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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Contact Branch - "Eyes Alone"

DATE: 16 Sept 49

FROM : Chief, []

SUBJECT: Case 2860

1. Edgar M. Church married the Countess Margaret Scherr-Thoss whose father was chief of German military intelligence in WW I. Her mother was an American and was forced to commit suicide by the Gestapo in WW II. Her father is living at Klagenfurt, Austria. Church's mother-in-law was related to and acted as foster mother of Geraldine Apponyi and arranged the marriage of Geraldine and Zog. Through this connection Church has become Zog's lawyer in the US. The following by Church:

2. Geraldine's grandmother, Madame de Strahl d'Ekna, aged 82, is living in the US and receives a monthly stipend of \$115. from Zog. She has not much influence over Zog but is continually intriguing to get him and Geraldine to come to the US. It is quite probable that she will go to Washington and attempt some lobbying in this connection. The idea might have merit but look out for her, she is just an old lady with a vivid imagination. She has also written a book on Zog which she wants to sell to the movies.

3. My wife is a fine girl but can not help talking about anything she know, so do not say anything to her which you do not wish repeated. Her brothers, both US citizens, are even more indiscreet.

4. My influence with Zog is through Geraldine and his gratitude to my late mother-in-law. Zog can be handled but the current stumbling block is his sister Zenida, a moronic woman but one who has a tremendous influence over him and with whom he is having an incestuous affair. Geraldine knows about this, but loves Zog deeply and laughs the situation off. In fact she showed me Zenida's room adjoining that of Zog, pointing out that her own quarters were in another part of the palace.

5. At the present time Zenida and Zog's three other sisters are away from Alexandria and Geraldine is very happy, having written in a letter that "finally, for once I have my beloved king to myself".

6. If Zog is to be made use of he should be separated from the female influence and made to think that he is heading up some military project towards the liberation of Albania. Then he can be handled easily. He is "chafing at the bit" to go back and fight for Albania and told me that he would return in any capacity in which his people wanted him. He further has said that he would submit to a plebiscite and would bow out if defeated.

7. Count Alexander de Villa, nickname "Skander", is Zog's black market operator. He is reputed to have been brought into the court to entertain and be a lover for Geraldine while Zog was having the affair with

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Zenida. I do not believe this as Geraldine is rather undersexed and also is entirely devoted to Zog in spite of his infidelity. De Villa is half French and half Albanian, his father having been Albanian minister to France. He is a slick individual and entirely crooked. In former years he used to smuggle dope to France in the diplomatic pouch. He is a close friend of Farouk and is trying to arrange with him to get the remaining \$750,000 of Zog's gold out of Egypt.

8. Georges Gog is Zog's chief of palace guard, the security man. He is a clean-cut (as Albanians go), good-looking, military individual and relatively honest. He gets back and forth to Albania and maintains contact with the underground.

9. Kemal Bey Messari (Messarija) is the court chamberlain. He wears a monocle, likes sports clothes and acts as spy for Zog. When I first went to visit Zog, Messari personally watched me and listened to my conversation in the hotel lobby for two hours before introducing himself and taking me to the palace.

10. Martini is Zog's prime minister and body guard. He seldom leaves Zog's side and has the supervision of all court business.

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