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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Every Albanian who flees to Yugoslavia is forced to join the Prizren Committee. If he refuses to do so he does not receive an identity card, nor food and clothing ration cards. If he is between the ages of 15 and 60 he is put in a concentration camp where use of the whip is not unknown. In the case of women, children, or old men, those who refuse to join are left to their own devices, without food and shelter. Anyone, therefore, who does not wish to die of hardships is forced to join the Committee whose entire organization and direction is in the hands of UDB officers.
2. The Committee takes its name from the city of Prizren in order to identify it with the patriotic movements emanating from the historic League founded in that Kosovo city in 1878. As a matter of fact, however, its main offices are located at Pristina.
3. Rights of the Albanian members of the Committee are limited to those of spying on each other. Its UDB (Yugoslav Is) officers use all available means, including bribery, threats, flattery, and torture in order to penetrate their Albanian charges thoroughly. Corruption has reached such a point as to seriously weaken the emigration and render it less effective for Yugoslav purposes than it would be if its morale were higher.
4. General Dusan Mugosa is not only so-called "responsible" for the Albanian refugees, but is in charge of organizing refugees from all of Moscow's satellites. Colonel Cedo Mijovic also is engaged in the direction of Albanian affairs from his office in the Yugoslav Ministry of Interior. Both Mugosa and Mijovic are Montenegrins and speak Albanian fluently. The latter, it seems, is gentle in the treatment of refugees. From time to time he gives them concrete aid, and always has kind words for them. Recently, for example, Albanian refugee Gjon Gjinaj who had been interned for six months in Serbia with Kol Cuni was sent to a Yugoslav spa for treatment.

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5. Aside from those refugees who have become UDB agents operating against their own compatriots, none of the Albanians in Yugoslavia has any faith in the good intentions or program of the Prizren Committee. This organization is regarded as a screen behind which Yugoslavia is preparing for the eventual annexation of Albania as the country's seventh Communist Republic. At one time Yugoslavia spoke of freeing Albania from Hoxha's yoke. This line has been abandoned for some five months. The refugees are in a state of alarm following President Tito's recent agreements with the Soviet Union and with the satellite states. The refugees feel that sooner or later they will be consigned to Albania's new Communist authorities under Yugoslav sponsorship. This fear was particularly evident among the 300 Albanian delegates to the Prizren Committee's last annual assembly when in an address by Dusan Mugosa he said: "The report has reached me that you have become the victims of apprehension following the recent evolution of our foreign policy towards the Soviet Union and the Popular Democratic countries. I can assure you, for President Tito as well as for myself that however that phase of policy develops, no refugee will be harmed by it because each will be given the choice of emigrating wherever he wishes or of remaining in Yugoslavia with full rights of citizenship."
6. This last Assembly took place in an air of considerable diffidence, uncertainty, and confusion of ideas. Not even those few pro-Tito Albanians seemed to emanate any faith in their own actions. The list of new Committee members had naturally been prepared previously. Apostol Tanefi and his colleagues, it seems, during their tenure in office had enormously abused their privileges by persecuting their own personal enemies and by favoring their supporters. Discontent among the refugees at this state of affairs, despite all repressions, was obvious. This situation apparently decided the Yugoslavs to change the composition of the Committee.<sup>1</sup> The Committee's new hierarchs are honest persons, but those in charge (under the direction of UDB officers), are sincere Communists. Such a person is the Committee's new president Hajrullah Ishmi, an intelligent and well educated individual, one of whose brothers was hanged in Albania at the time of the country's union with Italy. Secretary General Ramadan Spahiji and Executive Committee member Arif Starova fall into the same category as Ishmi.
7. Apostol Tanefi, Can Tahiri, Lutfi Spahiu, and Qazim Lusha have been demoted to membership in the Consultative Committee which is made up of some 40 persons and is without importance. The Consultative Committee also includes Ndue Pjeter Gjonmarkaj and Mark Gjecaj ("l'Amico delle Montagne"<sup>2</sup>). The latter has been assigned duties as an inspector in order, it is said, to compromise him. Gjecaj himself was most unhappy with this appointment but his every attempt to avoid it was in vain. Ndue Pjeter Gjonmarkaj's fearless defense of Albanian exile leaders in the West brought down a torrent of abuse from Dusan Mugosa, but his inclusion in the Consultative Committee was demanded by all members of the Assembly.
8. [redacted] Nik Sokoli, retains his post as Committee Vice-President. Qazim Lushi, Can Tahiri, Mark Ujka, and Kol Hasa, are faithful tools of their UDB masters. 25X1
9. The following new members of the Consultative Committee are reliable Albanian nationalists: Caf Smaili Deli, Mark Pashko from Vermoshi, Mirash Gjoka from Shkreli, Kole Pali from Dukagjin, and Dod Frani from Vukli [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted]
- Lutfi Spahiu, the best suited of all the refugees for leadership, has been ignored by the Yugoslavs who distrust him completely. From Kosmet, at his own request, Mark Gjecaj has been transferred to Novisad where he lives with a Catholic priest.
10. The Albanian refugees in Yugoslavia are assigned residences in three principal groups: those coming from southern Albania and Elbasan are gathered in Macedonia; refugees from Dibra, Luma, and the Mirdita are located in Serbia; those from the

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Dukagjin, Malëssia, the city of Shkoder, and Alessio, are gathered in Montenegro.

11. Albanian students at the University of Belgrade are also subsidized and directed by UDB. A UDB officer checks on their grades after examinations, and those who display the greatest zeal are given money rewards and the possibility of making tours to Dalmatia or to Zagreb.
12. Albanian refugees in Yugoslavia are not permitted to join, or even express sympathy for political groups other than the Prizren Committee. Regarding general political sympathies among refugees in Serbia and Montenegro, however, only about 5% of those from Shkoder city and sub-prefecture are BKI followers, whereas about 30% of those from Luma and Dibra follow BKI.<sup>4</sup> The others, although not Communists, have not chosen any political banner. There are very few Balli Kombetar followers, and the Zogists are limited to those who held posts in Zog's State administration or in the army. Youth in general is politically bewildered.
13. The general opinion of Albanian refugees in Yugoslavia is that Albania's salvation can come only from the West. Another general opinion there seems to be that no basic change can take place in Albania without another world war.
14. Mark Pashko, currently leader of the Montenegro group of refugees [redacted] is one of BKI's strongest supporters. He holds that his country's liberation can come only from the West, and that its best representatives there are the leaders of BKI.
15. Those Albanian refugees who are physically fit and who have had experience in their country's underground, are forced by the UDB to undertake intelligence and operational missions back into Albania. The following are the objectives of UDB in this connection:
  - a. Information concerning Albanian fortifications, troop movements, and morale of local populations.
  - b. Attempting to learn the location in Albanian territory of Cominform, anti-Tito Yugoslav organizations which are given hospitality and encouraged by the Albanian government.
  - c. Information concerning the identity of Albanians favoring and those opposing the programs of Tito's Yugoslavia.
  - d. Dissemination of Yugoslav propaganda leaflets.
16. The greater part of Albanians engaged in such missions return to Yugoslavia and submit fabricated information, if any. Before departure they are instructed not to kill Communist officers in their country. Instead, the Albanians attempt to save the lives of simple soldiers, while they try to wipe out whatever officers they may meet. They excuse themselves in these cases pretending that they had become involved in unexpected encounters with the police forces. It is also customary for these operational teams, when members are certain that one of their number is not a UDB informer, to destroy the propaganda leaflets which they had brought with them. Known UDB informers are eliminated without mercy.
17. These missions are not sympathetically received by the Albanian people who, in fact, on numerous occasions have stated that they will no longer risk reprisals by receiving and hiding their members. The Albanian people have found that dealing with foreign missions of any kind has merely brought down the most brutal reprisals without achieving any positive effect. Worst of all have been the Yugoslav missions which have repaid the hospitality given them by speaking against the religion and traditions of the Albanians. Many Albanians hold that there is little difference between the present Albanian and Yugoslav regimes. Tito is as hated

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in Albania as is Enver Hoxha. For the Albanian people the Prizren Committee is made up of puppets who are moved by Dusan Mugosa, founder of Albania's Communist Party, and, hence, responsible for all their present miseries.

18. The Albanians living in the Moslem border cities of Plava and Gusinje and in the Catholic ones of Hoti, Gruda, and Kacja have astounded the refugees with their enormous generosity. For the past six or seven years they have maintained several thousand refugees without any distinction as to religion or regional origin. In those regions there is not a family of Albanian origin which is not sheltering from five to thirty refugees.
19. This situation is now changing. The Kosovars who previously received the refugees with open arms, are now the victims of a tendentious propaganda which has been spread by Hoxha agents sent from Albania, and now regard the refugees with open antipathy. The propaganda line to which the Kosovars have fallen victim, is to the effect that the refugees are flocking to aid Tito in his plans to occupy Albania. The same line goes on to the effect that the National Committee for Free Albania has sold out to the Anglo-Americans who are prepared to make Tito a present of the country. BKI and Xhafer Deva have also sold out to Tito's American friends. The propaganda line concludes that the country's only hope is in the Soviet Union which, eliminating Tito, will unite Kosovo to Hoxha's Albania without any foreign interference.
20. In 1951 all refugees were asked by the Yugoslavs whether they wished to emigrate, and if so, to indicate to which countries. The move was a trap because those who had expressed a desire to leave Yugoslavia were shortly thereafter arrested and interned or imprisoned, and made the victims of all sorts of persecution.
21. In 1951 and again in 1952 a group of [ ] journalists toured all the centers sheltering Albanian refugees. The journalists interviewed many refugees, who desired to explain their true situation and that of their compatriots, but did not dare to do so because of reprisals, chiefly beatings meted out to others who showed greater temerity. 25X1
22. The recent arrest of Ndue Bajraktari and his comrades, guilty of having planned to flee to [ ] in order to escape being forced to take part in operational sorties into their country, has created a great impression among refugees. 25X1
23. Kol Cuni, Gjon Gjinaj, Ndue Pjeter Gjonmarkaj, Nikoll Gjonmarkaj, and Ndue Melyshi are well thought of by BKI followers. When these men arrived in Yugoslavia they were fairly well supplied with funds, watches, and other negotiable items. They have now sold all their possessions, having shared the proceeds with their fellow refugees, and are without means. The Yugoslav subsidies which they receive are totally inadequate for their basic necessities. The Yugoslavs openly display a considerable degree of sympathy in their regard, but actually distrust these men and keep them under close surveillance. Nikoll Gjonmarkaj, as long as he was permitted to live in Mitrovitsa, was very well taken care of by the local Kosovar population who saw that he was clothed and fed, and even supplied him with necessary funds. He was banished from Mitrovitsa because this display of sympathy towards the son of such a well known "reactionary" leader was annoying to the Communist Yugoslavs.
24. The death of Bardhok Biba, the [ ] pro-Communist Gjonmarkaj who was killed by his cousin Ndue Pjeter Gjonmarkaj, was mourned by the Yugoslavs. The Montenegrin Pajkovic, president of the Kosmet sub-Republic, meeting Ndue Pjeter at Pristina stated, "Are you the killer of Bardhok? You have wiped out an exemplary Communist, a genuine hero and friend of the people. It is unlikely Albania will produce another like him." 25X1
25. Father Daniel Fjecaaj alias Mark Gjecaaj ("l'Amico delle Montagne"), Lufti Spahiu, and Don Zef Oroshi, because of their cultural background and patriotism are the most influential leaders among the Albanian exiles in Yugoslavia. The following mountain chiefs also exercise considerable influence:

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- a. Mark Tom Marku, bajraktar of Selce, now at Tuzi, a fervent anti-Communist and recognized chief of the Clementi region.
- b. Tom Dushi, chief of Nikshi.
- c. Kol Gjon Bajraktari from Vukli.
- d. Preng Gjeto Marku from Hoti.
- e. Mirash Gjoka, chief of Shkreli.
- f. Prele Marku, bajraktar of Shala in the Dukagjin.
- g. Vuksan Vata, bajraktar of Kiri.

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- 2. Friend of the mountains.
- 3. Village or tribal leader
- 4. Bloku Kombetar Independent (National Independent Bloc).

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