

Albania today

6





Our people celebrated on November 28 the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of independence, and on November 29 – the 28th anniversary of the liberation from the fascist invaders. The cover of the last issue of our review this year is devoted to these memorable events.

The cover carries the poster «Eagle-like eye» by the painter Safo Marko; on page two there is the oil tableau by the painter Sali Shijaku under the title «The Dawn of November 1941», showing the city quarter where the PLA was founded, and page 3 – the oil tableau by the painter Bukurosh Sejdini: «First day of liberation in Tirana».

**Albania
today**

**POLITICAL
AND INFORMATIVE REVIEW**

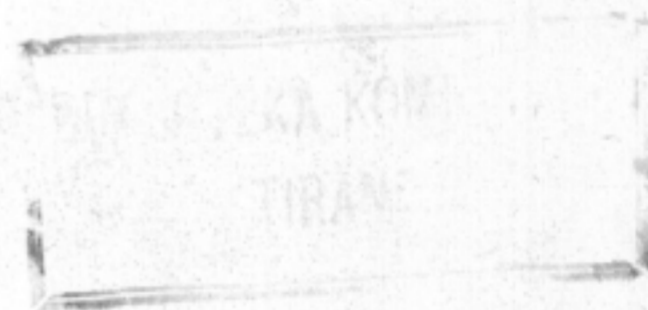
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60

th anniversary
of national
independence
and Albania today

Enver Hoxha

The

Freedom, independence, sovereignty and self-government are the most cherished aspirations for a people who must fight arms in hand and with any other means available in order to gain them and, after gaining them, they should be continually vigilant and fully armed to defend them at all costs against anyone who would attempt to violate and destroy them

Albanian People Fight, Work And Live Happily In The Party Epoch

Today we are celebrating with great joy the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of Albania. Since 1912 the Albanian people have always called November 28 the «National day» and have connected it with the hero city of Vlora, where independence was proclaimed and the red flag with the double-headed eagle was raised, symbol of freedom, of the sovereignty of the homeland and of the unity of all the Albanians who had fought continually with arms, with the pen and through diplomacy for the formation of a single Albania that would include within its borders the Albanian territories and the whole Albanian people, with their customs, habits, traditions and their common mother tongue. All these na-

ENVER HOXHA - *First Secretary of the CC of the PLA.*
Speech delivered in the hero city of Vlora, on November 28, 1972 on the occasion of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of independence and the 28th anniversary of the liberation of the homeland.

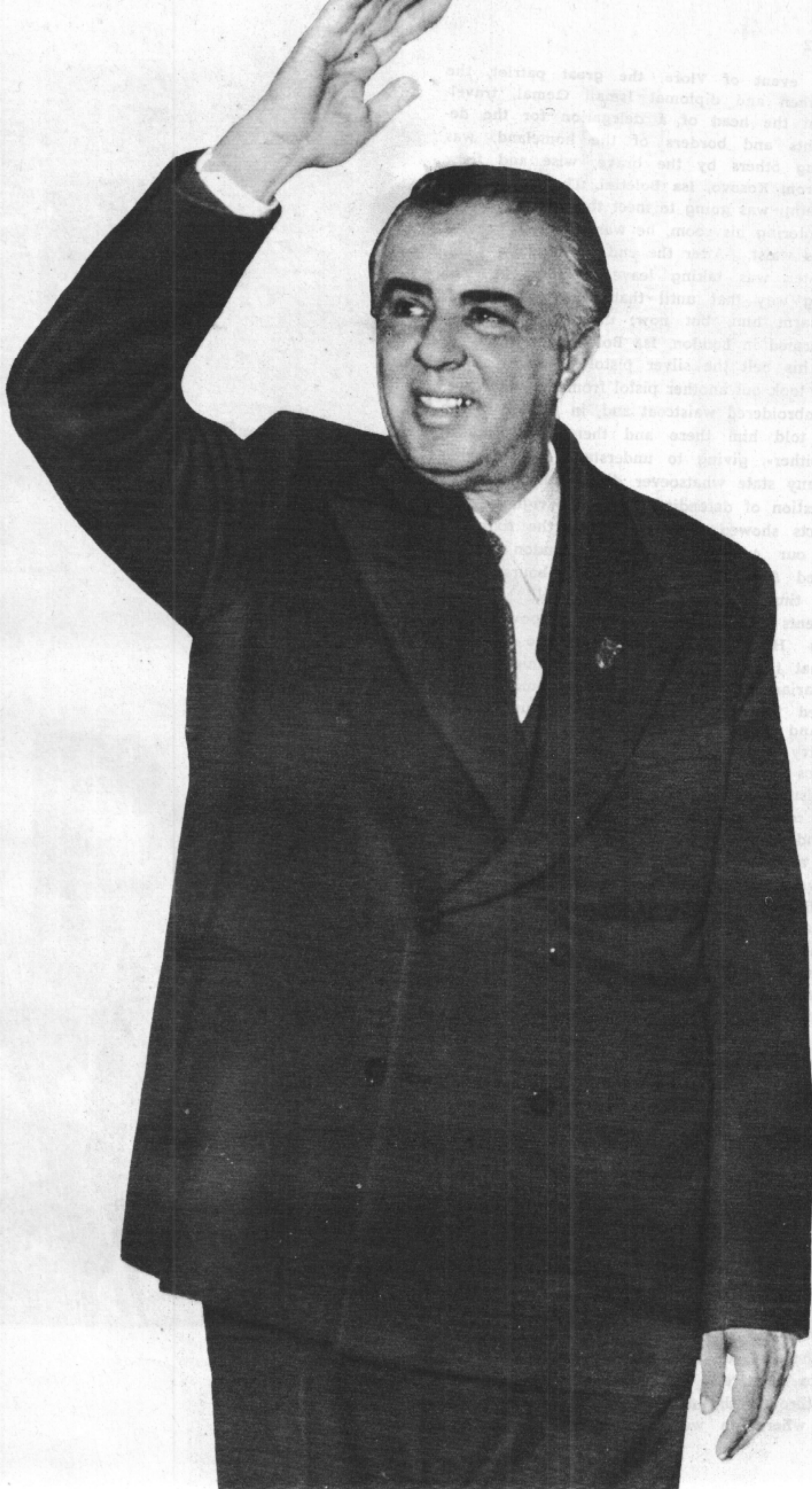
tural and lawful rights were denied to the Albanian people by the imperialist powers and the other capitalist states, their satellites.

Before as well as after the year 1912, when the independent Albanian State was proclaimed in Vlora, our sacred lands, drenched with the blood of our fighting people who had never bent before slavery, had continually become a market commodity of the predatory foreign powers. The map of Albania was assuming the different colours of those states which were dismembering and enslaving our homeland, in accordance with the interests of one or another.

Even after the fixing of Albania's borders by the great imperialist powers, as a result of the uninterrupted liberation struggles of our forefathers, from the legendary time of Scanderbeg up to the Balkan wars against the Ottoman empire, during which the Albanians played one of the decisive roles in the weakening of the sick man of the Bosphorus, there was no certainty for our long-suffering people.

Our people, guided by their Marxist-Leninist Party, by the force of arms drove the foreign invaders out of the borders of the homeland; they liquidated the traitors and treachery, they eliminated the old power of the feudals and capitalists and established their new power; they liquidated the enemy classes, they tempered the alliance of the working class and the peasantry and are building the socialist society. Today, the Albanian people are fighting, working and living happily in the epoch of the party...

The party teaches the people to be vigilant in the face of any danger whatever which may come from abroad, be it a danger of armed aggression or a danger of the loss of freedom and independence which might come through economic enslavement on the part of the imperialist metropolises, with U.S. imperialism at the head, and social-imperialist metropolises, with the Soviet revisionists at the head. In order to cope with the two danger, the Albanian people and their party must be armed and must make no concession whatsoever.»



After the historic event of Vlorë the great patriot, the
outstanding nationalist and diplomat, Ismail Qemal, presiding
ing to the head of a delegation for the de-
fence of the rights and borders of the homeland, was
accompanied among others by the great wine and
Albanian artist from Kosovo, the poet
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Minister of Agriculture in Rome, he was
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the British Minister was taking leave
led in a struggle, way that until the
been able to determine him, but now,
when he was attacked in London, his
truly placed in the air, the other
over to the ground, took out another pistol from
ket of his gold-embroidered waistcoat and in
British Minister, told him there and there
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The historical facts show
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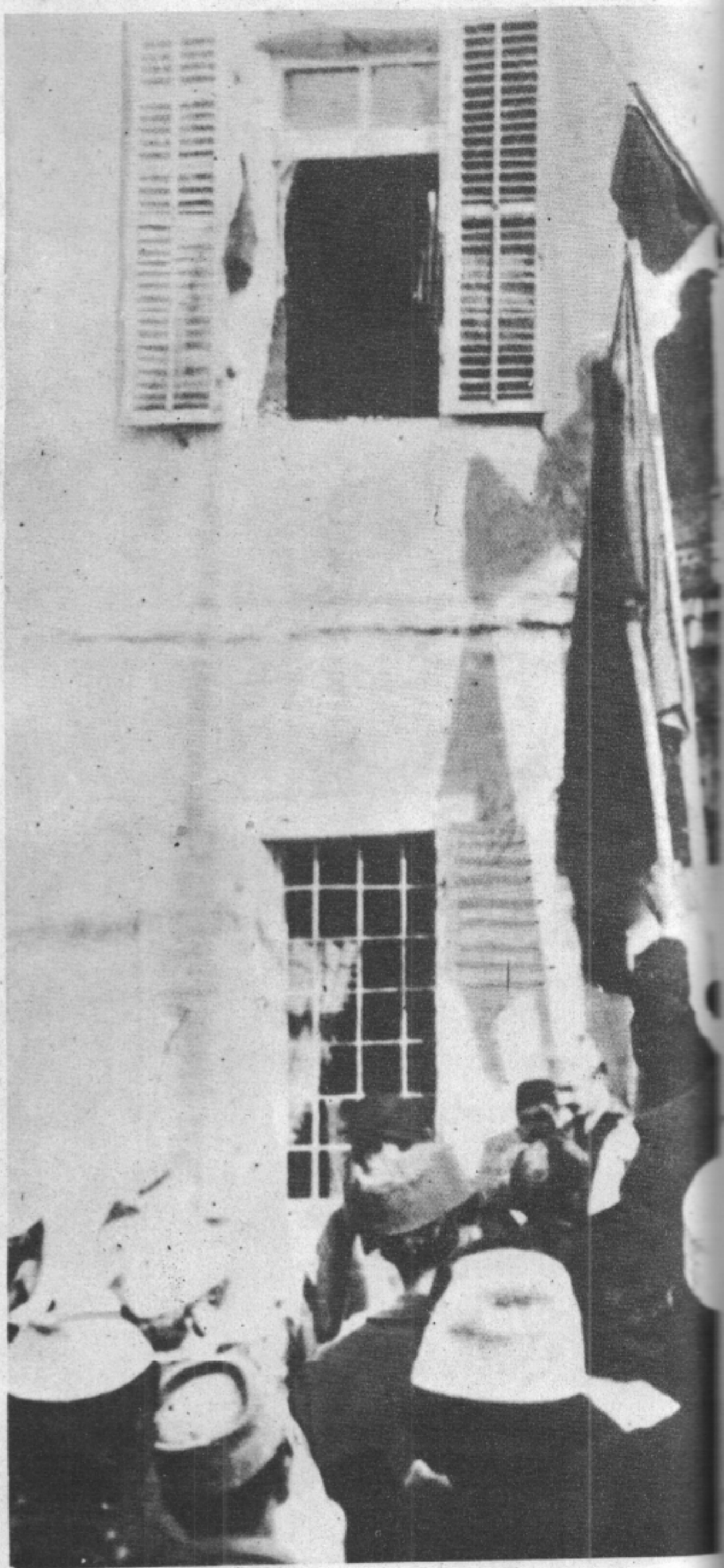
After the historic event of Vlorë, the great patriot, the outstanding statesman and diplomat Ismail Qemal, traveling to London at the head of a delegation for the defence of the rights and borders of the homeland, was accompanied among others by the brave, wise and fiery Albanian patriot from Kosovo, Isa Boletini. The legend says that when Isa Boletini was going to meet the British Foreign Minister, before entering his room, he was asked to remove his pistol from his waist. After the end of the talk, when the British Minister was taking leave of him, he told Isa in a bragging way that until that time nothing had been able to disarm him, but now, the day had come when he was disarmed in London. Isa Boletini, after having firmly placed in his belt the silver pistol he had handed over to the guard, took out another pistol from the inner pocket of his gold-embroidered waistcoat and, in answer to the British Minister, told him there and then: "No, indeed, not in London either", giving to understand by this that at no time can any state whatsoever disarm the Albanians when it is a question of defending their own rights.

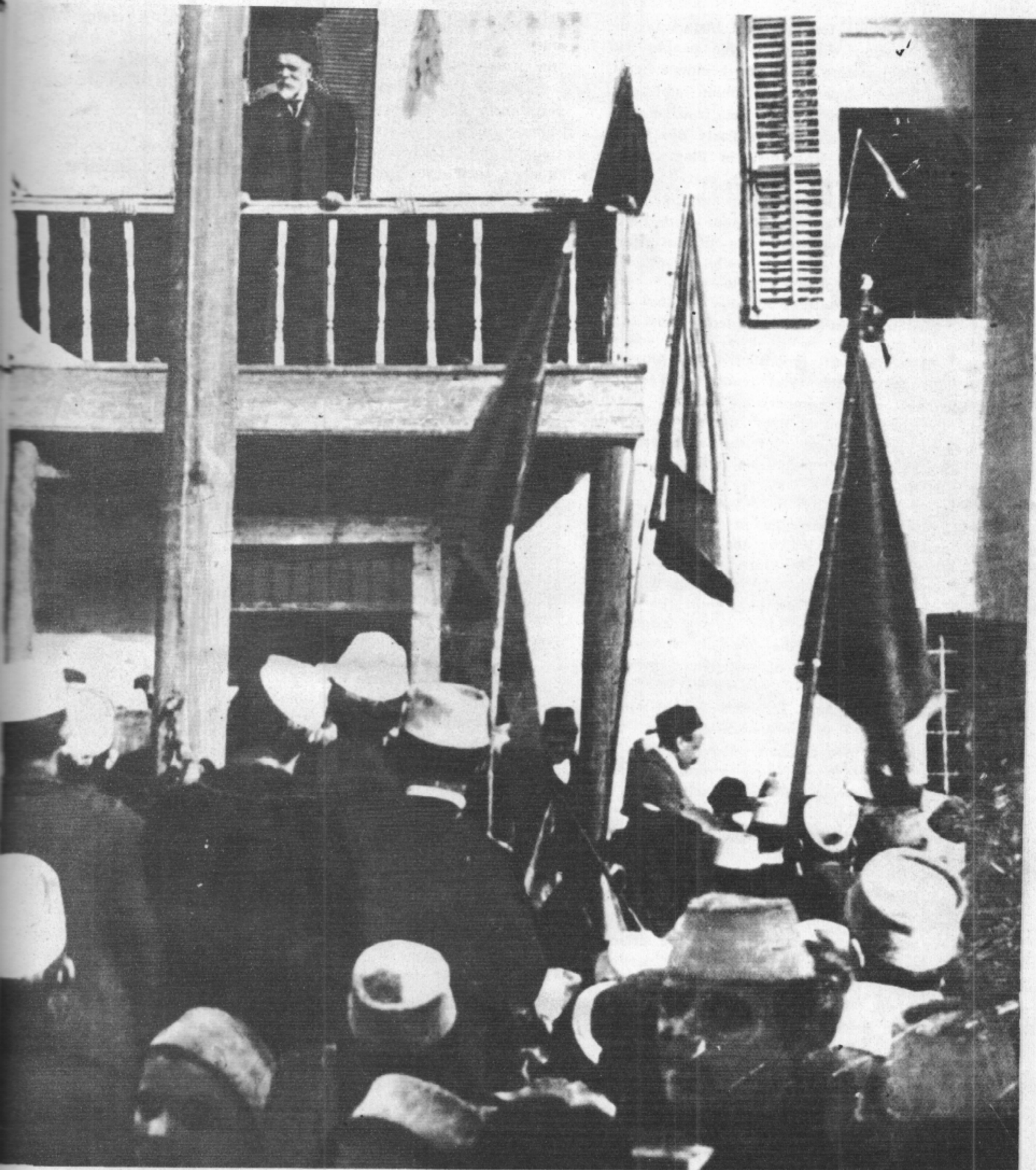
The historical facts showed that, even after the fixing of the borders of our country, the secret London treaties had again divided Albania among her neighbours. Again in 1917, at the time of the first great world war, the historical documents prove that the Entente powers proposed to Charles Habsburg, the emperor who replaced Franz Joseph, that they were accepting an armistice from the Austro-Hungarian empire if the latter, among other conditions, agreed to Albania being gobbled up by the Serbian state. And this emperor granted them this gift as if our country were a handkerchief which he could buy in the stores of Vienna or Budapest. This event has gone down in history as the "Sixte of Bourbon question".

In these grave conditions, in struggle against the imperialist powers and the chauvinism of the neighbouring states, in struggle against their innumerable and diabolic intrigues which were preventing them from achieving their sacred aims of liberation and of the creation of a free and independent Albania, our people fought for decades until they reached that day of November 28, the 60th anniversary of which we are celebrating today.

The Albanian people, as the decisive factor that has made and is making their history, themselves created the favourable conditions to reach this great historic day. At the same time there is merit in the great Albanian patriots, with Ismail Qemal at the head, who knew how to act with courage and maturity at those moments decisive for the destiny of the homeland.

The old man of Vlorë and his companions, such as Luigj Gurakuqi, Bajram Curri, Isa Boletini, Pandeli Cale and others, became the soul of the liberation uprisings which broke out in the years 1910-1912, of the militant meetings of the Albanians for freedom and independence, which were prevalent everywhere, in the South and North of Albania, in Peja and Gjakova, in Prizren and Prishtina, in Plava and Gucia, in Dibra and Shkup, in Rumania, France, Turkey and in the United States of America. Precisely in these circumstances, Ismail Qemal began his triumphant march from Stambul to Bucharest, Vienna, Trieste and arrived in Durrës. Then, through the mud of Myzeqe, he arrived at last in Vlorë where he was awaited by representatives





28th of November 1912 in Vlorë.
The patriot Ismail Qemal greeting the people from the balcony
where he raised the flag of national independence

from all the regions of Albania for the great historic event, to perform the lofty mission with which the people had entrusted him - the proclamation of national independence and the creation of the independent Albanian state. To these great torch-bearers of the struggle for freedom and national independence, the people and the Party of Labour of Albania erected the majestic monument in Vlora at the same place where the flag was raised 60 years ago on November 28. The immortal people, their coming generations, will come wave after wave to honour with admiration, respect and profound gratitude the titanic efforts of their predecessors and of their sons who fought for the freedom and independence of the people.

But from November 28, 1912 until November 29, 1944 the Albanian people had to fight uninterruptedly for fully 32 years against internal and external enemies, against hunger, diseases, and medieval ignorance. The Albanian people had to fight against the local feudal satraps and the countless intrigues of the imperialist powers which were tightening the noose round their necks; they had to fight against the bandit regime of the arch-hangman Ahmet Zogolli who sold out the whole of Albania to the Italian fascists, and prepared the way for her occupation. The Albanian people had finally to wage the bloodiest and the most glorious armed struggle in their history - the national liberation struggle, led by the Albanian Communist Party, to raise again in Vlora and throughout Albania the triumphant red flag of freedom, with its two-headed eagle, which now had in the centre the bright star of the party and of the partisans. A new page was opened in the continuation of the glorious history of our people, the bright epoch of socialism and communism was opening.

What did all the events at these 32 years I have spoken of teach the people, and what conclusions did they draw from them? Freedom, independence, sovereignty and self-government are the most cherished aspirations for a people who must fight arms in hand and with any others means available in order to gain them and, after gaining them, they should be continually vigilant and fully armed to defend them at all costs against anyone who would attempt to violate and destroy them.

The various imperialist powers and capitalist states have at all times been sworn enemies of the Albanian people. They have always caused them harm, they have attacked them, murdered them, divided them, deceived, partitioned and enslaved them. Therefore, the people must have no confidence in them, they must nourish no illusion whatsoever about their pretended aid, they should always be vigilant and never fall into the trap of their demagoguery, treat every problem with them as equals and in no case should they succumb to their threats and blackmail. If anyone attempts a show of force against our people, the people, too, should show them their force.

"Unity is strength", our people say. Therefore, in fair weather and in foul they must preserve their steel-like unity, to advance towards wellbeing and progress and also to withstand any storm which may come. Thirty-two years of struggles, sufferings and toil taught our people that, to be united, they must radically settle accounts with their internal enemies, with the feudals, the wealthy peasants

and chieftains, the religions and the reactionary clergymen, with bandit politicians and highway robbers, with the usurers and deceivers - all these microbes of a great wound of the medieval past and of the imperialism and capitalism of the new age.

These thirty-two years of struggle, sufferings and toil also taught the Albanian people to wage a merciless struggle against their eyes and arm them, because they themselves had to set to the great battle for the building of a new life, full of happiness and dignity, in order to overcome rapidly the centuries of backwardness.

In the great test of these years the people felt what colossal energies they had in themselves, they defeated great states and powers in battles, having full confidence in themselves that they would break through mountains and would make their homeland flourish, would enrich their spiritual lives, because they had already taken power in to their hands and, after all these tragic tests, they would never let this power escape from their hands.

Finally, and one of the most important aspects, is the great and brilliant lesson in history drawn by the people, that the real road to liberation was shown by their Party of Labour of Albania, their glorious offspring, a heroic party intrepid in battles, a wise, modest and honest party like the people who gave birth to it in storm and catastrophe, a party which they themselves nourished in the mountains, sharing their food, and shedding their blood, a party of communists which holds and will always hold aloft and unbent the banner of Marxism-Leninism. The party renewed in the people the strength of spirit and body, it tempered in them the force of the sword and the rifle and ardently kindled the desire to live, to be renewed and to learn in their free and sovereign homeland. The party sharpened in them the mental and physical capabilities to set up their people's power and to build the socialist system.

Since the day of liberation, November 29, 1944 until tomorrow, November 29, 1972, twenty-eight years have passed. During this important historic period our people, guided by their Marxist-Leninist party, by the force of arms, drove the foreign invaders out of the borders of the homeland; they liquidated the traitors and treachery, they eliminated the old power of the feudals and capitalists and established their new power; they liquidated the enemy classes, they tempered the alliance of the working class and the peasantry and are building the socialist society. Today, the Albanian people are fighting, working and living happily in the epoch of the party.

What did this brilliant epoch, which is not a very long one, bring to our people? All good things and nothing bad. Today the people are masters in their own country. Albania emerged from darkness into light, she was completely reconstructed, with cities and villages, roads and sea-ports, our industry was set up and continues to grow vigorously, new mines were opened, magnificent thermopower and hydropower stations were constructed, electric power was brought to the whole country, the ferrous metallurgy industry is under construction, roads and railways

29th of November 1944. Triumphant entry in Tirana of the Democratic Government of Albania headed by Enver Hoxha







have been built; agriculture, thanks to collectivization, mechanization and the implementation of modern agrotechnology, has made a great leap forward. Education has become like food for our people. There is no village anywhere no city, no factory, no workshop without schools of various kinds. Schools and light everywhere for the minds and hearts of our men and women. Cultural and sport centres, hospitals, out-patient clinics, maternity homes, etc., have been set up in all parts of Albania. The living standard of our people, compared with the pre-liberation period, has been raised and is constantly on the rise. Taking into consideration the wretched past of our people, we know how to correctly and realistically evaluate this rise of the living standard, because we are aware of where we have started from, and at the same time it is clear to us where we will get to. We have raised and shall continue to raise this living standard, relying on our own forces, with our own sweat, without enslaving our homeland and the people, either economically or politically.

The party teaches the people to be vigilant in the face of any danger whatever which may come from abroad, be it a danger of armed aggression or a danger of the loss of freedom and independence which might come through economic enslavement on the part of the imperialist metropolises, with U.S. imperialism at the head, and social-imperialist metropolises, with the Soviet revisionists at the head. In order to cope with the two danger, the Albanian people and their party must be armed and must make no concession whatsoever.

We stand for peaceful coexistence, on the known principles of great Lenin, allowing nobody at any moment whatever to violate our legitimate rights.

Someone might smile and say: «But would the imperialist powers be afraid of acting against socialist Albania?» We reply to this, that neither are the Albanian people afraid of them. Imperialism and social imperialism are afraid of the peoples, of the revolution and of Marx's ideas which inspire and guide them onward. Socialist Albania is marching in the van of this proletarian revolution and she is not alone. Her faithful friends and comrades are the peoples of the world, the world proletariat, who are oppressed and cruelly exploited by imperialism and social-imperialism in the most barbarous way.

We must arm our people well against the capitalist-revisionist propaganda and demagogy which claim that we are allegedly isolated from the world, from the progressive science, from their «generous aid». What in fact is the «aid» they pretend they would give us through their credits? It means selling out our country to them, allowing the imperialists and the revisionists to invest their capitals in Albania, to suck the blood and sweat of our people, so that we should become satellites of the big monopolies and metropolises; that we would adopt their degenerated way of living, so that the consumer society should be established with its attendant evils, so that the

The head of the Government and General Secretary of the Albanian Communist Party, Enver Hoxha, delivering the historical speech on the day of the liberation of the homeland from the fascist invaders



Snapshot from the first marchpast of the national liberation army units in Tirana on November 29, 1944, the day of the liberation of the homeland



old exploiting classes with all the evils of the present day capitalist-revisionist class should be revived and strengthened in our country. The Albanian people do not accept this, for they are aware of all these dangers, and the party and they themselves are vigilant and do not fall into errors.

Where do these modern thieves obtain the capitals with which they seek with so much "generosity" to "help" other backward peoples. From the wanton exploitation of their own working class and the other peoples. The surplus value which goes in to the pocket of the capitalist from the 8-hour workday of the worker is ensured through the appropriation of the overwhelming part of this workday. What great profits he draws from the sweat of the workers! Even when the capitalists, because they want tranquillity to continue their savage exploitation, are compelled by circumstances to make a small sacrifice in favour of the workers when they burst out in bloody strikes and demonstrations, they rob the workers on the other hand through heavy taxes, the rise of prices and house rents, through high school fees and high payments for medical treatment and all the other predatory forms, including the selling of commodities on credit, and freezing of the wages of the workers for months running - all these are characteristics of the consumer society. From these super-profits the working class becomes poorer, it is exhausted at work, whereas the capitalist creates the possibility to invest his capitals elsewhere to exploit and oppress other peoples, to colonize new countries, allegedly on behalf of progress and super-markets full of commodities which cannot be bought and which drip blood and sweat of the workers

No! The Albanian people and their party never allow themselves to be deceived and to substitute this hell for their socialist society. Our country may perhaps lack supermarkets, and today some commodities may still be lacking in our shops, but our people are aware that the commodities have greatly increased compared with the past, and the people are firmly convinced that in the future, thanks to their tireless work, they will constantly increase them in freedom and independence.

In our country, the prices of all things, from liberation to the present day, have not kept increasing as occurs in the capitalist-revisionist countries, but, on the contrary, they have constantly kept lowering. At a time when in these countries the house rents are skyrocketing, with us they are exceptionally low; while with us education at all levels and branches is free, with them school fees and expenditures are increasing with every passing day; while with us medical service is free and treatment and medicines in hospitals are also free of charge, with them hospitalization or a simple surgical operation costs a great deal, while with us the entire taxation system has been abolished, with them the people suffer under the weight of colossal taxes, and so on. Such is their society: our society is quite the opposite.

In the capitalist and revisionist countries the number of hippies is increasing, narcotics, decadent music and striptease dance are spreading, all kinds of theories are being propagated far and wide to degenerate the people and youth. They are seeking to introduce all these evils, which

are developing in their countries, into our country, too, but we have shut the doors to them. We fight them and we develop and promote our beautiful, pure, progressive, revolutionary morality. We maintain and develop the lofty virtues of our people, of the proletarian morality, we maintain and educate a healthy, revolutionary, happy, optimistic, serious youth, taught to carry out its great mission honourably.

The Soviet revisionists noisily claim that it is "theoretically wrong" to say that socialism can be built with one's own forces, as the Chinese and Albanians say. On this question the glorious Communist Party of China and the Party of Labour of Albania are not wrong in the least, either in theory or in practice. The main and decisive thing in the building of socialism in a socialist country is the internal forces, the forces of that country itself.

The aid a socialist country grants to another socialist country should be fraternal, internationalist, without any interest and without political strings. Such is the aid socialist Albania receives from the People's Republic of China.

But why is the aid China grants to Albania like this? It is like this because our two countries are true socialist countries, because two real Marxist-Leninist parties are at the head and in the lead of our countries; because our two peoples, parties and states are bound in permanent friendship, moulded and tempered by Marxism-Leninism; because we have one and the same road, the same aims and the same enemies whom, in collaboration with the other peoples and the world proletariat, we should defeat and smash. The Albanians and the Chinese march side by side in full unity with one another. Great China of Mao Tse-tung aids the other socialist countries and peoples in the same way. The great China of Mao is a powerful socialist state, it is neither an imperialist nor a social-imperialist superpower.

The Soviet-led modern revisionists, by their demagogy, are seeking to deceive their own peoples and the peoples of the world when they say that their countries and their system are allegedly socialist. This is a downright lie. The modern revisionists have definitely destroyed the social system in their own countries, transforming it into a capitalist system, while they have now turned the Soviet Union into a social imperialist state. One cannot imagine the existence of a true fraternal internationalist collaboration, without interest and political strings, between the countries which call themselves socialist, as well as between them and us, as the Soviet revisionists and others who follow them claim: Their so-called "aid", allegedly socialist, is the same as the "aid" of US imperialism; the acclaimed "mutual socialist collaboration" of the Soviet revisionists is the same as the "sincere collaboration" US imperialism acclaims. The two superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, which are preparing a hot war, through their alleged "generous aid", are trying to enslave you, to put you in their economic and political grip, to bring you into their spheres of influence and colonize you.

Moving meeting of the partisan with his mother on the victory day



The Soviet revisionists are enraged at China's and Albania's progress. China paid back all the credits they had granted to her. For years we have been paying back to the sham friends, who turned into fierce enemies, the so-called credits which consisted in some old factory machinery which had been given a coat of paint.

We Albanians recognized very well what was hidden behind the so-called "internationalist aid" of the Soviet revisionists. The other peoples and states are today realizing the imperialist character of their aid. It was these Soviet revisionists who intensively sabotaged the development of our economy, industry and mining. Their aims were of a long-term nature - to enslave our socialist country and turn it into their satellite.

The same heroic Vlorë saw Khrushchev, too. When this renegade to Marxism-Leninism found himself before the magnificent bay of Vlorë, he was amazed, and by chance I heard his collaborator Malinowsky whispering to him: "You understand, Nikita Sergeevich, with our missiles from Berlin and East Germany we can hit Gibraltar, while from the bay of Vlorë we have the entire Mediterranean in the palm of our hand". But they had only the wind in the palm of their hands because our Party and Government destroyed their plans. Vlorë will never be in the hands of foreigners. The same Malinowsky said again to Khrushchev in Butrint: "This is a beautiful lake. If the sea coast is pierced through nearby, a magnificent submarine base could be built and then Greece, too, would be ours".

I shivered and remembered that dark night in Tirana when together with Vasil Shanto we pasted up posters "Down with Italian fascism! Long live the fraternal Greek people fighting for freedom...". No, our Party and Government would never allow evil to come from the country of olives to the fraternal Greek people!

These sham communists have done these and many other evil things to a small people and country. They organized the blockade against the People's Republic of Albania, hoping to force it to its knees, but quite the contrary happened. Socialist Albania, led by its heroic party, marched impetuously forward; it is successfully building socialism and is reaping successive victories in all the fields of life - in industry, agriculture, education and culture, in the strengthening of the defence of the homeland.

The Congress of the orthography of our beautiful language held its historic proceedings a few days ago. This is an incalculable victory among so many other magnificent victories our people have achieved with struggle, efforts and capability.

We greet wholeheartedly the educated and talented daughters and sons of our people, who at the historic convention and following in the path of the brilliant traditions of the Frashëri brothers and other patriots of our national revival, gave a greater brilliance to the language, the greatest treasure of a people.

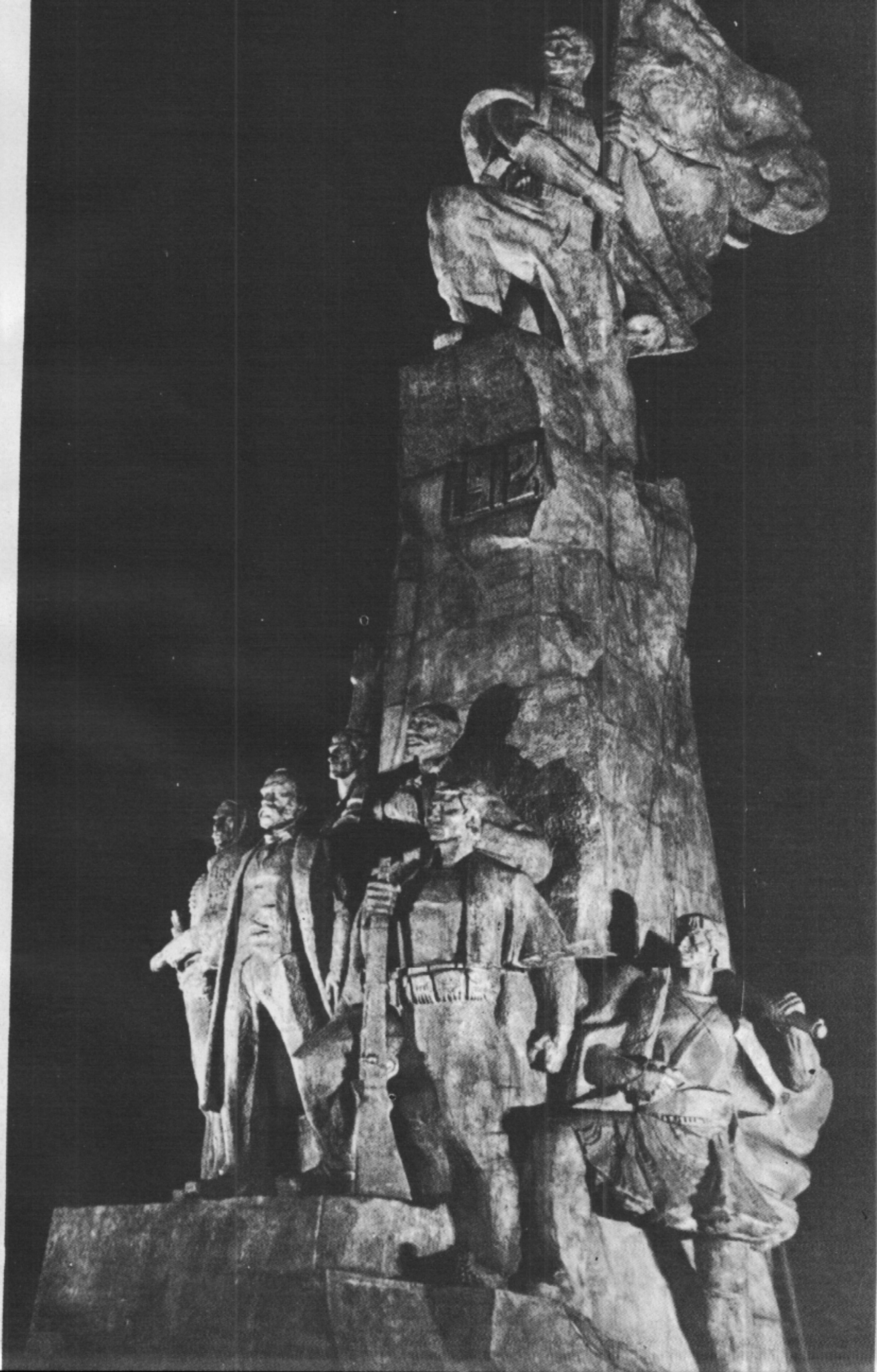
We ardently and wholeheartedly greet especially the outstanding scholars, our Albanian brothers from Kossovo, Macedonia and Montenegro who made their valuable contribution to establishing the orthography of the common mother tongue. We wish the fraternal Albanian linguists, professors and teachers from Kossovo, Macedonia and

Montenegro still greater successes in the great progress they have made in the elaboration of the Albanian language, which we consider as a common victory.

Dear comrades, friends and brothers,
In these great historic days, when the Albanian people are celebrating with an indescribable joy and happiness the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of independence and the 28th anniversary of the liberation of the country, let us loyally follow the unerring road on which our party guides us; let us be united to successfully realize all the plans we have set ourselves, according to the historic decisions of the 6th Congress of our Party of Labour and raise a toast to

the glory of the people,
the glory of the Party.

Monument to independence, erected in Vlorë, work of the Albanian sculptors Kristaq Rama, Mumtas Dhrami and Shaban Hadëri



Great Victory Of Our National Culture

**The Congress of the orthography
of the Albanian language
as an event
of scientific importance
and its special political-social
significance.**

**The sanctioning of unified rules
of Albanian orthography**

by ANDROKLI KOSTALLARI

ANDROKLI KOSTALLARI – Professor, Director of the Institute of Linguistics and Literature, specialist on problems of Linguistics.





The Congress of the orthography of the Albanian language held its proceedings in Tirana from November 20 to 25. It was attended by more than three-hundred linguists, Albanian language teachers, writers, journalists, workers dealing with publications and various spheres of culture, who were representing the main forces of Albanian linguistic science and Albanian language students of our time. Besides the workers from scientific, educational and cultural institutions of the People's Republic of Albania, the Congress was also attended by many representatives of scholars of the Albanian language from among the ranks of the Albanian living in Yugoslavia - from Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro, who are continuing to make a valuable contribution to the unification and extension of the unified literary language. Also participating were representatives of the Arbëresh scholars from Italy. The Congress proceedings were also followed by a number of foreign Albanologists who are directly concerned with the problem of the present-day Albanian language.

The delegates to the Congress approved a Resolution, based on the Draft Regulations of Orthography, published by the Tirana University in 1967, which solved definitely on sound scientific foundations, the problem of the unification of the orthography of the national literary Albanian language. The Congress of the orthography of the Albanian language, which was convened 64 years after the Manastir Congress (1908) where the problem of a unified alphabet was solved, is the greatest congress in the history of Albanian linguistic science. By establishing a unified orthography it marked a qualitative step forward in the crystallization and development of unified literary language for all Albanians and became a great event in the history of our national science and culture. Being convened on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of Albania and the 28th anniversary of its liberation, the Congress of the orthography of the Albanian language also assumed special political-social significance. It had wide repercussions at home and abroad. It found a concentrated historic formulation in the high appraisal made of the Congress of orthography by comrade Enver Hoxha who called it "an incalculable victory among so many other magnificent victories that our people have won through struggle, efforts and ability".

The documents of the written Albanian language date as far back as the 15th century, and this language has today become a national literary language in the full meaning of the word. This is the highest, most elaborated, most unified form in the existence of our language. One of the fundamental requirements and, at the same time, one of the clearest expressions of this form, is a unified orthography. Its importance to the language and culture of the people becomes very great especially today when books have become the main medium of knowledge and civilization. It was by no means by chance that in the past centuries and in our century as well, the problems of the formation of the Albanian literary language have been presented, principally, as problems of the alphabet and of orthography: the process of crystallization of the literary linguistic norms is always guided by the written language.

The Congress of the orthography of the Albanian language was held in the hall of the People's Assembly in Tirana in November 1972. The photo shows the ceremony of the signature of the Congress resolution by the delegates

But this external visual appearance of the language reflects, in the final analysis, the deep and complicated internal process of the moulding and consolidation of the phonetics, grammar, word formations, and lexical structure of the national literary language in all its most important links. Therefore, the unification of its orthography, as a lawful consequence of this process and as a manifestation of the last stage of the crystallization of the literary norm, presupposes and seals the structural unification of the common and unified literary language for the whole of our people. At the same time it becomes an active factor which accelerates this unification and implants it more deeply, thereby helping the literary language to perform its social functions better. Herein lies its fundamental importance, in the cultural social aspect as well as in the purely linguistic aspect. It is from such a scientific understanding that we assess the historical role of the Congress of orthography as a congress of the unification of the Albanian national literary language.

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In the history of the Albanian people the struggle to solve the problem of the alphabet and orthography has always been inseparable from the great political-social and cultural movements. It has been a component part of the struggle for a unified national literary language, having stable and precise norms, a variety of styles and a great capacity of expression. The Congress of orthography was the crowning of the protracted efforts of many generations to reach this aim.

About a century has elapsed since, in the conditions of the great popular movement of National Revival, the foundations of present-day literary Albanian were laid. Whole generations worked with self-denial so that the Albanian written language could become the same for all Albanians, so that, by relying extensively on the spoken language of the people and by being continually nourished from this inexhaustible source, it could be purged of unnecessary foreign elements, be enriched, developed and become a powerful means for the expression of thoughts and feelings, a means of struggle and development for the Albanian working masses. Some dates in particular in the history of these efforts occupy a special place, they are, so to speak, milestones on this long and arduous road. After Naum Veqilharxhi's ABC book (1844-1845), such pre-liberation milestones were the founding of the "Society of printing in Albanian" (1879), the Manastir Congress (1908) and the decisions of the literary Commission of Shkodra (1916). From the very beginning the idea of the unification of the literary norm inspired the efforts of the most outstanding representatives of the National Revival. This idea, which remains of great political and social importance, has further blazed the trail and has won at every stage.

The "Society of printing in Albanian" set itself the task of "reviving the Albanian language and uniting its dialects". The Manastir Congress, although it adopted two alphabets, in essence, enabled a single alphabet to be established based on the Latin alphabet, which is in use today. This was a very big step forward toward the unification of the written language. It also created a sound basis for the unification of the

orthography. The decisions of the literary Commission of Shkodra were at the same time a proof and a concrete application of the great possibilities created by the unification of the alphabet. These decisions, in their essence were a reflection of the broad requirements of the nation, and were represented within the Commission particularly by the democratic and progressive patriots Luigj Gurakuqi, Aleksandër Xhuvani and Sotir Peci. The decisions of the literary Commission, later approved by the Education Congress of Lushnja (1920), served as a basis for the orthography of the Albanian language until the liberation of Albania. These decisions greatly assisted the solution of the problem of orthography, but they did not solve this problem. This was objectively impossible at that time. Orthography, although reflecting the conscious efforts for the unification of the written norm to varying degrees in the final analysis depends on the objective development of the national literary language. The very development of this language depends on the historical socio-economic, political and cultural conditions of the development of the nation. The ruling cliques of the past, the exploiting and obscurantist forces, which relied on backwardness and darkness to oppress the people, not only failed to contribute to the solution of the linguistic problem, but created one obstacle after another to hinder its solution. This situation was also aggravated by the intervention of foreign powers in the political and cultural life of Albania.

Thus, due to the historical development itself, the liberation of the homeland in 1944 found the Albanian language without a sole literary linguistic norm, without a unified orthography. The accomplishment of this task faced the generation of the builders of socialism as one of the tasks which was closely connected with the creation of a new national culture - socialist culture.

In general, every important historical turning-point enlivens linguistic evolution. But no turning-point has ever brought about such a rate of development and such linguistic results as the socialist revolution in Albania during this last quarter of century. On the one hand, led by the Party of Labour this revolution removed all the obstacles of the past on the road to the economic and cultural development of the people, including artificial obstacles which were hindering the process of the unification of the literary language. On the other hand it brought about economic, political and cultural progress unprecedented in the history of Albania, it gave the country an extraordinary rate of development. It radically destroyed regional separation and inter-regional contradictions, it eliminated the profound economic-cultural differences between different parts of Albania, between the "central" and "provincial" areas. It greatly diminished the differences between the city and the countryside and between manual workers and those engaged in mental work, and is continuing to reduce these differences. The dynamism of the new life has set the widest sections of the population in motion and brought about full and many-sided relations between its various sections. The function and role of the written and spoken literary word have been raised extremely high in comparison with the past. The question of the literary language has become a question of the entire people.

All this has resulted in us having to day a single literary Albanian language, which has already entered the stage of the complete and final crystallization of its common and

unified norm for all the Albanians and which functions in all the spheres of the relations among people. The Draft of the "Rules of the orthography of the Albanian language" which was published in 1967 was also an expression of this historic level of the written language. The solution of this task was also made possible by the great progress that has been made in the unification of the national literary norm and by the special care shown by the Party and the people's power for the development of Albanian linguistic science. "The Rules of Orthography" which were published as a draft, were the crowning of the protracted work of collective research, which began in the early years after the country's liberation.

The fundamental idea of the "Rules of Orthography", as of the other studies on our national language, is the idea that the unity of the literary language must powerfully serve the unity of our nation and its further cultural and social development. These "Rules" preserve and further develop the national orthographic tradition and every correct solution that has served the unification of literary Albanian. But they are not merely a passive reflection of what has been reached. Being guided by the teachings of our Party, by the Marxist theory on national languages and by the scientific conclusions drawn from the history of the written Albanian language itself, the "Rules of Orthography" also aim at playing an active role, contributing to the further unification of the national literary norm.

Orthography is not a question concerning only narrow circles of professional people. On the contrary, it must be mastered by every person who knows how to read and write, beginning with the lower classes of the 8-year school. Precisely for this reason, in drafting the rules of orthography our linguists have made efforts to unite scientific accuracy with clarity and simplicity, so as to assist the understanding of the formulations of this or that rule by most typical examples. With the draft of the "Rules of Orthography" in 1967 for the first time Albanian linguistics provided our people with a more or less complete and systematic codification of orthographic questions of literary Albanian. However, it may be said without exaggeration that the very historical conditions of the formation of our national literary language have made the orthography of Albanian one of the most difficult and complicated linguistic problems. Its stable and fullest possible solution could not be reached by this or that small group of linguists alone. The broad working masses should and must participate in its solution, beginning with the rank and file worker and peasant. Language is a social phenomenon. It is created by the people, it is preserved by the people, it is developed and enriched by the people. Only the people are the real criterion of linguistic truth. "It is with the people", comrade Enver Hoxha pointed out at the 5th Party Congress, "that we must find the inspiration of creation, the melodies of song, the rhythms of dance, the purity of language, the upsurge of labour, the example of heroism and sacrifice, the high virtues of simplicity and popular justice". Precisely for this reason the draft of the "Rules of Orthography", which during these last 5 or 6 years have been widely applied in the whole of educational, publishing and social activity, both inside and outside Albania, was subjected to broad popular debate—in the organs of the press, in all districts, schools, work and production centres, in the countryside and in



Tirana, A December evening on Scanderbeg Square



the towns. This creative debate has been very fruitful. A special contribution to the improvement of these rules and to their completion has been made in particular by the teachers of the Albanian language and literature. Today we can say with conviction that the results of the long years of application and discussion of the draft of the "Rules of Orthography" and their examination at the Congress, clearly showed that broad popular thought gives the "Rules of Orthography" a deep and truly objective character and makes them not only scientifically and theoretically correct, but also obvious and simple as well as stable.

The Congress of orthography, through a profound and many-sided analysis, drew the scientific balance-sheet of the long years of discussion. It had its authoritative say on all the

The fundamental principles and main solutions of the 1967

by all the 84 delegates to the Congress. Besides this, it took new steps forward in several directions — steps which will improve, supplement and further unify the rules of orthography

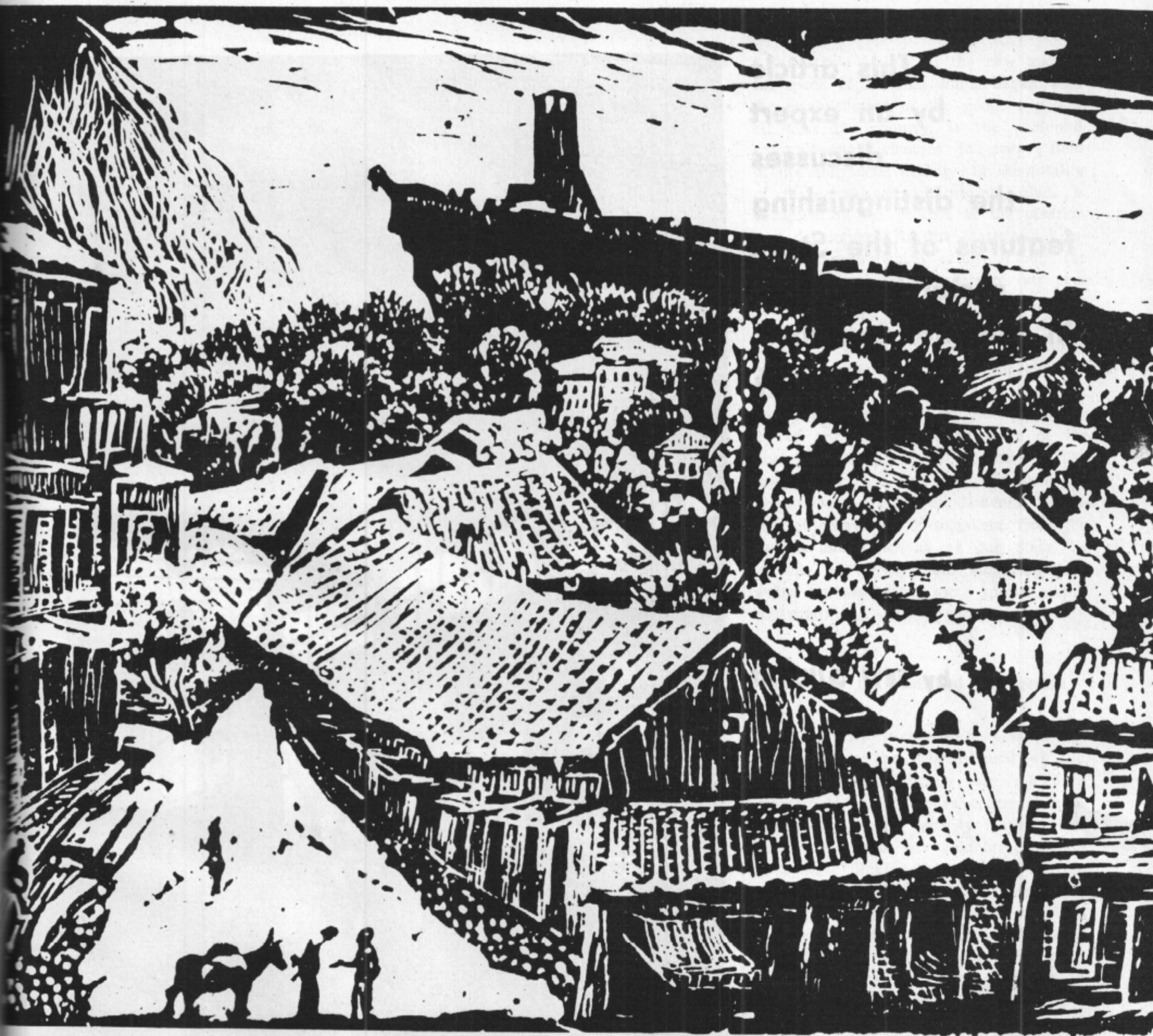
more consistent and more stable. Thus, the Congress of Orthography, relying on the achievements of Albanian and world linguistics to date made a definite solution of the problem of the unified orthography at this new stage of the cristianization of the national literary norm.

On the basis of the decisions of the Congress, the "Rules of Orthography" of the Albanian language will be re-elaborated, supplemented and will take on a final form. Together with the "Orthography" dictionary will be worked out which will help the broad masses to write their mother tongue correctly and easily. Thus, with the establishment of unified orthography, for the first time in the history of the Albanian people a unique written form is given to the Albanian language, to this fundamental feature of this ancient nation; a period of several centuries of selfless efforts for the unification of the language closes and a new stage begins — that of the strengthening of this unification, of the enrichment and further development of the literary language in all its styles and in all spheres of social activity. This historic stride is brilliant proof of the high level of cultural development reached by the Albanian people and, at the same time, an inspiration to march onward.

One-hundred odd years ago, the herald of our National Revival, the author of the first "ABC book", Naum Veqilharxhi, who connected learning to read and write Albanian with the great idea of the cultural revival and of the political and social liberation of the nation, addressed the following fiery appeal to his compatriots: "Let us sow the good seed! Because assuredly, nature itself will give it life, make it flower and grow and, without doubt, the beautiful and sweet fruit will be reaped by the coming generations, blessing the good

sowers and the seed». Our working masses and the present-day generation who are inspired and guided by the great teachings of the Party today recall with gratitude these "good sowers" who did not spare even their lives for the triumph of the Albanian word. Their dreams have become a reality today. The Albanian language has today become a language of culture with all-round possibilities, like any other elaborated literary language; a language with a great expressive force which reflects all the achievements of present-day world civilization.

The Congress of orthography of the Albanian language is a new encouragement to foreign Albanologists as well as to our Albanian scholars to further develop the study of our literary language. It will continue to give rise to broader productivity scientific angles and contents in several fields of research — in phonetics and morphology, grammar and normative lexicology, dialectology and the culture of language. The proceedings of this Congress were further proof of the complete affirmation of Albania as the main centre of Albanological studies in our time and of the capacity of present-day Albanian linguistics to solve even the most complicated scientific problems. This was also stressed in the high appraisal made of the work of the Congress by all the foreign Albanologists. Alongside this, the Congress of orthography raised to a new level the creative cooperation of all the forces of present-day Albanian linguistics, inside and outside the People's Republic of Albania, cooperation which can bring nothing but new benefits and successes to the Albanian language and its study.



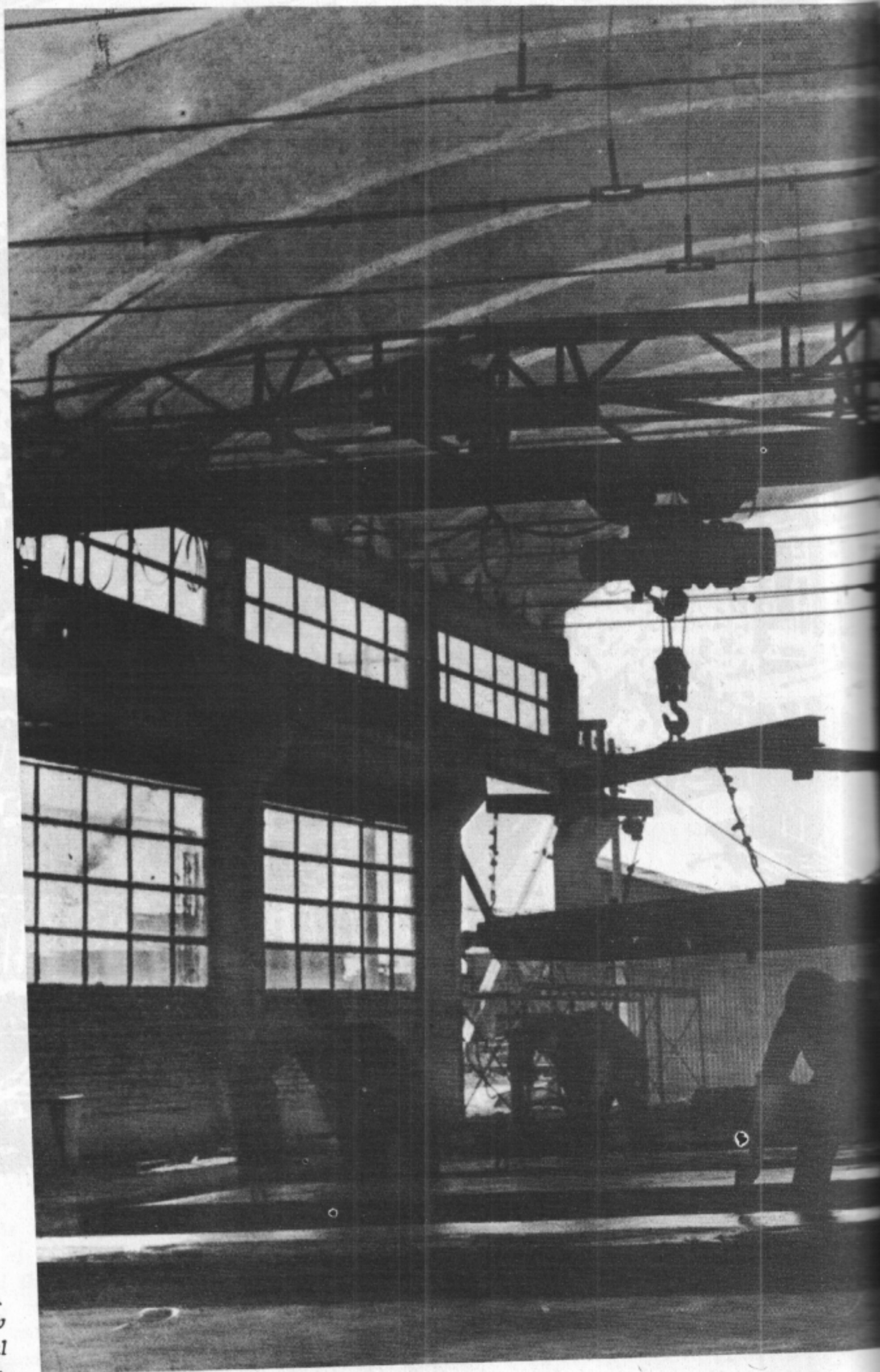
Sadik Kaceli.
Kruja fortress (oil engraving)

State Social

**This article
by an expert
discusses
the distinguishing
features of the State
social insurances
in Albania and their
diversity**

by FETI GJILANI

*FETI GJILANI – Professor of Civil Law
in the faculty of political and juridical
sciences of the State University of Tirana.*



Insurances



A distinctive feature of the new historical epoch of Albania, which began with the establishment of the people's power all over the country, is the profound and all-round changes in every field of life and social activity. In the totality of these changes an original place is occupied by the process of the creation and development of the State social security system which ranks among the greatest social achievements of our people, to date.

The question of the extension of the range of action of the social security system and of its further improvement has been and remains one of the most important components of the social policy of our State in every stage of the socialist construction of the country. The reasons for this stem not only from the requirements of the fundamental economic objective law of socialism, from the nature and functions of our State, as a state of workers and labouring peasants, but also from some special national conditions.

Between the past and the present

Social security is relatively new in Albania. Before the establishment of the people's power, Albania was the only country on the European continent with no form of social security neither compulsory insurance nor voluntary insurance against illness. The network of free public health institutions had not been extended to inhabited centers beyond the main cities. Private physician's fees were so high that even the wages of the most skilled workers were not sufficient to cover.

Only the employees of the state apparatus and the army officers of the kingdom enjoyed the right to old age and disability pensions, provided they paid the relative contributions.

Consequently, to the Albanian worker and

Work for the erection of a factory of the metallurgical combine in Elbasan

his family, illness, accidents at work, disability and old age meant the deepest poverty and misery. The whole framework of the social life of the broad masses of the people was characterized by the interaction of these two factors – poverty which brought and disease which increased poverty. Deaths as a result of infections and chronic diseases had reached such high levels that the average life-span did not exceed 38 years.

In these circumstances, the demand for social security became one of the important components in the struggle of the Albanian proletariat for the improvement of their working and living conditions. In 1935 and 1936 the adoption of some social security measures was set forth as one of the most immediate demands in the petitions which the workers' societies presented to the government and parliament in the powerful strikes which burst forth in many of the country's regions and in the progressive press of that time.

But these demands could not be even partially transformed into reality because king Zog's antipopular regime represented the blackest reaction, the most backward and dangerous conservatism, and savagely suppressed any progressive movement.

Only with the establishment of the people's power was the road opened for the creation of a modern and increasingly more comprehensive social security system for the citizens.

The study of the genesis and the whole evolutionary process of social security in the PR of Albania throws light on the fact that it is not a phenomenon which has remained in a static situation, but it has been in motion and has grown as a result of the progress made in the country's socialist construction.

The first normative act which marked the starting point of our legislation on social security was law Nr. 82, dated June 9, 1945, which envisaged, among other things, social security for factory and office workers for the period of their temporary disability. This law, although providing a very narrow and fragmentary regulation on this matter, was still a normative act of great social and political importance if we bear in mind it entered into force only eight months after the country's liberation, that is at a time when our economy had to heal its wounds and mend the heavy damage inflicted on it by the war.

Our 1946 Constitution, also juridically paving the way to the country's socialist social development, right from that time sanctioned the right to state social security as one of the most fundamental social-economic right of the citizens.

On this basis, in 1947 the law «on state social security for factory and office workers» was approved and entered into force, constituting the first normative act which regulated all the main aspect of this matter. In the following stages of socialist construction, parallel with the development of the productive forces and the increase of the national income, this law underwent a series of changes further extended and improved the state social security system.

The present law, too, which was approved by the People's Assembly on September 13, 1966, is the natural and direct continuity of the above-mentioned normative acts, since it effectively develops their basic ideas further under the conditions of the new stage which the socialist development of our country has entered.

From the beginning, the whole organization of the Albanian state social security system was placed at the service of the socialist principles of our people's democratic state

The key ideas of the programme of the Party of Labour of Albania in the field of state social security are:

a) progressive extension of the state social security system over the whole population, in conformity with the achievements in the country's socialist construction; b) gradual unification of this system on the basis of a juridical regulation of an obligatory character; c) exemption of working people from any financial obligation towards the social security organs; d) granting of multifarious benefits to the working people in compliance with the socialist principle of distribution «to each according to his work», and also gradually implementing in a series of directions the principle «to each according to his needs».

Unlike the social insurance systems of the majority of the countries in the world, which are characterized by the coexistence of a large number of juridical rules, of which some rest on a compulsory basis while others are auxi-

liary rules of an optional character, our system of state social security is characterized by unified rules of a compulsory nature, since these benefits are available *ipso lege*, without any exception or restriction, to all the working people who work in enterprises, institutions or organizations, irrespective of the economic branch or sector where they serve. Moreover, unlike the national systems of the majority of the European countries, in which the personal contributions of the working people, or direct taxation of income are a source of finance in Albania the beneficiaries pay no quotas nor are they subject to any taxation. In our country social security is financed by the state, which through its various bodies, spends a considerable part of its budget for medical or social purposes. The social security fund, properly speaking, is fed by state enterprises and institutions as well as by social organisations which make contributions to the state budget in proportion to the wages and salaries of their workers and employees. The agricultural cooperatives, too, pay such quotas to the state budget for the pensions of their members. Nevertheless, even if these quotas are not contributed, the beneficiary will receive his benefit regularly because on the basis of Article 3 of the Law in force, the state defrays the expenditure for state social security in all cases in which their funds are insufficient.

Multifariousness of state social security – testimony to the vitality and transforming force of our socialist order

The great economic-social transformations which have been carried out in our country since the establishment of the people's power have to day made it possible for us to have a complete and allround social security system which takes care of the people from birth and during their whole life, also temporary or permanent disability.

Thus, the structure of our social security system includes:

a) **Free medical service for all citizens.**

In the PR of Albania free medical service has been guaranteed, without any



exception, to all citizens on the basis of the principle «to each according to his needs».

The free medical service includes: Treatment by doctors, dentists and assistant-doctors, laboratory analyses and examinations of all kinds (radiography, radioscopy, electrocardiography, etc.), the cost of hospitalization, and treatment in hospitals, expenditure for dental treatment and prostheses, expenditure for cures in spas, as well as the entire activity of the preventive medical service which is extending and being better organized with each passing year.

Of course, the free medical service also includes all kinds of expenditure for child birth, including Caesarians, and psychoprophylactic birth (painless child birth) etc.

The number of beds in maternity homes and wards has increased over 172 times in comparison with the pre-liberation period. Similarly in the 1.371 consultation centers which have been opened and are functioning even in the remotest corners of the country, every mother and child can have a medical examination on an average of up to 6 times a year. It is characteristic that today 8 out every 10 women give birth with medical assistance and, with the measures being implemented, it is envisaged that within two years almost no woman from the countryside will deliver without such assistance.

Our State has earmarked increasingly greater funds for the health service. Thus, in 1971, 310 million leks were spent for the protection of the health of the citizens, or 14,3 per cent more than in 1970.

The free medical service and especially the particular care to protect the health of mother and child have resulted in the deaths per thousand in Albania falling to the lowest level known in Europe, while the natural growth rate of the population is one of the highest. In the past, too, the birth rate in Albania was always high but due to various diseases one person died for every two born, while today 1 person dies for every 5 born. This new correlation be-

The mechanization of the work is an important aspect in the erection of the main projects of the current five-year plan. — A snapshot from the process of laying the concrete during the construction of a new factory in Lushnja

tween births and deaths has resulted in Albania being characterized today by a pronounced growth of the population, a phenomenon which, according to the statistical data of various European States, is seen in almost no other country of this continent. As a matter of fact, in our country numerically youth constitutes the largest social group since nearly 3/5 of the population was born, grew up and was educated during the years of the people's power. Over 42 per cent of the total population is made up of children up to 15 years of age.

b) Security for temporary disability, that is financial benefits available to the working people in case of leave for illness, accident, quarantine, pregnancy and childbirth.

When disability results from an accident at work or occupational illness, the benefit is paid, irrespective of length of service, at the rate of 95 per cent of the average pay of the last month, whereas for mine workers, who work underground, it is paid at the rate of 100 per cent. When the disability is caused by general illness or by an accident bearing no relation to work, the worker with up to 10 years of service receives 70 per cent of the average pay of the last month, and 85 per cent for a length of service over 10 years. In this domain, too, miners who work underground, are placed in a more privileged position, being paid such benefits at higher percentages.

Care for the working woman, which has always been one of the distinctive features of our Party and State, is also expressed in legal provisions regulating benefits for the period of leave for pregnancy and child birth.

Thus, the working woman has been guaranteed a pregnancy and childbirth leave of 12 weeks, which is granted 35 days before and 49 days after childbirth. Women who have had difficult delivery or multiple births are granted 13 weeks leave. Women working in some difficult occupations have 14 weeks leave.

During pregnancy and childbirth leave, the woman worker or employed with a length of service of from 1 day to 5 years, receives 75 percent of the average pay of the last month, and 95 per cent

when she has a length of service of over 5 years.

c) Assistance for the protection of health at sanatoria, at health resorts or spas and at rest homes for the workers themselves and their children, etc.

d) Assistance for work rehabilitation, financial aid to recover the capacity to work, that is, assistance given to the disabled during the period they attend training courses or schools to learn a new trade, as well as assistance for childbirth and for funeral costs.

c) Pensions for old age, disability, length of service and special merits and family pensions.

From among the various kinds of pensions, old age pensions are of special interest, due to their broad and diverse social problems.

In Albania society shows special concern to enable its aged members to spend their old age in suitable conditions not only from the material but also from the physical and mental viewpoint.

The continual improvement of living and working conditions and in general, the elevation of material and cultural standards, have today resulted in the Albanians having a longer life expectancy than in any other period of their history. From 1945 onward life-expectancy has grown uninterruptedly. Thus, while before liberation it was about 38 years, at present the average life-span of the Albanian is 69 years for women and 66,5 years for men, that is, an average of 68 years.

This phenomenon has brought about a series of sharp social problems, of a material, psychological and ideological character, which our Party has sought to meet in due time and give a careful and rational solution.

In the material field, old age pensions are guaranteed to all the working people. In Albania old age pension are received somewhat earlier and under some facilitating conditions in comparison with those established by the legislations of many other European countries. As a general rule, old age pensions are available to the working people, irrespective

of their state of health and of whether they are able-bodied, to men of 60 years of age who have completed 25 years of service and to women of 55 years who have completed 20 years of service. People engaged in comparatively difficult occupations such as various jobs on the surface of mines, in geology, the oil industry, glass and rubber industries, as teachers, surgeons or psychiatrists, and others, receive an old age pension when they reach 55 years of age and after 25 years of service. Working people who do jobs which are exceptionally arduous or harmful to health, such as those working in mines underground, metallurgists, divers, radiologists doctors, etc., receive a pension when they reach the age of 50 years and after 20 years of service.

In each of the above mentioned categories women factory and office workers receive an old age pension 5 years earlier than men regarding both age and length of service.

In the field of pensions, too, our legislation shows particular concern for working mothers who have given birth to and brought up many children. Thus, the woman factory or office worker, who has given birth to 6 or more children and reared them to the age of 8 years, is granted an old age pension when she reaches 50 years of age and has completed a length of service of not less than 15 years, unless of course, she is entitled to receive a pension at a younger age under the conditions of the first category.

Old age pensions for blind and deaf-mute factory and office workers, as well as for those who have been disabled of the first and second groups before getting their job are also granted under more favorable conditions. Men satisfying these conditions are eligible for an old age pension when they turn 50 years of age and after completing not less than 15 years of service, and women when they turn 40 years of age and after completing not less than 10 years of service.

From July 1, 1972 the members of the agricultural cooperatives have also enjoyed, among other things, the right to old age pension, guaranteed by the State, thus falling into line with all the other working people, as regards age and

At one of the research institutes in Tirana. A young laboratory worker during her work with the microscope



length of service specified for eligibility.

The rate of old age pensions has been established at a fixed percentage of the wage for all the factory and office workers, so that in this field, too, the socialist principle of distribution "to each according to his work", is applied, but interlaced, to a certain degree, with the principle of "to each according to his needs", as well. In fact, the old age pension is established at the rate of 70 per cent of the average monthly pay (of the last year of service or of three years in succession during the last decade) and cannot be lower than 350 leks nor higher than 900 leks monthly. These sums, if we take into consideration the cost of living in Albania, where the citizens do not pay any kind of tax, where house rent is among the lowest in the world and where medical service, education and some other services are free of charge, are sufficient to fulfil the needs of livelihood. In this way, our country has avoided that perceptible gap between the material living conditions of the citizen in production and that of the citizen leaving his job due to old age, which is typical of the majority of European countries.

When the working man has not completed the required number of years of work, he has the right to a proportional old age pension provided he has completed at least half of the length of service stipulated by the law.

In Albania the transition from active life to old age is not accompanied by those heart felt blows, such as contempt for the social value of pensioners, their isolation and loneliness, which are now so.

Our Party continues to support the social and economic integration of old people in a whole complex of forms, into the country's social life, as well as into the fold of their families.

Our State has set up some old peoples homes but few old people live there because the Albanian even during his old age, prefers to live with his family, where, according to the good tradition of our people, further cultivated by the Party, he occupies a respected place. In our country, during the impetuous process of the construction of the socialist society, the patriarchal family and, in general, the large extended family underwent a complete physical disintegration, but the three-generation family has be-



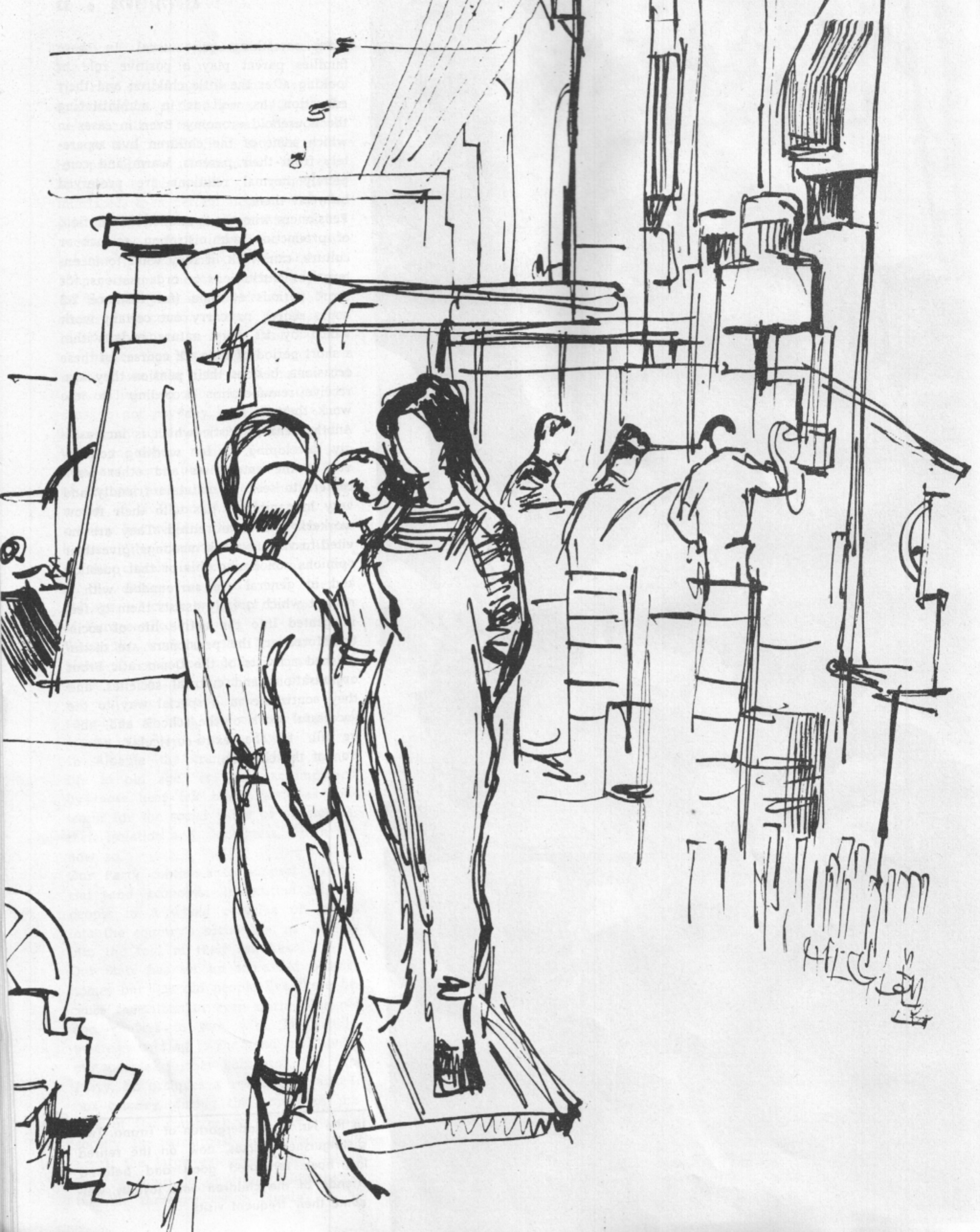


come something quite usual. In these families parent play a positive role in looking after the little children and their education, as well as in administering the household economy. Even in cases in which some of the children live separately from their parents, warm and completely normal relations are preserved between them.

Pensioners who are specialists in the field of production, administration, science or culture, can work, if they want to in enterprises, institutions or organisations, for short periods of time (for instance 2-3 hours daily), or carry out certain work which by its very nature ends within a short period of time. Of course, on these occasions, besides their pension they also receive remuneration according to the work they do.

Another characteristic which is increasingly developing, is for working collectives of the enterprises and other work centers to seek to maintain friendly and very humanitarian ties with their fellow workers who have retired. They are invited to various work meetings, give their opinions concerning this or that question and in general are surrounded with a respect which greatly assists them to feel integrated into the active life of society. Moreover, the pensioners are distinguished activists of the Democratic Front organisations and cultural societies, and they contribute in a special way to the successful work of the schools and, above all, to the extra-curricular education of the children.

In the Nr. 42 Kindergarten of Tirana. Two distinguished nurses, now on the retired list, have remained good and beloved friends of the children who joyfully welcome their frequent visits



From the black and white of painter
Zef Shoshi

Young women workers during a rest in
a section of the tractor plant in Tirana

A retired worker reading

