

SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF FIFTH ECONOMIC PLAN

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ADOPTS STATE BUDGET FOR 1976

After a glowing report of the successful conclusion of the economic plan for 1975, as well as the whole of the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1971-1975), the People's Assembly of Albania discussed and adopted the new State Budget and the economic plan for 1976.

Petro Dode, President of the State Planning Commission, gave the main report to the 4th session of the 8th Legislature, which met in Tirana on Feb. 10th & 11th. Dode declared that the tasks set for 1975 were fulfilled, with total industrial production meeting 101% of the goal.

Agriculture in 1975 turned in the best records of any year in the past, with the target for wheat filled by 107%, while bread grains in general produced a crop 6% more than 1974. A good part of this increase was accounted for by higher productivity.

Dealing with the financial structure, the target of the State Budget for 1975 was met by 99% in revenues, and 96% in expenditures, which left a surplus of 437 million leks.

PROPOSAL FOR 1976

The proposed economic plan presented to the Assembly for 1976 called for a further increase of 4.5% in total industrial output, with strong emphasis on heavy industry (production of means of production) which will have a goal of 6% increase.

Total agricultural production for 1976 is scheduled to go up by 15%, with emphasis on bread grains 29%, potatoes 23%, and cotton 14%. Higher productivity will account for 30% of the projected increase in industrial production.

The budget for 1976 calls for an increase of 2.4% in income, and 6% in expenditures. The exact figures adopted are:

Income	7.4 billion leks
Expenditure	7.2 billion leks
Surplus	200 million leks

The distribution of the expenditures will be as follows:

the economic sector	63.3%
socio-cultural sector	22.3%
defense	10.9%
administration	1.2%

1975 ACHIEVEMENTS

Examples of increased production in 1975 (as against 1974) are: chromium ore 9%, coal 5%, blister copper 5%, machines and equipment 8%, spare parts 17%, cement 5%, lumber 4%, and sugar 22%.

Some examples of the projected increases for 1976 (over 1975) are: chromi-

um ore 5%, coal 9%, iron-nickel 16%, chemical fertilizer 9%, electric power 21%, spare parts 10%, cement 21%, fish 23%, edible fats 40%, sugar 5%, and cheese 3%.

During 1976 the volume of construction-assembly work will increase by 6%, and it is expected that some parts of the big projects that are now going up will be put in operation. These are the first phase of the metallurgical combine in Elbasan, the comprehensive oil processing plant in Ballsh, the urea plant in Fieri, the caustic soda and pvc plants, the plastic products plant, the coal enriching plant in Valias, etc.

Also it is expected that during the year some important reclamation projects will be completed, as for example the Hoxhara plain, the Bistrice-Vegalat fields, with accelerated progress made on the reclamation projects of the Velipoja, Karavasta e Vogel, and Rajca fields.

The plan also calls for continued increase in housing construction, both in the cities and in the countryside, in the farming coops and state farms, and especially in remote mining areas.

NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

While the Albanian workers, farmers and intellectuals have already set to work to achieve victory in the tasks of the 1976 plan, all over the country they are discussing the long-range targets to be adopted later this year for the next five-year plan, the 6th, running from 1976-80.

Petro Dode pointed out in his report that the work is proceeding in an atmosphere of high revolutionary enthusiasm, symbolized by the celebration this year of the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Party of Labor, and by the discussions of the new constitution which will be adopted soon. He stressed that these achievements were the result of sharp class struggle, against internal and external enemies, in a situation of revisionist-imperialist encirclement and blockade.

Albania is in the stage of the complete construction of socialism, he said, and is further deepening the campaign for revolutionization of the whole life of the country. The successful development of the economy and culture depends largely on the principle of self-reliance and self-activating initiative, strengthening its independence and stability. At a time when the capitalist and revisionist world is in deep economic and financial crisis, with unemployment, inflation, and depressed living

standards for the working people, Albania is moving ahead steadily, and raising the well-being of the people.

Dode called on the all people to strengthen their revolutionary vigilance and preparedness, and further raise the defense capacity of the socialist homeland.

MODEL PLANT IN TIRANA

A recent article in the Albanian press commenting on the successful conclusion of the Fifth Five-Year Plan pointed out that total industrial production in 1975 was 51% more than in 1970. In agriculture the growth was 30%, and in goods transport 46%. The total amount of investments during the whole 5th plan period was 49% greater than during the 4th plan period.

A model of enthusiasm and initiative on the part of the workers is the "Enver Hoxha" Engineering Plant in Tirana, which fulfilled its 5-year plan target by 104%, and

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ALBANIAN WOMEN ADVANCE

In connection with the observance of International Women's Day, March 8th, an article in the Albanian press records some of the achievements made by Albanian women in the socialist society.

Before liberation women made up only 4% of the work force; today they constitute 47%. Before, 94% of the women were illiterate, today none are illiterate. Before, there were only 21 women teachers, three physicians, no engineers, agronomists, chemists, no woman in parliament or other state body.

Today 33% of the deputies to the People's Assembly are women; 25% of the members of the Party of Labor; 26% of the members of the Supreme Court; 41% of the leading members of the mass organizations.

Before, only 32% of the students in elementary schools were girls; today 8 year school is compulsory. In secondary schools only 2% were girls in the past and there were no higher schools; today 40% of the students in the secondary schools and colleges are girls. Women make up 43% of the middle specialists, and 25% of the higher specialists.

During the Liberation War, 6000 women took part in the partisan units as fighters against the German and Italian fascist occupationists. □