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1 August 1949

MEMORANDUM TO: CPB-I
FROM : ISO
SUBJECT : Letter to AMA Turkey from Ghazi Khan Bessolt,
Subject: Albania, dated 14 June 1949

The attached letter was presented to the U. S. Assistant Military Attache in Istanbul, Major Allin, by Ghazi Khan Bessolt, a Caucasian refugee who has been in Turkey since World War I. Bessolt is believed to be connected with the Turkish Security Service.

Attachment

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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Istanbul, 14 June 1949

To
Major George R. Allin,
Assistant Military Attache
in Turkey.

Dear Major:

In presenting this project, I expressly avoid the details, for those details can not be given until after I have discussed them with His Majesty King ZOG I and with certain leaders of the Resistance.

In any case I am quite convinced that, under the guidance of His Majesty, a complete success can be achieved, for to this end His Majesty is equipped with all the necessary qualities: authority, courage, knowledge and great prudence.

My opinion is that if the Albanian people vote for the Monarchy, the king will be Zog I; and if the vote takes the side of the Republic, the party elected as president will, just the same, be Ahmet Zogu.

All the greatest political leaders of Albania, the friends as well as the enemies of the King, have demonstrated an unpardonable incapacity during the occupation--Italian, German and finally Russian.

All these men have been completely frustrated. I am not speaking only of Enver Hodja, of Kotehi ZOZO or of certain other criminal personages of the present time, but also of "persons such as Mehdi Fracheri (regent), Mithat Fracheri (leader of the national party), Mastapha Kruja (prime minister during the Italian occupation), Fefzi Allizoti, etc., etc. The resurrection

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of Albania has nothing more to do with these personages."

That is why, if success is to be achieved in this affair and absolute secrecy maintained, the Americans should not enter into contact with any Albanian whomsoever. I myself will do the preliminary work in my capacity as liaison officer between America and Albania and as intermediary between King Zog and the Albanian circles.

Kindly accept, dear Major, my most faithful regards.

GHAZI KHAN BESSOLT

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THE ALBANIAN PROBLEM

Account of the arrival of the communists in Albania.

The communist party was formed in Albania in 1941 by Tito. At the beginning the party comprised only a few dozen members. The Italian occupation of Albania greatly favored the formation of the party. Prior to Russia's entry into the war, the importance of this party was zero. During the war the communists gained ground. In 1942, owing to a crafty maneuver applied by Moscow throughout Europe, the communists succeeded in creating the "national committee for liberation". In Albania, as everywhere else, all the other parties and all the other groups were betrayed and the power passed exclusively into the hands of the communists. Enver Hodja personally appeared late on the political scene. In Albania he began his career during the Italian occupation. In 1944, by order of Tito, he was elected secretary general of the Albanian communist party, which at that time had a few hundred members. The Allies strongly aided the Albanian communists in coming to power. The Allies wanted to use the communists as a force against Germany and fascist Italy. That is why they began to organize in Albania the communist forces and to disorganize, on the contrary, the nationalist forces. The Allies, especially England, furnished all the materiel necessary for forming and making combative the self-styled "communist brigades". To that end, they sent officers as military instructors, as well as money, ammunition, etc. Likewise, the BBC

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constantly supported the communist movement by means of its daily broadcasts in the Albanian language.

The essential shortcoming of the Allies consisted in their total ignorance of the communists. The Allies had deceived themselves. The communists took advantage of their aid, not for the struggle against Germany and the Italians, but in order to establish a communist dictatorship in Albania. They succeeded, for they knew what they wanted.

Albania's internal situation

Once in power, the communists, following the recipe of Moscow, began by applying the terror. This method has yielded good results in all the Slavic countries except in Catholic Poland. In Albania, the contrary happened, for the entire life of the Albanian is patriarchal and based on the law of the VENNETA. The communists began to lose even their most faithful partisans.

As early as the beginning of 1946, an appreciable opposition against the terror and the methods of Moscow began to take shape even in the Albanian communist party and quite particularly among the leaders (chefs dirigeants). This was the reason for the arrest and conviction of the minister of public instruction, Georges Kokochi, the lawyer Suad Aslani and many others. Later, there was another trial which condemned to death 10 communist deputies. Another trial was opened against

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the high officers. Still another against a group of engineers accused of sabotage in the service of Anglo-Saxon imperialism. The affair went even farther. At a meeting of the council of ministers at Tirana, one of the ministers killed the minister of national economy, Spiro Naku.

The situation of the Albanian communists became aggravated in consequence of the Tito-Moscow quarrel. The fact is that Albania was not a satellite of Moscow but a sub-satellite. Albania was governed not by Stalin but by Tito. The economic, political and military leadership was entirely in the hands of Tito. All the military instructors and the other specialists were sent from Yugoslavia. The portrait of Tito as well as that of Stalin was obligatory in all the offices. The dispute between Tito and Moscow made itself felt especially on the Albanian communist party. The party became divided into two hostile groups. As the best proof of this, we have the trial, barely terminated, of Kotchi Zozo and his comrades. We know that during the time of Tito's power in Albania, Kotchi Zozo was dictator in point of fact and his influence far exceeded that of Enver Hodja. Kotcha (sic) Zozo, who was the most influential and sanguinary man of the party and who assumed in turn the highest functions (major general, minister of the interior, vice president of the council of ministers, chief of the GPU, president of the high tribunal of the people, etc.) was condemned to death on the 12th of this month as an agent of Tito. It is obvious that that trial has further worsened the situation of the communist party.

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Following upon this trial, there were several mass arrests and flights into Yugoslavia. In Yugoslavia there are already more than 2,000 Albanian emigrants. All of them have been very well received by Tito. The groups which lacked the sense of security in betaking themselves to Yugoslavia retired into the mountains, where they often render difficult the communications from one province to another.

According to latest reports, the situation of Albania is as follows:

- a) The Albanian communist party, in consequence of the continual internecine quarrels, becomes increasingly split up.
- b) Small groups of partisans, formed of 15 to 20 persons each, are located in the mountains. The flight into Yugoslavia is being intensified.
- c) Terror and famine: no one can any longer be sure of his life.
- d) The army is composed of 20 to 25 thousand men. The government has no great confidence in its troops; and that is why, at the time of a transfer from one locality to another, the soldiers' rifles are devoid of cartridges.
- e) the number of Russian specialist and Russian military instructors is increasing and now exceed 1000.

The necessary conditions for a coup d'etat in Albania

As is seen, Albania is governed by a small clique of communists which has nothing to do with the people. This small

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clique, in its turn, is engaged in constant quarreling. The discontent of the Albanian people increases from day to day. Once the signal of revolt is given, the Albanian people will finish with the communists in 24 hours. Tito will not budge. The Albania of Enver Hodja represents to him the mortal enemy. One must even suppose that Tito will secretly lend aid in order to finish with Enver Hodja and his company. The moment is very favorable for liquidating the regime of the Cominform in Albania. However, the following conditions are absolutely necessary:

1) Greece, if possible with the Allies, must officially and solemnly declare that she recognizes the Albanian frontiers of 1913, that is to say, the frontiers of the time prior to the Italian invasion of 7 April 1939. She must renounce her unfounded claims upon southern Albania (the fertile provinces Korca and Arginokastro, also called Northern Epirus) and inaugurate a new policy of friendship and good neighborliness with a truly free and independent Albania.

Such a declaration will have enormous consequences. The Albanian people prefers to suffer voluntarily under the communist yoke. It will not attack the communists for fear that Greece may profit by the occasion to invade southern Albania. This declaration, announced by radio and the press, will encourage the Albanian people and will create the necessary conditions for the Revolution.

2) The initiative should be undertaken by the Albanian forces abroad (Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Syria), the number

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of whom should be 1500 to 2000 men.

3) Direct contact should be established with the qualified leaders of the Resistance, whether abroad or inside the country. In each region of Albania there are men who enjoy absolute authority in their respective provinces.

4) The armament, the ammunition, the money and the other means should be assured by the Allies.

The consequences of a successful coup d'etat will be:

- 1) A powerful blow at Russian imperialism and a magnificent example to the other countries groaning under the Russian yoke.
- 2) An end to the civil war in Greece.
- 3) The acquisition of the best military bases, as for example that of Saseno Island.

G.B.

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