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A L B A N I A

Apr. 6, 1954

ESPIONAGE TRIAL COMMENCES IN TIRANA

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 5, 1954, 1900 GMT--M

(Report of Tirana espionage trial)

(Text)

The trial against a band of diversionists and spies in the service of the American imperialists, who were sent to Albania to organize an armed uprising, was opened on Apr. 5 at the Brigades Cinema in Tirana at 0900 hours.

The accused are the following:

Zenel Ali Shehu of Bulqize in Diber District, a former captain of the personal guard of former King Zog and later a secret agent of the American espionage service.

Halil Jusul Branica of Bugajet in Diber District, a former captain of the personal guard of former King Zog and later an agent of the American espionage.

Ahmet Agush Kabashi of Gjilan Village in Kosovo, a collaborator of the Italians and Germans and later an agent of the Italian and American espionage services.

Hamit Hasan Matjani, of Garmujas Village in Peqin District, a hatred criminal, collaborator of the Italians and Germans, mercenary of the Balli Kombetar organization, and agent of the Greek and American espionage services.

Naum Vasil Sula of Bujaras Village, in Elbasan District, collaborator of the (occupation authorities) and of the criminal band of Hamit Matjani.

Gani Mehmet Malushi of Tac Village in Erseke District.

Rapush Qerim Agolli of Mocan Village in Maliq District.

Ibrahim Suleiman Lamce of Shtepanje in Goshtime.

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The hall of the Brigades Cinema was full of people. A great crowd of people followed the proceedings of the trial through the loud speakers of Tirana radio.

The following foreign correspondents attended the trial: Skachenko, PRAVDA correspondent; Alitovski, TASS correspondent; Piskov, correspondent of the BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY; Max Leon, correspondent of the newspaper HUMANITE; and Lina Anghiel, correspondent of the Italian newspaper UNITA.

At 0900 hours, the judicial body of the court entered the court room, headed by Shuait Panariti, President of the High Court, presiding at the present court; Major Loni Dimoshi and First Captain Hilmi Telegrafi, members; and Syri Carcani, General Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Albania, prosecutor for the trial.

After presenting the judicial body, the President, Comrade Shuait Panariti, asked the accused if they had any objection to it. As there was no objection, the judicial body noted the identity of the accused. At the same time the accused presented their advocates.

The council of the defense is composed of Niko Zoto, Koco Dilo, Dhimiter Vangjeli, Pandeli Kosturi, and Fejzulla Sejdimi.

Afterward President Shuait Panariti called the following witnesses before the judicial body: Muhadi Sulejman Minolli, of Pogradec; Shefit Ismail Elezi, of Peqin; Fatime Hasan Hagani, of Albanas; Shuqeri Imer Sanani, of Murqin in Elbasan; Ali Zenun Karaj, of Sheze Village in Peqin District; Hamit Shilhaj, of Vlashaj Village in Peqin District; Dervish Juba, of (Dragaj-Kosej) Village in Peqin District; Ali Vogli, of Koziqaj Village in Peqin district; Rustem Ragip Gresa, of Gjytej Village in Peqin District; Loni Ngjeli Marka, of Lushnje; Hamdi Hasallaj, of Garunjas Village in Lushnje District; Laha Hasallay, of Garunjas Village in Lushnje District; Haki Zhemal Muca, of Trebinje in Pogradec; Bajram Hasa, of Gramsh; Muhamet Qako; Tahir Demollari; and Musa Kollolli. All swore to speak the truth of what they know about the accused.

The following specialists on criminology were also called before the court: Shefki Haxhiu for weapons, footwear, and garments; Neki Ahmeti, expert in graphology; Pandeli Kito, expert in radiotelegraphy; and Veronika Tirana, expert in pharmacy.

President Shuait Panariti, in accordance with the administration of the law, asked the prosecutor, the accused, and the council of the defense if they had any thing to say regarding the witnesses and the specialists brought to the court. As there was no objection, he gave the floor to the prosecutor who read the indictment.

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In a corner of the court rifles, submachine guns, pistols, grenades, poisons, radio transmitting sets, cipher codes, gold coins, American dollars, parachutes, and other materials seized from the accused were displayed.

The interrogation of the accused then began.

The first to be interrogated was the accused Ahmet Agush Kabashi. After accepting the indictment, he started telling the court about his activities against the Fatherland and the people. He explained how he and his family during the Fascist occupation collaborated with the Italian and German Fascists, and that one of his brothers was a lieutenant in the Italian militia.

After the liberation of Yugoslavia by the Soviet Army, being afraid of having to account for the crimes he had committed, he fled along with his brother to Greece, where the Anglo-Americans were, in order to save his head and enter their service.

In Greece they were taken in charge by the Khorofilaki--Greek gendarmerie-- which sent them to (Florina) and put them in barracks which were supervised by some British people who were ... a red cross.

Asked by the President about his arrival in Albania and by what means he had arrived, the accused replied that he came to Albania to contact the Zenel Shehu group via an American military plane piloted by four pilots and equipped with a radio transmitting set and weapons.

Prosecutor Syri Carcani asked the accused whether he knew how to pilot a plane and whether he had hired the plane which brought him here. When the accused replied that he did not understand a thing about planes and that he never thought of hiring a plane, the prosecutor here pointed out the lies of the "Voice of America" which, once more trying to hide the dirt of American espionage, declared that in the United States citizens are free to hire planes for their own interests and perhaps that this might have happened in this case too.

Afterward the accused continued his history. He explained how in the (Florina) camp the Greek and British security police noted his identity. After this place, they left for Larissa, Volo, and in the end by boat for Piraeus. Here they were put in a prison where they stayed for 25 days.

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"In the prison in Piraeus," declared the accused, "some Americans asked us our identity. From here they sent us to the Larissa camp in Athens, and after 3 months they sent us to the Siros camp where there were other exiled criminals. In this camp we were badly fed, and had only two blankets for bedding and cover. People in the camp were always quarrelling, gambling, fighting, and jealous of each other. This situation favored such leaders as Abbas Armeni, Muharem Bajraktari, and others, who formed their elements and their espionage groups, hiding their activities under the cover of such interests as the Balli Kombetar, Legaliteti, and other organizations.

I personally was recruited in the Legaliteti Party which told me that it was more patriotic than the others, as the Balli Kombetar organization had collaborated with the occupiers and others. The British colonel Hill also came once to the camp."

The accused explained how they were sent to Crete, where some of them were used in the fighting against Greek partisans. Afterward they were brought to the Haxhi Kyriaki camp, and the two of them (Kabashi and his brother--Ed.), through the mediation of the ill-famed organization "IRO," were transferred to Italy where many other Albanian, Bulgarian, and other criminals were gathered.

In Italy they were put in "transit camp No. 1 at Bari." The camp was under Italian administration but kept by the Americans. In this camp they received the visit of such leaders of the espionage agency of Balli Kombetar as Midhat Frasheri, Abbas Ermeni, and others; of the Legaliteti as Abbas Kupi, Hysein Selmani, and others; and of the Bloku Independent as Ismail Verlaci, Kol Bib Mirakaj, Xhafer Deva, and others. These people took their faithful elements from the camp and sent them to the different training courses for espionage.

The accused explained how in June 1949 Xhafer Deva came to the camp and proposed to the accused and his friends--Riza Osmani, Beqir Bajgora, Destan Berisha, Hajredin Vuqiterna, and Shaqir Kabashi--that they go to Kosovo to collect information. Xhafer Deva told them that he was collaborating with the Americans in this work, but for the present in order not to be compromised they had to act as agents of Italian espionage. "All of us," stated the accused, "accepted," and one night, with the authorization of the Carabinieri, left the camp and went to Bari to meet Xhafer Deva. He told us that before leaving for Kosovo we had to attend a training course at Bitanto, about 35 kilometers from the camp."

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The accused declared that the course lasted for 2 months. In this course they learned the use of the radio set, under the supervision of an Italian instructor called "Couri Marinetti," and of the parachute. At the end of the course, Xhafer Deva visited them along with two Italians who took them to Rome to attend another radio training course. This course was located at a house in the "Frascetto" quarter.

"In June 1950," declared the accused, "Xhafer Deva came to see us again and told us that we were soon to leave for Kosovo, but before that we were to land in Albania in order to meet the diversionists Alush Leshanaku, and Gjon Gjinaj who, as they had established bases in the country were to help us cross the border. On July 25, accompanied by Xhafer Deva, we went to the Rome Airport, from where we left for Albania. Before leaving Rome we were given compasses, weapons, a radio transmitting set, and footwear and garments."

Later the accused explained how they were dropped in M rdite from a plane--an American two engined plane--piloted by an Italian pilot, and how they were arrested by the security forces after Riza Osmani, the group leader, was killed together with another diversionist. With great difficulty and in spite of their espionage center in Rome which asked them to remain in Albania, the rest of the group saved their lives by passing to Yugoslavia, and from there to Greece, where they entered the American espionage service.

The accused confessed that in Greece they contacted the old agent of the American espionage, Asim Jakova, who was acting on behalf of Xhafer Deva. Asim Jakova gave them American uniforms, and sent them to a house near Athens, at a place called Klifadha, a secret base of the American espionage service.

Here they attended an espionage course. An American instructor, Riko, instructed them in the use of radio. In this place, an American officer in civilian dress came one day and took their pictures. "After 4 months in the course," the accused stated, "an American instructor came and told us that, by order of the American colonel, we were to leave for Albania. Hamit Matjani was to come with us too, because he knew the way through which we had to pass. Later, we started training ourselves in the hills with weapons and hand grenades and other means."

Asked by the President about the use of these weapons, the accused tried to pretend that they were for their own protection, but forced to confessed, he declared that they were to be used against the people and the Fatherland.

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The accused declared that after the course and after having been equipped with a radio transmitting set, weapons, money, and poison tables, they left Elefsina Airport for Albania on an American military plane which had a crew of five people.

The accused stated: "We flew over (Lushnje) at midnight, but the pilot made a mistake and dropped us separately. Hamit Matjani, Ibrahim Kabashi, Oerim Kodeni, and myself were together but our other friends were lost. Afraid of being caught by the security forces, we left our materials and decided to enter Greece at once. We presented ourselves at a border post, and from there we were sent to Janina. From Janina we were dispatched to Athens. At the airport we were greeted by a Greek civilian who brought us to the house of Asim Jakova. There, we told him all about the trip. He kept us in his house, No. 53 in the Kalamaki quarter. We stayed in this house 10 days, then again we were sent to the house in the Klifadha quarter where we had been before."

Then the accused told the court how an American named "Georgi" came to see them in that house. He told them that they were to go back to Albania.

After being equipped with weapons, munitions, radio transmitting and receiving sets, they were again put in the same plane on June 25, and with the same instructions and directed to Albania, but this time to the Roskovec Zone where Beqir Bajgora and Ismail Mahmut were supposed to be and to have bases established. The group was again headed by Ahmet Kabashi and composed of Destan Berisha, Ibrahim Kabashi, Qerim Kodeni, and Hilmi Halili.

The accused declared that the plane dropped them in a bad and rocky place. On account of this, two of them broke their legs and one of them lost his automatic weapon. The accused said: "Destan Berisha shot one of them and took his automatic weapon."

Thus, followed by the security forces, the rest of the group decided again to return to Greece on the pretext that their radio was destroyed. During their escape in the fight with security forces, one of them was killed. Only Destan and Ahmet were able to reach Greece by crossing Yugoslavia.

The accused declared that again they were sent to Greece to a secret house--No. 5 of the American espionage center in the Kalamaki quarter. There they met some other criminals and together they started their training. This time the espionage center was supervised by an American of Albanian origin named "Qose."

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The accused confessed that, obeying "Qose," he again left for Albania on Jan. 29, 1953, with the intention of contacting Zenel Shehu, to bring him new instructions. He told the court how the man named "Qose" asked him to tell Zenel Shehu that the colonel was very satisfied with his activities and that Zog had also been informed of his activities. He told him to tell Zenel that very soon he would receive weapons and other things he needed for the uprising. He was also given a letter for Zenel Shehu.

The prosecutor read the letter addressed to Zenel Shehu, a letter full of praise for the activities of Zenel Shehu, which shows once more the activities of the chief agent Ahmet Zogolli who has put all his faithful people in the hands of the American espionage service.

The accused Ahmet Kabashi also told the court how he was again equipped with weapons, ammunition, poison, a radio transmitting set, and 273 gold coins, and sent to Albania by an American military plane. But, he said, "as soon as I landed in Albania, I was caught by the security forces of the country."

This is the end of the history of the accused Ahmet Kabashi. The President declared the first session closed. The second session will convene on Apr. 6 at 0900 hours.

HOSTILE ACTS OF U.S. SPIES REVEALED

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 4, 1954, 2100 GMT--M

(Commentary of the day: "The Trial Against a Group of Diversionists and Spies in the Service of American imperialism")

(Text)

The trial of a band of diversionists and spies in the service of American imperialism, smuggled into Albania with the aim of organizing an armed uprising and overthrowing by force the People's Regime, will take place on Apr. 5.

Today our press published the indictment by the General Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Albania against this band. The indictment reveals the hostile activities of American imperialism against our people and our People's Republic. It obviously brings to light the risk to the security of our People's Republic, to the security of our Fatherland's freedom and independence, of this band of diversionists and spies. However, this risk has been nullified as a result of the patriotism of our people and the vigilance of the State security forces.

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Tomorrow's trial is of major importance chiefly because our people will once more see how ... consequences of American imperialism to them and to our People's Republic. Thus this trial will, at the same time, present a grave accusation against American imperialism, organizer of all hostile activities against our country.

It is not the first time that we have seen criminals and diversionists of this nature accounting before the people's justice for their treachery. From the liberation to the present time the number of bands of diversionists and spies smuggled into our country for hostile activities adds up to dozens. All these bands have been sponsored by the hand of American imperialism. This, of course, becomes more obvious when we consider the fact that today it is not only Albania but also the Soviet Union and the countries of the People's Democracies against which the law approved by the American Congress in 1951, giving 100 million dollars for subversive activities, is operating.

Events which have occurred during the 10-year period after the liberation have fully convinced our people that their enemies, the imperialists, are not abandoning these activities. In the international domain, American imperialism has without grounds denied our right and, even so, being a first-class enemy of our people, is not yet satisfied with itself. Its main target has been and still is to deprive us of the victories of our people won by the bloodshed of tens of thousands of martyrs, and to re-establish the capitalist rule, which means to once more tie our people with the fetters of enslavement.

Starting from this irrefutable fact, it is quite obvious that all the organizational activities of these enemies aim at reaching this target. Thus they are organizing and training exiled Albanian criminals of war, and then smuggling them into Albania to operate against the people and our democratic People's State.

This time, as previously, the American imperialists have used as training bases the countries of West Germany, Italy, and Greece. In these countries their intelligence services recruit and train spies and diversionists from the treacherous organizations of Balli, Legaliteti, and so forth to smuggle them into Albania in order to act against our People's Republic. There is no doubt that the use of such bases in Albania's neighbor countries for this kind of activity does not serve for normalizing relations between these countries and Albania. On the other hand, they are inconsistent with the endeavors of our Government for establishing friendly relations with the neighbor countries.

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Tomorrow's trial will once more reveal to our people the hatred complex of satrap Zog, who has made of himself nothing but a spy in the hands of American imperialism, as well as the role of this agent in the hostile activities of our country's enemies. Ahmet Zagolli, who sold the country to foreigners and then in the black days of April 1939 ran away, could not be bound by this treachery alone: Treachery is followed by treachery. By serving all the enemies of the Albanian people, he soon became a person of value to the American intelligence service, recruiting agents for it.

Former King Zog accomplishes these tasks to the best of his ability. He recruits agents and criminals of any kind in order to fight against the People's Regime in Albania. He provided the American Espionage with his loyal servants, former officers of his guard Zenel Shehu and Halil Branico. Zenel Shehu himself has admitted that his recruitment as an agent of the American intelligence service was made through former King Zog at the time when he returned from his 1951 trip to the United States.

At the trial to open tomorrow, our people will judge the rubbish of our society, traitors of every nature, criminals of every kind, spies of every grade, men who have sold the dignity of mankind for dollars and sterling, former officers of the treacherous organizations of Balli and Legaliteti.

Who in our country does not well know the horrible deeds? Who among us does not know Zenel Shehu ... the criminal acts of Hamit Matjani, an expert in burning and murdering the people? Such are the men of these bands who, so to speak, are trying to liberate our people. These foolish elements have forgotten that today the Albanian people are the masters of their own destiny and reserve for these elements only one thing--deserved punishment for all their crimes.

Times have changed. The time when Albania was a setup for a sop of bread has passed. In our free country, where the people are building their happy future, there is no longer room for the criminals and traitors to the people. Their ability to build the new Socialist life has taught the Albanian people to be vigilant. With the blooming of our People's Republic there is welded a new order with miraculous characteristics.

The traditions of our forerunners have their roots deep in the Albanian simple people. It is patriotism that is constructing the new, beautiful, and strong Albania. It is patriotism that has destroyed all the attempts of the enemies of our country aiming to bring back the black past.

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These bandits and their American imperialist masters should bear in mind that the Albanian people, with arms, stones, and axes, will mercilessly destroy anyone who may dare to be parachuted and dropped over the high mountains or near the remotest huts of our country, because there, too, live men who love the Fatherland, true patriots, who know how to receive the uninvited guests--as they receive the band of the criminal Hetem Cako and of many others.

The Albanian people have their heads screwed on tight, and know the teachings of the Party with regard to the need for a continuous consolidation of revolutionary vigilance. They consider revolutionary vigilance the victorious weapon against their enemies. It is precisely for this reason that the Albanian people keep their rifles near their picks and strike at the heart of any enemy who dares to try to deprive them of their freedom and independence.

Let the American imperialists bear in mind that along these beautiful banks of the Adriatic there live and struggle for peace and happiness people with strong nerves, people who are not afraid either of the noise of weapons or the bands smuggled into Albania. Stronger than ever, the Albanian people will know how to protect the victories of the popular revolution and will know how to clean all the weeds trying to block their advancement on the road of Socialism, peace, and happiness.

HUNGARIAN LIBERATION DATE HONORED

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 3, 1954, 1900 GMT--M

(Text)

On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the glorious Soviet Army, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha, sent the following telegram of greetings to the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Hungary, Istvan Nagy:

"On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the glorious Soviet Army, allow me, Comrade Premier, to extend to the fraternal Hungarian people and to you personally the most cordial greetings on behalf of the Albanian people and the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, as well as my personal greetings. The Albanian people have received the great successes of the Hungarian people--achieved during the 9-year period of liberation--with great joy and wholeheartedly wish them new victories in the building of Socialism, as well as in the struggle for preserving peace. I hope that the relations that unite our two peoples in an everlasting friendship together with the common liberator, the great Soviet Union, will even be extended each passing day."

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The Foreign Minister of Albania, Comrade Behar Shtylla, sent the following telegram of greetings to the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Hungary, Janos Boldoczki: "On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the renowned Soviet Army, accept, Comrade Minister, my ardent greetings. I hope for new successes in the peaceful constructions of the People's Republic of Hungary, as well as in the common struggle for peace and democracy."

The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of Albania, Comrade Haxhi Lleshi, sent the following telegram of greetings to the President of the People's Assembly at the People's Republic of Hungary, Istvan Dobi: "On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the liberation of our Fatherland by the glorious Soviet Army, I beg you, Comrade President, to accept my sincere congratulations and greetings. I hope the People's Republic of Hungary will score even greater victories in building the new life and in preserving peace."

Evening Reception

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 5, 1954, 1300 GMT--M

(Text)

On the occasion of the ninth anniversary of the liberation of Hungary by the glorious Soviet Army, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Hungary Zsatkulak gave an evening reception at the Dajti Hotel on Apr. 4. Present at the reception were the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania, Comrade Enver Hoxha; the President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Haxhi Lleshi; members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers Party; members of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers Party and the Government, and other invited guests. Levishkin, Soviet Ambassador Extraordinary and Envoy Plenipotentiary, and other diplomatic representatives accredited in Tirana were also present. The reception took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

B R I E F S

TRADE WITH HUNGARY--In conformity with the 1953-55 long-term trade agreement, a protocol between the Albanian and Hungarian Governments covering the exchange of goods and payments for 1954 was signed in Budapest on Apr. 3. On the basis of the protocol, the Albanian People's Republic will export to the People's Republic of Hungary minerals, chromium, tobacco, hides, and so forth, and will import from Hungary industrial goods, electrical material, textiles, mass consumer goods, pharmaceutical articles, and so forth.
(Albanian, Home, Apr. 5, 1954, 2100 GMT--M)

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YUGOSLAVIA

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DULLES DISCUSSES INDOCHINA DANGER

Skoplje, Macedonian Regional Service, in Macedonian, Apr. 5, 1954,
1900 GMT--M

(Text)

U.S. Secretary of State Dulles, in a statement today in the House of Representatives, spoke on Indochina and emphasized that the situation in that part of the world has continued to be characterized by a serious danger which might also (threaten) the security of the United States in the Pacific area.

Dulles' statement has a practical significance because it is reported from Paris that the United States today submitted to the French Government important proposals connected with the war in Indochina. The contents of these proposals are not known at all, but, judging by the earlier course of affairs, it is assumed that the United States has taken a practical step in connection with its participation in this war.

On the other hand, today's statement by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the House of Commons, to the effect that the British Government is in close contact with the Governments of France and the United States in connection with (efforts) to establish peace in Indochina, came unexpectedly and is a little surprising.

COMMITTEE REGULATION KNOWLEDGE POOR

Belgrade, Yugoslav Home Service, in Serbo-Croat, Apr. 2, 1954, 1830 GMT--L

(Summary)

Consultations between the Siberian Executive Council and the representatives of the town and district peoples' committees were held today in Belgrade.

The main problem discussed was the poor knowledge and the violation of regulations by the people's committees. The incidents which were listed show that they are not rare occurrences and that they cause great damage to our economy.