

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 1 -

A L B A N I A

Apr. 15, 1954

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

TIRANA SPY TRIAL PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 12, 1954, 2000 GMT--M

(Recordings of Prosecutor's summation)

(Text)

Comrade Judges of the Supreme Military Collegial Court of the People's Republic of Albania: For 5 days in succession--with great care and guided by the principles of our Socialist (Republic), with due respect for the rights of our judicial organization (which participated in this case)--you have listened to and analyzed the case of the accused Zenel Shehu and others. This case was submitted to you by the General Prosecutor's Office in the indictment dated Mar. 23, 1954, relating to the accused, who placed themselves in the service of American intelligence as agents and after being organized into an armed band were smuggled into the territory of the People's Republic of Albania with the aim of organizing an uprising in order to overthrow our people's regime.

The case under trial is of extraordinary political and social importance. This is shown by the fact that the Albanian people have followed the proceedings of the trial with great interest.

To begin with, I first deem it necessary to point out some of the major characteristics of the case. This trial once more reveals that the American imperialists are the main organizers of the criminal activity carried out against the People's Republic of Albania. This activity is a component part of the general plan of aggression and war against the camp of peace, democracy, and Socialism headed by the Soviet Union. The ruling circles of the United States ... have concentrated all their efforts in preparing a new butchery, a butchery absolutely essential for the Rockefellers, (Tiffanys), Morgans, and (Mellons) of the United States of America.

At a time when the American working masses are subject to unemployment, and as a consequence to misery, all capital is invested for military purposes. The number of U.S. military bases in Europe, Asia, and Africa is being increased with each passing day. Entire states such as England, France, Italy, and others, which at one time were boasting of their prowess, today have been converted into American colonies, and all their actions are carried out according to Washington's dictation.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 2 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

For this purpose--behind the mask of various pacts and treaties, such as the Atlantic, Bonn, Paris, and others--the United States is continuing at a rapid pace to militarize the hotbeds of the last military aggression, West Germany and Japan. For this very purpose the American aggressors are each passing day preparing, organizing, and smuggling bands of spies and diversionists into all the countries of the camp of peace and Socialism.

This trial showed that these bands smuggled into the People's Republic of Albania are organized, financed, and supplied with weapons and equipment by American imperialism with the sole purpose of using them against the freedom and independence of our Fatherland, against the life of the Albanian people. Comrade Judges, all the weapons now before your eyes, including grenades, ammunition, tommyguns, radio sets, and so forth, best testify to the aggressive policy of the American warmongers, to their criminal plans aimed at enslaving our country.

These once more indicate that the ill-starred act appropriating 100 million dollars for the organization of espionage and diversion against the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies has long since been put into action. All the rubbish of reaction, all the war criminals scorned by their own people, have now been openly rallied by American imperialism, which supports and prepares them for subversive activities against their own countries. The trial against this band of spies and diversionists has revealed that the recruitment, organization, and preparation of Albanian war criminals is being carried out by American intelligence in the territories of the U.S. satellite states such as Greece, Italy, and West Germany, where special courses are set up for the purpose.

Speaking on the criminal activity of the United States, Comrade Malenkov said: "The history of international relations has never seen such subversive activity, such brutal intervention in the domestic affairs of states, and such systematic provocations of an international large-scale nature as are being carried out by the aggressive forces today. The problem has reached such a stage that some American circles have placed their subversive activities against the legal governments of sovereign countries above the level of their own state policy. For this purpose huge sums of money have been appropriated by the Congress of the United States--money to recruit bands from the rubbish of society and send them for sabotage activities in the democratic countries."

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 3 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

The successes attained in Albania during the period after liberation-- under the guidance of our glorious Party headed by Comrade Enver Hoxha-- have maddened the American imperialists and frustrated their plans against our country, although they do not cease their attempts aimed at overthrowing the people's regime, that most powerful weapon in the hands of the working masses, a weapon that serves to oppress and liquidate the exploiters, defend the country from foreign enemies, and insure the building of Socialism.

The (evidence of previous) trials, as well as the present one, in the People's Republic of Albania clearly indicates that the main target on which the American imperialists and their (satellites) have directed and direct their vile activities has been our people's regime, our democratic State. However, all these attempts of the external and internal enemies of our people have always failed and been destroyed. The people's regime stands like a colossus. The people's regime is fanatically guarded by our people. Our people's regime has been and will be a granite bloc against which all those who dare to touch it will break their heads.

No tolerance whatsoever of those who dare to touch the greatest deed of the people's revolution, our regime! This is the will of our martyrs; this is the desire of our people who have suffered so much but have never surrendered. Our people are and will always be united around their Party and Government. May the enemies of our country perish! Our people are determined to proceed toward the building of a new life. Our People's Republic will live and prosper; it is protected by all the people, and is a component part of the Socialist camp headed by the glorious Soviet Union. (Applause--Ed.) 15 Sec.

The disclosures on the accused Zenel Shehu and of the other accused submitted at the investigation and verified during the trial have revealed and proved that the officers of the American intelligence, with their general bureau in Athens, have taken in their hands the whole organizational and operational direction of the espionage and diversion band headed by Zenel Shehu, which they supplied with everything necessary and smuggled into Albania with the aim of organizing an armed uprising to overthrow the people's regime.

The criminal plan of the American espionage was directed against the People's Republic of Albania, for the implementation of which they smuggled here traitors to the Fatherland and agents of American espionage Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Hamit Matjani, and others, aimed at organizing an armed uprising to overthrow the people's regime.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 4 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

However, the American imperialists have forgotten that in Albania it is the people who are the masters of their own destiny, and that the Albanian people, led by their Workers Party, will give deserved punishment to those who draft these plans, as well as to those who are entrusted to carry them out, to those such as the accused Zenel Shehu, Hamit Matjani, and the others They are bound to be exterminated, or made to account for their treachery against the Fatherland.

The criminal plan of the American imperialists, aiming at organizing an armed uprising in Albania, cannot be considered detached from the entire hostile activity against our country. This plan is the logical continuation of the whole hostile activity carried out by the American imperialists in the past against our country.

The American and British imperialists have always tried to ... use Albania as exchange money in international relations, to convert it into a base of capitalist exploitation, into a field for intrigue and battle in the Balkans.

What are the historical facts which testify to the criminal activities of the American imperialists toward our country, beginning with the time when our people were fighting against the Fascist invaders? The American and British imperialists, as allies, made no contribution whatsoever to the liberation of Albania. It is an indisputable fact that the American and British military missions, in the course of the national liberation war, came here with the aim of helping our people in the sacrosanct war against Fascism, but the aim of these military missions was to organize and put in action the country's reaction, and thereby to prevent establishment of a people's regime.

For this very aim they established relations with the treacherous Balli Kombetar and helped the Legaliteti headed by the traitor ^{Abas} Kupa until the last days. They established contacts with the Tirana Quisling Government and the German invaders, in order to coordinate the attacks of the Fascist army and the mercenary band of Balli and Legaliteti against the national liberation army.

Later on, on the eve of liberation, the American and British imperialists attempted to land in Albania under the false pretext of taking part in the fight against the German occupiers. But due to the firm attitude of our Party, this imperialist initiative, the aim of which was to colonize our country--a repetition of the act which they realized in Greece with the help of the monarchofascists--was turned down.

After the liberation of Albania, the American imperialists--contrary to obligations assumed during the war--not only did not hand over the ^{criminals} of war, but on the contrary, after providing them shelter in Italy, Greece and elsewhere, began to organize and train them as spies and diversionists in order to smuggle them into Albania to carry out hostile activities against our country.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 5 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

The accused Zenel Shehu admitted that he was told by Abas Kupa that Legaliteti is reorganized abroad, and that it is financed by the Americans. So all these so-called organizations or parties are nothing but groups of agents used against the Albanian people and their regime.

After the liberation of Albania the American and British missions in Tirana were nothing but centers of espionage, sabotage, and of plots against the People's Republic of Albania. They became centers of meetings, contacts, organization, and directives to all the enemies of the people's regime.

In view of these, the trials which have taken place in the People's Republic of Albania against the enemies of the people serve as examples--the trials of Sami Qeribashi, the saboteurs of Maliq, Kucove, and so forth. At these trials the hostile activity ... of the American imperialists against our people was clearly revealed.

All these trials, including the present one, plainly brought out the criminal plans of the American imperialists, their tactics and methods, and their sworn hostility against our people and the People's Republic of Albania.

The trial of the saboteurs of Maliq brought to light the organizing role of the American agent in Albania Harry Fultz, whereas the present trial clearly revealed the leading role of the American intelligence center in Greece, headed by the American Col. John.

The hostile policy of U.S. reactionary circles against the People's Republic of Albania during the period after the liberation has been very emphatic in the field of international relations. The American and British imperialists have denied to our people the rights which they won as a result of their magnificent war against Fascism, thereby violating the principles of international law.

The recognition of the People's Republic of Albania was presented under the conditions that she should accept the old agreements between Albania and the United States which were signed by the traitor to the Fatherland, former King Zog. The Government of the United States did the utmost with all kinds of oppression to oblige the People's Republic of Albania to recognize these agreements.

The Anglo-American imperialists have systematically hindered the just admittance of our country into the United Nations. Unjustly denying the rights of the Albanian people, in connection with their claims to war damages from Germany, the U.S. representative to the United Nations declared: "We are of the opinion that Albania, first, has not ~~declared war on~~ Germany, and, second, Albania has not fought against Germany. Some Albanians may have fought during the war, but in addition to that there are Albanians who fought side by side with the Germans." This shameful denial of the struggle of our heroic people was determinedly rejected by the Soviet delegation, which until the end protected the rights of our people.

It is characteristic to point out that these "Albanians," who fought side by side with the Germans--the Balli Kombetar, Legaliteti, and others--as referred to by the American representative, are today being protected and financed by the American imperialists themselves. They are organized by the American imperialists into bands and sent by the American espionage to the People's Republic of Albania to carry out espionage, diversion, and terrorist activities. The criminals who are being tried here are of this type.

The American imperialists are the organizers of the incidents and provocations along our borders. They have tried and are continually trying to repeat in Albania what was done in Korea or in Vietnam by using all the methods in their powers. To achieve their aggressive aims, the American imperialists are today carrying out their propaganda of lies throughout the world against our country and the camp of Socialism. The methods and the contents of this propaganda is in general like the propaganda of the (Nazis).

✓ Radio stations such as the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, Voice of Free Albania, and others (help the imperialists) to poison the political ideas of the people for the preparation of public opinion for a new world war.

✓ Comrade Judges, this trial shows beautifully the last stage reached by the American imperialists in their propaganda. Here before you, the accused Hamit Matjani, Gani Malushi, and others confessed that the American espionage creates organizations which exist only in the imagination of the imperialists and distributes poisons and leaflets for propaganda purposes on behalf of a so-called organization--this, of course, with the intention of diverting the minds of the Albanian public.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL77 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

Answering the question of the judicial body as to "who drafted the leaflets of the American espionage found in the possession of the accused for distribution in the People's Republic of Albania," the accused Hamit Matjani declared: "It is known that these leaflets were supposed to be drafted by an anti-Communist nationalist organization, which in reality did not exist." Replying to the question of the judicial body as to what the imperialist press said about Albania, the accused Hamit Matjani said: "There they used to carry out propaganda that Albania was a garden of flowers for exiles. In the press and radio, they used to say that Muharem Bajraktari was fighting in Albania. When I heard this about Muharem Bajraktari, and met him for the last time in the camp, I asked him, 'when did you return from the battle, Bajraktari?' He told me, 'That is their propaganda.'

"At the time that Zenel Shehu left, Greek newspapers wrote that Ahmet Matjani was fighting with 4,000 people in Kukes, in Mat, and other places." "While," said Hamit Matjani, "I was at that time in the camp. One day I heard a news vendor shouting that there was news on Albania. I bought the newspaper, and the shopkeeper read it. There I learned that I was fighting with 4,000 people in Albania. He asked me, 'how is it possible, since you are here?' I called the seller of the newspaper and told him to take this newspaper to the editor of the newspaper and to tell him that Hamit Matjani is in the cake shop." These are the usual lies published by the imperialist press.

But, as our people say, "lies have short legs." The propaganda of the American imperialists and of their Greek monarchofascist satellites will never be able to hide the truth. The criminal activities of the American imperialists are so great and cynical that neither the slanders nor the demagogy and hypocrisy of the imperialist press, nor even the acrobatics of Dulles and his colleagues, can mask them. From careful analysis of all the facts brought out, and judging from the course of this trial, it is worth emphasizing once more that the American imperialists are the most enraged enemies of our people, and of our freedom and independence.

The band of spies and diversionists headed by the traitor of the Fatherland Zenel Shehu, now on trial, is composed of all types of enemies of the Albanian people. This ... band of terrorists recruited and smuggled as agents of the American intelligence. This band was sent into Albania, either by air in an American military plane or by land through the Greek border, with the aim of organizing an armed uprising for the overthrow of the people's regime. These criminal activities were to be carried out according to the instructions issued by the American Col. John, who has his central bureau in Athens.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 8 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

In regard to this band's being smuggled in and the tasks entrusted to it by the American espionage, the accused Zenel Sheu, both in the investigations and in the trial disclosed: "The band I headed was smuggled into Albania by the Americans in order to organize an armed uprising against the people's regime." He admitted before the court that the document seized at the moment of his arrest outlined three phases for organizing the armed uprising. He also stated that before his departure for Albania the American colonel called John, (acting) on the basis of the American intelligence in Athens, declared: "After you have managed to establish the bases we shall send you as many arms as you want."

The accused Zenel Shehu admitted before the trial that when the uprising was to take place the imperialist armies would immediately enter Albania. It is not difficult to understand that this American imperialist tactic fits in with what they had planned. But these dreams of the American imperialists and of their agents were not realized and they will never be attained.

Our people are rallied and united as a single body around their Party and Government. They have revealed and are ready to show always to every enemy that they are masters of their own destiny. The People's Republic of Albania is an unshakable fortress. It is defended by the entire people; it is supported by the great Soviet Union and the countries of the People's Democracies. (Applause--Ed.)

The band of spies and diversionists, headed by Zenel Shehu and including Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi, in organizing the armed uprising would have been led by the plan drafted by the American intelligence and by the instructions later provided.

In the course of investigation the accused Zenel Shehu fully accepted the outline of the seized document, as well as of the letters sent to him by the American intelligence through the accused Ahmed Kabashi. These letters, as disclosed by bandit Ahmet Kabashi, were handed over to him by the American intelligence bureau in Athens with the aim of handing them over to Zenel Sheu, who was entrusted with the important mission of organizing the armed uprising. As came out in the course of the trial, these letters consist of various instructions pertaining to the organization of the uprising, as well as other instructions of an espionage nature.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 9 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

Comrade Judges, this plan relating to the organization of an armed uprising did not end only on paper. The accused on trial came to Albania precisely with the aim of implementing it. It was clearly revealed that the bandit Zenel Shehu asked the American intelligence bureau in Athens to supply him with various types of arms and radio transmitting sets. In order to meet his request the American imperialists, with the great "generosity" that characterizes them--when it is a matter of stabbing our people--dropped at his base a considerable amount of arms, ammunition, clothing and footwear, other materials, and 13 radio transmitting sets, some of which, as disclosed before the trial by the accused Zenel Shehu, are very good and capable of use under any kind of atmospheric conditions, in rain as well as snow.

As stated before the court by experts, the radio sets, clothing and footwear, and a great amount of the other materials are of U.S. manufacture. ... these arms, materials, and radio sets--the criminals were not able to use them. They had no chance to use them against the men of the regime. They fell into our hands, and are today being presented to you, Comrade Judges, as material proofs in order not only to testify to the guilt of the accused but at the same time to once more reveal to the whole world that American diplomacy and the marvelous speeches of Dulles and the other leaders of the United States are nothing but a means for masking their criminal activity against the peace-loving people of the world. The daggers of the American imperialists, sent to stab our people in the back, are now pointed at the chests of their agents.

Asked by the court where he was going to find men for the uprising, the accused Zenel Shehu stated: "We were instructed by the American Col. John to get in touch with elements dissatisfied with the regime, to uncover officers and civil employees antagonistic to the regime, and other elements adhering to Zog. There is no doubt at all that the American imperialists and the exiled criminals have based their hopes on the remnants of reaction left here and there in Albania. However, the worst thing for them is that--while the former have based their hopes on the latter, and the latter are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the former--if either dare to move their heads will definitely be cut off.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 10 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

Concerning other dreams dreamed by the imperialists with open eyes, dreams of finding officers and civil employees and using them against the regime, they can be sure that it will forever remain but a dream. Our officers, the Army, and civil employees are tied to the regime as the flesh to the bone. It is so because it is natural, because ... (applause--Ed.) they, together with their people, through bloodshed and innumerable sacrifices, created the regime and are safeguarding it as the apple of their eye from all the tentative moves of foreign and domestic enemies. Let our enemies once more note that with us Party, regime, and people are a single and inseparable bloc, and that it is precisely this unity that is the main source of the power of our People's Republic. (Applause--Ed.)

Questioned about the support he found in Albania, the accused Zenel Shehu stated: "Nobody accepted us at Artenesh, therefore we were compelled to head for Bulgize. Arriving there, I went to one of my closest friends, who (in reply) got his rifle and shot at me from the window." As regards the other accused--Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi--they were captured immediately by the State security forces. A similar fate is for all those who dare to touch our sacrosanct territory.

From the course of this trial it emerged that American imperialism, in its criminal activities against our people, has placed in its service the old agent of foreign intelligences, traitor to the Fatherland, bargainer with our national independence, former King Zog, whose activity consists of recruiting spies and diversionists for the service of his American masters. He has placed (in their hands) the officers ... of his former guard, the accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica, to be used against the Fatherland and the Albanian people.

This criminal activity of Satrap Zog is connected with all his hostile activity, activity which began with the coming on stage of this rubbish of Albanian reaction. This hangman of our people, who established the regime of the gallows and rope, during all the period of his rule utilized our people as a rag to bargain with, always in the service of the imperialist states. Ahmet Zog, agent of foreign espionage and now an agent of American intelligence, not only prepared the ground for the Fascist occupation of Apr. 7, 1939, not only betrayed the people and stole the State gold, which he is now using for trade and contraband, and in a shameful way left the country--but also as a filthy mercenary he is serving American imperialism, thereby becoming a simple tool in the hands of the latter.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 11 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

During the time when the Albanian people, with their Party, were fighting for the liberation of the Fatherland from the Fascist occupiers, the traitor and spy Ahmet Zog was bargaining with the American and English imperialists to sell out Albania. This was done with the sole aim of insuring the lost Crown. By exploiting the name of this traitor, the English missionaries in Albania--(through the agent of the intelligence service, Col. Sterling--brought in their agent Abas Kupa and thereby created the so-called organization of Legaliteti, which like Balli Kombetar came out as a reaction against the national liberation movement. However, this last hope of the imperialists and their tool Ahmet Zog ended in a shameful way.

The Legaliteti, which was created with the aim of entangling the course of the national liberation war and of blocking establishments of the people's regime, immediately followed the path of the treacherous Balli Kombetar organization and collaborated with the invader. Thereafter, as a result, it was liquidated together with the invader.

After the liberation of Albania the American and English imperialists once more tried to put these so-called organizations on the stage, to use them, of course, in the war against the people's regime and Albania. But those traitors who yesterday collaborated with the Italian and German Fascists--such as Hasan Dosti, Ali Kelcyra, Abas Kupa, Abas Ermenji, Mustafa Kruja, Ernest Koliqi, Xhafer Deva, Muharrem Bajraktari, and so forth--are today serving the American imperialists in their struggle against the Albanian people.

The so-called organizations of Legaliteti, Balli Kombetar, the National Committee for a Free Albania, and so forth, are nothing but a complex ring of agents in the service of American intelligence, with the simple aim of recruiting spies and diversionists, who soon after being trained by Americans are smuggled by land and air into the territory of the People's Republic of Albania in order to obstruct our people in building their new life, the Socialist life. Included in this category are the accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi--all members of the so-called organization of Legaliteti, which they admitted is only a group of regular agents in the service of American intelligence.

As revealed in the disclosures of the accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica, the plan relating to the smuggling of this band of spies and diversionists was (drafted) and planned by American intelligence when the traitor Ahmet Zog went to the United States, that is, in the last days of the summer of 1951.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 12 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

The accused Zenel Shehu confessed before the trial that when Zog went to America in 1951 he got in touch with Gen. MacArthur and Senator Taft. The accused Halil Branica also confessed this. Both the accused admitted that, as regards Zog's trip and his contacts with the above-mentioned American personages, they were informed by the agent of American intelligence Hysen Selmani.

There is no doubt the plotting aimed at (enslaving) our country was carried out by agent of American intelligence Zog, together with hangman of the Korean people MacArthur and others. But the course of this trial has revealed that, as our people say, "the accounts have been rendered without the consent of the merchant." And as a consequence of this, Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, and others were brought to account in the witness stand.

The disclosures of the accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica reveal their recruitment in the service of American intelligence was carried out though the former King Zog, and precisely in 1951 on his return from the trip to the United States.

These accused also confessed that, in order to mask their trip from Egypt to Albania, they spread the news that they were going to the United States to administer the property Zog had bought there. In reality, these accused headed for the territory of the People's Republic of Albania under the direction of the American espionage service, accompanied by organs of the American espionage, and equipped in Athens with weapons and other materials--radio transmitting sets, false documents, and other things--in order to organize an armed uprising in Albania aiming at destroying everything that the people of Albania had built with their blood and labor.

I think it is necessary, Comrade Judges, to point out the great danger of the crimes committed by this band of spies and diversionists headed by Zenel Shehu. These criminals, who unfortunately are of Albanian nationality, did their utmost to dig the tomb of our people. If they were unable to achieve their goal, it is only because our people and their regime prevented them from doing so.

The interrogation of the accused, verified during the trial, shows that this band of spies and diversionists worked according to a general plan drafted by the American espionage. The accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi confessed before the court that they willingly put themselves at the disposal of the American intelligence service, as agents against the People's Republic of Albania.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 13 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

Also, during the court proceedings it was proved that their two collaborators, the accused Rapush Agolli and Ibrahim Lamce, collaborated actively in their struggle against the People's Republic of Albania. The accused Rapush Agolli, as was proved during the court proceedings, is predisposed to serve any enemy of our country. Before the liberation of our country, he had collaborated with the reactionary bands of the Balli Kombetar, and after the liberation he continually sheltered war criminals, supplied them with information, and in fact put himself at their disposal. In May 1952 he agreed to enter the band of the accused Zenel Shehu and to create armed bands for undermining the people's regime.

The confessions of the accused Hamit Matjani, Ahmet Kabashi, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi before the court prove the fact that the exiled Albanian criminals in Greece were recruited as agents of the Greek espionage service, which, collaborating with the American intelligence service, organized, prepared, and sent them inside the territory of the People's Republic of Albania. The accused Hamit Matjani confessed before the court that he was recruited as an agent by Greek general Nikolopoulos of the Greek espionage organs and later handed over by the same Greek general to Col. John of the American intelligence service. The Greek monarchofascist officers, as was confessed by the accused, obeying the instructions of the American espionage service, helped the bands of Albanian spies and diversionists to cross the border, protected them when they entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, and supplied them for their terrorist activities.

The accused confessed that when they were crossing the Albanian-Greek border the Greek monarchofascist troops used to cover their positions with machine guns in order to fire on the Albanian border guards if the diversionists were fired on by our guards. The accused Zenel Shehu confessed before the court that the American intelligence colonel had given him the password "special apple" to be used by his collaborators when in Greece on their way to the American espionage center in Athens.

These true facts show once more the hostile activities of the leading circles of the Greek monarchofascists of Athens against the People's Republic of Albania, and also the servility of these leading circles and of their troops to the American imperialists, who are converting Greece into an aggressive base in the Balkans. This hostile attitude of the Greek monarchofascist Government of Athens shows that it is not in favor of easing international tension and improving relations between nations, but on the contrary is working for a new war. This is the reason why, despite the attempts of the Albanian Government, Government circles of Athens are preventing the conclusion of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 14 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

The accused Zenel Shehu and Haili Branica confessed also that, in order to execute their criminal mission according to American instructions, they went from Egypt to France, West Germany, and Greece. During their voyage, they crossed the French-German border, and later the Greek border, without the legal documents necessary to cross international borders. This fact shows that the American imperialists are dominating these countries, and it shows the servility of the governments of these countries to the dictation of Washington in the execution of aggressive plans for preparation of a new war. This is the logical consequence of the Atlantic Pact and the other treaties through means of which the American imperialists have taken supremacy over all these countries.

During the judicial proceedings it was proved that the accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi were prepared for criminal activities by special training courses. Asked by the judicial body, "where did you attend these espionage course?" "who was directing them?" and "what kind of preparations were carried out in these courses," the accused Zenel Shehu, Hamit Matjani, and others declared: "The courses were attended were prepared in Athens, around Athens, and in Ioannina, too, Some of these courses were directed by the Greek espionage organs together with the Americans, and some of them were directed by the American espionage alone."

These courses, as the accused confessed, were directed by officers of (Greek) intelligence Magnatis and others, and officers of American espionage John, Jim, Michael, Charles, and others. In these courses they learned the use of weapons for the execution of their terrorist activities, and of mines for the execution of diversionist acts. They were also trained to attack our police and security forces. They trained themselves to collect information for espionage purposes.

The accused Ahmet Kabashi, while he was in Italy, attended radio training courses directed by the Italian intelligence service agent Curi Marinati. In Greece the accused, as confessed before the court, continued his profession as a radioman under the instruction of instructors of the American intelligence service. All this in order to collaborate later with the criminal band of traitor Zenel Shehu, and to keep contact between this band and the American intelligence center in Athens.

As we have said, the band of spies and diversionists headed by traitor Zenel Shehu was organized in Greece by American intelligence and sent to the People's Republic of Albania by air and land. A part of this band was parachuted from an American military plane, and the second part, accompanied by officers of the Greek intelligence service, crossed the Greek-Albanian border and penetrated the territory of the People's Republic of Albania.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 15 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 15, 1954

In connection with this fact, the accused Ahmet Kabashi confessed before the court that he does not know how to pilot a plane and that they had not hired any plane. Ahmet Kabashi declared: "We came to Albania by an American military plane, piloted by American pilots." The same thing was confessed by the other accused.

It is necessary to point out that the imperialist press, after a long silence, was obliged to declare, in order to mask reality, that these accused came to Albania in a private plane, bought in capitalist countries, and that this act was carried out only by them. Certainly, such a declaration is no surprise on the part of such a press, created on the principles of lies and falsehood. We cannot expect more from such a press. But the truth cannot be hidden.

The facts revealed in the court cannot be hidden by the capitalist press. The peace-loving people of the world have been informed once more of the fact that the American imperialists trained, instructed, and sent this band of spies and diversionists, headed by the traitor Zenel Shehu, to the People's Republic of Albania, with the intention of destroying the independence of the small but heroic people of Albania. This criminal act of the American imperialists will, no doubt, serve to strengthen further the hatred of the peace-loving people against the warmongers of a new war--the American imperialists.

The accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi have collaborated with a criminal organization which aimed at undermining the people's regime, and all six were sent by the American espionage service to execute the criminal plan directed against the People's Republic of Albania and the Albanian people, by organizing, above all, an armed uprising and by carrying out terrorist, diversionist, espionage, agitation, and propaganda against the people's regime. Asked by the judicial body "against whom did you have to carry out your terrorist activities?" the accused Zenel Shehu confessed that "by our plan we had to carry out terrorism--to kill anyone of the security forces and of the Government who came across us."

If the accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, and Gani Malushi have not carried out terrorist acts, it is not because they did not want to but because they did not have the opportunity to do so. The criminal plan of their band--which they knew and approved--includes all the crimes for which they are accused. For this reason, they are responsible too.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 16 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula, two members of the band being tried, are accused of terrorist activities, too. During the trial proceedings it was proved that the terrorist and criminal Ahmet Matjani has wet his hands with the blood of our people. This hateful gendarme of our people collaborated for a long time with the bandit Issa Toska, participating in killing and torturing the people. The professional criminal Ahmet Matjani, in July 1943, joined the treacherous organization Balli Kombetar, first as commander of this organization in Peqin and later as commander of the mercenary bands of this organization--created by the Fascist occupiers to terrorize the people.

Comrade Judges: The deposition of the witness Rustem Gretca is still in our mind. He told you about the terrible situation when his 11-year-old child Ibrahim Gretca, who, dying because Hamit Matjani had shot him, declared: "Father, my head is burning." It is for such acts--killing innocent children and plundering the people--that this unprecedented criminal was recruited by the treacherous Balli Kombetar organization, which was nothing but a group sold out to the Italian occupiers, a group of spies and killers.

Heading the criminal bands of the Balli Kombetar organization, Hamit Matjani became a terror, especially in the zones of Lushnje, Peqin, Kavaje, and (Berat). Comrade judges, I feel (uneasy when I remember the killing and plundering of this criminal against our people.)

Comrade President, the witness Fatime Magani declared, "This one killed my husband and left me with two little children." Here I refer to the martyr Dule Magani. Ali and Zenun Karaj declared: "He killed my father and plundered my house." Later, the old father left without a son--(Hamit Cullaj)--crying for his lost son and full of hatred for this bandit of the Balli Kombetar, declared: "Hamit killed my dear son in 1947."

Comrade judges, it is difficult for the prosecution to enumerate all the crimes committed by Hamit Matjani and his band of the Balli Kombetar during the occupation. It is a fact that the criminal Hamit Matjani has wet himself with the blood of our people. Heading the Balli Kombetar's bands, the unscrupulous bandit Hamit Matjani, together with the Hitlerite hordes, fought against the national liberation, burned villages, plundered, and violated the unprotected people.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 17 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

After the liberation of Albania, this bandit, together with the remnants remnants of the Balli Kombetar, being always a true criminal, went into exile and continued his criminal activities by robbing, plundering, and killing. In the summer of 1946, he killed the patriot Naum Mata, chairman of the Shene Premte People's Council, in Lushnje, and later in Vashaj, Peqin, he killed a villager and threw his body in the Shkumbini River. As was proved during the court proceedings in August 1946, together with the war criminal Alush Leshanjaku, a member of the Balli Kombetar organization, and with their ..., he killed barbarously the patriot peasants of the Muriqan Village, Elbasan: Sabri Sinani, Abdullah Sinani, Said Beqiri, and later, Gani Cullay of (Fetishta) in Elbasan.

Fighting against the band of Hamit Matjani, and fulfilling his task entrusted by the Party and the people, the people's son Namik Osmani, a member of our Party, was killed. Later, the patriot Ruse Gjysja was also killed during these fights. The criminal Hamit Matjani with his ill-famed band in April 1946 kidnapped the people's ... at the shepherds' summer hut at Bobo in Lushnje.

Pursued step by step by the State Security Forces, and rejected and hated by our people, this bloodthirsty criminal, together with the remnants of his band, exiled himself to monarchofascist Greece and, as a mercenary, entered the service of the Greek intelligence, and later of the American service.

As he confessed during the court proceedings, the traitor Hamit Matjani, according to his instructions from the American intelligence service to carry out terrorist, diversionist, espionage, and agitation activities, in August 1951 penetrated into the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, and at (Dushke) Tekke, in Gramsh District, together with other bandit collaborators, killed Thoma Prifti, chairman of the Gramsh Committee, and Laze (Bolani), who was responsible for the same district's collection plan.

In these shameful crimes, the other accused, Naum Sula, participated too. Asked about the attitude of the American intelligence organs, when reporting to them about his terrorist activities in Albania and when handing over to them the things he had collected from the bodies of his victims, the accused Hamit Matjani declared, "They thanked us."

The barbarous acts of the traitor bandit Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula, acting according to the instructions of the American intelligence, shows once more that under American democracy--loudly trumpeted by Wall Street's diplomats and in the beautiful speeches of the Washington personages--the imperialists try to (commit) typical acts of American gangsterism.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 18 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

Comrade judges, all the members of the band headed by Zenel Shehu are accused of crimes against the Fatherland, and these accusations have been entirely confirmed during the trial proceedings.

The accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica, after leaving Albania, through the Albanian traitor former King Zog were recruited as agents by the American intelligence service, thus committing a great crime against the Fatherland. The accused Zenel Shehu, during his sojourn as a diversionist in the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, collected secret information which he transmitted to the American intelligence center in Athens.

In connection with these activities, the accused confessed before the court. His criminal activities are also confirmed by the materials parachuted from the plane by the American intelligence service to the address given by the accused. The fact that the accused informed the American intelligence service in Athens of his hostile activities in Albania for the organization of an armed uprising in our country is also confirmed in the deposition of the accused Halil Branica, who confessed that he had returned to Greece from West Germany after the Americans had informed him that they had received news from Zenel. Then, afterward, he was sent to Albania to collaborate with him in preparation for an armed uprising according to the criminal plan.

The accused Halil Branica not only agreed to enter the service of the American espionage service, but also approved the criminal plan of (this band). For this reason, he too is entirely responsible for all the crimes of which he has been accused, without taking into consideration whether he executed them or not. Halil Branica did not execute the plan, not because he did not want to but because he could not put it into execution.

The accused Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula and Gani Malushi not only exiled themselves but they entered the espionage service of the United States. Every time they entered Albania they collected secret information and handed it over to the American espionage center in Athens.

The two other accused, Rapush Agolli and Ibrahim Lamce, as stated above, collaborated with the band of the diversionists by aiding and giving them information of a secret nature. The accused Rapush Agolli, as he himself confessed during the court proceedings, was instructed about and agreed to participate in the execution of the criminal plan entrusted to him by the ring leader, traitor Zenel Shehu, and by the American intelligence service--a plan which dealt with the creation of an armed uprising in order to undermine the people's regime.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 19 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

This criminal band was entrusted with the task of carrying out diversionist activities against the different State and social institutions. Although members of the group were not able to execute this criminal plan, still they are responsible for it, according to the law.

As confirmed during the court proceedings, the accused Hamit Matjani, in 1946, carried out diversionist acts by plundering and destroying the State ... at the Bob Shepherds' summer hut in Lushnje.

The accused Zenel Shehu, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, Gani Malushi, and Rapush Agolli are accused of agitation, diversionist and propaganda crimes against the people's regime. The interrogation and trial of the accused proved that the accused committed these crimes.

The accused Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi, each time they entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, distributed propaganda material and carried out propaganda against the people's regime.

The accusation against the accused Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula for their hostile activities before the liberation of the country has been confirmed during the trial proceedings and, moreover, has been confessed by the accused themselves.

As the representative of the Accusation Board, I consider all the accusations against the accused as "proved acts" and that all the accused must be considered guilty.

Comrade Judges, from the above analysis it results that the dangerous activities of this band of spies and diversionists (must be taken into consideration seriously). The consequence of the activities of this band would have been very dangerous if the State security organs had not stopped these criminals from carrying out their plan. This danger would have increased in importance if we had not known the way this criminal plan was to be carried out.

This band of spies and diversionists in the service of the American intelligence includes eight accused. Each of them had a special role, and all of them acted in accordance with a general plan. The band is headed by the country's traitor Zenel Shehu and his assistant Halil Branica, both captains of former King Zog, both faithful servants of their master and traitors to the Fatherland. They wanted to organize an armed uprising in order to undermine the people's regime and to bring Albania into the sphere of American imperialism--to make Albania an enslaved country.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 20 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 15, 1954

The danger of the activities of these people is very important. Very important and unbounded is the social danger of the activities of the blood-thirsty criminal Ahmet Matjani. Great is the social danger of the activities of the accused Naum Sula, Gani Malushi, Ahmet Kabashi, and Rapush Agolli, while the criminal activities of Ibrahim Lamce are less dangerous.

The capture of this band of spies and diversionists by the State security forces is a great victory of our people. The Party and Comrade Enver have continually taught us never to forget that the imperialists have sent and will continue to send spies and diversionists to Albania because they will not stop their hostile activities against the People's Republic of Albania. For this reason, it is a high patriotic duty of every citizen who loves his country and independence to strengthen his revolutionary vigilance, to keep the victories of the people's revolution, and to protect our people's regime against any foreign and domestic attack. (applause--Ed.)

We have had many cases of high patriotism in Albania. Let them serve as a source of patriotism for all the working masses of our country and let them inspire us for further revolutionary vigilance.

Comrade Judges, analyzing the activities of this band of spies and diversionists in the service of the American intelligence service, determining their guilt, and pointing out the danger of the hateful crimes directed against our People's Republic and the danger of the activity of each accused, I, as the representative of the prosecution, ask that you take into consideration in your decision the fact that these bandits who are being tried came into Albania in the service of the American intelligence service to undermine the people's regime and in order to convert our country into a colony of American imperialism.

Comrade Judges, do not forget that before the court we have bandits and criminals of all types, sworn enemies of our people and of their republic, elements without any patriotism. I, all our heroic people, and the peace-loving people of the world ask that your decision Comrade Judges, be just, hard, and merciless against them.

As the representative of the prosecution, I ask: For the accused Hamit Matjani a death sentence by hanging; (applause--Ed.) for the accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Naum Sula, Gani Malushi, and Rapush Pocani ... (Prosecutor corrects himself--Ed.) Rapush Agolli, death sentence; (applause; President rings bell to restore order in the court--Ed.) for the accused Ibrahim Lamce, 10 years' imprisonment. (Applause--Ed.)