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In 1949, large construction projects were started in the country's ports, coal and bitumen mines, and oil fields. New bridges, highway, and dirt roads were built. Many homes, destroyed during the Occupation, were restored and new ones erected.

The mining industry has an important place in the Two-Year Plan, with 836 million lek allocated for its development. Petroleum extraction in the Kucove and Patos oil fields in 1949 considerably exceeded the prewar level. The 1949 plan for chrome ore mining was fulfilled 100.2 percent, and for bitumen, 117.4 percent. The Selenice bitumen mines fulfilled the 1949 plan 107 percent; the Rrubig copper mines, 102 percent. Mining of chromites in Pogradec achieved 126 percent of plan.

Transportation

Albanian transport suffered particularly heavy damage at the hands of the Italians and Germans. All bridges were destroyed, highways were made impassable, port structures blown up, and horses taken from many peasants. The Albanian government and the Albanian Labor Party have paid much attention to the development of transport, which has been the chief bottleneck in the country's economy. All bridges were rebuilt in the first postwar year, and the highways and dirt roads were improved. In a short time, the Kucove-Peshkopi highway, linking a number of outlying regions, was built through the efforts of the youth. Port structures in the large seaports of Durres and Valona were restored. Automobile transport was aided by imports of automobiles from the USSR and Czechoslovakia. Motor vehicle facilities, however, lag behind the rapidly growing demands on them, since the automobile and truck remain the chief means of transportation. Haulage by pack horse and wagon plays an auxiliary role and is used particularly in agriculture. Albania has no inland water transport.

The ships of the Albanian maritime fleet are small, not capable of long-distance voyages. Freight is handled through the ports of Durres, Valona, Sarande, and others. The Albanian fleet consists of low-capacity sail and motor vessels. The larger ships were captured by Italy and the royal government of Yugoslavia and have not yet been returned, despite repeated requests by the Albanian government.

The Albanian Labor Party and the government are paying much attention to the development of the maritime fleet. In 1949, Albanian-built ships were launched and in 1950, several additional low-tonnage ships are scheduled to be built. Maritime transport exceeded the 1949 transport plan, and its importance is increasing yearly. It plays a major role in the country's foreign trade. Much has already been done to restore and improve the Albanian ports destroyed during the Occupation.

Railroad transport has become increasingly important in the development of the Albanian economy. In 1947, Albania was the only European country which lacked railroads. The people's democratic regime has organized the construction of railroads. On 7 November 1947, the 43-kilometer Durres-Peqin railroad line, the first in Albania, was put into operation. This road linked the Adriatic coast with an important region.

With this line successfully completed, the government, party, and people of Albania turned to the construction of the extremely important Durres-Tirana line, connecting the capital with the main port. The entire country responded to the news of the choice of this line as the next project. Many thousand boys and girls answered the party's appeal. In March 1948, the first rails were laid. Under socialist competition, 4,127 construction workers were given the honored title of "shockworker" for their outstanding work. Of 185 brigades, 128 continually exceeded the work norms. Inhabitants of villages near the project

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At the beginning of August 1950, the Statistics Branch of the State Planning Commission published the results of production-plan fulfillment for the first half of 1950. Production in the mining industry in the first half of 1950 was 165 percent of the first half of 1949, extraction of petroleum was 127 percent, and production by the manufacturing industry, 133 percent. The total volume of construction work under the Ministry of Construction was 143 percent of the first half of 1949. The textile combine took first place in plan fulfillment. Production plans are continually exceeded at this project. Freight turnover in all types of transport increased considerably. The volume of trade turnover was 128 percent of the first half of 1949.

Agriculture

Tremendous changes have also been made in Albanian agriculture in the postwar years. By the agrarian reform law passed on 29 August 1945, lands (together with buildings on them) belonging to landowners (beys and agas), large-scale olive plantations, large vineyards, and orchards were confiscated, and the confiscated land was distributed among landless peasants or those with little land.

Titoist "advisers" had a hostile hand in writing the Albanian agrarian reform law. At their insistence, up to 40 hectares of land were to remain for private use. Under Albanian conditions, this would have resulted in the preservation of large-scale landownership, while, at the same time, many peasants would have remained landless. The projected law drawn up with the aid of the Titoists did not touch the kulak holdings and doomed many thousands of peasants to the landless class.

In 1946, the Albanian government made basic revisions in the agrarian reform law. These revisions followed a policy of reduction of large plots of land to provide land for the working peasantry. The Albanian government attempted to turn over to each peasant as much land as he could work himself. The law prohibited sale or releasing of the land. In November 1946, the law began to be put into effect. Until the reform, seven large landowners (beys) alone owned 14,550 hectares of land, while at the same time, 20 percent of peasant families had no land. As a result of the reform, 70,211 peasant families with little or no land obtained arable land, as well as 16,000 head of cattle and 474,000 olive trees. The entire Albanian peasantry owned 320,000 hectares of arable land after the reform.

In 1949, the sown area was 332,000 hectares, as compared with 317,000 hectares in 1949. The augmented plan for sowing of grain crops was exceeded in 1949 by 1.6 percent, including 11 percent for sowing corn. In 1949, the plan for autumn sowing of grain crops was exceeded 22.9 percent by agricultural cooperatives, 13.9 percent by state farms, and 12.2 percent by individual peasant holdings.

In 1949, the yields of agricultural crops were increased and the prewar level for yields was exceeded. The wheat yield in Albania increased from not over 7 centners per hectare in 1938 to an average of 10.8 in 1949; the rice yield, from 7 centners per hectare in 1938 to 7.5 in 1949; the barley yield, from 7 in 1938 to 9.5 in 1949, etc.

The expansion of the sown area and the increased yields made possible an increase in the total grain harvest as compared with previous years. The 1949 plan for total grain harvest was fulfilled 112 percent, and for barley, 114 percent.

Industrial crops -- cotton, sugar beets, castor oil plant, and others -- were newly introduced to Albanian agriculture. On 10 March 1949, the Albanian government issued a decree on measures for the cultivation of industrial crops and improvement of their quality and on stimulating the delivery of these crops to the state.

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The state farms created in the course of the agrarian reform have a great future. They were set up on land confiscated from landowners and the crown. By the beginning of 1950, there were 14 state farms in Albania. They operate on state land and are actually socialist enterprises. Advanced agricultural methods are used on these farms, crop rotation has been introduced, and modern machines are used. The sown area on state farms has been increasing every year. In 1949, the amount of land operated by state farms increased by 23 percent. The sown area in 1949 increased 22 percent over 1948. The yield of grain crops on these farms is higher, by an average of 60 to 250 percent, than the yield on individual peasant holdings. The 1949 wheat yield on state farms was an average of 16.5 centners per hectare; rye, 17.8; oats, 14.1 and barley, 15.1.

The machine-tractor stations, organized by the government and the party, are playing an important role in socialist reorganization of agriculture in Albania. The first MTS in the country was organized at the beginning of 1947, and during that year, six MTS were created. In 1948 - 1949, an additional four MTS were organized. By the beginning of 1950, Albania had ten MTS equipped with tractors, threshing machines, and other modern agricultural machinery. Their machine and tractor park is being increased each year by tractors produced in Soviet plants. In 1947, the MTS had 128 tractors and by 1950, 222 tractors, including 77 caterpillar tractors, 260 threshers, and many other machines.

The MTS conclude contracts with cooperatives and individual peasants for completion of a specific type of work and obtain payment in kind upon completion of this work. In 1949, nearly 40 percent of all land in agricultural cooperatives was worked by MTS tractors. The MTS are gaining more and more favor with the peasants.

In prewar Albania, no more than 200,000 hectares of land were cultivated. At the beginning of 1950, as a result of measures put into effect by the state, the area of cultivated land exceeded 332,000 hectares. Additional arable land is being created through drainage of swamp regions. Thus, in southern Albania, reclamation work was begun in 1946 on the swamp region of Maliq. As a result, Maliq is being transformed into a fertile granary.

The 100-percent increase (from 200,000 to 400,000 hectares) planned in the arable land area in the course of 10 years (1946 - 1955) is one example of the inexhaustible creative potentialities.

MTS and state farm workers are following the example of industrial workers by adopting methods of socialist competition. The Presidium of the People's Assembly has awarded high honors to tractor operators who did outstanding work in 1949. As the collective forms of organizations expand, socialist competition will also expand widely, even in rural areas.

The first cooperative enterprises in Albanian rural areas were organized in 1946 in the Lushnje region. By 1948, Albania already had 56 agricultural cooperatives with more than 2,500 peasant families. By 1950, the number of cooperatives had increased to 58, with approximately 3,000 peasant families. The Albanian government offers every kind of encouragement to the collective form of agriculture -- state aid to the collectives in the form of seed and credit on special terms, and privileges to peasants in cooperatives in regard to taxes and grain levies.

The decree on agriculture of the First Congress of the Albanian Communist Party has been of great significance in the cooperatives' organizational and economic development. The congress demanded that party, state, and administrative organs help in further strengthening the cooperatives. It ordered that the creation of new agricultural cooperatives and the enlistment of peasants into them must be carried out exclusively on a voluntary basis.

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The number of these cooperatives is increasing, labor organization in them is improving, labor discipline is being heightened, the sown area is expanding, yields are increasing, and the material welfare of the peasants is on the upgrade. In 2 years, the sown area in the cooperatives has increased 155 percent.

The first congress of representatives of agricultural cooperatives, held in Tirana on 15 February 1949, has also played an important part in the building of the cooperatives. The congress adopted the uniform statute of regulations for a cooperative, based in principle on the statute of an agricultural artel in the USSR. According to the statute, a peasant is admitted to the cooperative on a voluntary basis only. He turns over for collective use his land, work cattle, and agricultural equipment. Field work is done collectively. Wages are paid according to the quality and quantity of the work.

Prior to adoption of the new statute, unearned income, that is, rent for land, had a place in the agricultural cooperatives of Albania. The article in the old statute which provided for payment of 40 percent of income as rent for land given to the cooperative caused many complaints and dissatisfaction on the part of the poor and medium peasant members. The old statute placed no restrictions on kulak holdings. The new statute does not permit the admission into cooperatives of kulaks and individuals deprived by law of voting rights, and eliminates unearned income in the form of land rent paid for land given over to community use.

Before the new statute was adopted, a peasant joining a cooperative could retain up to 12 decare of land for his own use. This is a considerable amount in land-poor Albania. The old statute also failed to establish the minimum work-day for every able-bodied member of a cooperative. According to the new statute, a cooperative member can have for his own use land not exceeding one third of a hectare.

Before the new statute, a member of a cooperative could have unlimited numbers of livestock, whereas under the new law, a family joining the cooperative may have for its own use the following numbers of livestock:

	<u>No in Family</u>			
	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Over 15</u>
Cows	1	2	3	4
Calves	1	2	3	4
Sheep and goats	15	25	30	40
Pigs	1	1	2	3
Horses	1	1	1	1

The statute permits cooperative members to keep any number of poultry for their own use. An obligatory minimum of work calculated in workdays has been established for each member of a cooperative.

The members of a cooperative elect an administration of from five to seven persons headed by a chairman and a financial control commission of three to five persons to administer the enterprise. The cooperative's foremost duty is to deliver grain and other agricultural products to the state. The cooperative administration according to the statute maintains the seed and insurance funds, and a 2-percent fund for the aged, invalids, and sick members. After settling accounts with the state and building up these funds, the cooperative's members distribute according to workdays the cash and goods income, each receiving payment according to the number of workdays put in.

Albanian agricultural cooperatives enjoy many privileges. The agricultural tax on peasant holdings which have been entered into cooperatives is 50 percent less than the tax levied on individual holdings. The obligatory deliveries of agricultural products per hectare of sown area are 10 percent less for cooperatives

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than for individual holdings. The total loans extended to cooperatives on special terms by the government are increasing every year. In 1947, the cooperatives obtained loans totaling 3,338,100 lek, and 13 million lek in 1949. In 3 years, the amount of loans has quadrupled.

The 1949 wheat yield in the cooperatives averaged 13 centners per hectare, exceeding the 1948 yield by 44 percent. In some cooperatives, the yield was as high as 20 centners per hectare. For example, the "Hammer and Sickle" Cooperative in Maminas village achieved a yield of 23 centners of wheat per hectare, an extremely high yield for Albania. In the cooperatives, the yield of potatoes and corn in 1949 increased on an average 27 percent over 1948.

Livestock raising is on the increase in the cooperatives. The number of cattle in cooperatives increased 65 percent over 1948, sheep 77 percent, and hogs 1,027 percent.

With the increase in the cooperatives' income, the payment per workday is increasing and the peasants' material condition is improving. In 1949, the "Hammer and Sickle" Cooperative gave its members an average of 7 kilograms of grain per workday, while the "Chiflik" Cooperative gave 5 kilograms per workday.

Seit Dzerdshi, a member of the "Hammer and Sickle" Cooperative, in 1948 obtained from the cooperative 36 centners of wheat, 3 centners of kidney beans, and 9,000 lek in cash for his workdays. In 1949, he received 62 centners of wheat, 4 centners of kidney beans, and 54,000 lek.

Training is not being neglected, and young administrators of collective enterprises are gaining necessary experience. By the end of 1949, 48 chairmen of agricultural cooperatives and 60 brigade leaders had completed training courses.

In fall 1949, a delegation of Albanian peasants visited the USSR. The Albanian peasants made a thorough study of the work of a number of kolkhozes and state farms in the Azerbaydzhan SSR, North Osetia, and Moscow Oblast. On their return, the peasants told their fellow peasants of the tremendous success achieved by the kolkhoz peasantry of the USSR. Their reports strengthened the Albanian peasants' desire to join cooperatives and to achieve the same results in collective management of enterprises. Further study and introduction of the experience gained in kolkhoz management in the USSR will enable the Albanian peasants to improve their own cooperative system, increase the numbers of cooperatives, and improve their own condition.

The Second National Conference of the Albanian Labor Party demanded that party, state, and administrative organs "give particular attention to strengthening the agricultural cooperatives so they may serve as an example for the creation of new cooperatives" (Bashkimi, 23 April 1951).

Animal husbandry also plays an important role in Albanian agriculture. Small livestock, such as sheep and goats, predominate, as they are better acclimated to mountain conditions. (Livestock in Albania graze the entire year.) The Fascists slaughtered large numbers of livestock. The Albanian Labor Party and the government are giving much attention to the development of animal husbandry. As early as 1948, the number of livestock was back to the prewar level, and at the beginning of 1950, the number of both cattle and small livestock exceeded the prewar level. The government set up seven special animal husbandry farms for breeding pedigreed livestock. The number of livestock in agricultural cooperatives has risen substantially. The Albanian government and the Labor Party are striving for a further development of animal husbandry, the creation of a stable feed base, and an increase in livestock productivity.

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The continual increase in retail trade turnover is due to increased activity in the state and cooperative networks. By the beginning of 1950, state trade accounted for 32.9 percent of all commercial transactions, cooperative trade for 45 percent, and private trade for 22.1 percent.

Trade turnover in the rural consumers' cooperatives in 1949 increased $1\frac{1}{2}$ times in comparison with 1948 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ times in comparison with 1947. In 1949, trade turnover in city consumers' cooperatives increased 30 percent over 1948 and 80 percent over 1947. In 1949, the consumers' cooperatives had 156,438 shareholders.

In mid-1949, the Central Committee of the Albanian Labor Party and the government issued a decree on the reorganization of the work of the consumers' cooperatives. This decree provided for the organizational strengthening of the rural and city cooperatives by consolidation of the cooperatives. At the beginning of 1950, there were 26 city cooperatives with 60,304 persons and 155 rural cooperatives with 124,583 persons.

The work of the consumers' cooperatives is improving every year. In 1949, Albanian consumers' cooperatives procured 21 percent more potatoes than in 1948, 71 percent more fruits, 148 percent more eggs, and 85 percent more butter. The cooperatives are helping to improve the supply of agricultural products and industrial goods to the population and are increasing the workers' material welfare.

Albanian foreign trade is expanding each year. The foreign trade monopoly has its legal basis in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania. The Albanian government has concluded trade agreements with the USSR and with all the people's democracies. Foreign trade is providing Albania with additional resources for the development of its economy. Trade relations with the USSR occupy a central role in Albanian foreign trade. The USSR supplies Albania with equipment, machines for building industry and transport, and consumers' goods.

On 18 January 1950, the 1950 trade agreement between Albania and Bulgaria was signed in Tirana. This agreement was supplementary to one concluded in April 1949 in Sofia. Bulgaria supplies Albania with industrial goods, construction materials, and agricultural products. Albania provides petroleum, bitumen, chrome ore, olives, lemons, etc., to Bulgaria.

In November 1949, the Albanian government concluded a trade agreement with Poland which provided for a further development of trade between the two countries.

In March 1949, the Albanian government signed a trade agreement in Prague with Czechoslovakia, which is supplying Albania with mine machinery, agricultural machinery, trucks, and textile products. These supplies from Czechoslovakia are of great importance for economic development. Albania provides Czechoslovakia with copper and chrome ore, lumber, and other products.

Trade relations between Albania and Rumania have been strengthened by trade agreements concluded on 31 March 1949 and on 19 January 1950 in Bucharest. Rumania provides machines for industry and transport and consumers' goods.

In March 1949, the Albanian government signed a trade agreement with the Hungarian government in Budapest. Hungary provides Albania with machines, spare parts, and consumers' goods, receiving in return products of the Albanian mining industry.

In February 1949 Albania was accepted into the Council of Mutual Aid, permitting her to obtain assistance from the USSR and the people's democracies.

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