February 25, 1971, marks the fiftieth anniversary, to the day, of the establishment of Soviet power in Georgia, and of the founding of the Communist Party of Georgia. This glorious anniversary is a great national holiday of the Georgian people, a day of celebration to commemorate the ideas of Marxism-Leninism.

As always, in taking note of outstanding days, Soviet people review with pride the path that they have trodden, draw up balance sheets on the work that has been done, and of course mark off new milestones. Everything is learned through comparisons. Fifty years may be a very short time period on a historical scale, but in the course of this half-century the Republic has traversed a glorious path of victories and accomplishments.

What was pre-revolutionary Georgia like? The overwhelming majority of the population was illiterate, lived all their lives in villages, and made their living by primitive, poorly developed agriculture. Industry, which occupied less than 4% of the population, amounted to small-scale household handicraft enterprises.

From the very first days of Soviet power, the Communist Party of Georgia developed its course decisively to industrialization. It is entirely clear that it is impossible, even unfeasible or undesirable, to restore outmoded and nonfunctioning industrial enterprises in their old form, without changing the bases of industry. The problem of restoring the economy had to be solved by another approach which was determined by Lenin’s instructions on the need to restore and build industry on the basis of electrification, on the groundwork of modern means of production.

Decades have passed since that time. Today Georgia is a republic with a socialist economy developed in many branches. The vigorous growth of industry is attested to, for instance, by the fact that more products are manufactured in Georgia today in only one week than were produced before the revolution in a whole year. During the years of Soviet power, the volume of wholesale production in the Republic increased almost a hundredfold.

Georgia’s industry rests on Chiatura manganese and Rustavi metals, Kutaisi miniature tractors and Tbilisi electric-arc welding installations, Poti dredges and Tbilisi electric motors, telegraphic equipment, and general-purpose machine tools. By the way, the Republic now manufactures twice as many metal-cutting machine tools as were manufactured in the whole of Tsarist Russia.

Georgia’s industry is symbolized by the world’s first tea-leaf harvesting machine, the “Saqarthvelo,” and by the locally manufactured computer, by Rustavi chemical fibers and by the Batumi underwater-hydrofoil launches, foundry-equipment hoisting cranes, as well as various equipments and heavy-duty trucks. The Kutaisi automotive factory alone manufactures more trucks than the entire industry of the country did in 1931.

Finally, Georgia’s industry is well represented by the eight-axle mainline electric locomotives operating on many railways throughout the country. At this point, we should point out that the new VL-10 electric locomotive manufactured by the Tbilisi electric locomotive manufacturing plant was designed in our Republic by the staff of the design office in that enterprise.
High rates of development are also achieved in Georgia by the food processing industry and light goods industries, which are making steady progress in satisfying the demands and needs of the population in consumer goods.

The basis and groundwork for the development of the national economy of Soviet Georgia and of its industry in the first instance, is electrification. At the present time, the Republic is generating nine times as much electric power as all of Turkey which borders on it, even though the territory of the latter country is eleven times greater than the territory occupied by Georgia. Georgia generates twelve times as much electric power as neighboring Iran.

Our successes in the field of economics are intimately related to the further prospering of science in Gruzia, and this of course plays a vital role in laying down the material and technical base of communism. Science has become a direct productive force in its own right in our times, and contributes to a new upsurge in all branches of the national economy.

At the present time, the Republic boasts 18 higher educational institutions, 194 scientific-research institutes, staffed by over 17,000 scientific colleagues. The Academy of Sciences of the Georgian SSR has built a corps of scientists who have contributed their discoveries and scientific labors to the treasury of Soviet and world science and culture. To contribute to a clearer presentation of the development of science in Georgia, we should add that we have already caught up with all the capitalist countries, including the USA, France, and Great Britain, in terms of the number of teachers and instructors (16 per thousand of population) and in the number of persons who have received higher and middle-level education (355 per thousand).

That constitutes, basically, the scientific and technical groundwork on which, and for which, measuring techniques and equipment, and their highest component, engineering metrology, have been developed in the Republic, as a basis of scientific research, orderliness in production, achieving high product quality, and all-around technical progress.

The achievements in the field of science and industry, and the undeviating technical progress in all branches of the national economy, have been decisive in making possible the advanced development of data-processing and measuring equipment and of metrology, and the increased acceptance in industry, agriculture, and scientific research of new and improved techniques and equipment for measurement and monitoring operations. A modest portion of these new techniques and hardware for data measurements has been fashioned through the work of Georgian scientists and designers, and fabricated by instrumentation factories located on the territory of the Georgian Republic.

Our experience in this area may serve as another clear illustration of the brilliant perspicacity of the great Russian scientist D. I. Mendeleev, who wrote that "science begins from the point where measurements are begun. Exact sciences would be inconceivable without measurements."

It must be stressed that the advancement of data processing and measuring techniques and equipment is closely related to scientific and technical progress. This is quite understandable, since the development of measuring techniques and equipment, and improvements in measures and in methods for achieving unity in measurements, depend on the overall scientific and technical level and on industrial potential. It is precisely in that aspect that we have to consider the status and developmental outlook of measuring techniques and equipment and their scientific groundwork: metrology in Georgia over the past fifty years.

The successes achieved in this area are at hand. It suffices to state that there is today in Georgia not a single scientific-research institute of a technical orientation and not a single design agency which does not make use of modern and sophisticated data-processing and data-measuring systems, measurement arrangements, and instrumentation, or where new methods and hardware for high-precision measurements of different parameters of processes and phenomena to be investigated have not been worked out or developed.

The rising level of orderliness in production at industrial enterprises has prompted the need to expand departmental measuring and inspection laboratories, departments of process monitoring and measuring instruments and automatic process control, and an impressive expansion of the network of state inspection laboratories keeping track of standards and measuring techniques in the national economy. These measures have been carried out on the basis of the November 28, 1956, resolution adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Georgian SSR and entitled "On intensifying supervision of measuring equipment and techniques and measures for achieving unification and precision of measures and measuring instrumentation in use in the national economy of the Georgian SSR."

The scientific instrument industry began to undergo a vigorous development in Georgia in the mid-Fifties. Such factories as Tbilpribor, Goripribor, Sukhumipribor, and others were built and put into operation, and one of the oldest plants in the Republic, the Gidrometpribor factory in Tbilisi, was expanded.