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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania/Yugoslavia

SUBJECT Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia/Committee Leaders/
Titoist Support/Opposition of Albanian Refugees to
any Tito-sponsored Federalization

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Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia

1. "There are about 10,000 Albanian refugees living in Yugoslavia who have fled the Communist regime of Enver Hoxha. They include 8000 men who - though they work in factories, shops or mines - are organized as soldiers. They have arms and manage to do fairly regular military training. The other 2,000 are old men or boys and women.
2. "The most active group is centered around Pristina in the province of Kosovo. The headquarters of the Committee of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia is at Pristina. Other sizeable groups are centered in Djakovo, Prizren, Debar and Skopje - all near the Albanian frontier.

Committee Leaders

3. "The President of the Committee of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia is Apostol Tanev, from Korisa. He is an Albanian subject, though of Bulgarian origin. Thus he is a Slav. But he considers himself an Albanian. He was a teacher in Albania before his escape. He is of the Orthodox religion.
4. "The Vice-President of the Committee is Lutfi Spahi, a Moslem but a native Albanian. He supported the fascist regime of the Italians during the occupation of Albania. He has federalist sympathies. He supports more than other people the idea of a federalization of Albania, after it rids itself of Enver Hoxha, along with the other Slav provinces of the South, under the protection of Tito.
5. "The Secretary-General of the Committee is Hayrullah Ishmi, a Moslem. The members of the Committee are:

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US OFFICIALS ONLY/SECURITY INFORMATIONMark Doda - Catholic
Mare Darsi - Orthodox
Shakir Lleshi - MoslemTitoist Support

6. "This Committee, and generally all the Albanian refugees in Yugoslavia, are helped materiall. and morally by Tito's government. The members of the Committee receive regular government salaries. The President (Tanev), who had been a teacher, has been director for some time of the Albanian Lycee in Pristina.. But actually he occupies himself solely with refugee problems. The Communist Yugoslav Government has helped and always will help workers especially, in order to win them over to the Communist cause. The refugee Albanian workers have all, without exception, got jobs in factories, business enterprises, mines, etc, so they can earn their daily bread. Meanwhile the peasants and the less numerous intellectuals are sometimes without jobs.
7. "All these Albanian Committee leaders lack strong personalities, but there are no others among the refugees. Tito realizes that the Albanian refugee group in Yugoslavia includes no leaders who could play an important role in an Albania freed from Hoxha, no one, from either the Albanian or the Yugoslav-Communist point of view.
8. "Dushan Mogusha is attached to the Albanian Committee as the permanent representative of the Yugoslav Government. He has a strong character and is the real director of the Committee. He is 46 years old, intelligent, very energetic. It was he who trained Enver Hoxha as a Communist after the latter's experiments in Communist circles during his studies in France. During the Italian and German occupation Dushan Mogusha lived in the mountains of Albania as one of Tito's henchmen. It was always he who trained and organized the Albanian Communists. He speaks the Albanian tongue perfectly, like a native. There is no gathering of the Albanian refugees in Yugoslavia at which he does not take the stand to incite them and to express the Titoist policy.

Opposition to Tito-Sponsored Federalization

9. "Those Albanian refugees who live in the district of Kosovo don't get along with the Albanians who originate from Kosovo, who are in the majority in this province and are subjects of Tito. The refugees in the main do not like Tito. He is a foreigner to them. And they know that he has not renounced the idea of the federalization of Albania into the framework of the Federated Socialist Republics of Yugoslavia. That would mean the utter annihilation of the independence of Albania, hence of the Albanians as a whole. These refugees escaped from Albania because of Communism. They know full well that in the interior of their native land there are other Albanians who would never become Communists, notwithstanding the propaganda and the terror. But they always say to themselves: Enver Hoxha, though Communist, is at least an Albanian, while Tito, also a Communist, is a foreigner and always will be.
10. "On his part, Enver Hoxha is fully aware of this weak point in Tito's armor. In his propaganda on the radio, in the press, etc, Hoxha emphasizes continually that the Yugoslavs and the Greeks have wanted to take large territories from Albania and that they are not renouncing this ambition. The last joint Turkish-Greek-Yugoslav declaration, which recognized in principle the independence of Albania (when the Hoxha regime is overthrown) made not the slightest mention of the territorial integrity of Albania. Consequently, this political act gives no assurance to the Albanians, those living within the country or those in exile, that they will see their country rise up again after the Greco-Titoist territorial demands.

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11. "Albanians, both Communist and non Communist, consider that Enver Hoxha holds a trump card in claiming that Tito would like to reunite the Albanian region of Kosovo with Albania to form another Federal Socialist Republic, i.e. Communist, under the rule of Belgrade. It is a fact that all Albanians, whether Communist (the minority) or non Communist, are unwilling to surrender any of their national territory.
12. "The Allies, in a bloc, are all equally responsible for this situation. They did nothing to stop the establishment of the Communist regime of Enver Hoxha, a puppet of Tito and then of Moscow, after the Tito-Cominform rupture. And they are doing nothing now at a time when with one well-organized blow they could wipe out the Hoxha regime. To the contrary, the Allies openly supported Hoxha in 1944-45. Now the Albanian 'island', which could be easily purged of Communists, receives no aid from the Allies, not even the Platonic-type of aid they give the Formosan island of Chiang-Kai-Shek.
13. "Conforming to the 'nationalistic' principles of the Communists, principles which trace back to Stalin and which Tito has applied in his federated mosaic of national units, the Albanians who are Yugoslav subjects, especially those in the Kosovo region, are granted a certain national-cultural unity. For a group of about 800,000 there are 800 elementary schools and six lycees using the Albanian tongue (as well as the Serb). They have an Albanian weekly newspaper called Flamuri i Lirise (Standard of Liberty). But all this activity is directed toward the sole end of strengthening the influence of Tito's Communism, which is called more Marxist than Moscow, among the Albanians of Yugoslavia.
14. "In summer 1952 the Committee of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia sent to various Albanian leaders now living in various free countries invitations to a congress at Pristina. The letters were sent to individuals not to (free) Albanian groups or organizations - which meant that the Yugoslav Committee recognized no other free Albanian units. The people invited were from the court group around King Zog, members of the Ballikombetar party or other independents. Two persons went from Istanbul in August, one having come from Egypt. But actually very few of the people invited heeded the invitation or came. The Pristina Congress was attended by scarcely six 'free' Albanian refugees. And these men found that it was impossible to find any basis of common action with the Albanian Refugee Committee of Yugoslavia. This Committee is completely in the custody of Yugoslav Communists, especially Tito. No Free Albanian wants Tito or the Communists. They want their country free and cleared of Communists. The Congress yielded no concrete results. It only established that collaboration is impossible between the various free Albanian organizations and those taking orders from Tito.
15. "The Committee of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia held another Congress 1 Jul 53. This was a local affair, gathering the groups scattered in Yugoslavia itself. No news of the results has yet reached Istanbul."

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Collector's Note: [redacted] rumors were circulating in Istanbul at the end of July on a concerted action between the Committee of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia and certain Albanian groups within Albania to start an uprising in the country. The rumors said that Tito would support this action. They gave the date as 1 Aug 53. The Albanian refugees in Turkey have heard nothing definite.]

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