

**PEOPLE'S
SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC
OF ALBANIA**

ALBANIA REPORT
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Geographical Position

The People's Socialist Republic of Albania lies on the west of the Balkan Peninsula. It is situated between latitude 39°38'-42°39' north and longitude 19°16'-21°4' east. To the north and northeast Albania is bounded by Yugoslavia, to the southeast and south by Greece. To the west and southwest it is washed by the Adriatic and Ionian Seas.

Albania extends over an area of 28,748 square kilometres.

Relief

Albania is one of the most mountainous countries of Europe; 76,6 per cent of its territory is mountains and hills. The average altitude of Albania (708 metres) is about twice the average altitude of Europe.

In Northern Albania rise the Albanian Alps which exceed 2000 metres above sea level (the highest mountain being that of Jezerca 2694 metres). With their typical alpine landscapes, with the striking contrast between the pyramid-shaped mountains and the deep valleys (the Theth valley and the Boga hollow, etc.), the Alps make up an important scenic region. Motor-roads have been opened through its main valleys.

The Central Mountain Region lies between the valley of the Drin River in the north and the Central Devoll and the Lower Osum valleys in the south. Its relief is less rugged. Like the Alps, the mountains of this region are also covered with dense forests.

The Southern Mountain Region, lying south of the Central Mountain Region, has a more regular tectonic form. Its highest summits range from 2000 to 2489 metres above sea level (the Paping Summit or the Summit of Light).

In the western part of the territory, along the Adriatic seaboard, lie the Western Lowlands, which extend over a distance of 200 kilometres from north to south, and eastward up to 50 kilometres into the interior of the country. The land strips of this area form beaches which extend for many kilometres along the coast, such as that of Durrës, Shëngjin, Velipoja, Vlora, Saranda, Seman, Divjaka, Patok. Large scale afforestation projects have been carried out along the sandy coastal strip, forming large national parks of rare beauty.

Climate

Albania is situated in the Mediterranean climate belt. It is characterized by a hot dry summer, strong sunshine, a generally mild winter, and abundant rainfall. Most of the year the sky is almost always clear. It is warmer in the western part of the territory, which is mainly under the influence of warm air masses from the sea. The maximum July temperature

recorded in this zone is 44°C. In the eastern part of Albania, which is mainly under the influence of continental air masses, the winter is cold. The absolute minimum recorded is -26°C.

Rainfall in Albania is abundant (1460 millimetres a year). Forty per cent of the rain falls in winter, but because of the irregularity of the territory, the geographical distribution of rainfall is uneven.

Natural Riches

Albania has large subterranean riches, among which the principal place is occupied by oil reserves, natural gas, bitumen, lignite, iron-nickel, chromium and copper. The mineral extraction and processing industry is occupying an ever more important place in the structure of the country's industry. Albania holds third place in the world in chromium mining.

Rivers and Lakes

The main rivers of Albania are: Drin (285 kilometres long), Buna, Mat, Shkumbin, Seman, Vjosa, etc. They constitute an important source of hydro-electric power. Albania occupies second place in Europe, after Norway, for its hydro-power reserves in proportion to the number of population. The rivers of Albania are also of major importance for irrigation purposes.

In the territory of Albania there are big lakes of varying origin: lakes of tectonic origin (the Shkodra, Ohri and Prespa Lakes), lakes of glacial origin in the high mountains (the Lura Lakes of an extreme natural beauty, the Martanesh Lakes, etc.), karst lakes in the hills and lakes of the lagoon type. Albania's geographic aspect has greatly changed with the building of large lakes for hydro-energy purposes, as

well as hundreds of other artificial lakes for irrigation purposes.

Flora and Fauna

More than 3,200 kinds of plants grow in the territory of Albania, representing the greater part of those growing in the Balkan Peninsula. Forests cover nearly 40 per cent of the surface of the territory. Albania is one of the ancient centres of olive cultivation in the Mediterranean. The wildlife of Albania is also rich and varied. It includes animals, birds and water birds.

Population

The first census in Albania was taken in 1923. Albania had then 803,900 inhabitants. After the liberation of the country Albania's census was taken 6 times. In 1986 its population reached 3,021,900 inhabitants. The average rate of population growth in the last 43 years has been 2.5 per cent. Males make up 51,6 per cent and females 48,4 per cent of the population. As against 1938, the life expectancy of the population has increased from 38 to 71.3 years. The average age of the population is 26 years (43 per cent are of the 15-39 years). Females make up more than 46 per cent of the active-bodied population.

Main Cities and Administrative Division

The principal cities of Albania are:

Tirana, the capital of the country, with 220,600 inhabitants (1986); Durrës — 77,000; Elbasan — 76,300; Shkodra 75,100; Vlora — 66,000; Korça —

60,400; Berat — 39,600; Fier — 39,300; Lushnja — 26,200; Gjirokastra — 23,200.

Several cities have a history which dates back thousands of years, while some others are completely new.

Albania is divided into 26 administrative districts.

In the conditions created by the socialist state, a harmonious and proportional development of all the districts and regions of the country is realized. Whereas before Liberation, about 75 per cent of the country's industrial output was realized in 4 or 5 cities, today every city has a series of industrial centres and complexes. Regions once backward have today become important centres of the extracting and processing industry. The district of Fier is noted for its oil and gas extraction and processing industry as well as for production of chemical fertilizers; the district of Dibra for its chromium industry; the districts of Mirdita and Kukës are noted for the extraction of copper; the districts of Pogradec and Librazhd for their iron-nickel mines; the district of Berat for the textile industry and Korça for its engineering, knitwear and sugar industries. Branches of the light and foodstuffs industries have been set up in all the districts of the country.

Historical Survey

The Albanian people are a very ancient people. They have lived on their own territory since very ancient times. The results of archaeological research, studies by historians, linguists, ethnographers and others, have revealed that the land inhabited by the Albanians today is the hearth of a very ancient culture. The ancestors of the Albanians are the Illyrians who are considered to be one of the earliest peoples of the ancient Mediterranean world.

As early as the 4th century before our era, the Illyrians formed powerful states such as

those of the Taulanti, Ardiaei, Encheleae and others. Since then they were forced to clash with the Romans who had commenced their expansion on the other side of the Adriatic. Only after protracted wars, which raged for more than a century and a half, did the Romans manage to occupy Illyria in the middle of the 2nd century before our era. But the Illyrians were never subjugated. They were never Romanized. On the contrary, they preserved many elements of their ancient culture, their sacred language and traditions.

The discoveries made by archaeologists in the mediaeval cities and castles have shed light on the Illyrian-Albanian continuity. In the 2nd century mention is made of the Albanoi tribe, among the other Illyrian tribes, which provided the name for the Albanian people. In the 4th century, when the Roman Empire was split into two, Illyria remained under Byzantine rule, and later on, the country was invaded by German, Norman and Slav tribes. In the period of the Albanian feudal principalities, the first mediaeval feudal state in Albania, the Principality of the Arbër, was set up. In the 14th century the Ottomans who were already in the Balkans attacked Albania. For 25 years on end, under the leadership of the national hero — Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg — the Albanian people kept at bay the Ottoman forces and transformed Albania into an inviolable barrier to the Ottoman advance towards Europe. The deed of the Albanians and Skanderbeg in the 15th century has inspired through the centuries many writers, artists, historians and others who have perpetuated it in painting, sculpture, literary and scientific works. The heroic struggle of the Albanian people against the Ottoman invasion continued even after the death of Skanderbeg (1468). But the Ottoman invasion brought along the economic ruin and the decline in the culture of the country.

From the 40s of the 19th century up till the Independence of Albania in 1912, a major democratic and revolutionary movement, which has gone down in history with the name the Albanian National Renaissance, was opened. The Al-

banian League of Prizren was founded in 1878, and very soon it was transformed into an independent political and military organization and placed itself at the head of the liberation movement for the defence of freedom and territorial integrity of Albania.

The cultural, literary and educational movement marked a vigorous upsurge as an expression of the revival of the national consciousness of the masses of the people. Although the Albanian League of Prizren was suppressed by the invaders, the Albanian people continued their struggle consistently. The uprisings of the years 1910-1912 led to the proclamation of the National Independence on 28 November 1912. The National Convention assembled in Vlora formed the first Albanian national government headed by the great Albanian patriot and diplomat, Ismail Qemali.

The Great Powers, ignoring everything the Albanian people had achieved with their internal forces, treated the Albanian problem in their own interest at the Ambassadors' Conference in London (December 1912-August 1913), tearing away from the trunk of Albania half of its territory and population. Besides this, on 7 March 1914, the Great Powers brought a foreign prince, a German feudal aristocrat, Wilhelm Wied, at the head of this cramped state. In order to run the internal affairs of the country, the Great Powers forcibly imposed on our people an International Control Commission they had designed and set up. The Secret Treaty of London of 1915 partitioned Albania and divided its territories between Greece, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro. With the outbreak of World War I Albania was occupied by the Greek, Italian and Austro-Hungarian armies.

In 1920, the Albanian patriots convened a National Congress in Lushnja, which denounced the secret treaties to the detriment of Albania, formed a new government and demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Albania.

In the summer of 1920, thousands of armed volunteers from all over Albania attacked the Italian troops that had occupied Vlora and drove them to the sea.

In June 1924 the bourgeois-democratic go-

vernment, headed by Fan Noli, came to power. But the counter-revolutionary forces, supported by Serbian reaction, overthrew this government and brought to power Ahmet Zog, one of the most brutal feudal lords of the country. In January 1925, the feudal and bourgeois clique in Albania proclaimed the country a Republic with Ahmet Zog as its president. In September 1928 Zog transformed the Republic into a monarchy and proclaimed himself King. The anti-national, open-door policy which Zog pursued, the economic and political agreements concluded in Rome opened the road to fascist Italy for the military invasion of Albania.

On April 7, 1939 Albania was attacked by fascist Italy. King Zog together with his clique fled the country. Meanwhile, groups of Albanian patriots fought heroically against the aggressors in Durrës, Saranda, Shkodra, Vlora, etc. But the enemy, by sheer numbers and superior armaments, suppressed this resistance and overran the whole country in a few days. In the conditions of occupation, when the very existence of the Albanian nation was at stake, the Communist Party of Albania (today the Party of Labour of Albania) was founded in illegality on November 8, 1941, by Comrade Enver Hoxha at the head of the Albanian Communists. The Party undertook to discharge the great and historic task of organizing and leading the people's general armed uprising against fascism, for the complete liberation of the country and the establishment of the people's power. Under the leadership of the Party, the unity of all patriotic forces of the country in the National Liberation Front was realized. The Conference of Peza (a village in the vicinity of Tirana) held on 16 September 1942 set the task of waging an uncompromising struggle against fascism and the traitors to the country, for a free, independent and democratic Albania. It also decided to set up the National Liberation Councils, as organs of the unity and mobilization of the people in the struggle and as organs of the people's power, all over the country.

The creation of the General Staff of the Albanian National Liberation Army (today the

People's Army) on 10 July 1943 marked the creation of the army.

Following Italy's capitulation on 8 September 1943, the nazi troops which invaded Albania came up against the powerful resistance of the Albanian National Liberation Army. The 1st Anti-fascist National Liberation Congress held in Përmet on 24 May 1944 laid down as its principal task the creation of the new Albanian People's Democratic state, elected the Anti-fascist National Liberation Committee with all the attributes of a provisional people's government, with Comrade Enver Hoxha as its President. The autumn of 1944 marked the liberation of many cities of Albania.

On 29 November, 1944 Albania was liberated completely. The armed forces of the Albanian National Liberation Army hounded the enemy even beyond the boundaries of Albania and together with the Yugoslav partisans and their Kosova brothers fought and shed their blood for the liberation of the peoples of Yugoslavia.

With the complete liberation of the Homeland and the establishment of the people's state power, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Albania, with Comrade Enver Hoxha at its head, the Albanian people scored the most brilliant victory in their history. They took political power into their own hands and Albania embarked on the road to the construction of socialism.

Although it was a small country, with a population scarcely one million, Albania made a valuable contribution to the war for the destruction of nazi-fascism. It nailed down 15 German and Italian divisions in its struggle, and put out of action 70,000 enemy soldiers. More than 700,000 enemy soldiers violated the Albanian territory during World War II. They caused the country incalculable damage and ruin. 28,000 sons and daughters of the Albanian people laid down their lives in this war.

Elections to the Constituent Assembly were held on 2 December 1945.

On 11 January 1946, it proclaimed Albania a People's Republic (People's Republic of Albania) and on 14 March, 1946 it adopted its Constitu-

tion. In 1955 Albania was admitted a member of the UNO.

Constitution

On 28 December 1976 the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania adopted the new Constitution and proclaimed Albania a People's Socialist Republic (PSR of Albania). The Constitution reflects the profound socio-economic changes that have taken place in Albania and shows the features of a true socialist state. The Constitution clearly defines that the Albanian state is a state of the dictatorship of the proletariat and that the Party of Labour of Albania is the vanguard of the working class, the sole leading political force of the state and the society. It also stresses that Marxism-Leninism is the dominant ideology in the PSR of Albania. The entire socialist social order is developed on the basis of its principles. The Constitution defines the general lines of the foreign policy pursued by socialist Albania, proclaims the frontiers of the PSR of Albania as inviolable, and prohibits the setting up of foreign military bases and stationing of foreign troops in Albania. It recognizes no one the right to sign or accept the capitulation or occupation of the country; it prohibits the granting of concessions as well as obtaining credits from abroad, etc.

The Constitution recognizes no restriction to or privilege in the rights and duties of the citizens on account of sex, race, nationality, education, social position or material situation. Protection and development of their people's culture and traditions, the use of their mother tongue and teaching of it in school, equal development in all fields of social life are guaranteed for national minorities.

Citizens of 18 years of age have the right to elect and to be elected to all organs of state power.

Work is guaranteed by the state and is a duty and honour for every able-bodied citizen. Citizens enjoy the right to rest after work, as well as paid annual holiday. To this end, rest homes and many other cultural institutions have

been created. In case of illness or loss of ability to work, the social security guarantees to defray all expenditure of curing the illness; it also guarantees old age and invalidity pension for all citizens.

The Constitution guarantees the inviolability of the person. Nobody can be arrested without the decision of the court or the approval of the prosecutor. The home is inviolable. The secrecy of correspondence and other means of communication cannot be violated, etc.

Besides the rights, the Constitution also sanctions the main duties of the citizens. They are obliged to respect and apply the state laws, to preserve and strengthen the socialist order, to implement the rules of socialist coexistence and to protect and strengthen the socialist property. The Constitution considers the defence of the Homeland as the supreme duty of and the greatest honour for all citizens.

State Organization

Albania is a People's Socialist Republic, a state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, which expresses and defends the interests of all the working people. It is based on the unity of the people and it has as its foundation the alliance of the working class with the cooperative peasantry under the leadership of the working class.

All state power in the People's Socialist Republic of Albania derives from and belongs to the people. The representative organs, as main organs of the state, direct and control the activity of all the other state organs, which are responsible to them and render account to them. They are elected by the people through universal suffrage, with equal, direct and secret voting. The electors have the right to recall their representative at any time when he has lost their political trust, when he does not fulfil the tasks he is charged with, or when he acts in contravention of the laws.

Under the leadership of the Party of Labour of Albania, the working class, as the leading class of the society, the cooperativist peasantry, as well as the other working people, exercise direct and organized control over the activity of state organs, economic and social organizations and their workers, for the purpose of defending the victories of the revolution and strengthening the socialist order.

In the system of the organs of state power, the representative organs, made up of the People's Assembly at the centre and the people's councils at the base, are the sole organs which realize the sovereignty of the country.

The People's Assembly is the supreme organ of state power. It is comprised of 250 deputies, is elected for a term of 4 years, and carries out its activity by meeting in sessions. The Presidium of the People's Assembly is a permanent organ between two sessions.

The people's councils, as representative organs, are the base of the people's state power. They are elected for a term of three years.

The supreme executive and administrative organ is the Council of Ministers which is appointed and revoked by the People's Assembly.

At the base, the executive committees of the people's councils are elected by the representative organs; they render account to them about their activity.

The people's courts are elected organs which administer justice.

The Attorney General's Office controls the application of the laws. The Attorney General and his assistants are appointed by the People's Assembly.

The Investigation Office, an organ of the People's Assembly, makes investigations on penal acts and has the duty to protect the socialist juridical order.

Economic Development

Prior to World War II Albania was the most backward country in Europe. It had almost no industry, while agriculture was extremely

backward. About 90 per cent of the population was illiterate. The living standard of the working masses was very low. The fascist occupation of Albania during the World War II made the socio-economic plight of the country even worse. In proportion to the population, the damage Albania suffered during the war was among the greatest in Europe.

Immediately after Liberation, the question of the overthrow of the old feudal-bourgeois relations of production and the establishment of new socialist relations was placed on the order of the day. The mines and the assets of political fugitives, the National Bank and the other banks, were nationalized in December 1944. During 1945, 111 foreign capitalist companies and enterprises were nationalized without compensation. By the end of 1946 the main means of production in the towns had become social property, and capitalist industry had been eliminated in general. The implementation of the Land Reform, which started in August 1945 and was completed in November 1946, marked the first revolution in the socio-economic relations in the countryside. The complete collectivization of agriculture, which was carried out step by step and was completed in 1967, was the second revolution, the most radical revolutionary change in the socio-economic relations of the countryside.

As a result of the liquidation of the big private capitalist ownership and the establishment of the socialist ownership of the main means of production, the rapid development of the productive forces, the completion of the socialist co-operation of small producers in town and countryside, it was possible to proclaim the completion, in general, of the construction of the economic base of socialism in 1960, both in town and in countryside. The new socialist relations of production gave a powerful impulse to the development of productive forces in industry, agriculture and the other branches of the economy.

The Albanian economy is based on the socialist ownership of the means of production, on the internal sources of development; it is organized and run by the socialist state on the basis of a unified overall plan of socio-economic and cul-

tural development. Starting from 1951 this development is made on the basis of five-year plans. Currently we are implementing the 8th Five-year Plan (1986-1990). The economy in Albania is stable and does not experience anarchy and spontaneity, the periodic economic crises of overproduction, currency and energy crises, inflation, price rises, unemployment, etc.

The Albanian economy develops relying completely on its-own forces, on its own resources of labour, materials and finance, without aid or credits from abroad. The decisive factor for the revolutionary transformations and achievements in the socialist construction, the stability and the uninterrupted development of our economy, has always been and still is the persistent, self-sacrificing work of the Albanian people.

During the 7th Five-year Plan the rates of the average annual increase of the people's economy have been high in the total social production, the national income, the overall industrial output, the total agricultural production, state investments. During the 8th Five-year Plan (1986-1990) total social production is envisaged to increase 31-33 per cent, national income 35-37 per cent and overall financial income 37-39 per cent, whereas average annual rates of economic development are 2-3 times higher than the increase of the population.

During the years of the people's state power, Albania created its own multi-branched national industry including heavy and light, extracting and processing branches. Priority has been given and is still being given to heavy industry and the production of means of production.

The electric power industry precedes the development of industry and the whole economy. Since 1972 Albania has become an exporter of electric power. In 1970 the electrification of the whole country was completed. Oil and gas occupy the main place in power resources. The extraction and deep processing of oil opens the perspective for the development of the petro-chemical industry.

Of the various minerals mined, chromium, copper and iron-nickel have important industrial reserves and constitute a powerful base for the

heavy extracting and processing industry. Conditions have been created to extract more useful minerals, such as phosphorites, quartzites, rock salt, dolomites, olivinites, bauxites, magnezites, nickel-silicate, alabaster, etc. Special importance is devoted to the local processing of useful minerals. Powerful combines and plants have been set up for the smelting and further industrial processing of ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The copper industry now completes the full cycle of production from mining, enriching, smelting the ore to its metallurgical processing, the preparation of the finished products — electrical wires and cables for internal consumption and export. The «Steel of the Party» metallurgical combine at Elbasan produces more than 50 types of steel.

The engineering industry has developed at rapid rates, meeting today 90 per cent of the needs of the country for spare parts.

The chemical industry now supplies agriculture with chemical fertilizers (nitrogenous and superphosphate) on a very large scale. The light and foodstuffs industries have an important proportion in the structure of industrial production. Together with agriculture, they meet about 90 per cent of the needs of the country for mass consumer commodities.

During these four decades Albania overcame its centuries-long backwardness and created an advanced, multi-branched and complex agriculture. Since 1976 Albania is self-sufficient in bread grain production. The average annual increase of agricultural production is more than 5 per cent. Besides bread grain, industrial crops, vegetables, olives, citrus, fruit, etc. are grown. Viticulture is also highly developed.

There are several higher institutes of agriculture and 260 agricultural secondary schools functioning in Albania. Ten central scientific institutions and 26 agricultural stations are engaged in scientific work in different regions of the country.

Special care is devoted to the narrowing of distinctions between town and the rural area. During the years 1986-1990 the real income per head of the rural population will increase twice as fast as that of the urban population.

Albania has trade relations with more than 50 countries of the world. Albania exports chromium ore and concentrate (second place in the world), ferro-chrome, electric power, iron-nickel, petrol, diesel-oil, bitumen, copper and copper wires, rolled steel, pyrite ore and concentrate, nickel-silicate concentrate, bauxite, dolomite, olivine, products of the light and foodstuffs industries, chemical products, building materials (cement, marble facings), ready made garments and knitwear, leather and plastic articles, carpets, handicraf articles, tobacco, cigarettes, fruits and vegetables, etc. It imports machinery and some kinds of primary materials utilized for the expansion of local production.

Development of Education and Culture

Major successes have been scored during the years of the people's state power in the field of education, culture, literature and art, etc. Before Liberation Albania was the only country in Europe without a university. Now it has a complete educational system. One out of every three persons goes to school. The state pays full cost of the school system in all its links. Along with the 8-grade elementary education which is compulsory, secondary and higher education, part-and full-time, is assuming an ever greater mass character. The «Enver Hoxha» University of Tirana has 8 faculties. Together with the other higher schools of the country, it trains cadres in various specialities. The Academy of Sciences, set up in 1972, is the highest scientific institution of the country. It has 11 scientific-research institutes, including the Institute of Nuclear Physics, the Computer Centre, the Centre of Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation.

Music, figurative arts, theatre and cinematography of socialist realism have assumed a vigorous development. The Artists' and Writers' League of Albania (founded in 1945) has hundreds of writers, painters, sculptors, producers, actors, etc., as members or candidate members. In Tirana there is the Opera and Ballet Theatre and

the People's Drama Theatre. Besides the great number of amateur theatre troupes, in the main districts there are professional drama theatres and variety show groups. There are several symphonic orchestras. The Folk Song and Dance Ensemble carries out a broad artistic activity and has won renown in various countries of the world. The National Folklore Festival is organized every five years in the city of Gjirokastra. In Albania we organize festivals of songs, dances, films, drama theatre, etc., as well as the May Concerts which are given every year. October is the month of literature and arts on a Republic scale. The «New Albania» Film Studio was created in 1951 and produces 10-15 feature films annually. The National Library in Tirana has the richest Albanological fund. Gjirokastra and Berat have been proclaimed museum-cities. The Museum of National History was set up in Tirana in 1981. Whereas in 1988, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the birth of our unforgettable leader, the «Enver Hoxha» Museum was opened. Some of the main museums and exhibitions are: The Museum «Gjergj Kastrioti-Skanderbeg» in Kruja, the Arms Museum in Gjirokastra, the National Exhibition of Folk Culture in Shkodra, etc., as well as the «Albania Today» exhibition in Tirana which reflects the presentday economic and cultural development of Albania. The Albanian archaeology has attained marked successes in the study of the Illyrian culture and the early Albanian mediaeval culture.

The press, publications and Radio-Television play an important role in the socio-economic life of the country. In 1981 the Albanian television began its broadcasts in colour and produces ten films a year. One hundred and forty-one newspapers, magazines, scientific bulletins, periodicals, as well as six magazines in foreign languages are published in Albania. The «8 Nëntori» Publishing House publishes political and scientific books, whereas the «Naim Frashëri» Publishing House fiction books by Albanian authors and translates in Albanian books of progressive foreign writers. Besides them, there is the Publishing House of the «Enver Hoxha» Uni-

versity of Tirana and the School Book Publishing House which meet the needs of education for all categories of schools. There are also a number of other publishing sectors.

Constant Raising of the Well-being of the People

The improvement of the well-being of the working masses is at the focus of the economic policy for the development of productive forces. During the four decades of the people's state power, social product and the national income have increased 3-4 times more rapidly than the increase of the population. The production of mass consumer goods in industry and agriculture is ever better meeting the growing needs of the working people. In socialist Albania the well-being has at its foundation the creative work of its working people, the increase of social production. The socialist principles which are sanctioned by the Constitution such as the right of every citizen to work, the health service free of charge, the possibility for the educational and cultural development, create the conditions for the increase of the well-being in all the categories of the working people. Since 1969 the system of direct taxes and levies on the population has been completely abolished. Putting into practice the socialist principle that every wage should be in accordance with the quality and quantity of work, a just ratio has been established in the income of groups of working people so as not to allow the emergence of privileged strata. The ratio between the average wages of the workers, according to the respective branch, and the salary of the director of the enterprise is 1:1,7; the ratio between the average wages of the workers, in general, and the salary of the director in the ministry is about 1:2. These ratios are set by law.

The stability of the prices of retail goods and their reduction in accordance with the economic development and the increase of the social fund has a direct influence on the increase of the well-being. There has not been a single instance of a price rise for any commodity. The social fund

of consumption (state expenditure for education, culture, health, etc.) tends to increase.

The superiority of the socialist society that is built in Albania lies in the fact that it ensures high and stable rates of the development of the productive forces, which are simultaneously accompanied with the systematic increase of the material well-being and the cultural level of all the working people of town and countryside.

Foreign Policy

The foreign policy of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania is open, principled, independent and consistent, a policy free from narrow bourgeois nationalism, chauvinism, national exclusiveness, or underration of other peoples. As the policy of a socialist state, of a society without exploiting classes, it supports the revolutionary movement of the working class and the struggle of the peoples for freedom, national independence and social progress.

The foreign policy of socialist Albania is not conditioned by political pacts, military treaties or closed economic organizations. Albania does not base its economic and political development, its defence and its future on the credits, loans and aid from other countries, but on its own forces, that is why it has its own completely independent stands in the assessment of events.

Albania is for the development of relations of collaboration with all those states which abide by the principle of equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of one another, respect for sovereignty and the right of every people to self-determination.

Adhering to these principles, the government of the PSR of Albania is extending its diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with an ever greater number of states. Today Albania maintains diplomatic relations with 111 states. It is for the development of these relations with all those countries which wish it well and maintain a correct attitude towards it.

Socialist Albania is opposed to all those imperialist and neo-colonialist practices of inequality,

discrimination and great-state dictate in international relations. The PSR of Albania is for the normal and free development of international trade on the basis of equality and reciprocal benefit.

Socialist Albania devotes special attention to its relations with the neighbouring countries, and on a broader plane, with the European countries. At every time and in every situation, the foreign policy of Albania is intended to make its contribution to the strengthening of peace and international security, to the strengthening of collaboration between the peoples. Albania maintains that the danger of war can be avoided and peace in Europe and in the world can be achieved only by openly and resolutely opposing American imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, which are the biggest and most dangerous enemies to the freedom and independence of the peoples and to peace, by liquidating the military blocs, removing atomic weapons and withdrawing foreign troops from the territories of other countries. The PSR of Albania prohibits the setting up of foreign military bases and the stationing of foreign military forces in its territory. Albania has concluded cultural agreements with many countries and carries on regular exchanges in the field of art, culture, science, sports, etc., on the basis of mutual benefit, non-interference and free from discrimination and prejudice.

It esteems the achievements of the progressive culture of other countries, from ancient times to our days, considering them as a wealth of all mankind.

