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5 September 1951

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

OSO Report

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	
CLASSIFICATION	
Cancelled	<u>Secret</u>
Changed to	
BY AUTHORITY OF <u>45-1158</u>	
Name	
Office	<u>SE/4A</u>
Date	<u>6 June 57</u>

FROM: ITALY, ROME
 EVALUATION: B-2
 SUBJECT: ACTIVITIES OF ALBANIAN RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION
 "NATIONAL LEAGUE OF THE MOUNTAINS"
 DT. INFO: END APRIL-MID JULY 1951
 SOURCE: FROM A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE, KNOWN TO BE PRO-BKI,
 WHO HAS GOOD CONTACTS IN ALBANIAN RESISTANCE GROUPS.

1. The following leaders and members of the "National League of the Mountains"⁽¹⁾ have been identified:

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|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Pr. of GDS</i> | Don Zef Oroshi (2) 36 yrs | President - <i>works in the capital</i> |
| <i>Brother of Prime Minister</i> | Haki Bushati (3) | Vice-President <i>Minister</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Jake Prel Jaku - <i>Minister of Education</i> | Secretary <i>Minister of Education</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Karlo Coba (3) <i>Minister of Education</i> | Member <i>Minister of Education</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Ndrek Kakarrigi (?Kakariqi) | Member |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Sulejman Hafizi 45 | Member <i>also Minister of Education</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Gjon Daija - <i>Minister of Education</i> | Member |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Preng Kil Gjonmarkaj | Member <i>Minister of Education</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Liman Koldashi | Member <i>Minister of Education</i> |
| <i>Minister of Education</i> | Don Frano Ilijaj | Member |

2. In April 1951, Jaku, the organization's Secretary, transmitted a written appeal for help to the Western Democratic nations to a resistance leader in Albania, who has since been able to flee the country. The text of the appeal was substantially as follows:

"An Appeal to All the Free, Democratic, Anti-Communist Nations!

"Although aware of the innumerable sacrifices of the Albanian people in these seven long years under a barbarous regime without

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equal in the history of governments, and convinced of the immutable will and readiness of the Albanian people for a revolution against the present regime, we nevertheless feel that Albania cannot succeed in liberating itself from within, with the forces and means at its disposal, unless it receives concrete aid from abroad. We are therefore forced to turn, through the National Committee for Free Albania, to the free democratic nations, in particular to the United States of America and the Royal British Government. We appeal to them to send us the necessary means, including arms and ammunition, in order that we may realize the aims for which such heroes as Mark Gjonmarkaj, Jup Kazazi, Father Anton Harapi, Father Lek Luli, Ndoc Mirakaj, Alush Lleshanaku, Halil Alija, Bahri Omari, Kol Tromara, and Prek Cali sacrificed themselves.

"We believe that the Albanian question is intimately related to the international strategic and political interests. (4)

"The liberation of Albania would erase from the shores of the Adriatic a focal point of infection of the Red epidemic which is seeking to penetrate deeper into the heart of Europe.

"Convinced that our appeal will be favored by you, we ask you to accept the expression of our deepest gratitude.

(Signed) "Central Committee,
"National League of the Mountains"

3. The resistance leader who received this appeal comments that the organization has as yet not carried on any activity, but adds that some of its leaders are able, influential, anxious to act, and enjoy considerable freedom of movement even though considered suspect by the Albanian government. However, the resistance leader concludes that they could make a worthwhile contribution only if aided "morally, materially and militarily" by one of the major democratic powers.

1. Washington Comment: See SO-63200 for previous report on the "National League of the Mountains," a strongly nationalist organization existing solely in the northern part of Albania, the majority of whose members are strongly anti-Yugoslav, and pro-BKI or King Zog.
2. Washington Comment: In February 1950, described as an intelligent and courageous 30-year-old parish priest in Ungrej, in the Bajrak of Dibri.
3. Washington Comment: For biographical data on subjects, see SODB-30073.
4. Washington Comment: Presumably means that Albania's liberation is important to the democratic powers in their anti-Communist effort.

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