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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Average Day of Average Tirana Factory Worker: Document,  
Price, Transportation Information / Obligatory Labor  
and Political Meetings.

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the daily routine of a typical factory worker and his family. Assume that the man is a carpenter employed in the Zdruktharija Misto Manee (Misto Manee Furniture Factory), Rr e Kavajes, Tirana. He earns 4000 lek per month. He is married and has two children, a girl 12 and a boy 10. The wife does not work. The family live on Rr. Dibres, Lagja Misto Mane, Rajone 3, Tirana. They have one room with adjoining kitchen, no bath. The rent, 500 lek per month, includes electric power. The children attend the Qemal Stafa Elementary School.

## Morning Routine

2. "The family day begins at 5 AM when the husband and wife get up and dress. They wash with a bit of plain water. Soap is a luxury: it is rationed (150 grams per month per person) and expensive (250 lek per kilo). Workers shave about every 10 days or, at best, once a week.

3. "For breakfast the worker has nothing but a glass of water. Most Albanians eat just two meals a day, and a goodly percentage eat just one main meal.

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4. "The husband and wife set off together: the husband to get his bus to work, the wife to line up for the bread ration at the Kooperativa e Konsumit - Bloku I Bukes X (Consumption Cooperative - Bread Section, No. X).

#### Bus Transportation

5. "In the city of Tirana there are three buses, each for a different line:

Banka - Kombinati-Stalin  
Banka - Spitalit Civile  
Banka - Stadium

The buses are old Italian Fiat or OM models, dark grey or dark green. Service begins at 5 AM. A bus passes on each line about every half hour, absolutely jammed. There are no monthly or yearly commutation tickets. One ticket for a single ride costs three lek. The worker can afford to take a bus about 10 times a month. The ride to the Zdruktharija Misto Manee takes 10 minutes, the walk 30 minutes. The bus stops right in front of the factory.

#### Plant Security: the Flete-Hyrje

6. "When the worker passes through the main gate of the Zdruktharija Misto Manee he must enter the small brick house of the Portier. The gate is guarded by a uniformed guard of the Sigurimi Shtetit (S.SH. - Security Police), armed with a German 'Parebel' revolver. Every worker entering the plant must deposit on the Portier's table his Flete-Hyrje (Entry Permit). The Portier is dressed like any normal worker, except he wears a cap (kasket). He checks the worker's identity and retains his Flete-Hyrje. The worker does not have to sign in any register. He leaves the house through the exit door and heads toward his work section.

7. "The Flete-Hyrje is a folded document, about 2 3/8 x 3 1/8 inches, made of a thick type of cardboard. It is dark red on the outside, white on the inside. On the right inside page it gives the emri (name), mbiemri (surname), date-lindia (date of birth), vend-banimi (address) and profesioni (job) of the worker. It also bears the signature of the Drejtori (director); for the Zdruktharija Misto Manee this would be /1952/ Hasan Hysi. Beneath that is the date of issue. The Vula (stamp) of the enterprise is affixed over the director's signature. This is a 'normal' blue stamp bearing the inscription of the enterprise. A photograph of the worker is affixed on the left inside page. It bears the worker's signature. The picture is also stamped with the stamp of the enterprise. The card bears no serial number. The Flete-Hyrje is issued by the Seksionit Kuadrit (Personnel Section) of the enterprise. It is issuable regardless of an employee's position. The worker needs only one picture. He hands it in at the Seksionit Kuadrit when he begins his job. If he has no picture he is issued a Flete-Hyrje-Provizore (Temporary Entry Permit) for a week. This is prepared on a normal sheet of white paper and bears the director's signature and the stamp of the plant. The Flete-Hyrje is the only valid document entitling an employee to enter the plant. Its validity is linked to employment status until dismissal. The worker deposits with the Portier upon entrance and picks it up upon exit. This procedure must be followed for any entry or exit from the plant.

#### Working Day

8. "Subject worker must be at his post at 6 AM. The Zdruktharija Misto Manee works only one shift, from 6 AM to 2 PM daily except Sunday. (The Kombinati Stalin works two shifts, 6 AM - 2 PM and 2 PM - 10 PM.) There are few clothes racks because few workers can afford the luxury of owning both a working overalls and a normal suit. The worker assembles his tools and waits for the signal to begin: at this factory the signal is a hand bell; at the Kombinati Stalin a siren. If the worker has a job assigned from the previous day he starts right in. Otherwise he asks the Pergjegjesi Repartit (foreman) for an assignment. Each section of the factory has a monthly Plani Normativ i Punis (Work Norm Project) prepared by the factory director and posted on the wall. It indicates the work norms for each category of worker and the jobs to be performed during the month. The work proceeds without any interruption until the end of the shift. A worker may only go to the W.C. Smoking is forbidden. Each worker possesses a special form called the Formulari Pune Ditore (Daily Work Form). This is taken out each day from a special box and handed in at the end of the shift to the foreman. This form must be filled in each day at the end of the shift for the foreman to sign. The various columns give the number of the job, a description, the time consumed in hours, the basic norm, the norm percentage achieved etc. The forms are forwarded to the Seksionit Planit (Planning and Project) of the factory. They serve for statistical purposes and to determine the workers' monthly salaries - paid according to norm.

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Obligatory Labor Meetings

9. "In a State enterprise such as the Zdruktharija Misto Manes there are only two days a month without an obligatory meeting for all workers, either directly after work or later at 5 PM. They cannot leave the plant because no Flete-Hyrja cards are handed back until the meeting is over. The following meetings and work projects, which may be considered meetings, are obligatory for all workers:

(a) Meetings at the end of the work shift:

- (1) Informacion Politik - Political Information meeting organized daily for all workers by the Org. Baze Partis Punes (Labor Party -CP- Basic Organization) of the enterprise. Twenty minutes.
- (2) Realizim Plani - Projects or Work Results. Organized daily by the administration of the enterprise. Thirty minutes. For all workers.

(b) Meetings starting at 5 PM:

- (1) Sindikale - Trade Union meeting organized by the Kshilli Sindikal (Trade Union Council) of the enterprise. Obligatory for all workers once a month for an hour.
- (2) Realizimi Planit 10 Ditor - Ten-Day Work Results. Meeting for all workers every 10 days, lasting six hours. Organized by the administration of the enterprise.
- (3) Shenumi - The SH.N.U.M.I. or Shogri Ndihmese Ushtris Mbrojtje Iniziative is the Communist-sponsored, noncompulsory para-military organization for males and females which exists in all State enterprises. Though not all the workers are members, they attend the lectures to avoid CP pressure or discrimination. Meetings lasting two or three hours are organized twice a month under the Org. Baze Partis Punes of the enterprise.
- (4) Kryqi Kuq - Red Cross meeting organized once a month for four hours for all workers by the Red Cross Council of the enterprise.
- (5) Pune Vullnetare - 'Voluntary Work', unpaid, organized twice a month for five hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes of the enterprise. Compulsory for all workers. Such projects as digging ditches, repairing streets in the city.
- (6) Fiskultura - Gymnastics organized twice a month for two hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes for all workers, regardless of age or sex.
- (7) Korena - Korea Conferences [1951-52] organized for all workers once a month for three hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes.
- (8) Informacion Politik - Political Information meetings (internal and foreign news) organized three times a month for five hours each by the Org. Baze Partis Punes.
- (9) Mos Plocim Plani - Work for nonfulfillment of project norms (norms are never fulfilled in the ordinary work schedules) organized by the plant administration. Obligatory for all workers four times a month, at least, in their extra time. Sessions lasting four hours each.
- (10) Pastrim Maqinerije - Machine maintenance organized by the plant administration for all workers twice a month, two hours each session.
- (11) Lidhje Kulturele B.R.S.S.-Shqipri \* Soviet-Albanian Cultural League. Enrollment in this organization is compulsory for all workers. Branches in every State enterprise. Meetings lasting four hours twice a month.
- (12) Mbramje Letrare - Literary Conference organized by the Org. Baze Partis Punes once a month for five hours for all workers.

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- (13) Mbramje Valizimi - Entertainment Afternoon organized on a Sunday or Saturday once a month for six hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes, the Kshilli Sindikal and the administration of the enterprise. Dancing, recitals, premium awards. Obligatory for all workers.
- (14) Lexim Shtypi - Public Reading organized once a month for two hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes. Editorials and articles are read aloud from the Zery Popullit, Bashkimi, Runa, Rinja.
- (15) Lexim Roman Sovjetik - Reading of Soviet Novels organized once a month for five hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes and the Council of the Lidhje Kulturele. A worker reads aloud to all the others.
- (16) Huaja Shtetnore - State Loan, meeting organized once a month for two hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes. Workers are 'invited' to contribute to great social achievements. The minimum contribution per worker is 200 lek per month. The worker receives in return a State Loan Bond (Obligacion Bond) supposed to mature in 20 years.

10. "In addition to the above meetings for everybody, any members and candidates of the Labor Party and any members of the Bashkimi Rinis Runes Shqiprise (Union of Albanian Working Youth) in an enterprise must also attend:

- (1) Mbledhje Partise - Party meeting for all members of and candidates to the Org. Baze Partis Punes of the enterprise. Held once a month for eight hours.
- (2) Mbledhje B.R.P.SH. - Youth Organization meeting for all members of the Youth Organization in the enterprise. Held once a month for six hours. Many Party members are also members of the B.R.P.SH.
- (3) Mbledhje Agjikator - Agitators' meeting organized twice a month for four hours each for all agitators and for the Secretary of the Org. Baze Partis Punes of the enterprise. The Organizata Agjikatorvet (Agitators' Organization) extends through all State enterprises. The members have a propaganda mission.
- (4) Te Redaksis Gazetes - Editorial Meeting of the Wall Paper. Obligatory for the six members of the editorial staff twice a month for two hours.
- (5) Huaja Agjitacion - Agitation for the State Loan. Obligatory once a month for four hours for all Party members and candidates and for all members of the Youth Organization in the enterprise.
- (6) Situacioni Punes - Work Situation. Meeting held twice a month, eight hours each session, for all Party members and candidates and for all members of the Youth Organization in the enterprise. Analysis of work progress ( norms, projects etc.), of individual workers, sabotage, slackness etc.
- (7) Mbi Sulmuset Stakanovisti - Sulmuset-Stakanovist Conference organized once a month for six hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes for all shock workers.
- (8) Eksperiencen Ne Pune - Work Methods, meeting organized once a month for six hours by the Org. Baze Partis Punes, the plant administration and the Lidhje Kulturele B.R.S.S.-Shqipri for all Party members and candidates and all members of the Youth Organization.
- (9) Historija Partis - History of the Communist Party. Meeting held twice a month, four hours each, for all Party members and candidates and all members of the Youth Organization.
- (10) Mbledhje Speciale - Special meeting, one for Party members and candidates, one for members of the Youth Organization. Once a month for four hours.

11. Feste Pervietori meetings are held for one or two hours for all workers in a State enterprise on national holidays: National Day of the Party ( 8 Nov), Republic Day (11 Jan), Soviet Army Day (23 Feb), 1st of May etc.

12. "Thus at the end of each working day workers may have to report to a meeting on empty stomachs or rush home for a meal and rush back for a later meeting. The late meetings may last until 10 or 12 PM -- bus service in Tirana ends at midnight.

Leaving the Plant

13. "The same security measures apply upon exit from the plant as upon entrance. The worker enters the Portier's house, calls his name and surname and receives back his Flete-Hyrje. These have stayed during the work day on an alphabetical board. No registry is signed upon exit. The S.SH. armed guard at the gate makes no inspection. The Flete-Hyrje procedure applies if the worker must return again that day to a meeting. No person is allowed to step inside a State plant without clearance with a Flete-Hyrje. If, for example, an inspector from the Ministry of Industry is ordered to inspect a plant he is issued a special Autorizim or Authorization document. This is prepared on normal white paper which bears the printed heading and a facsimile stamp of the Minister's signature, also the stamp of the Ministry.

14. "Subject worker either walks home or takes a bus. The Zdruktharija Misto Mamee employs about 2000 workers; 10% own bicycles. In Tirana the Kombinati Stalin (textile plant), the Ndermarjia Rruga (State Enterprise for Road Construction and Repair) and the Ndermarjia Industriale Shtetnore (State Enterprise for Industrial Workshops) and the Uzina Enver (Enver Plant) are the only enterprises which provide truck service for their workers.

15. "Subject worker gets home about 4:15 PM and eats with his wife: black bread and bostan-tave, a soup made of vegetables and beans, if available, otherwise of potatoes and peppers or cabbage -- meat only four times a month. Then the worker generally rushes back to the plant for a meeting. When he gets home again, very late, he sometimes has supper, usually not. The workers attend meetings physically, but they are generally dozing or thinking about what they would like to eat.

Housewife's Routine

16. "The wife lines up as early as possible in the line for the bread ration at the Kooperativa e Konsumit - Bloku I Bukes X. It opens at 6 AM. She has the following ration cards with which to shop:

- Her husband's Triska e Bukes Puntor I Rand Nr 1 (Food Ration Card No. 1 for Heavy Workers, Bread Ration Card No. 1 (800 gms per day) and Clothing Ration Card No. 1 for Heavy Workers.)
- Her own, since her husband is employed, Triska Ordineref (Ordinary Ration Cards for food, clothing and bread -- 400 gms per day).
- Her children's Triska Ordineref -- issued because they are attending school, regardless of whether the head of the family is employed, but only during the period of education.

There is no milk for breakfast because milk ration cards (no free market) are issued only to children from the ages of one to six. The black market price for one liter of milk is 150 lek. The children wash their faces in plain water. They have a breakfast of onions and bread, or bread with sugar, bread with tea or bread with gjize (buttermilk curd). School starts at 8 AM.

17. "The housewife goes out to line up at the various Kooperatives to buy food due her on her ration cards. The children get out of school at noon and eat their main meal at 4 PM: black bread and bostan-tave. The wife, by Albanian tradition, waits to eat with her husband. She does housework until about 6 PM, then goes out shopping again for food. The children eat a supper of leftovers at 8 pm. The husband and wife rarely have supper since there usually is nothing left to eat.

18. "During the month the housewife must attend the following meetings:

- (a) Four hours each Sunday with her husband in the morning meeting of the Kshilli Frontit Demokratik Lagjevet (Council of the Frontit Democratic for the city subsector), attendance obligatory for both.
- (b) Four times a month for three hours an afternoon meeting with the Kryetar (president) of the Kshilli Lagja (People's Board organization for the city subsector. No 'voluntary work').
- (c) Four times a month (not on a Sunday) for two or three hours meetings of the Bashkimi Grues Antifashiste Shqipris (Union of Anti-Fascist Albanian Women), for married women only.

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Worker's Sunday

19. "Subject worker has only one Sunday a month to call his own. Many of the obligatory plant meetings are held on Sunday afternoons. One Sunday morning a month he must report with his wife to the four-hour meeting of the Kshilli Frontit Demokratik Lagjevet. Two other Sunday mornings he must perform Pune Vullnetare ('Voluntary' Works) for his Kshilli Lagja.

20. "The following calculation gives a rough idea of the time an Albanian worker spends at compulsory meetings and voluntary works, in addition to his 26 working days (208 hours) per month:

(a) Ordinary workers:

208 hours regular work

128 hours at meetings and voluntary work

12 hours at meetings of the Fronti-Dem. and work for the Kshilli Lagja.

358 hours

(b) Labor Party members and candidates, members of the Union of Albanian Working Youth:

208 hours regular work

138 hours at meetings and voluntary work

70 hours Party and B.R.P.SH. meetings (average)

12 hours local meetings and work

428 hours

-end-

758	10M
748.3	10M
107.73	10M
761.4	10M
761.113	10M
784.3	10M

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