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# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

COUNTRY Albania

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SUBJECT Albanian Resistance Groups

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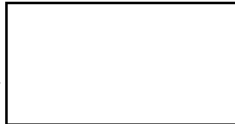
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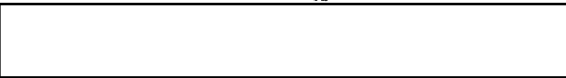
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1. [redacted] the assassination of Bardhok Biba\* is the most significant single action of the Albanian resistance movement in recent months. Biba, who was killed on the Peshtari bridge near the village of Kacinar in the Mirdite region, while on his way to a wedding ceremony, had been the most important Communist leader of northern Albania and the author of large-scale persecutions of anti-Communists. A first cousin of Prince Gjon Markagjoni, he was regarded as a traitor to his family after having joined the Albanian Communist movement in 1940. His death is expected to weaken appreciably the hold of the Hoxha government upon northern Albania.

2. A highly select nationalist guerrilla group is operating in the Kurbin district, led by Fran Miri, brother of Mark Miri, who died at the hands of the Communists. The Miri family is from the Malsis se Madhe region, south of Montenegro, but their present sphere of action is around Curzi, on the Mati River, where they formerly had extensive landholdings.

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3. In the Malsis se Madhe, particularly around Kastrati and Vermosh, a group of guerrillas is operating, headed by Nik Gjeloshi. [redacted] Martin Sheldia, a former Army Lieutenant who belongs to this group, frequently leads his followers into Shkoder to assassinate Communists guilty of persecuting political prisoners.

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4. A nephew of Prince Markagjoni, Prang Gjergj Keci, is operating near Lura, in the Mati region, with a number of followers.

5. In the Dukagjin region, the most important chief now operating is Mark Sadiku, the old war-lord of Shala, who has kept his resistance group in operation for five years. Sadiku is the nephew of the national hero Mehmet Shpendi, which accounts for much of his influence in the Dukagjin region.

6. The influential Becaj family of Kthelle, is in hiding at the present time.

7. Organized anti-Communist resistance groups exist at Kruje, Durres, Kavaje, Peqin, Elbasan and Korce.

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8. The Nationalist units which recently attacked Government barracks at Pogradec were reportedly commanded by Bolishova.\*\*



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