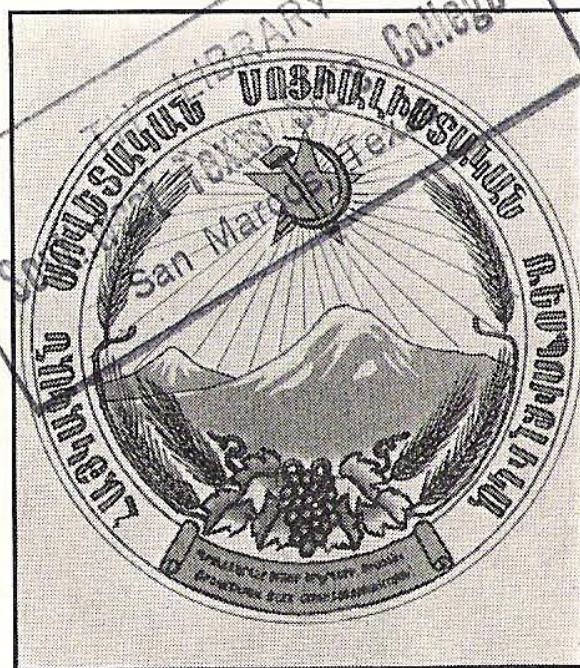


**THE FIFTEEN SOVIET REPUBLICS  
TODAY AND TOMORROW**

**ARMENIA**

***Big Strides in an Ancient Land***



*Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic*

by

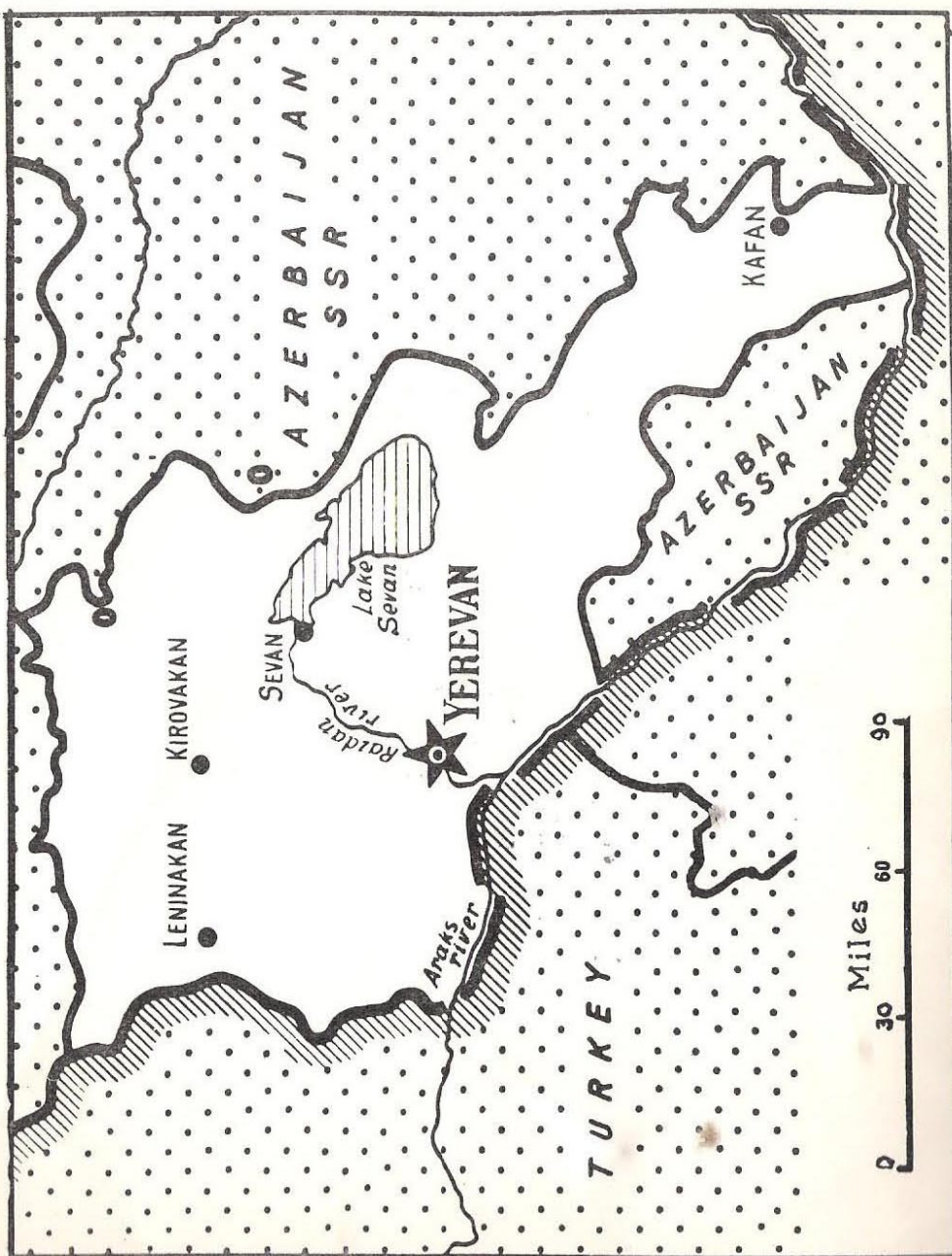
**Anton Kochinyan**

**Chairman of the Armenian SSR  
Council of Ministers**

**Soviet  
Booklet  
60/M**

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THE FIFTEEN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS  
TODAY AND TOMORROW

# ARMENIA

*Big Strides in an Ancient Land*

by

ANTON KOCHINYAN

Chairman of the Armenian S.S.R.

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London  
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ANTON KOCHINYAN

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## A Note on the Author

**A**NTON KOCHINYAN was born into a poor peasant's family in the village of Shagali, in the Kirovokan district of Armenia, in 1913. He graduated from an agricultural college in 1935 and later worked on a newspaper in an editorial capacity, and in youth and Party organisations.

Since 1940 he has been a member of the Communist Party of Armenia, and from 1946 to 1952 was Secretary of its Central Committee.

He has been deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian S.S.R. for twelve years and deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. since 1954.

In 1952 Anton Kochinyan became Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Armenia.

## Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic

**G**LANCING at the map of the U.S.S.R. you will find on the plateau in its south-west extremity Soviet Armenia, ancient Hayastan with a history stretching back more than 2,500 years.\*

Covering a most complex historic course, the people of Armenia at last found their full happiness in the fraternal family of Soviet peoples. On November 29th, 1920, the working people of Armenia, led by the Communists, raised the banner of insurrection and established in their ancient land the Government of Soviets, the power of the workers and peasants.

A sovereign Soviet Socialist Republic, the Armenian S.S.R. is an equal member of the free-born family of fifteen constituent republics of the U.S.S.R.

It borders on the Georgian S.S.R. in the north, on the Azerbaijan S.S.R. in the east, on Iran in the south and on Turkey in the west. With a territory of nearly 12,000 square miles, the Armenian S.S.R. has a population of 1,768,000 (1959 census).

Armenia is a land of fertile river valleys and lakes. The Armenian upland is composed of mountain ridges and plateaus of volcanic origin. Ninety per cent of the territory lies at a height of more than 3,000 feet above sea level.

It is at this level that the capital of the republic, Yerevan, is situated, and so is the most fertile part of the country, the Ararat Valley, a wonderful region of vineyards and orchards.

Pre-revolutionary Armenia was a backward agrarian region with an under-developed economy. Alaverdi and Kafan were the industrial centres in those days, but they only had the rudiments of a copper mining industry held in concession by foreign capitalists.

Yerevan had only a few wine and cognac distilleries, and small leather and metal-working shops. Leninakan, an important industrial centre and railway junction today, had only very small enterprises in those days. Agriculture was in a state of decay.

Armenia's national economy was completely ruined during the First World War when it was under the rule of the foreign imperialists (1917-20) and their servitors, the Dashnaks (Armenian bourgeois nationalists).

The Armenian people, suffering hunger and epidemics, oppressed by Dashnak and Turkish despotism, were on the verge of complete extinction. The population of Armenia was dwindling constantly, and at the time of the victory of Soviet government in the republic it was down to about 780,000.

\*The Armenian tableland was inhabited by one of the most ancient peoples of the Soviet Union. Urartu, a state which had taken shape there at the beginning of the first millennium B.C., existed until the sixth century B.C. The fall of Urartu, which is known as the Van Kingdom, was followed by the rise of Hayastan. In those days the territory of Armenia was inhabited by the Khayas and Armen tribes. Some of the inhabitants of the Armenian tableland called themselves Hayas (from Hai) and their country—Hayastan. Neighbouring peoples, the Persians and Greeks included, called them Armenians and their country—Armenia.



### Fifty-five Times Over

The Soviet period witnessed unprecedented economic and cultural progress in Armenia, and sweeping improvements in the life of her people.

**In 1958 the volume of industrial output in Soviet Armenia was fifty-five times greater than in 1913. The increase in gross production in 1958 alone was five times greater than the total gross output in 1913.**

For example, in 1958 Armenia's industry produced 30 per cent more metal-cutting lathes than the whole of tsarist Russia's industry did in 1913.

In one day Armenia's electric power plants are generating 40 per cent more electricity than in the whole of 1913. The power plants of the Sevan Cascade alone supply hundreds of millions of kwh. a year. In *per capita* production of electric power Armenia occupies one of the leading places in the Soviet Union and is far ahead of many advanced capitalist countries.

Production of non-ferrous metals, chemicals, machinery and building materials now takes place on a large scale.

Armenia's industry today supplies rubber, mineral fertilisers, plastics, tyres, copper, molybdenum, zinc and lead concentrates, aluminium, metal-cutting lathes, compressors, hydroturbines, cable, electric precision instruments, watches, cement, fireclay, asbestos roofing and many other products.

In post-war years the republic has built 200 new industrial enterprises, including big ones, such as the Lenin electrical machinery plant, the Kadzharan copper and molybdenum works, plants for the production of cable, electric bulbs and other items which are supplied to many economic areas of the Soviet Union and exported to foreign countries.

**The Lenin electrical machinery plant is one of the biggest of its kind not only in the republic but also in the Soviet Union as a whole.**

Its products include synchronous generators, power transformers, portable power plants, complete sets of equipment for electric sub-stations, and so on.

Another leading enterprise is the Kirov chemical factory of Yerevan, one of the biggest in the Soviet Union. Its produce is well known at home and abroad.

While building up her heavy industry, Armenia has also been developing her light and food industries. Her industries for the production of cotton and woollen fabrics, knitwear, tinned food and other consumer goods have been built up practically from scratch.

**Output of light industry in 1958 was forty-three times greater than in 1913, and of the food industry, twenty times greater.**

Products of the Armenian Economic Council occupy an important place in Soviet exports.

The republic's industries are now in a position to produce for export more than a hundred items. These exports go to the United Arab Republic, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Burma, Cambodia and to many other countries.

Rapid economic progress and the successful fulfilment of the Five-Year Plans of socialist construction have been accompanied by growing employment. Unemployment vanished completely by the beginning of the First Five-Year Plan (1928), when Armenia had 42,500 people engaged in her national economy. By 1958 the number of employed workers was nearly up to 400,000.

**Rapid economic progress has led to a rapid improvement in the life of the people. Real wages and salaries, as well as collective farmers' incomes (in cash and kind) doubled in 1958 compared with the pre-war year of 1940.**

### Happiness Comes to the Armenian Peasants

Collective farming has banished poverty and backwardness from the Armenian villages; it has brought prosperity and happiness to the peasants.

Mechanisation, electrification and the extensive construction of irrigation canals by the collective farms, with the assistance of the socialist state, play an important part in the transformation of agriculture.

In his letter to the Communists of the Caucasus in 1921, Lenin outlined to the Armenian people grand tasks, emphasising the need of "trying to improve at once the position of the peasants and to launch extensive undertakings for electrification and irrigation. Irrigation is most of all necessary, and will most of all revive the region, regenerate it, will bury the past and make the transition to socialism more certain".

The historic plans mapped out by Lenin have been carried into practice in Armenia ever since the establishment of Soviet power.

**Electricity is now available not only in all the cities and industrial towns of the republic but also on the overwhelming majority of collective farms. Scores of big irrigation canals have been built in the republic, and the irrigated territory has grown to 540,000 acres, more than double its former size.**

Especially noteworthy is the headway made by the collective and state farms in the last seven years as a result of the implementation of the extensive programme outlined by the Communist Party for bringing about a sharp improvement in all branches of agriculture.

Growing prosperity is the most striking feature of Armenian peasant life today.

Here is a concrete example. The Stalin collective farm of Shaumyan District (its chairman, A. Mezhlumyan is a Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.) had an income of 6,556,000 roubles in 1958, field crops contributing 5,029,000 roubles (including 4,387,000 roubles received from the vineyards) and animal husbandry 1,340,000 roubles.

Production per 100 acres of farmland was: milk 6,518 gallons, meat 4.84 tons and wool 664 lb.

Bumper crops on the collective farm mean higher incomes for the collective farmers. Avetisyan Ashkhen, one of the milkers, raised the average milk yields per cow to 1,230 gallons and earned as much as 23,811 roubles. Arutyunyan Rafik, who tends the livestock, earned 21,375 roubles.

The collective farmers are given twenty-six days' annual holiday with full pay. Sickness benefit is assessed on the basis of average annual earnings. Aged collective farmers and invalids are paid monthly pensions averaging from 250 to 500 roubles a month. Women are granted paid maternity leaves.

The same picture of progress and prosperity may be seen on practically all the collective farms of the Ararat Valley.

Good results have also been achieved at the highland collective farms. Take, for example, the Stepanavan District (named in honour of the famous



revolutionary leader Stepan Shaumyan).<sup>\*</sup> The collective farm at Gyulakarak Village in this district was considered one of the most backward farms only some two or three years ago, and its crop yields and livestock productivity were low.

But its members undertook to improve things and the results are already apparent. Last year the collective farm advanced to the ranks of the best in the district, its income amounting to nearly 1,500,000 roubles.

The families of Avetik Gagiyan, Mani Shaginyan, Vladimir Matinyan, Vruir Aivazyan and many other collective farmers received, in addition to payment in kind, almost 20,000 roubles each.

The achievements of the working people of Armenia in raising production and in fulfilling and overfulfilling plans for the sale of agricultural products to the state (these guaranteed sales at fixed prices represent one of the great advantages of the socialist economic system) won the Armenian S.S.R. the highest award of the Soviet Union—the Order of Lenin.

#### Expanding Health Services

Armenia, where public health received practically no attention before the Revolution, now has an extensive network of excellent health services for the people.

**There were only six hospitals with 212 beds and no more than seventy-three doctors in the whole of Armenia in 1913, the state allocating only twenty-eight kopecks per head of the population for public health protection at that time.**

The total allocated for sanitation and disease prevention in all the four cities of old-time Armenia, where malaria and other infectious diseases were widespread, was 2,300 roubles.

Little wonder that the mortality rate, and child mortality especially, was very high.

No charge is made today for medical assistance in Armenia (nor in the whole of the Soviet Union for that matter). There are twenty-two doctors for every 10,000 inhabitants.

The corresponding figures in Turkey, according to 1955 statistics are 2.7 doctors for every 10,000. In 1956, Turkey had 10.2 hospital beds for every 10,000 inhabitants, the corresponding number of beds in Soviet Armenia being six times greater.

The medical services in Armenia are well staffed with skilled specialists.

**Today more than 4,000 doctors and about 10,000 other medical workers are engaged in the health services.**

Armenia today has 257 hospitals with all the necessary modern equipment

<sup>\*</sup>Stepan Shaumyan (1878-1918) was an outstanding and talented Bolshevik. He was a leading Communist in the Caucasus and set up the first Armenian Marxist group. Despite constant periods of arrest and exile, he continued over a number of years to give leadership to the workers in the Caucasus, especially in Baku, where he worked for much of his life, leading oil workers on strike, writing Marxist works and helping to organise the Party.

Under the influence of the October 1917 revolution in Russia, the workers of Baku took power and established a Soviet government, headed by Shaumyan, in April 1918. This government nationalised the oil industry, the banks and the Caspian mercantile fleet, and carried through land reform and other progressive measures.

Counter-revolutionaries, aided by foreign interventionists, overthrew Soviet power in Baku several months later, and Shaumyan, together with twenty-five other commissars, was taken prisoner. On September 20th, 1918, all twenty-six of them were taken out at night and shot.

In addition to his political activity, Shaumyan, who had graduated from Berlin University, found time to write articles on a variety of topics, including studies of Tolstoy and Gorky and works on Armenian literature.

and facilities. Important work is being done by eight research institutes and laboratories maintained by the Ministry of Health.

Prophylactic measures are taken regularly. Noteworthy results have been achieved in the struggle against malaria. Constant attention is paid to the health of mothers and children, for whom there is a wide network of special health services, kindergartens and nurseries. There are eleven sanatoria for children, as well as a number of rest homes for mothers and children in the republic.

The birth rate in the republic is among the highest in the country, annual births exceeding 30 per 1,000 inhabitants.

#### Progress of Socialist Culture

The progress of culture, science and technology, of education, art and literature, is as striking in Armenia as in all the other republics of the U.S.S.R. And there is an extensive network of cinemas, libraries, palaces of culture, clubs, theatres, museums, TV and radio centres.

Pre-revolutionary Armenia was noted for its widespread illiteracy. But all this has now changed. With more than 1,200 general education schools, the republic had a school attendance in 1959 of 280,000, an increase of 750 per cent compared with 1914.

Especially striking is the progress of college education. More than 30,000 college-trained specialists have been graduated in Armenia in Soviet times.

The college attendance is rising from year to year owing to the growing requirements of the national economy for specialists.

**There was not a single college in the territory of Armenia before the victory of Soviet government, whereas today the Armenian S.S.R. has eleven higher educational establishments and thirty-seven specialised secondary schools with an attendance exceeding 29,000.**

The republic now has three times as many college students per 10,000 inhabitants as France, eight times as many as Turkey and thirty times as many as Iran.

Armenia has her own Academy of Sciences, sixty-nine research institutions with more than 3,000 scientific workers, among them more than 150 with D.Sc. degrees and more than 1,350 with M.Sc. degrees.

Many Armenian scientists are known throughout the U.S.S.R. and in foreign countries, such as President of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian S.S.R., V. A. Ambartsumyan, who was elected to membership of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and of the Academies of France, the U.S.A., the G.D.R. and Belgium, and to honorary membership in many astronomical societies.

Sergei Mergelyan, a young Armenian scientist, has won world renown by his works in mathematics. At the age of twenty he received a D.Sc. degree in mathematics. Under his guidance, new computing machines of the "Aragats" and "Yerevan" type have been built at the research institute of Yerevan.

Important contributions to the progress of science and technology have been made by the geologist I. Magakyan, the agricultural specialist G. Davtyan who is Rector of the State University of Yerevan, by the chemist



A. Mndzhoyan, Vice President of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian S.S.R., and by other scholars.

The Armenian people have given to the world distinguished political leaders and writers, artists, composers and architects of world renown.

An important place among them belongs to the founder of modern Armenian literature, Khachatur Abovyan; to the outstanding poet, novelist, critic, economist and materialistic philosopher, Mikhail Nalbandyan; to the talented poet Ovanes Tumanyan, to the proletarian poet Akop Akopyan; to the outstanding playwright Gabriel Sundukyan; and to the founder of modern Armenian music, Komitas. The composer, Khachaturyan, has also won world-wide fame for his musical compositions, especially his violin, piano, and cello concertos, and his ballet music.

A special place among the distinguished Armenian political leaders of the twentieth century belongs to the followers and comrades-in-arms of Lenin, to mention but Stepan Shaumyan, Suren Spandaryan and Anastas Mikoyan.

Great progress has been made of late by Armenian Soviet literature, which is based on socialist realism, on the rich traditions of Armenian, Russian and European classical literature, and on the traditions of Soviet literature.

Great popularity is enjoyed in Soviet Armenia by the works of the poets Avetik Isaakyan, Yeghishe Charents and Nairi Zaryan, the novelists Stepan Zoryan and Garegin Sevunts, the playwright Dorenik Demirchyan, and by some of the younger poets and novelists, as, for example, G. Emin and S. Kaputikvan.

Equally striking is the progress made in drama, music, and ballet. The republic now has ten musical and drama theatres.

Among the most interesting features in the repertory of the Spendiarov State Opera and Ballet Theatre (awarded the Order of Lenin) is the opera of the Soviet composer A. Tigranyan, *David Bek*, which is dedicated to the national liberation struggle of the Armenian people at the beginning of the eighteenth century, to its strivings, its urge to throw in its lot with the great Russian people.

Other noteworthy features in the repertory of this theatre are the ballets *Gayaneh* (by Aram Khachaturyan) and *Sevan* (by G. Yegizaryan) which mirror Armenia's workaday life, *Arshak II*, an historic opera by the nineteenth-century Armenian composer, T. Chukhadzhan, A. Tigranyan's opera *Anush* and Tchaikovsky's opera, *Queen of Spades*.

Many dramatic productions written by modern playwrights have been running successfully in our theatres. Interesting concerts are given in the cities and villages of our republic, and in the other fraternal republics of the U.S.S.R., by the Armenian folk song and dance ensemble, Armenian symphony orchestra, state chorus, orchestra of folk instruments, and other groups.

#### Yerevan—a City Ancient Yet Young

Considerable changes in the distribution of the urban and rural population of the republic have taken place as the result of its economic and cultural progress, and, primarily, as the result of its industrial development.

Pre-Soviet Armenia had no more than four cities, which were small and their population was mainly connected with agriculture; present-day Armenia has thirteen cities and twenty-two industrial towns.

**In 1913, Armenia had an urban population of 104,000; in other words, 10.4 per cent of the entire population lived in the cities. At the beginning of 1959, the republic had a population of 883,800, or 50 per cent of her total population, in the cities and industrial towns.**

The cities themselves have undergone a remarkable transformation. Yerevan, one of the most ancient cities in the Soviet Union, was a typical Asian town with narrow, crooked lanes, low clay adobe huts, flat earthen roofs and dirty bazaars.

Since Yerevan became the capital of the republic, it has developed into one of the most important industrial and cultural centres of the U.S.S.R.

The writer Maxim Gorky wrote when he visited Yerevan in 1928: "Construction is what strikes the eye first on the approach to Yerevan. From afar, the old city, built of stone against the background of the bleak hulk of the silver-headed Ararat under a cap of reddish clouds, produced the impression of a captive in a cage of construction scaffolding on which ant-like figures of workers were putting up new buildings directly, as it were from the rocky hulk of the biblical mountain. . . ."

These impressive words about the new Yerevan were written thirty years ago. The changes that have taken place in the capital of Soviet Armenia since then are truly fabulous. The grey old townscape has changed to a radiant picture of a rapidly growing new socialist city.

The wide prospects and streets of Yerevan are lined by modern apartment houses built of beautiful local coloured stone. Yerevan today is a city with wide thoroughfares, squares, parks, fountains and architectural ensembles.

The Matenadaran, the state collection of ancient manuscripts which is a most important world treasury, was housed in a new building in 1959. It contains more than 13,000 exceptionally valuable ancient manuscripts.

Lenin Square, in the centre of the city, is a striking example of an architectural ensemble in the present-day city. A magnificent monument to the beloved leader of all the working people stands in this large square.

**When Academician Alexander Tamanyants prepared the first general plan for the reconstruction of Yerevan in 1924, the city had about 30,000 inhabitants. Today it has a population of more than 500,000.**

Yerevan has big engineering and chemical factories, and enterprises of the light and food industries, which supply more than 50 per cent of the republic's industrial output.

It is the seat of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian S.S.R., of almost all the higher educational establishments of the republic, of most of the specialised secondary schools and the most important research institutes.

The biggest theatres, TV and broadcasting services (conducted in several languages) are concentrated in this city.

Leninakan, the second biggest and most important centre in the Armenian S.S.R., has grown out of the small village of Gyumri. In the Soviet period Leninakan has developed into a beautiful city and important industrial centre.

Similarly, in place of the small town of Karakilis stands the important industrial centre of Kirovakan.

Many new cities and industrial towns have been built up in the mining



areas, around big hydro-electric stations and factories for processing agricultural produce, to mention but Alaverdy, Stepanavan, Artik and Goris.

### Repatriates from all Corners of the Globe

For ages Armenia had been prey to devastating foreign invasions. It was an arena of countless wars which took a heavy toll of lives, reduced to ruins cities and villages built up through the labour of many generations and destroyed architectural and other historic memorials.

Only after a part of the land of the Armenians had been freed from the Persian and Turkish yoke and joined to Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century did the Armenians acquire the possibility of living in comparative peace, and although their full national development was still held back, they were able to take some steps to build up their economy and culture.

Still, the hard living conditions at home, and especially in Turkish Armenia, led to the mass emigration of Armenians to other countries.

The number of Armenian emigrants from Turkish Armenia was very great at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries.

It will be remembered that the Sultan's government carried out a monstrous "solution" of the "Armenian problem" by destroying the Armenians. Whole villages were wiped out in the course of the massacres.

Hundreds of thousands were killed during the First World War, and more than a million surviving Armenians scattered throughout the world.

The progress made in Soviet Armenia strengthened the wish of Armenians working in foreign countries to return to their native land.

**In order to assist the repatriates, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government have been taking special steps since 1924 to help them in their readjustment. About 180,000 repatriates have come to Armenia from Greece, France, Syria, Egypt, Iran, the U.S.A. and other countries.**

The Government of Armenia and the people as a whole warmly welcomed their sisters and brothers from other lands. Special care has been taken to provide the repatriates with housing and with work in their trades and professions; and state pensions have been granted to aged people and invalids.

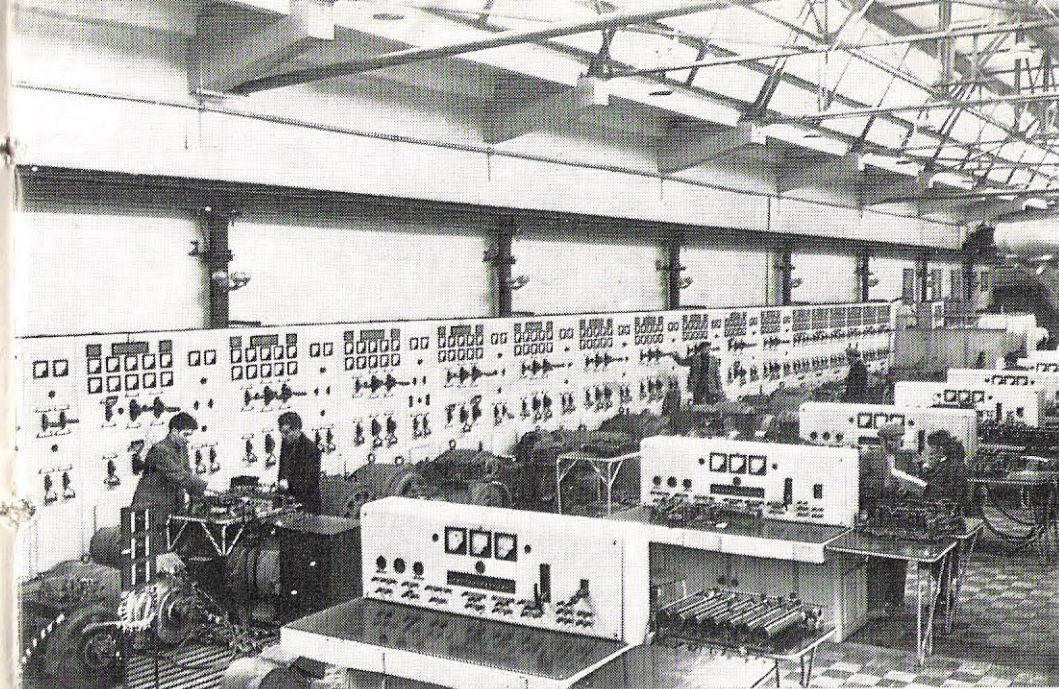
The Armenian repatriates have received every opportunity for education and special training, and given the opportunity to make use of whatever special abilities and talents they may have.

Many capable young repatriates have found in the land of their forefathers the road to science, among them Tredat Kromoyan, who has an M.Sc. degree in economics, and Vartan Teimurjan with an M.Sc. degree in history.

Professor Mkrtych Ter-Karapetyan, a repatriate, directs the biochemistry laboratory of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian S.S.R., and is a member of the Academy.

Arutyun Saakyan, a young engineer, who went to work in the Yerevan plant for the production of electrical precision instruments upon his return from Baghdad, is at present the chief designing engineer of this plant.

Stepan Aksheiryan, a young architect, is responsible for designing many beautiful apartment houses in Yerevan and other Armenian cities.



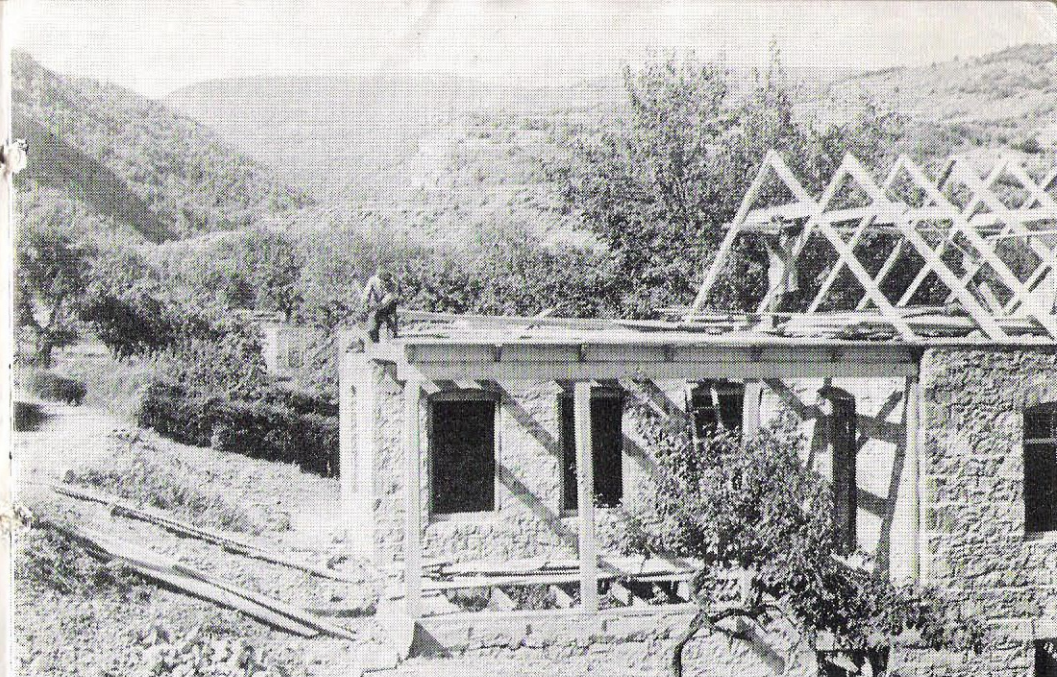
*ARMENIAN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY: The electrical engineering factory in Yerevan makes generators, transformers, control panels, and many other types of electrical gear for power stations. Above is one of the research laboratories. Below, the small dynamo shop.*





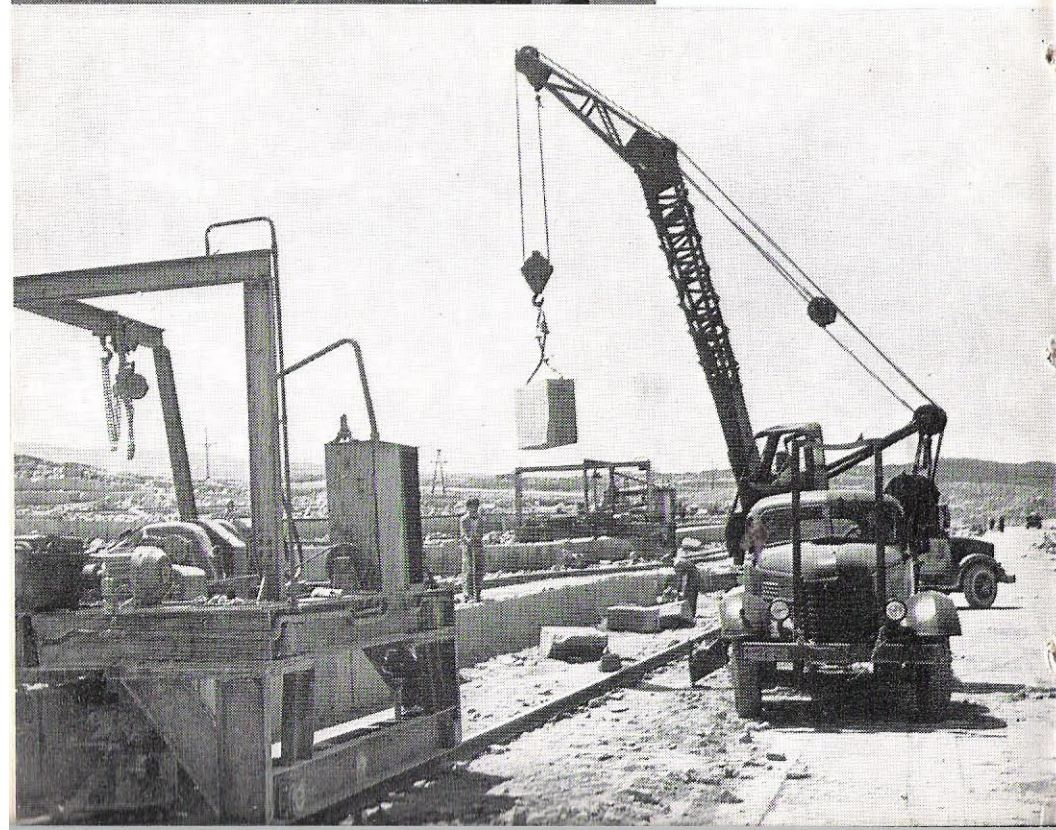
*The Lake Sevan-Razdan Cascade consists of six hydroelectric stations. Four are in operation and the last two are nearing completion. On the left is the water pressure tunnel of the Yerevan station.*

*Below: Quarrying the rose tuff (or tufa) from which much of Yerevan is built.*



*Collective-farm carpenter Ordinyan Sumbat and his son Grachik are here hard at work on their new house in Tala.*

*The vegetable section of Yerevan Market.*







# ARMENIAN WINE

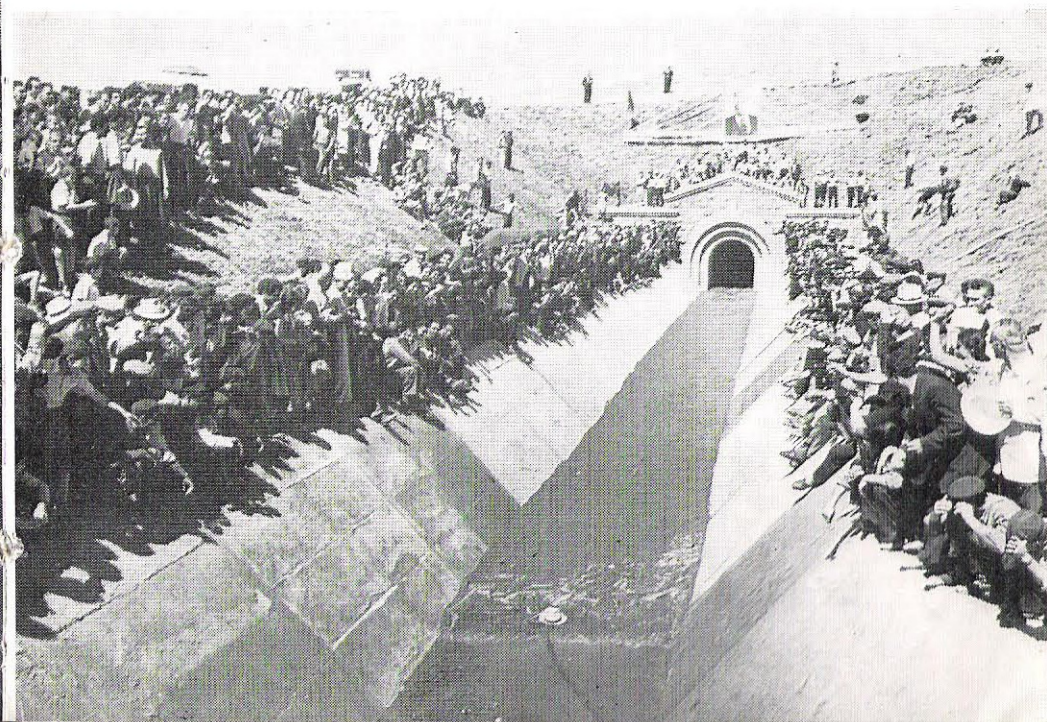
The Armenian Republic is famed for its wines. Above we see the grape harvest being gathered.

On the right—interesting work at the Voskevas collective farm.



A general view of the village of Megry in the Arax Valley noted for its wine and honey.

In the sub-tropical climate of Armenia, water is very important. There are extensive afforestation and irrigation projects in hand for soil-improvement. Below we see the opening ceremony of the Kotaiski irrigation scheme. The onrushing water bears along some enthusiast's hat!





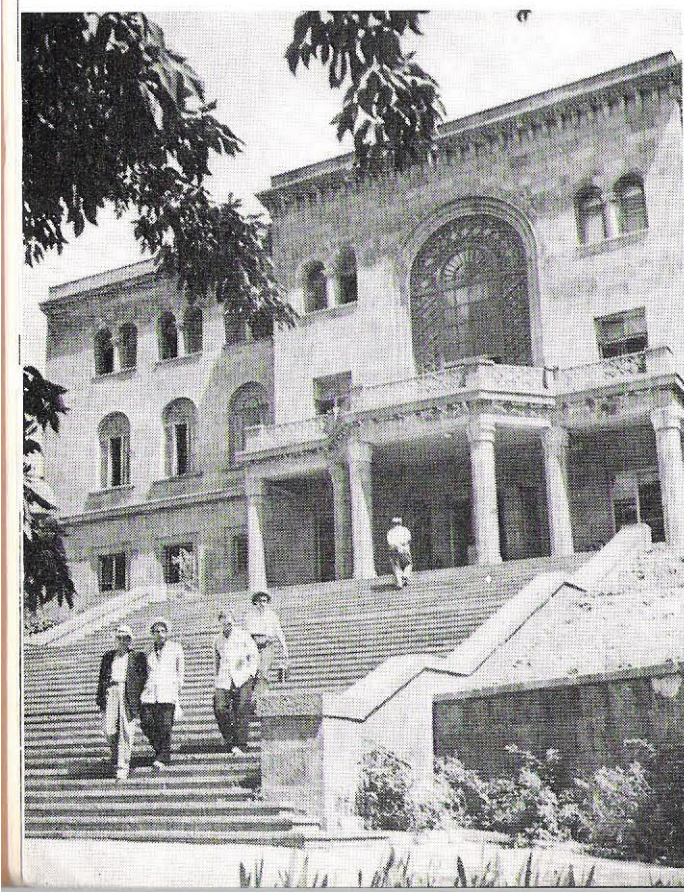
### YEREVAN

*Armenia's capital lies on the plains of the Caucasian ranges, on the River Zanga, tributary of the River Arax. Built largely of a local stone, rose tuff, it presents a very attractive picture against the backcloth of the snowy twin peaks (17,000 and 13,000 feet) of Mount Ararat (which actually stands in Turkey).*

*Below, the spacious Lenin Square in Yerevan.*



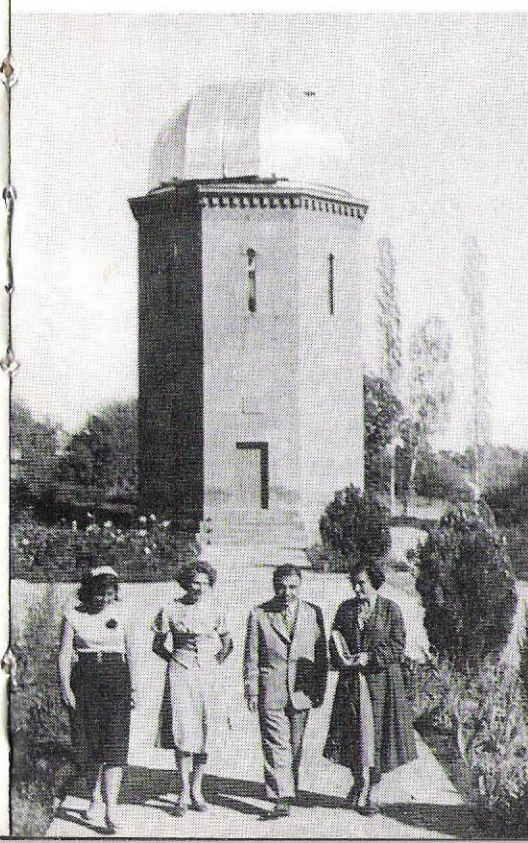




Top left: *Yerevan Theatre of Opera and Ballet.*  
Top right: *Yerevan State University.*  
Left: *Arzni Sanatorium.*

Right: *Professor Ambartsumyan, Director of Byurokan Observatory, with radio engineers and astronomers.*

Extreme bottom right: *A corner of an ancient church in Echmiadzin.*





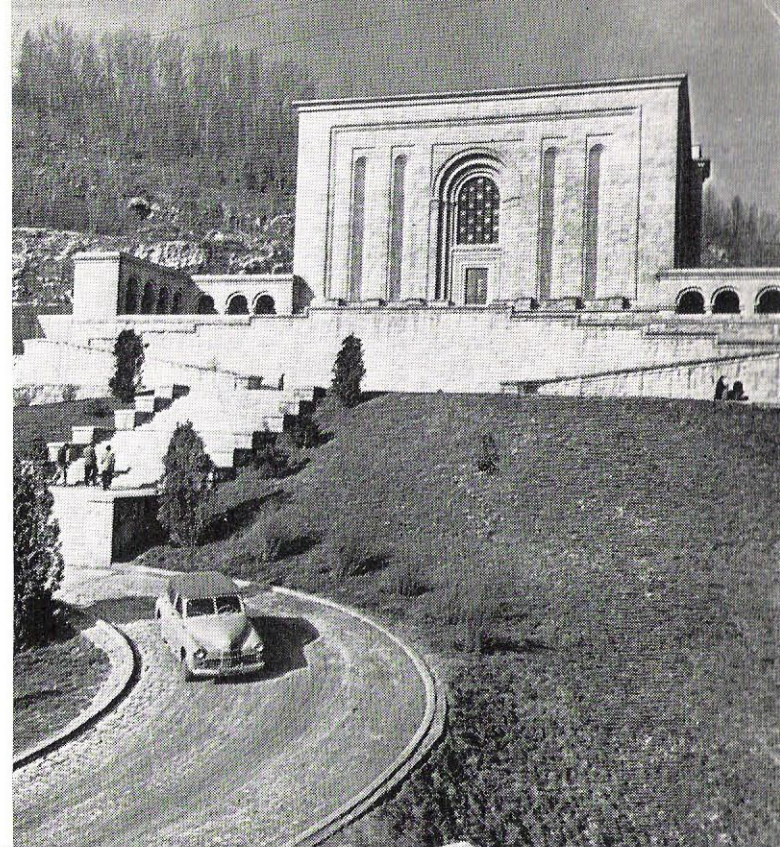


*Armenia is an ancient land and in olden times, in addition to the main population, small groups of other nationalities settled here. Among them were the Kurds. Above is a Kurd burial place of antiquity at the foot of Mount Alaghez. Alongside two or three modern buildings are the ruins of Kurd temples, farm buildings and wine-cellar.*

*Below, the youngster Aloyan Aslan reads aloud to some of the older members of his village, from a newspaper printed in the Kurd language.*



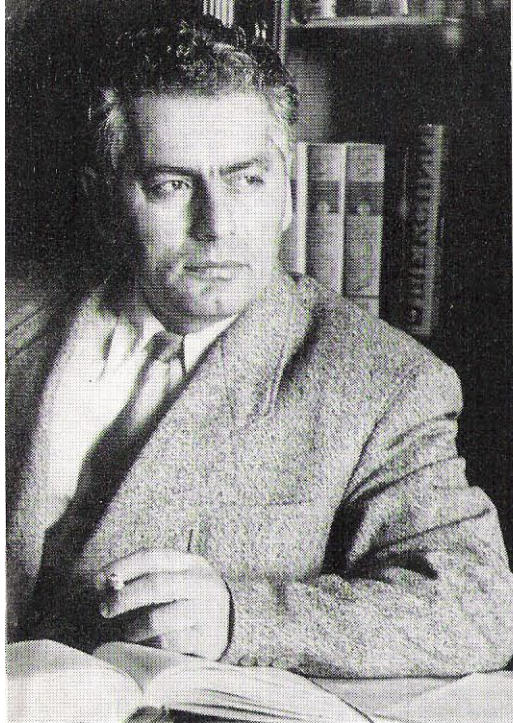
*The Matenadaran in Yerevan is the world's largest collection of ancient manuscripts. On the right is the new building designed by M. V. Grigoryan.*



*Below: a classroom in a Yerevan boarding-school.*







Above left: the Armenian writer Georgi Sevunts.



Top right: the Armenian painter M. S. Saryan, a Member of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Arts.



Right: members of the folk instrument orchestra of the Armenian Song and Dance Ensemble, in their national costume.

Many repatriates who were engaged in agriculture abroad began their new life on the collective farms of Soviet Armenia. They received their homes and allotments from the state. Many of them have already gained fame by their outstanding successes in agriculture.

Their successful efforts in boosting the grape crops gained A. Arakelyan and G. Tamazyan the honorary title of Hero of Socialist Labour. Another Hero of Labour among the repatriates is Azniv Khtryan who came from Syria: she gained special distinction in silkworm breeding.

Goar Gasparyan, who came from Egypt, is known far and wide for her beautiful voice and singing ability. She is now a People's Artist of the Soviet Union and a deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian S.S.R.

Great popularity is enjoyed in the U.S.S.R. by Arthur Aidinyan, a repatriate from Greece. Armenia has not only enabled him to win fame as a singer but has also restored him his sight which he lost in a foreign land.

Public favour has been won by Honoured Artist of the Republic Migran Yerkat, a soloist of the Spendiaryov State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, by the soloist Armine Tutunjan from Egypt, by Honoured Artists of the Republic Levon Geokhlyan and Oavnes Badalyan, by Jacques Ter-Merkeryan, winner of an international contest of violinists, and by the conductor of the Armenian State Chorus, Honoured Artist of the Republic Nubar Sngryan, winner of a contest at the Sixth World Youth Festival.

Successful literary works have been written by S. Alajajan, A. Avakyan, O. Gukasyan, A. Terzyan, P. Zeitunyants and other repatriated authors. Productions of the repatriated artists, Honoured Art Workers of the Republic Raphael Shishmanyant, Grigori Agaronyan, Arutyun Galents and Armineh Paronyan, have been highly praised.

Repatriated Armenians take an active part in the activities of the Supreme Soviet of the Armenian S.S.R. and the city, district and village Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

#### A New Leap in our Industrial Development

The Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party, in adopting its Seven-Year Plan, announced that the Soviet Union had entered a new historic period, the period of the comprehensive construction of communist society.

The Seven-Year Plan contains provisions designed to ensure, on the one hand, the most effective use of the resources of each republic, and, on the other hand, the proper co-ordination of the interests of each republic and of the country as a whole.

Within each republic stress is laid primarily on the development of those branches of economy for which the most favourable natural and economic conditions exist.

On the basis of the progress already made in Armenia and in the U.S.S.R. as a whole, the Armenian people drafted a Seven-Year Plan for their republic and undertook to carry it out.

Owing to the nature of her local raw materials and labour resources, and other local factors, Armenia's industry specialises in the main in the production of non-ferrous metals, synthetic products, building materials, and precision machinery and instruments which do not require much metal.



A distinguishing feature of the Seven-Year Plan lies in the high rates of industrial development. In 1965, Armenia's industry will be turning out 130 per cent more produce than in 1958. The average annual rate of increase will amount to 12.8 per cent, as against 11 per cent in the previous seven years.

It should, moreover, be borne in mind that a 1 per cent increase in this seven-year period is double that in the period 1952-58.

Gross industrial output will amount to 16,300 million roubles by the end of the seven-year period.

The basis for these high rates is provided by the capital investments in the construction of new and the reconstruction of existing enterprises.

State capital investments in the republic in 1959-65 will surpass 12,000 million roubles, which is 2.4 times greater than the volume invested in 1952-58.

**The scope of capital investments may be judged by the fact that the total to be invested in the national economy of the republic in the seven years will exceed by 1,000 million roubles (in comparable prices) all the investments made in thirty-eight years of Soviet Armenia.**

In the seven-year period the republic will build 150 new enterprises, among them some of the biggest factories and plants.

Along with the intensive and rational utilisation of the rich natural resources of the republic, it is planned to improve the distribution of her productive forces. Industrial enterprises will be brought closer to sources of raw materials and the consuming districts. New industrial units will be built with due account being taken of the available raw material and labour resources.

Along with the industrial development of Yerevan, Leninakan, Kirovakan, Alaverdy and Kafan, new industrial centres will be built up in the seven years at Razdan (formerly Akhta), Lusavan, Elar, Arzni, Sevan and elsewhere. Big industrial enterprises will be built at Dilizhan, Idzhevan, Agarak, Stepanavan, Goris, Artyk and Oktemberyan, as well as in the Talin, Aginsky, Megri and other districts.

Industrial output will be raised during the seven years not only by building new enterprises. In some branches of production, and in the processing industries especially, chief stress will be laid on the fundamental reconstruction, expansion and technical modernisation of the existing enterprises.

This will make it possible to raise output with greater speed and smaller investments than if new enterprises had been built.

Reconstruction of enterprises will be accomplished by improving machinery and technology, modernising equipment and providing more efficient equipment, and promoting the overall mechanisation and automation of production.

Continuous-flow production methods, automatic and semi-automatic machines and lines and assembly conveyors will be used on a much wider scale in engineering plants.

The largest portion of capital investments allocated for industrial development, more than 1,400 million roubles, will go to the non-ferrous metals industry. Copper and copper-and-molybdenum production occupies a

leading place in this industry. Extraction and refining of copper, copper-and-molybdenum and polymetallic ores in 1965 will increase by almost 300 per cent over 1958.

Taking into consideration the vast importance of chemical production for the technical progress of all the branches of the national economy, measures have been recommended for bringing about a considerable increase in the production of synthetic materials and plastics, in which the republic is extremely interested.

**Capital investments in the chemical industry are due to go up by 500 per cent, as compared with 1952-58.**

One of the biggest construction projects of the seven-year period will be the Akhta works for processing nepheline syenites; their resources are practically inexhaustible. Production of alumina from nepheline syenites will enable us to increase substantially the production of aluminium, to cut its production costs and to obtain other valuable products.

Of great value for the development of chemical production will be the construction of a big factory at Razdan for the production of kapron\* for making cord and, later also, for the production of synthetic silk. Kapron cord will be used as a substitute for cotton cord in the production of tyres.

Important products for the national economy will be supplied by the Kirovakan factory which will commence producing acetate silk in 1961. This, of course, will help the textile industry to turn out more and better silk fabrics.

Production of machinery, which is the basis of all technical progress, will be stepped up in the republic in the current seven years, which will witness the construction and equipment of nineteen new engineering factories.

Gross output in the electrical equipment industry is due to go up by more than 300 per cent in the seven-year period. This increase will be achieved mainly through the reconstruction and expansion of existing enterprises, improvements in production technology, by furthering mechanisation and automation, and by the construction of new factories.

In the last few years a foundation has been laid in Armenia for the development of so important an industry as instrument production. New factories, with the most up-to-date engineering equipment, will start production under the Seven-Year Plan.

Of great value for technical progress will be the computing machines institute which will raise the efficiency of production and the productivity of labour.

**The general output of machine tools in the Armenian S.S.R. will go up sharply in 1965, bringing the republic to fourth place in the U.S.S.R. in this branch of production.**

Machines with a higher precision and greater speed of operation are being designed, as well as automatic charging units which will make them suitable for use in automatic lines.

The great progress in all branches of production called for by the Seven-Year Plan requires a still faster rate of development in electric power production.

Principal stress is to be laid on the construction of thermal electric power plants to be run on cheap coals, natural gas and mazout. This will lead to

\*An artificial fibre.—Ed.



a considerable saving of time and ensure the most effective use of capital investments.

The Seven-Year Plan provides for the over-all solution of problems connected with electrification, heating and gasification.

When Armenia begins to receive natural gas from fraternal Azerbaijan in the near future, its electric power production programme will acquire a different character.

Requirements of the national economy for electric power are expected to increase in 1965 by 80 per cent over 1958. In order to meet this demand, thermal electric power plants to be run on natural gas will be built in 1959-65 in Yerevan and Razdan.

Furthermore, the Yerevan hydro-electric station is to be completed and put into operation in 1960. The high-capacity hydro-electric station to be built at Tatev on the Vorotan River will supply electric power to South Armenia and to some consumers also in the central regions.

Electric power production capacities in the republic will go up by more than 100 per cent as compared with 1958, and the annual production of electric power will reach 3,440 million kwh.

With the object of improving the work of the hydro-electric stations and ensuring the rational exploitation of the hydro-electric power developments of the republic as a whole, all the stations and big sub-stations will be switched over in the immediate future to complete automatic control, with the use of remote control instruments and electronic computers.

All the power grids of the Transcaucasus are to be linked during the seven years. Implementation of all these measures will satisfy the requirements of the national economy of the republic for electric power.

Heating and gasification will also register big progress in 1959-65. Gas will be made available for use in more than 100,000 flats, hospitals, public catering establishments, and so on. Provision of gas for municipal and household use will help to improve sanitation and living conditions.

#### **More Consumer Goods**

The high level already achieved in heavy industry and in agriculture, enables a considerable increase to be made in the production of general consumer goods in the next few years so as to ensure in the seven-year period an abundant supply of fabrics, shoes, clothing and other goods.

To fully satisfy the constantly growing requirements of the working people for foodstuffs, special provisions have been made in the Seven-Year Plan for advancing all branches of the food industry, for raising the output of meat and dairy products, tinned fruit and vegetables, mineral water, confectionery, bakery products, tobacco and other items.

Big capital investments will be made in city construction and in the municipal economy of the republic. Housing construction will be greatly increased.

As far back as 1957, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government set the task of ending the housing shortage in the U.S.S.R. within the coming ten to twelve years. The Seven-Year Plan will take us a long way towards the fulfilment of this task.

State capital investments in housing construction in the republic will exceed 3,000 million roubles, which is almost 25 per cent of all the capital

investments assigned to the national economy, and three times greater than the total spent for the same purpose in the previous seven years.

Private homes will also be built in greater numbers with the aid of state loans. About 2.1 million square metres of housing will be made available for tenancy in the cities, industrial towns and in the rural localities.

Altogether, about 4.4 million square metres of floor space will be added during the seven years.

**With the completion of the new houses, the housing available in the cities and industrial towns of the republic will be practically doubled.**

#### **And a Big Leap in Agriculture**

There is also a bold programme for Armenia's agriculture, which will ensure a big development in grain, cotton, sugar beet, tobacco, vegetables, fruit, vineyards, and livestock farming.

Grain production has always been an important factor in Armenia's agriculture. The Armenian tableland was one of the world centres of agriculture when man first began to cultivate wheat and other cereals and pulses.

In present-day Armenia, however, owing to the land scarcity and the tendency towards the correct specialisation of agricultural production, chief stress is laid not on the expansion of the area under grain, but on increases in the yields and gross crops of grain.

There will be a big expansion in the areas under feed crops, especially maize, in order to create the required feed stocks. Armenia's natural pastures and meadows constitute a most important source for raising feed resources.

All the above-mentioned measures, in combination with improvements in livestock, should bring about a big increase in the volume of livestock produce.

**Production of meat (slaughtered weight) in 1965 will be 70 per cent greater, milk 60 per cent greater, eggs 50 per cent greater and wool 80 per cent greater, than in 1958.**

Production averages per 100 acres of farmland are expected to increase in the republic, in 1965: meat to 2.1 tons (slaughter weight), milk to 14.7 tons, wool to 0.19 ton, and eggs to 27,200 per 100 acres under grain.

To this end it is planned to bring about a big increase in all livestock. As compared with 1958, the head of cattle on the collective farms is due to increase by 61 per cent, the number of cows to rise by 123 per cent, of sheep and goats by 21.5 per cent and of poultry stock by 116.3 per cent. Collective farms are expected to bring up the number of cattle to twenty head per 100 acres.

The cultivation of grapes and fruit is to be extended by laying out new vineyards and orchards in the newly irrigated territories.

**The area under vineyards and orchards is to be expanded to more than double that of 1958.**

A territory of over 17,000 acres is to be added to the orchards and vineyards in the current seven-year period.

Most of the new orchards will be laid out in the semi-desert areas and in the inadequately productive winter pastures which will be irrigated by the big Talin, Arzni-Shamiram and Kotaiksky canals now under construction. Because these territories are sparsely populated, their reclamation will be accomplished through the organisation of state orchards and vineyards.



Thanks to the results achieved in agriculture in the last few years, there are very few backward collective farms in Armenia today. There still are, however, some collective farms in the highlands where irrigated land is lacking and the crops are often destroyed by frost, hail, or drought.

Therefore, the voluntary settlement of peasants from these areas in the districts of the new state irrigated vineyards and orchards should play a most important part in raising agricultural production in Armenia in the current seven years and improving the peasants' welfare.

Fruit cultivation is being extended, too, by pushing it to the upland regions of the republic where fruit growing is still in its embryonic stage.

Along with the expansion of the territory under orchards, it is planned to raise the efficiency of agriculture, to bring about a sharp increase in the crop yields of the vineyards and fruit orchards.

These measures are expected to bring about an increase of 180 per cent in the gross crop of grapes which will rise to 231,000 tons, and an increase of 170 per cent in the fruit crop which is to go up to 93,000 tons in the current seven years.

When all the orchards and vineyards laid out in the seven-year period begin to bear fruit, the gross crop of grapes will rise by 300 per cent and of fruit by 500 per cent, as compared with the 1958 crops. It will become possible in 1965 to supply twice the amount of grapes to the canneries as in 1958.

**By 1965, it will be possible to supply four times as much fruit to the canneries of the republic. Consumption of fresh fruit is also expected to increase considerably by 1965: consumption of grapes by more than 400 per cent and of fruits by almost 300 per cent.**

This increase in the production of grapes and fruit will enable us to raise considerably the output of tinned fruit, wines and cognacs, the best grades of which deservedly enjoy fame both in and outside the Soviet Union. At the end of the seven-year period, production of wine is due to increase to over 11 million gallons and production of the world famous Armenian cognacs to 660,000 gallons a year.

Production of vegetables and potatoes is also slated for a considerable increase, the aim being to ensure an ample supply to the population in 1965, to provide vegetables for canning and sufficient potatoes for livestock.

Special attention is being paid to the development of truck gardening in the suburbs of Yerevan. It is planned to supply Yerevan with early potatoes and vegetables (264 lb. *per capita*) in a rich assortment and at low prices, by organising specialised state farms. Two such state farms have been established in 1959.

A number of state market gardening farms will be set up in the next few years to supply urban and industrial centres with vegetables and potatoes.

Tobacco cultivation is one of the main sources of monetary incomes on many collective farms in the highlands of Armenia. Gross production of tobacco leaves is expected to increase in the seven-year period by 20 per cent.

Chief stress will be laid on increasing the tobacco yield which is expected to average 0.6—0.64 tons per acre.

Agricultural output will be raised with the help of mechanisation and electrification on the collective and state farms.

**Electrification of all the collective and state farms, industrial towns and other inhabited places will be completed by 1960.**

It is planned to increase the mechanisation of ploughing on the collective farms in 1959-1965 from its present 87 per cent to 92 per cent, cultivation of row crops from 50 to 86 per cent, and grain harvesting (with combines) from 65 to 89 per cent. Mechanisation of other agricultural processes will also go ahead.

There will be many more tractors, cultivators, grain harvester combines, hay mowers and other farm machines.

Mechanisation of laborious processes in livestock farming will also be stepped up.

It is planned to bring the mechanisation of water supply at the livestock sections of the collective farms up to 90 per cent, the provision of automatic water bowls to 80 per cent, electric shearing of sheep to 100 per cent, to raise the mechanisation of water supply and the provision of automatic water bowls on the state farms to the extent of 95 to 100 per cent, and electric shearing of sheep to 100 per cent.

All these measures should greatly lighten the labour of the collective farmers and state farm workers and raise its productivity. Higher productivity of labour combined with higher crop yields and higher productivity of livestock will make it possible to cut agricultural production costs.

Capital investments in agriculture will grow year by year. More than 2,000 million roubles will be invested by the collective farms of the republic in construction for production purposes and for equipping cultural and other services.

**This is approximately as much as all the capital investments of Armenia's collective farms throughout their existence.**

#### Ahead of Schedule

Inspired by the magnificent programme for the comprehensive construction of communism, collective farmers, workers on state farms and at repair and technical service stations, and agricultural specialists, have thrown themselves into the countrywide movement for raising agricultural production.

**After weighing all their possibilities, they have decided to fulfil the Seven-Year Plan provisions: for the production of sugar beet in 1960, for the production of tobacco and vegetables in 1961, milk and eggs in 1962, meat and wool in 1963, and grapes in 1964.**

As a result of the specialisation and mechanisation of collective farm production, of the higher productivity of labour, the cuts in agricultural production costs, and of organisational measures taken to improve the economic position of the collective farms, the incomes of the collective farmers will rise by at least 40 per cent.

By utilising all their resources and possibilities, the collective farms and state farms of Armenia have been able already in 1959, the first year of the seven-year period, to bring about a considerable increase in agricultural production and in the incomes of the collective farmers.

Much will be done in the next few years to replan and improve the villages. The growth of the indivisible funds of the collective farms, together with state capital investments, will make it possible to expand the network of clubs and other cultural and educational institutions in the villages, the rural medical services, schools, kindergartens and nurseries, and to build inter-collective farm enterprises for processing agricultural produce; to extend the green



tracts of land, to improve country roads and to make the villages a much better place to live in.

Greater incomes will enable the collective farmers to construct houses on a larger scale in order to banish once and for all the clay adobes which still remain in some of the villages from pre-revolutionary times. Collective farmers are expected to build for themselves in the seven-year period 85,000 homes with more than 2.5 million square metres of floor space.

### Growth of National Income

It is generally known that the national income is the most important index of the people's welfare. In the U.S.S.R. the national income belongs to the people and is distributed in the interest of all the working people of town and country.

The Soviet Union's national income is due to go up by 62-65 per cent in the seven-year period, increasing to six times the pre-war national income (1940). It will then be possible to raise public consumption by 60-63 per cent.

The sweeping growth of socialist production and of the productivity of labour, and the increase in the national income have furnished the basis for continuous improvements in the living and cultural standards of the Soviet people.

An extensive programme for still greater improvements in the life of the people was outlined by the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Its purpose is to create a sufficiency and then an abundance of all consumer goods in the U.S.S.R.

Important undertakings have been launched by the Communist Party and the Soviet Government in the last few years to bring about still greater improvements in the living and cultural standards of the Soviet people.

These include substantial increases in pensions, complete abolition of tuition fees, longer maternity leaves, reduction of the working day before Sundays and holidays, wage increases to lower-paid workers, and the beginning of the transition to shorter working hours in all industries, services and offices.

The Seven-Year Plan opens up still greater possibilities for increases in real incomes. By 1965, as compared with 1958, the real income of workers in the U.S.S.R. will be up by 40 per cent. Minimum wages and salaries will increase to 500-600 roubles a month, and collective farmers' incomes will also rise by 40 per cent.

Reduction of the working day for all factory and office workers to seven hours and in specific fields to six hours is to be completed in 1959-60. The transition to the 30-35-hour week is to begin at the end of the seven-year period; this will give the U.S.S.R. the shortest working day and the shortest working week in the world, with a simultaneous rise in living standards.

Reduction of working hours will not be attended by any cuts in wages and salaries; on the contrary, wages will rise substantially. And, of course, shorter hours means that people will have more time to devote to their education, to the upbringing of their children, to recreation and the general improvement of their culture.

The Seven-Year Plan provides for increases in state allocations for social insurance, pensions and benefits, scholarships, for all forms of education (no tuition fees are charged in any schools, including institutes and univer-

sities), for the maintenance of kindergartens and nurseries, sanatoria, holiday hotels, and so on.

People's cash incomes are to go up by 47.3 per cent in Armenia in the seven years.

Armenian state expenditure on social and cultural undertakings in 1958 surpassed 1,000 million roubles. They will reach nearly 2,000 million roubles, or an annual average of 3,800 roubles per working person, in 1965.

**If state expenditure on housing, on the construction of schools, cultural, medical and other services is taken into account, this average will add up to 5,200 roubles per working person per year.**

In 1958, purchases in state and co-operative stores were double those of 1940, state and co-operative retail sales per head of the population increasing in the republic as follows: meat and meat products by 740 per cent, butter by 10 per cent, sugar by 240 per cent, woollen fabrics by 270 per cent, silk fabrics by 550 per cent and leather shoes by 120 per cent.

Increased production of consumer goods and higher individual incomes will stimulate retail trade. Retail sales of state and co-operative trading organisations in the Armenian S.S.R. are expected to rise by 72.8 per cent (in comparable prices).

As compared with 1958, retail sales will increase in the republic in 1965 as follows: animal husbandry produce by 100 per cent, sugar and confectionery by 80 per cent, fruit and vegetables by 80 per cent, fabrics and shoes by 70 per cent and clothing by 90 per cent.

Durable goods and household articles which lighten the housewife's work will be available for sale in much greater quantities.

Special stress is laid in the Seven-Year Plan on the development of public catering establishments. This, too, will help to improve people's lives. It will gradually free women from unproductive work at home and enable them to take a more active part in the building of communism.

The handling capacity of the public catering establishments will be practically doubled in the seven years. Furthermore, retail prices will be reduced. It is planned to improve the quality of foodstuffs and to produce a much wider assortment of them.

State capital investments alone will enable us to equip 630 public catering establishments in the republic.

### New Advances in Health Services

In the Soviet State, where man is regarded as the most valuable capital, everything is being done to improve the life of the people. The farther the Soviet Union progresses on its advance towards communism, the more attention is devoted to people's health.

Capital investments in the republic's public health services in the seven-year period will exceed 280 million roubles, which is more than double that of the previous seven years.

Capital investments for constructing hospitals are to be increased by almost 200 per cent, and the number of hospital beds will go up by 70 per cent.

**By the end of 1965, the number of medical workers with a special secondary schooling (trained nurses etc.) will surpass 15,000, or three for each doctor.**

The number of kindergartens and nurseries will be more than doubled.



Stress is to be laid on increasing the number of kindergartens where children are kept for a whole week, spending only Sundays and holidays at home.

In order to improve prophylactic and other medical services for children, it is planned to increase considerably the number of children's hospitals and wards, health consultation centres and polyclinics.

Twenty-eight new buildings will provide infant health consultation centres with milk kitchens and polyclinics for children.

Armenia has exceptionally favourable climatic conditions and spas for health resorts. Especially promising in this respect is Dzhermuk.

Situated in a picturesque locality in the mountains, it has a splendid climate with an abundance of sunshine and mineral waters. Well-equipped sanatoria and holiday homes will be built there in the current seven-year period, making it possible to accommodate 33 per cent more persons.

#### Care of the Rising Generation

Still greater attention will be devoted in the seven-year period to the education of the younger generation, and school attendance is expected to grow by 60 per cent.

Practice has shown that the state boarding schools have attained notable success in their educational work and in preparing children for work. They render invaluable assistance to parents in the upbringing of their children. The number of pupils in these schools will increase more than sixteen-fold in the seven-year period.

In the ordinary schools, groups will be formed after school hours for the convenience of parents at work. The children will stay there under the supervision of trained teachers until their parents call for them.

Schools which give young people the possibility of combining work with study are becoming increasingly popular. This method of education has fully justified itself and it is given every encouragement.

Their attendance will grow steadily, and is expected to reach more than 38,000 over the seven-year period, which represents a three-fold increase.

The re-organisation of secondary and higher education will facilitate the communist upbringing of the younger generation, develop its social responsibility and love of work, and train energetic, thoroughly educated builders of the new society.

State allocations for financing the construction of schools, boarding schools included, hostels and kindergartens in the republic is due to surpass 700 million roubles in the current seven years. Allocations will also be increased for extending the number of specialised secondary schools and colleges.

Science has splendid prospects in the current seven-year period. The Soviet State allocates considerable funds for financing scientific research and creates the most favourable possibilities for the fruitful work of the scientists. And, in their turn, the Soviet scientists have made great scientific discoveries of epoch-making significance.

Along with the scientists of all the fraternal republics of the Soviet Union, Armenian scientists have made their contribution to these successes. For example, the achievements of Academician Ambartsumyan in the study

of the galaxies and his discovery of the so-called stellar associations are known throughout the world.

In the current seven years Armenia's scientists will be working on urgent problems of great importance to specific branches of the national economy, science and culture. It is planned to equip twelve more institutes and laboratories, under the auspices of the Academy of Sciences of the Armenian S.S.R., and the number of scientific workers in the Academy will be doubled as a consequence.

**More than 200 million roubles are allocated to equip these scientific institutions and to extend scientific research in the Academy's institutions.**

**State budget expenditure per head of the population in pre-revolutionary Armenia amounted to seven roubles sixty-nine kopecks. Out of this miserable allowance more than five roubles was spent on the maintenance of the police, prisons and government offices, and only thirty-nine kopecks on public education.**

These negligible state expenditures are highly illustrative of the state of public education in old Armenia. What a striking contrast to the lavish attention devoted to education and science in Soviet Armenia!

#### Cultural Progress

The essence of socialist culture lies in its profoundly popular character. Armenia's novelists and poets, playwrights and composers are working on new productions. Her artists and sculptors are getting ready for the U.S.S.R. Art Exhibition of 1960 and for the special exhibition dedicated to the fortieth anniversary of Soviet Armenia (November 29th, 1960).

The works of her writers, artists and composers mirror the magnificent changes that have taken place in Armenia in the Soviet period and picture the character of the builders of communism.

Important educational work is being conducted by the theatres and concert performers.

In the seven-year period the Armenian film studio will be given new premises, which will enable it to increase the production of feature films, as well as of newsreels and documentaries.

More books and periodicals will be published. Editions of books published in the republic will be brought up to 10,000,000, as against 7,300,000 in 1958. The annual circulation of magazines will be raised to 2,000,000, as against 1,705,000 in 1958, and the daily circulation of newspapers will reach 470,000, as against 364,000 in 1958.

For comparison it is worth mentioning that only six newspapers with a circulation of 3,500, two magazines with an annual circulation of 1,000 and 80,000 books covering fifty-five titles were published in Armenia in 1913.

The Seven-Year Plan contains provisions for the necessary allocations for improvements in colour printing and for increasing its volume, and also for improvements in the make-up and illustration of books. New buildings will be put up in the seven years for the Sundukyan State Drama Theatre in Yerevan, for the Myasnikyan State Public Library, for a television studio, printshops, and so on.



### Towards the Summits of Communism

The victories already won by the peoples of the U.S.S.R. and the still more magnificent prospects for the development of the national economy and culture, and for improvements in living standards inspire the Soviet people to even greater effort.

Their enthusiasm fired by the resolutions of the Twenty-First Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the peoples of the U.S.S.R. are firmly determined to complete the construction of communism. In his letter to the Communists of the Caucasus, in 1921, Lenin voiced the hope that the close alliance of the Caucasian peoples would "serve as a model of national peace unprecedented under the bourgeoisie and impossible under the bourgeois system".

Life has shown that this hope of the leader of the Soviet people has been fully justified.

National discord, which had been fomented and planted in the Caucasus by bourgeois nationalists and their foreign imperialist patrons, has vanished. The heritage of tsarism, which for decades sowed distrust and hostility among the peoples of Russia, has been completely eradicated.

The Soviet Government could not confine itself to the formal proclamation of the equality of all nationalities before the law.

**There was a great difference in the economic and cultural levels of development of the peoples of the former tsarist empire. It was necessary to bring the economic development of the backward regions up to the level of the more advanced. And the example of Soviet Armenia is irrefutable proof of the successful solution of this problem.**

With the assistance of the great Russian people, the working people of Armenia, along with other fraternal peoples of the U.S.S.R., have made great achievements in state, economic and cultural development.

Soviet Armenia's Seven-Year Plan (and the corresponding plans of all the other Soviet republics) signifies another leap forward.

No doubt, the grand programme of communist construction will be fulfilled. The guarantee of this lies in the unity of the Soviet peoples, their will for the victory of communism and the leadership of their Communist Party.

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