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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Saseno Island Naval Installations, Submarine Galleries

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

DATE OF

[Redacted area]

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[Redacted area]

Saseno Island, at the entrance of the Valona bay, is an important strategic point. The Soviets have converted it into a most modern coastal defense base.

2. Since 1932, when the Italians began to fortify this island and its port of Sant Nikolas, work has been continued by the Germans and now by the Soviets.
3. The Germans built three underground galleries where they intended to base submarines to operate Immediately after World War II, the Soviets began work on the island and this work has never ceased; it still continues.
4. Today the island has the following installations:

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- (a) The three underground galleries have been enlarged and can hold 12 to 15 submarines each.
- (b) 6 narrow piers or breakwaters for mooring.
- (c) An electric generating plant.
- (d) Above-ground and underground shelter for personnel.
- (e) Concrete cisterns [literal translation] for fuel which is supplied by underground pipes from the port of Sant Nikolas.
- (f) Magazines for weapons and munitions.
- (g) Workshop for repairs with modern tools.

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5. The locations of these underground galleries are:

- (a) Gallery A is a little before the very cape of Karaburna [literal translation].
- (b) Gallery B is on the northern side of the island.
- (c) Gallery C is on the southern side of the island.

On the eastern side of the island, above ground, are large cisterns with drinking water.

6. During 1949 the Soviets completed on the island a modern site for launching rocket missiles [redacted] The Soviets have also completed construction of modern fortifications for movable and stationery artillery which are manned by one regiment of Albanian marines. 50X1-HUM

7. The island is well defended against air attack by anti aircraft batteries located both on the island and on the neighboring mainland.

8. The port of Sant Nikolas is the last word of modern Soviet port construction. One-half mile south of the port are open [above ground] submarine bases which the Soviets plan to use if they need more submarines than the underground galleries can accomodate. These bases have their own munitions, magazines, and fuel storage tanks.

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