

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania/Trieste

DATE DISTR. 15 NOV 50

SUBJECT Albanian Merchant Seamen

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PLACE 25X1A
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED] 25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Albanian merchant marine seamen are required to be members of the Albanian Communist Party and must undergo a special security check before sailing outside Albanian waters. Party membership, however, has been facilitated for ship captains, engineers and other key personnel. Small vessels sailing between Albania and Italy, and Trieste and Yugoslavia usually have a crew of five to ten men. [REDACTED] it is not unusual to find that only two or three of the crew are regular seamen, while the others are political commissars.*
2. As a rule, political commissars on the ships are young Communists who the Albanian Government feels can be trusted not to desert and who will also report properly on the other seamen. Many of the commissars make only one trip and are then replaced by others who have never before left the country. Some of these young men are illiterate, but appear to be very conscientious in carrying out their duties, at least on the first few trips. [REDACTED] one or two who, having made several voyages to Trieste, seem to be succumbing to the "temptations" of the Western world and spend many hours dancing and drinking in the cafes, leaving their charges in relative freedom.
3. The political commissars are not known to have been assigned positive intelligence missions on their trips to Trieste. [REDACTED] they have contacted no Albanians in the city and appear to deal only with the shipping agents in charge of the cargo to be discharged and loaded. It is known, however, that a commissar was instructed to inquire about Mehmet Alltuni, an Albanian living in Trieste who was suspected of taking part in intelligence activities against the present Albanian regime.
4. While engaged in runs along the Albanian coast, the seamen are warned not to have contact with the crew members of foreign vessels in Albanian ports. None of the ships going between Albania and Trieste has ever been known to stop at the Island of Saseno. All freight destined for that island is transhipped at Vlone to small boats, usually manned by military or naval personnel.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment: In connection with this paragraph, your attention is invited to [REDACTED] giving information on the crew of the Albanian schooner TEUTA. 25X1A

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Next Review Date: 2008

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