MINSK

Minsk is the capital of the Republic of Belarus. When on July 3 1944, the Soviet Army liberated Minsk it was difficult to recognize it. There were practically no houses and no streets. Of the 240 thousand people that had lived in Minsk on the eve of the invasion only some 45 thousand were left. Of the 332 enterprises that had been in operation only 19 small factories were now able to function. Eighty-three per cent of all dwelling houses had been destroyed.

Minsk today is the leading economic centre in Belarus and one of the major industrial cities. It has a powerful heavy industry, a highly-developed light and food industries, a building industry, a transport system, a wide network of research and design organizations and the services.

There are many institutions of higher education in Minsk: the Pedagogical University, the State Belorussian University and others.

The centre of science in the republic is the Academy of Sciences, which was opened in 1929 in Minsk. It has five departments (social sciences, biology, chemistry and geology, physics and mathematics and the technological sciences) with 25 scientific research institutes. The Academy of Sciences has an atomic reactor for scientific research.

There are theatres, a lot of cinemas, clubs, libraries and other cultural centres in the city.

Minsk is a city of sports. There are more than 64 sports schools with about 21 thousand pupils. Sports facilities are excellent in the capital. The major sports structures are: the Dynamo Stadium, the Palace of Sports, Water Sports Centre, the Palace of Water Sports.

Today Minsk is a beautiful, modern city with parks, comfortable dwelling houses and a lot of sights: House-Museum of the 1st Congress of the Social-Democratic Workers' Party of Russia, Victory Square with its obelisk, Order of Victory at the top and the Eternal Flame at the foot, the House of Government, etc.

In 1966 Minsk was awarded the Order of Lenin for courage and heroism during the Great Patriotic War and for successful achievements in the peaceful labour in the postwar period. On June 26, 1974 on the 30th anniversary of the liberation of Belorussia from the nazi invaders Minsk was awarded the honorary title of Hero-City, the Order of Lenin and Gold Star Medal.

Read and memorize the following words and expressions:

- facilities
- achievement
- to award
- courage
- successful
- labour
- anniversary
- scientific research
- a lot of sights
- at the top
- Eternal Flame
- at the foot
- honorary title

Give the Russian for:

Minsk laid in ruins; 83 per cent; with the fraternal assistance; one of the major; the leading economic centre; heavy trucks; other consumer goods; Radio-Engineering institute; Theatre and Fine Arts institute; the major sports structures are; a lot of sights; Victory square; peaceful labour; post-war period; on the 30th anniversary of the liberation; Gold Star Medal.

Give the English for:

Предприятия; ведущий экономический центр; жилые дома; мужество и героизм; достижения; высокоразвитый; фашистские захватчики; послевоенный период; годовщина; вечный огонь.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the capital of Belarus? 2. What is the centre of science in Minsk? 3. Why could Belorussian soldiers hardly recognize their native city after fascist occupation? 4. When was Minsk liberated from the German occupation? 5. What are the major sport structures in Minsk? 6. What departments are there in the Academy of science? 7. What universities are there in Minsk? 8. What was Minsk awarded the Orders for?