

3521

~~SECRET~~ Confidential

26 September 1947

TO: ESEC
FROM: FBP-4 Ak
SUBJECT: Kadri CAKRANI
REFERENCE: Conversation with Mrs. Triscilla de Auduit

20/11

Pursuant to the above conversation the following information on subject is forwarded for your information and consideration:

61. According to numerous reports, Kadri CAKRANI, a leading member of the Balli Kombetar and its military representative during the German occupation, has been charged with collaboration with the Germans and for this reason is regarded as a war criminal by the present regime in Albania. In an article published in "Bashkimi" on 2 June 1945, Enver HODJA, Prime Minister of Albania, criticized Allied policy, which was permitting major war criminals, among whom Kadri CAKRANI was mentioned, to circulate freely in Italy, pointing out that such treatment "constitutes an injustice and at the same time an offense to the Albanian people who have made such sacrifices for the common cause".

62. Information of 2 August 1944 states that during an operation against the Communists in Albania in 1944 subject found five American nurses in the Berat area. These nurses were taken into custody for three days and were brought to Dukat in the Valona area, whence, after certain difficulties, they were successfully returned to Allied territory.

63. The following information on subject, dated 27 September 1946, is contained in the interrogation report of Otto KNORZEL, who was with the German IS in Albania:

As of March 1946, subject was a refugee in the Albanian camp at Ostia near Rome. Under King ZOG he was imprisoned as a common criminal. During the Italian occupation of Albania, he helped the Italians against the partisans; and during the German occupation, he was military representative of the Balli Kombetar. Source states that subject was supplied with weapons by the Germans, but that he did not fight the partisans wholeheartedly and is alleged to have sold the latter part of the German-supplied equipment. CAKRANI is charged with having practiced extortions against the civil population along the Albanian coast and with being responsible in February 1944 for the killing of about thirty Greek Orthodox Albanians, who were accused of having

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Communist sympathies. Because of this, subject has been listed as the #2 Albanian war criminal by the present regime. At the end of 1944 he escaped by sea to Italy. Subject is described as an anti-Communist by necessity and a politically active member of the Balli Kombetar.

* The Balli Kombetar (National Front) is reported to consist principally of old-line nationalists, democratic and anti-Zogist elements whose aim at the present is to overthrow the existing regime in Albania. This group is anti-Communist, and has always advocated democratic principles and a "greater Albania". Both the Italians and Germans played on these ambitions to win Albanian cooperation; many members of the Balli Kombetar held public positions during the Italian and German occupation.

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