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INFORMATIC REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania/Yugoslavia

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DATE DISTR. 4 Mar 1949

SUBJECT Anti-Communist Activity in Albania

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1. On 3 December 1948, Albanian police suppressed two attempts at revolt in Gjinokaster and Fieri. The two revolutionary attempts were carried out by followers of Koci Xoxe, who was reported last October to have been dismissed as Minister of the Interior as a result of siding with Marshal Tito in the latter's dispute with the Cominform. The revolt was planned to give Tito's armed forces a pretext to occupy Albania. In suppressing the revolt police arrested a large though unspecified number of persons, including three high government officials, possibly cabinet ministers. The latter were arrested on charges of being involved in the plot and of having been in contact with the Yugoslav Minister of the Interior, through the Albanian minority of Kosovo.
2. The attempted revolution was a symptom of internal divisions which at present exist in the Albanian Communist Party. The most important of these was produced by the alignment of the Party with the Cominform against Marshal Tito, versus the pro-Tito factions. Several other dissident groups within the Party are known to exist; only a few details are available, however:
  - a. The Zjarri Group. This group, the size of which is unknown, centers in Tirana and is composed of moderates who, although Communists, are opposed to the violence and terrorism which have characterized all Communist regimes thus far.
  - b. The Te-Rintje Group. Te-Rintje is an organization of Communist youth. Although some opposition to the Communist regime is known to exist within this group, it is not believed to be important.

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c. The Puna Group. Puna is a Communist labor organization, and within it a leftist dissident movement is reported which does not regard the present Albanian Communist regime as sufficiently whole-hearted in its attempts to realize the goals of Communism.

3. Possible participants in the revolt are the following groups, with a total membership as indicated:\*

- a. Zjarri 3,500 members
- b. Te-Rintje 8,000 members
- c. Puna 7,000 members
- d. Shkoder anti-Communists 1,500 adherents
- e. Anti-Communists in Army 300 adherents
- f. Anti-Communists in Navy unknown
- g. Pro-Tito Yugoslavs 12,000
- h. Vlone anti-Communists 500

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\*  Comment: It is suggested that these figures be treated with reserve since they seem to be exaggerated.

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