for the town workers, 587 recreation and reading rooms in working centers. There are now in our villages more than 1300 homes and hearths of culture, more than 5500 artistic troupes with more than 53,000 amateurs, 860 libraries with a total of 450,000 books, etc.

Only during the first thirteen years since the liberation of our country there have been printed more books than were issued in Albania during the last centuries, from the publication of the first book in the Albanian language. The statistics show that in 1938 there have been printed 61 books and in 1963 — 577 books. It is important to remark that they are sold at very low prices so that every one may buy them.

In 1938, there were only five public libraries, and in 1963 23 of them.

Whereas in 1938 there were merely six newspapers with a circulation of 2,702,000 copies, now the number of newspapers has reached to thirteen with a circulation of 32,885,000 copies. The number of periodicals has also greatly increased. They numbered 15 in 1938 with a circulation of 340,000 copies

as compared to 33 with a circulation of 1,243,000 copies in 1960.

In 1938 there were only two museums whereas now there are eighteen of them.

There was but a professional artistic institution in 1945 which disposed of 632 seats; it gave 24 shows for 12,930 spectators attending them, while in 1963 they became 23, with a capacity of 6748 places, gave 3048 performances with about 1,000,000 spectators attending them.

There were 17 cinema-halls in 1938 with 4800 seats, where 3560 shows were presented having an attendance of 561,200 spectators; in 1963 the number of cinemas reached to 75, with 19,554 seats and there were given 39,905 shows with 7,426,047 spectators attending them.

The price of the entrance-tickets is extraordinarily low; at 5 leks are sold the tickets for children at the puppet theatre, 20 leks are enough to attend a picture-show, 15 to 25 leks is the price of a ticket at the theatre, 20 to 50 leks costs an entrance ticket to the Opera, etc.

The same can be said of sports. There were in all 23 sport groups in 1938, whereas in 1961 their number rose to 1463 etc. A sport ticket to a foot-ball match costs only 10 to 50 leks.

In the People's Republic of Albania a particular importance is given to people's health, which is considered as the most precious thing. For this purpose, a wide network of state institutions were created for the defence of health and life, which assure to the population gratuitously all sorts of sanitary services. The organization of sanitary services on a new basis in the People's Republic of Albania has brought about the rise of the level of these services and the improvement of people's health. Medical assistance which includes medical visits at home and in work centres, the admission to a hospital, the treatment with all sorts of medicaments, the necessary medical treatments, food and medical service in all its forms, is given gratis to all workers, functionaries and to their families, who are admitted to hospitals, maternities and to other sanitary institutions. In conformity with the Law N. 3763, dated December 17, 1963, regarding sanitary service and free medical assistance by the state, medical assistance is given free of charge to all the population, urban and rural, regardless of the fact if they are or not in work relations. Medical aid such as medi-

cements etc. is gratuitously given at home to all children up to one year of age.

There are now in Albania 13.4 times more health institutions than before the liberation, or 171 health institutions with 10759 beds. In 1963 there were given medical treatment in hospitals 167804 patients. In 1938 there were 102 physicians while in 1963 there were 754 or one physician to 2334 inhabitants. The number of medical cadres with secondary education increased 18 times comparing with 1938.

Thanks to the draining of marshes and swamps and other measures tending to fight mosquitoes, malaria, of which half of the population suffered before, has been liquidated in time. Malaria cases are to-day extraordinarily rare. Syphilis, an old painful scourge of the Albanian people, has almost disappeared from our vocabulary thanks to positive measures taken after the liberation for the elimination of the hotbeds of the disease and for the recovery of the infected persons. Tuberculosis, another disease greatly spread before as a result of the bad economical situation and of an unbecoming living of the population, is now very circumscribed. The fight against tuberculosis with up-to-date methods, the improvement of work and living conditions, the adoption of multilateral prophylactic and curative measures have made possible the decline in a great measure of this disease from year to year.

One of the preventive measures against disease is the periodical control of workers, which is organized in work centers by the sanitary organs and by the Trade Unions. Such a control includes pathologic, radioscopic and radiographic examinations as well as complete laboratory analysis.

In order to protect the population against the epidemic diseases, gratuitous periodical vaccinations have been organized against typhoid fevers, diphtheria, varicella and other contagious sickness.

For the purpose of safeguarding the health of the workers and to make their life easier, the state has provided refectories, dietetic dining-halls, prophylactoriums and night sanatoriums. Here the workers get food, sleep, get all the necessary treatments, paying but 30% of the expenses, while all the other services are free of charge. In the dietetic halls set up at work-centers and in towns, for example, for three meals a day for a period of twenty five days the worker pays about 1100 leks, while this really costs to the state 5014 leks.

The state has spent considerable sums of money for social and cultural activities. Only during the second five-year plan the state has spent 22 billion and 500 million leks or 142% more than during the first five-year plan. In comparison with 1962, the expenses in this field during 1963 have been 8.3% greater. In 1964 to carry on these services there has been assigned 26.5% of the total sum of expenditures envisaged in the State budget, which is equal to 7,856 million leks and denotes an increase of 10.1% comparing with 1963.

The improvement of living conditions and the measures taken for the defence of people's health have given satisfactory results and this is perfectly reflected in the prolongation of people's life. Whereas in 1938 the average life span was 38 years and three months, in the year 1960-1961 the average was 64 years. During 1963 the natural increase of the population was 3% more than in 1962.

More care is given to the defence and improvement of people's health during the third five-year plan by improving in a radical way public hygiene, prophylaxy, medical service and all the sanitary institutions by giving more medical assistance to the population and taking care so that the health of mothers and children may be better protected.

During the third five-year plan twenty hospitals, five maternities and nine new sanitary centers will be built and the existing institutions will be greatly enlarged. The number of beds will increase 33% and the number of places in creches will increase 44% as compared with the period prior to 1961. In 1965 there will be a physician for every 1600 inhabitants.

In the third five-year plan the expenses of the state for social and cultural sectors will be 65% greater than during the second five-year plan.

* * *

Being that in Albania the means of production belong to the working people and the exploiting classes are liquidated, it follows that production develops in the interest of workers, in the interest of the whole people. Therefore the fulfillment of the material and cultural needs of the people in continual increase becomes the principal goal of production.

Under the conditions when the material goods are produced by the working people, directed and administrated by the state on their behalf and on their account, they cannot be used

for some other scope, but for the interest of the collective owners, that is to say, for the interest of the toiling people.

Such a measure has naturally incited the expansion of the creative initiative of the large masses of the people and aims at the improvement of production.

The socialist order awakened among the working masses new energies and talents, forged an army of cadres in all the sectors, gave rise to movements and great initiatives, to large social movements.

The fact that the workers are working for themselves has given to an enthusiasm and to a great emulation in work, which has become a method of work and a way to step up ever more forward in all the fields of life. More than 15,000 propositions were made by the innovators during 1962.

In the socialist emulation are participating not only individual workers, but also teams, brigades, whole sectors and big enterprises. In 1963 the number of shock workers reached over 7500, from whom 1000 won the title of socialist worker. The different sectors of economy number to-day over 1330 brigades with more than 12,800 participants and over 5000 workers who are struggling to win the title of shockworker of socialist work.

All these facts indicate that the workers are interested in the increase of the material goods, for this is directly related with the further improvement of their life conditions.

The quantity of material goods produced by the entire national economy increases with every passing day.

The socialist forms of economy and socialist relations in the field of production predominate to-day throughout the country.

In 1960 the socialist sector of economy realized about 90% of the national income. The socialist sector represents more than 99% of the entire industrial production, 100% of the wholesale trade, more than 95% of retail trade, more than 80% of the global agricultural produce.

On the sound basis of the new relations in matters of production springs forth the impetuous development of productive forces, the entire industrial and agricultural production. In 1963 in the People's Republic of Albania the global industrial production increased 30.4 times in comparison with 1938. What was produced during the whole year of 1938 is now produced in less than thirteen days. The global industrial production

per capita in comparison with 1938 has increased 18 times in 1963, or 5.1 times in reference to 1950. New branches have been created in industry and the third five-year plan (1961-1965) will mark a new step forward in the creation of the material and technical basis of socialism.

The increase of industrial and agricultural production has assured a sensible improvement in the material conditions of the working classes. The volume of the circulation of goods in 1960 has been about 23 billion leks or 94% more than in 1955, while the increase of the circulation of goods per inhabitant has been 66.8% during the same period.

In 1960 socialist trade has sold to the people more than in 1955: bread 83%, fats 72%, sugar 77%, cotton goods 41%, woolen goods 59%, shoes 92%, etc. In comparison with 1962, in 1963 the circulation of retail trade in socialist trade increased 6.7%. Thus the population has purchased more: fats 9%, milk 4%, cheese 13%, beer 6%, sugar 7%, macaroni 18%, shoes 23% etc. In comparison with 1963, in 1964 the population will purchase more: cotton goods — 10.5%, sugar — 9.2%, fats — 5.1%, etc.

In comparison with 1963, in 1964 the supply of the population will increase regarding foods and industrial goods. Cotton goods will increase in a proportion of 10.5%, knitting — 26.1%, shoes 33.7%, furnitures and fittings — 52.4%. Foods such as sugar will increase in a proportion of 9.2%, fats — 5.1%, rice — 8.7%.

In the course of 20 years there have taken place 10 reductions of prices of consume goods in a value of 3,741,000,000 leks. In 1963 the prices were lower than 1938: for bread 18.7 per cent, rice 18.4, beans 20.5, oil 24.5, cheese 16.5, sugar 13.7, soap 33.6, kerosene 52.7, fabrics 18.4, woolens 15; shoes 5.4.

The third five-year plan (1961-1965) will mark a further material improvement for the people. The industrial production will increase 52%, the agricultural produce 72% as compared with 1960. The volume of the circulation of goods in 1965 will reach at 30,800,000,000 leks or 38% more than in 1960. The real wages of workers and functionaries will increase 26% and that of peasantry 35%. The number of workers and functionaries will increase 26%.

During a period of ten years, that is from 1950-1960, there have been built dwelling houses with a capacity to lodge a population equal to that of the towns of Shkoder, Durres,

Korça, Vlora and Elbasan before the liberation taken together. With the rhythm of that time, three hundred years would have been needed to the anti-popular regime of Zog to construct those buildings. The monthly rent of these houses is very low; it is not even equal to the salary that the average worker earns in a day and a half of work. Thus, for example, for a flat made up of two rooms, a kitchen and other annexes such as the bath-room etc. the worker does not pay more than 250-260 leks a month. In 1963 the state has built 3421 flats for the workers. As a result of new buildings there are created new towns like Maliq, Tserrik, Patos etc.

From 1945 to 1963 there were built by the people themselves over 93,000 living houses and 85,000 of them by the peasantry.

The entire volume of constructions realized in 1938 is now achieved within six days; during 1961-1965 alone the state will build a volume of constructions equal to that realized during the fifteen years from the liberation up to the end of 1959.

The state has opened considerable credits to workers. Only during the second five-year plan workers and functionaries have obtained long-term credits to build dwelling-houses of their own for a sum of 311 million leks, while the peasantry has taken from the state for the same purpose 194 million leks.

The improvement of the material standard of the workers is also evidenced by the existence of large deposits in Saving Banks. In 1950 the amount of such deposits was 38.8 million leks and in 1963 1489.9 million leks.

One of the most important signs for the raising of the workers' welfare is the growth of the national income. Whereas in 1938 the national income was 11 billion and 163 million leks, in 1956 it reached 29 billion and 78 million leks, being thus 170% greater than in 1938; always in comparison to the year 1938, in 1960 it increased over 4 times and in 1963 5 times, while the revenues per inhabitant compared to 1938 have increased in 1950 — 144.0%, in 1955 — 217%, and in 1961 — 276%.

The rational use of the national income in harmony with the economic conditions has assured the continuous increase of the industrial and agricultural production, of the national income and of the volume of circulation of consumer's goods

with more accelerated rhythms than the growth of the local population. During a period of thirteen years (1951-1963), while the annual average increase of the population has been of 2.9%, the annual average increase per inhabitant of the industrial production was 13.2%, the agricultural produce 3.7%, the national income 6% and the circulation of goods in retail trade 9%.

The development of agriculture has also given the possibility to the peasantry to increase their real income. Here, too, the increase came about at a more rapid rhythm than that of the growth of the rural population. Taking as a basis the year 1950, the real income of the peasantry was in 1962 85% per capita greater, whereas in 1965 it will be nearly 100% higher or doubled. Thus the level of the economic, social and cultural standard of living of the peasantry has risen incomparably to the past.

The national income is not created, as in capitalism, as a result of the exploitation of the working masses, but is assured through the work of the toiling folk liberated from exploitation and is a matter concerning all of them. In our system of people's democracy indispensable conditions are created for the continuous and rapid increase of the national income. Thus, during the second five-year plan the national income was increased 48%, while during the third five-year plan the increase will rise to 56%.

The distribution of the national income is carried out in conformity to a plan, in the interest of assuring an enlarged socialist reproduction and a continuous growth of popular welfare. The further redistribution of the national income is essentially accomplished through the State budget which is the fundamental financial plan of the country.

The State budget for 1964 foresees the increase of revenues respectively to 5 and 5.2% with a surplus of 200 million leks.

The State budget for the year 1964 reflects the peaceful work accomplished by the Albanian people in order to fulfil the plans of the socialist society. This rises from the just policy pursued by the Party and the Government. It is imbued by the great aim leading to the impetuous development of economy and culture, and, on this basis, to achieve the welfare of the people. It is a concrete plan, for it relies essentially upon the great creative work of the labouring masses. It suffices to say that 87.6% of the revenues, that is 26 billion and 139

million leks will be secured by the socialist sector of the people's economy, whereas the imposts and taxes paid by the population make up only 2,3% of the incomes, that is, a very negligible part of the budget's revenues.

The budget expenditures are also characterized by the concern shown for the development of our people's economy, for which are allotted 17 billion and 119 million leks or 57,7% of the global sum of expenditures; 7 billion and 856 million leks or 26,5% of the entire expenditures are reserved for the social and cultural sector, for the defence of the country — 9,5%, for state administration 2,5% and for miscellaneous expenses 3,8%.

* * *

The improvement of the people's welfare is also fully expressed in the democratic rights which the large masses of the people have won and enjoy.

Thus, immediately after the liberation of Albania all the old enslaving legislation previously in power was as a rule abrogated since it made up an obstacle to the development of the new social and economic relations established in our liberated country.

The old laws of the past which assured but privileges to a minority, to the feudal bourgeois class, aiming at the safeguarding of their interests, were buried together with the regime which had enacted them. Thus the old legislation was replaced by the new laws, which were now people's laws as a consequence of the fact that the working class took the power into their hands.

Based on the constitution, which is the foundation-stone of the new society, there were successively enacted different laws concerning all the fields of life.

Parallel to the winning of democratic liberties and of other rights, the workers are guaranteed above all the right to work, which is the warranty for the material existence of man and for the possibility to develop his own personality.

The exercising of this right is guaranteed to the workers by the planned organisation of economy, and this has rightly eliminated every economic crisis and disoccupation in the People's Republic of Albania and has become a source of people's welfare. Work constitutes to-day the basis of the

social order in the People's Republic of Albania. It has ceased to be what it was before, a heavy burden and a daily torture, the means of exploitation. On the contrary, work is to-day a cause of honour and heroism, a civil duty for every citizen capable of working. In People's Republic of Albania this is done in conformity with the principle «who doesn't work, doesn't eat» and «every one according to his ability, to every one according to his work».

The basis for the creation of the juridical relations of work is labour contract, that is, the freely reached agreement between the parties concerned in order to perform a work in accordance with the profession or the speciality that each one has, in a fixed place and against an indemnity, which varies from the quantity and the quality of the work done.

In order to guarantee to the workers their rights, the increase of the output at work, their welfare and to wholly safeguard their health, an entire system of legislative acts, whose basis is the Labour Code, has been set up. This is the highest expression of the concern displayed by the party and the people's power for the improvement of the life and work conditions of the people.

The Labour Code which regulates all work relations between the workers on one hand and the state, cooperatives and social enterprises, on the other hand, is one of the greatest victories of the working class. In it are reflected the new socialist relations at work, springing forth with the establishment of the people's democratic regime in our country.

In conformity to law, the workers are guaranteed the eight hour workday. For some categories of workers who are at hard jobs or harmful to health, or intellectual work, the normal daily period of work is reduced to 7 or 6 and even 5 hours, without any reduction of their salary. Supplementary work is allowed in extraordinary cases, and according to definite rules and always upon the authorization of the Trade Unions. As supplementary work is always heavier to the worker, it is paid with a rise in salary, which may reach the double pay the worker gets for the normal working period.

Besides the weekly holiday and the official holidays, the workers and the functionaries enjoy a yearly paid leave. A great number of workers, that is those who are at hard jobs, enjoy also a supplementary paid leave, some time as long as 36 working days a year. In order to have the holidays enjoyed

to the maximum, the state has built apposite rest homes in the most attractive and picturesque spots of the country, where the workers and their children pass very pleasant and joyful days enjoying every comfort and plenty of food.

The number of the workers, of the functionaries and of their children who go to pass their holidays in the rest homes is increasing with every passing year. While in 1950, 3682 workers and functionaries and 4283 pioneers went to these houses of rest, in 1963 passed their holidays in them 12,696 workers and 12772 pioneers. For the maintenance of these houses of rest last year were spent 103,577,000 leks, while for 1964 a fund of 104,000,000 leks is allotted. Only for the rest-house of the workers at Durres there will be spent during 1964 a sum of 16,000,000 leks and for the rest-home of the pioneers — a sum of 16,300,000 leks. Whereas the food and lodging of a worker at the rest-house costs to the state 4200 leks, the worker pays only up to 1000 leks for the whole period of time he passes there, which amounts to less than one-fourth of the expenditure. In the health resorts set up for sick people (T.B.C.), the sick worker pays but 1250 leks for the twenty-five days he lives there, while the state spends 9700 leks. For his child, the parent pays only 800 leks, while the expenses reach the sum of 5900 leks.

Following the principle that «man is the most precious capital», the Labour Code and other complementary juridical regulations set a particular value to the health and the life of workers. Thus no engine can be set going without securing first the appropriate technical means of protection against risks, unless the worker himself disposes of a relative licence of ability and unless he has previously taken the relative instructions for its use. For all sorts of job that may harm his health, as at the dampy places, the worker is gratuitously equipped on the part of his enterprise with special working outfits, with defence means such as anti-gas masks, boots, gloves, etc. In those branches of production where there is the risk of poisoning, the workers receive free of charge milk and other antidotes, in filthy places the worker gets washing soap gratuitously, etc.

In the past regimes the woman enjoyed no rights at all and she was held in no esteem whatever by the state. In many places of Albania women were sold and bought the same as cattle. Her fate was decided by others, she depended

economically wholly on her husband and was but a slave of the latter. Fanaticism was another terrible custom, to which the woman was compelled to submit. There was a double oppression on women: oppression as a class and oppression as a human being. Six thousand of partisan women participated in the war of national liberation with arms in their hands, and while fighting side by side with men, they showed how greatly they were interested in the state affairs. Woman has really become an active participator on the daily struggle and an inexhaustible source of strength, and this because she now occupies a place of honour and of importance in the People's Republic of Albania.

Woman is equal to man in all the fields of private, political and social life (article 17 of the Constitution). While before the liberation only 668 women took part in production, today over 61,000 of them are in work relations with the state and with other organizations, over 120,000 are members of agricultural cooperatives

Women not only became social activists, but from their ranks there came out also women able to direct many sectors of our country's life: they took over tasks of responsibility in economics, in the people's administration organs, from the function of a leading squad and sector responsible up to that of factory director and cooperative chairman, from deputy in the People's Councils to deputy at the People's Assembly. Now, besides 25 deputies at the People's Assembly, three women are vice-ministers, members at the High Court of Justice, about 700 are judges and assistant judges, 54 are directresses of economic enterprises and of cultural institutions, 7 are chairman of agricultural cooperatives, 390 vice chairmen, brigadiers and accountants. Over three thousand of them are decorated with medals and Work orders. Twenty five women have won the title of «Heroine Mothers».

In Albania women constitute 26.4% of the labour force and about 48% of those work in the agricultural cooperatives. Women working in the Health sectors make up 66.3%, in trade — 43.6%, in teaching — 42.6%, in handicrafts — 40.4%, etc.

To make the participation of women at work easier, the State has opened a sufficient number of crèches and kindergartens. In 1938 there were only 23 kindergartens with 2434 children and in 1963 their number was increased up to 450 with 24036 children.

Crèches and kindergartens are opened near the work and production centers and disseminated in many localities. Only at the «Stalin» textile Combine at Tirana there exist more than 11 crèches and kindergartens with a capacity of more than 1000 seats. Only during 1961, the Management of this Combine has spent for their maintenance 35 million leks, while the parents' contribution corresponded to 28% of the expenditures effected. Such a thing happens because parents who take their children at crèches or at kindergartens pay but a small part which varies from 20-35%. The sum of money paid in this case depends from the average monthly pay the parents earn and from the number of family members they have to support. Thus, parents with many children pay only 715 leks for the child sent to the crèche. For day kindergartens the payment is lower, it varies from 455 to 1500 leks per child.

Since one of the principal means for the emancipation of women and for the development of her personality is the raising of her standard of education, the doors of schools, are wide open to her. Whereas before liberation 94% of the women were illiterate, in 1955 illiteracy was eliminated among all women under the age of forty. In Albania are attending primary and seven-year schools more than 132,542 girls while in 1938 there were only 18,206; 9168 girls frequent secondary and professional schools while there were in all 377 in 1938. More than 11,326 girls and women attend evening schools and courses with correspondence. The number of women who are acquiring a profession and continue their education is continually growing.

A particular attention is paid to all working women. Law prohibits the employment of women in those branches and professions which are hard and harmful to their health. To pregnant women or to those who have a sucking child, supplementary work or night work is prohibited. Women of this category cannot be charged with a duty outside their work-center without their own assent. They have the right to go and give milk their child after every 3-4 hours of work and this absence from work does not effect their pay. Women enjoy a leave for pregnancy and birth which, according to circumstances, may last from thirteen to fifteen weeks, before and after birth; they enjoy other rights, too, concerning transferring, leaves, work insurances, etc.

Labour laws concede a particular attention to youth, espe-

cially to those under-age, who are under eighteen years old. To protect their health and to assure them a minimum of culture, it is prohibited to take them into work under the age of fourteen. For the under-age ones, 14-16 years old, the daily work schedule is reduced to six hours without any reduction of this salary. The same as the girls, under-age are prohibited to do any extra work out of the normal working time, to work by night or to do hard jobs which harm their health. The under-aged under sixteen years old enjoy an annual paid leave double that awarded to the full-aged persons.

The Labour Code envisages all the rules regarding admittance to employment, payments, transfers, the cancelling of work contracts, indemnities, etc. For the solution of conflicts which may arise between them and the administration board in the capacity of employer regarding work questions there are conciliatory commissions constituted in each work-center, composed of representatives of the Trade-Union committee and of representatives of the enterprise. According to simple and democratic proceedings they resolve the conflicts in the spot and this is a great facility for workers. In this way they are protected in every way by the law from any sort of arbitrary acts.

As a consequence of their being at work, all workers and functionaries are insured and thus benefit from the State Social Insurances.

Social insurances are characterized by the large number of persons who profit by them. Workers and functionaries are not the only ones to benefit from social insurances; the members of artisan enterprises, of farm cooperatives, members of the fishing cooperatives, members of the bar, soldiers under obligatory military service, pupils of schools, of professional courses, students of high schools, etc. independently of their nationality, benefit from the insurance funds.

Another characteristic is that the enterprises acting as employer are compelled by law to insure their workers and pay in their contribution to the social insurances, which is fixed at one per cent of the salary. But independently from depositing or not the apposite part of social insurances, independently of gains or losses the enterprise may incur, the workers always enjoy their rights in regard to social insurances.

Social insurances have a large sphere, for they include different sorts of assistance and material benefits.

The level of social insurances is high and such a thing has a great influence in the increase of worker's real salary

Finally, the social insurances stand to the socialist principle «to each one according his work» since the kind of work, the salary that the workers get, the seniority at work uninterruptedly etc. exercises an influence over it.

Besides the gratuitous medical assistance which includes the medical visit, the admission and treatment in sanitary institutions, rehabilitation at work etc., that now, as we have already said, are enjoyed without exception by all the people, the social insurances include in the first place assistance in money in case of sickness or for other reasons which temporarily make the worker unable for work. This assistance in money, which is conceded since the day that begins the ineptitude, continues till the full recovery or until invalidity is declared, is given in reward to seniority at work in an uninterrupted way in percentage on the average wages of the worker which reaches till 85% of it. For miners who work underground the assistance in money is equal to 95% of his wage and in case of accidents the miner gets 100% of his average wage if he does not continue to work.

The worker gets an assistance in money not only when he is unable to work, but also when his child or some other of his family is sick and is obliged to remain at home in order to take care of him. Assistance in money is also given by the social insurance in case of quarantine, when the worker for reasons of illness, gets transferred to some other work or works with a reduced pay and for this reason is paid less than before, when he goes to a watering-place, etc.

The woman worker or functionary is paid by the social insurance during all the period of her leave of pregnancy and birth. During this leave the woman gets till 95% of her average wage.

The worker or the functionary who becomes father, independently if his wife is or not in work relations, gets immediately an indemnity for the birth of the child in the proportion of 2800 leks. Besides the immediate assistance in money the parent receives from the state a compensation for his or her children. For mothers with many children the parent also receives another immediate indemnity of 1000 leks when the third child is born, while for the fourth one or more the mother

gets a monthly compensation which increases with the increase of the number of children.

Social insurances accompany man from birth to death. This even in case of death of the worker itself or of some member of his family the social insurances pay the expenses for the burial. For the worker himself 3000 leks are given while for the death of a member of his family 2000 leks are awarded.

Besides the assistance of the social insurances, law foresees different kinds of pensions. Thus the worker who gets old and has fulfilled a minimum of seniority at work has the right for a pension of old-age. Women get a pension at the age of fifty five, when they have at least fulfilled ten years of work while her husband has the same right when he fulfils twelve years and a half of work and has the age of sixty. This concerns easy jobs or common ones, while for hard work, as is the case of the work done in mines under ground then the people receive a pension when they have fulfilled twenty years of work and at the age of fifty. The proportion of the pension is conceded in percentage on the wages, and this after that a fixed minimum of pension is guaranteed. The pension for old age cannot be less than 3300 leks. The worker is insured when he also becomes an invalid. That is why he receives an invalidity pension for all the period of time during his new situation remains unchanged. The invalidity pension depends from the group of invalidity to which the worker belongs. For invalidity caused from accidents at work the pension is higher and is conceded independently from seniority at work.

For some categories of workers such as teachers, artists, etc. the pension of old-age is accorded in more favourable conditions and is called pension for service seniority.

Workers and functionaries are not the only ones to be personally insured, but such a measure is also extended to the members of their family. The latter receive a family pension when they are under age, in advanced age or unable for work. The number of the members of the family has an influence over the fixing of the family pension; more numerous they are, the higher is the pension. In the family pension, in like manner with other sorts of pensions, there is a minimum of pension for one member, for two, for three or more members.

While the subsidies from social insurances are fixed by the councils of social insurances which are selected by the

workers themselves in centers of work, pensions are fixed by the commissions of pensions, in which take part workers, activists of the Trade Unions; such a fact demonstrates that workers take part in the administration of their own affairs.

The State spends every year billions of leks for social insurance and pensions. Thus in 1963 only for ineptitude to work a sum of 215,514,000 leks was paid, for pregnancy-birth — 95,125,667 leks, for birth of children 62,523,648 leks etc. The state has spent only for the pensions a fund of 696.891,141 leks.

* * *

The most massive organization of the working class are the Trade Unions which have the right of state and social control as regards the application of labour legislation. The exercise of those important functions on the part of Trade Unions organizations is justified not only by the necessity of applying laws and strengthening legality, but also because such a fact constitutes an evident proof that real democracy exists in Albania. Trade Unions have continually struggled for the defence of legality which has to do with the respect of workers rights, since the latter know, that the application of the laws is connected with the strengthening of revolutionary legality which is one of the most indispensable conditions for the increase of people's welfare, for the raising of workers material and cultural level, for a multilateral social and state reinforcement and for the guarantee of the edification of socialism.

In the socialist sector of the economy, Trade Unions don't have any reason to fight against exploitation, against the administration of the enterprises. To-day they collaborate in a friendly manner with the directorship of the socialist enterprise in order to resolve the problems of production, whose increase is influential in the improvement of workers standard of living. To-day the interests of the workers and those of the administration of the enterprise, that is the state, cannot be at variance. Between them have been established relations of collaboration and of mutual assistance, both parties are interested in the increase of production, for production is no more a matter of private enrichment but goes to the best advantage of the workers themselves, to the advantage of all

and this for a good reason that the State, in his capacity of representative of workers is master of the principal means of production and administers them in the interest of people, it has no and cannot have interests which may be the reverse of those of the working masses, that is to say of the entire people.

The Trade Unions play an important part in the problem of wages, in the improvement of work conditions, in the fixation of norms, in the professional and cultural education of the workers, in the stipulation of collective contracts etc. They take part in the solution of work disagreements, they organize the social control in refectories and shops, they take part in the introduction of candidates for elections in the organs of the ruling power, they administrate the state social insurances and the pensions, the rest-home, the dietetical halls etc.

The Trade Unions control the application of the Labour Code in order that the workers may work in the most convenient conditions with regard to hygiene and be protected at work against all sorts of risks. For that purpose they have the right to enter freely in all the work places in order to control work conditions and the standard of living of workers, who are members of this same organization. Labour inspectors, who are dependent of Trade Unions have the right to fine the transgressors of the regulations concerning technical security and hygiene in work centers. They may ask for suspension of work when they ascertain that machinery or work places are not secured against risks.

In matters of transfers, of lodgement's distribution etc. the directorship of the enterprises cannot take any decision without the approval of the Trade Unions. As regards to questions which are directly connected with labour and living conditions of the workers, the government itself, according to article 230 of the Labour Code, cannot take any decision without taking previously the opinion of the Central Council of Trade Unions.

Young people have also their organization which is the Albanian Youth's Union of Labour, and reunites all the young ones and takes care for the defence of their interests. Youth's organization is performing a great work in training up youth with a communist education, in making them able and conscientious workers, and in contributing thus to the preparation of the new man, in doing of youth a great and able strength for the achievement of its tasks in the edification of our new

society. Youth is everywhere at the head of great constructive actions. This organization pays a special attention to the professional and cultural progress of youth, for its progress at work so that the youth may become worker's vanguard.

A great part is also played by the women's organization in the People's Republic of Albania. It has assembled around her all the women of towns and villages who are or no in work relations. This organization is performing a great work by attracting masses of women to production, by contributing to the cultural and professional progress of women, to the growth of her authority and by assuring her places with responsibility.

Women's Union of Albania has made possible the increase of women's participation to production and to social works in all the fields of the country's activity, the further growth of her contribution in this direction, the promotion of her part as mother, and has made her the powerful foundation of our socialist society. WUA fights fanaticism.

All the organizations of the masses, which were created by the free will of their members, have become powerful levers of the Party and schools for the communist education.



