

REPORT INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	<u>Zeri i Popullit</u> , Newspaper of the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party.	DATE DISTR.	4 April 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	9	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information		

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. In late 1953, Zeri i Popullit, official newspaper of the Albanian Workers' (Communist) Party was transferred by order of the Central Committee from the Agit-prop Directorate and placed directly under the Central Committee of the Politburo, Agit-prop office, headed by Liri Belishova. Salaries of all writers on the newspaper were increased and "functionary" ration cards, which until December 1953, were only given to the Editor-in-Chief and to the Secretary of the Kolegjium,<sup>1</sup> were also given to chiefs of various sections of the paper. The Central Committee also took the following action to increase the prestige of the paper:

- a. It issued a directive stating that every Organizata Baze should carefully analyze any critique published in the Zeri i Popullit concerning a local work center, and the Organizata Baze of the criticized work center must prepare a written reply to Zeri i Popullit evaluating the critique and listing the corrective measures taken. The written reply may be published by Zeri i Popullit. Moreover, every Organizata Baze at the work center

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STATE	*	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		USIA/IRI/ev	X	
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "*"; Field distribution by "#".)															

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which has been criticized must examine its deficiencies to prevent a repetition of the same mistakes.

- b. It suggested that every Communist Party member must subscribe to Zeri i Popullit. Party members should read the Zeri i Popullit carefully and organize reading sessions in areas where there are either few subscribers or many illiterates.
- c. It directed that the distribution of publications, especially Zeri i Popullit, to the villages should become one of the activities of the Youth Organization.
- d. It instructed Radio Tirana to include in its early morning broadcast, the editorial and current news items from Zeri i Popullit and other papers, so that people living in towns where the paper arrives late in the afternoon or early the next day will be informed on current topics.

#### News Directives

2. Discussion of certain internal and foreign subjects by Zeri i Popullit are planned in advance. On the 25th of each month, the Politburo issues a news directive to the Editor-in-Chief<sup>2</sup> [the Editor-in-Chief, a member of the Central Committee, attends Politburo meetings when government and Party matters of not too sensitive a nature are being discussed]. The directive consists of subjects which the Party leadership wants to call to the attention of the people. The Politburo may have noticed that during the past month quotas had not been met by a particular enterprise. The Politburo will advise the Editor-in-Chief to prepare an editorial appealing to the patriotism of the workers to increase their efforts, and will also order that two or three articles be written criticizing specific plants which are falling behind in their work schedule.
3. Guidance for handling of international news usually comes from Tass and Pravda. Tass must release a news item before Zeri i Popullit or the other publications will take any action. This sometimes results in a news lag and an international news item will be days late in appearing in the Albanian press. In past years, the Editor-in-Chief would specify that a certain number of articles were to be written criticizing the Yugoslavs, Greeks and Italians, but this is only done on rare occasions. The Foreign News Section might be instructed to prepare several articles on a specific country or event to prepare public opinion for some official action such as a note of protest.
4. On the basis of the news directive submitted by the Politburo and suggestions by the Editor-in-Chief for articles, each of the section heads of the Zeri i Popullit prepares a monthly plan. On the 28th of the month there is a meeting of the Kolegijium to discuss the project plans of the various sections and to make any necessary changes. On the 29th of the month, the monthly plan of each of the various sections is sent to the Politburo Secretary of Agit-prop, Liri Belishova, for approval and change if necessary. The plan is then returned to the editorial office at the beginning of the month. Any modification made in the approved plan during the month by the editorial staff must be called to Belishova's attention. Using the monthly plan as a guide, each of the sections must prepare a weekly plan which is also discussed at a meeting of the Kolegijium. This weekly plan is sent to Belishova but she rarely makes any changes in it. A copy of the weekly plan is also

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sent to the Agit-prop Directorate for its information. Hence, approximately 80% of the daily content of Zeri i Popullit is covered by these plans.

#### Kolegjium

5. The Kolegjium is made up of the Editor-in-Chief, the Secretary and the section heads.<sup>2</sup> This body meets daily to determine the material that will be published by Zeri i Popullit in its next edition. Theoretically, it is collectively responsible to the Party for the operation of the paper, but in practice, it is a consultative body and practically all of the decisions are made by the Editor-in-Chief.
6. Directives from the Politburo provide the newspaper with items for publication. In order to determine what people are thinking, Zeri i Popullit has a section called the Office of Letters from the People which receives 60 to 100 letters a day. The following illustrates the types of letters received: a person may write complaining that he had made a suggestion concerning improvement of the work at his work center, but had received no reply from the management; a person may write that the employees in a cooperative store are showing favoritism by selling certain items only to their friends; and a person might write that he has observed negligence in the care of equipment and supplies. If a number of letters are received on a certain subject (or work center, collective, etc.), this is considered of sufficient importance to devote a two or three column article to it. If the problem is considered very important, it is discussed in a two-to-three column article placed in the upper left hand corner of the first page - the place reserved for important news items. Five or six of the 60 to 100 letters received daily are published. Some are published because they point up some real problems, others are published so that individuals can see their name in print, thus encouraging others to write. In addition, Zeri i Popullit pays about 150 leks for each letter selected for publication.
7. Since the object of the letters is to point out difficulties, every letter criticizing a particular factory, enterprise or farm, is sent by mail to the particular enterprise without giving the name of the sender. The work center is obliged to send a reply to Zeri i Popullit evaluating the criticism and listing the steps that have been taken to correct the difficulty. Most of these replies, are published in the column Ne gjurmet e shkrimeve ("Follow-up on our writing").
8. Before using letters from the readers as the basis for an article, the complaints are checked. This work is done by regular correspondents of Zeri i Popullit on the qark and rreth level<sup>3</sup> and by volunteer correspondents (peasants and laborers) located in each village and work center. The volunteer correspondents, usually Party members or persons sympathetic to the regime who can read and write, do not receive a regular salary, but are given 50 to 150 leks for news items and 150-300 leks for articles. To encourage these volunteer correspondents, Zeri i Popullit often gives them a by-line and invites them to attend conferences.
9. To facilitate the work of the regular correspondents of Zeri i Popullit in each qark and rreth, the Party issued instructions that directors of work centers must cooperate with the correspondents. They must be given freedom to visit the work center and they must be allowed to talk with workers without management representatives being present. When they visit an installation which is engaged in secret work, they must present their special identity cards and a written permit signed by the Editor-in-Chief.

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10. Personnel in the Office of the Letters From the People Section prepare an index card for each letter received and keep a record of its exploitation, who answered it, and when it was answered. Letters that are not considered of great importance, such as those dealing with sports, holiday regulations or routine political matters, are answered by personnel in this section. Letters that deal with more important problems are passed to the section concerned. Newsmen who delay in answering a letter may be criticized or reprimanded.
11. The Zeri i Popullit has adopted the Soviet policy (seen especially in Pravda) that 60% of the paper must be made up of material provided by the Zeri i Popullit staff and its regular correspondents and 40% by voluntary correspondents and others. Volunteer correspondents usually submit their articles about two weeks in advance of the date of publication. The article is checked by the editor and if considerable revision is required, it is sent back to the writer. If the article requires only a slight revision, this will be made by the staff, with the concurrence of the writer.

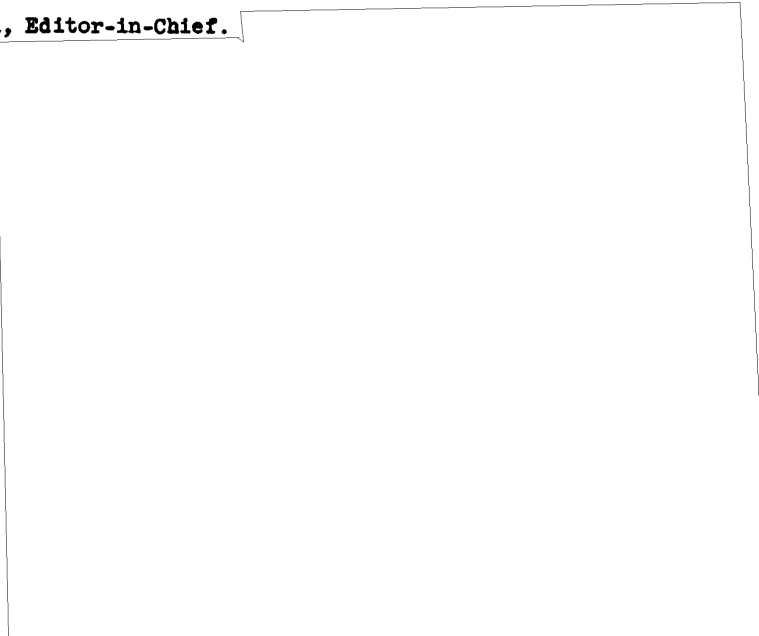
Circulation

12. In 1953, circulation was 60,000. Later, this number was reduced because of a scarcity of paper which must be imported from abroad. The large circulation was due to the fact that Communist Party members were obliged to buy it, and the other papers were so small and poor in content that Zeri i Popullit was preferred.

Personnel

13. Zeri i Popullit has about 60 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees at its offices in Tirana. Below are the key personnel on the paper:

a. Fadil Pacrami, Editor-in-Chief.



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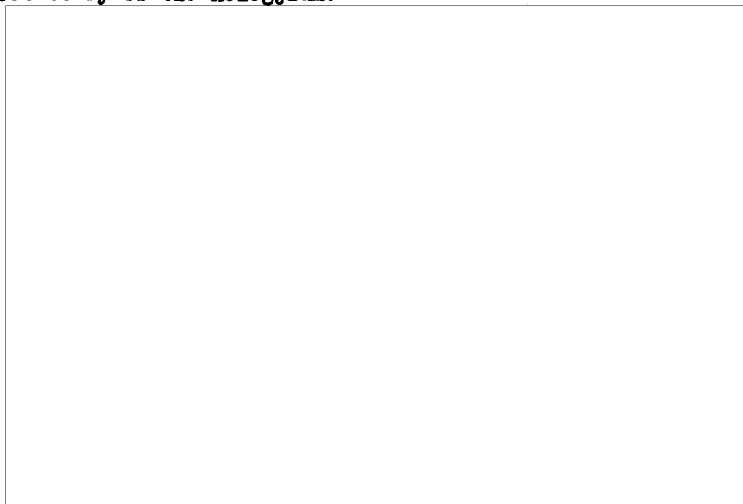
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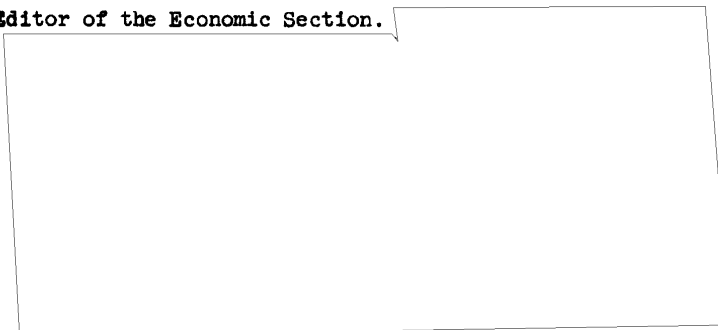
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b. **Figri Vogli, Secretary of the Kolegjium.**



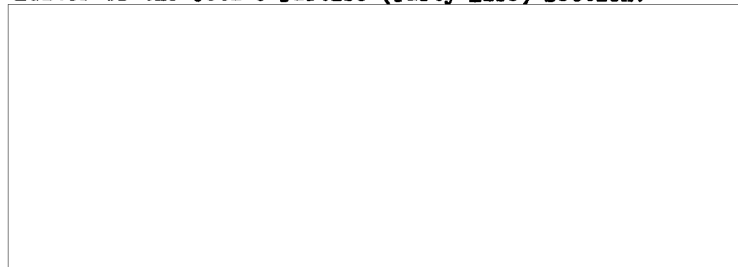
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c. **Tabo Sejko, Editor of the Economic Section.**



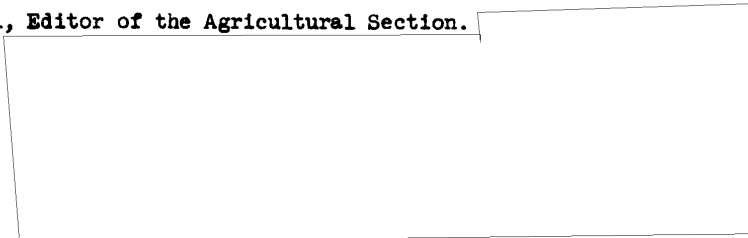
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d. **Sefti Kotmilo, Editor of the Jeta e Partise (Party Life) Section.**



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e. **Faik Labinoti, Editor of the Agricultural Section.**



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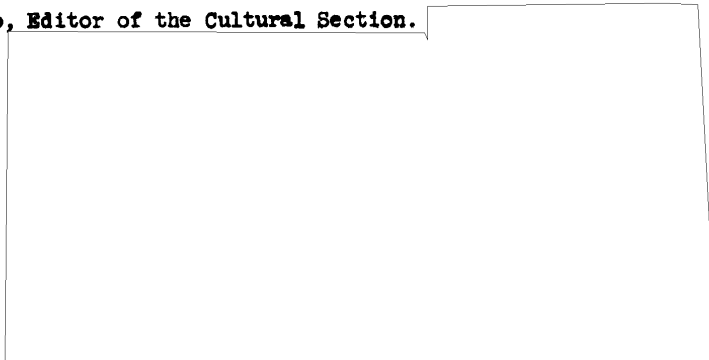
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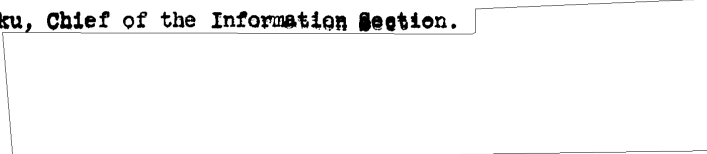
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f. Javer Malo, Editor of the Cultural Section.



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g. Niko Nishku, Chief of the Information Section.



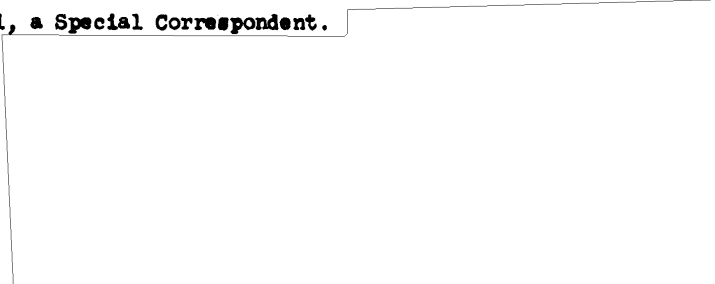
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h. Agron Frasherri, Editor of the Foreign News Section.



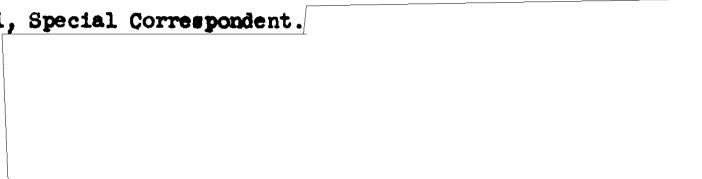
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i. Kin Dushi, a Special Correspondent.



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j. Aleks Caci, Special Correspondent.



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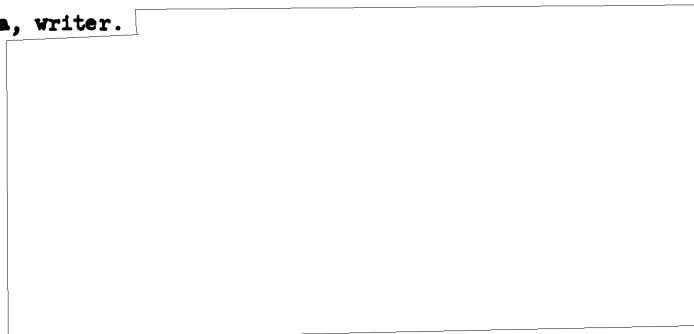
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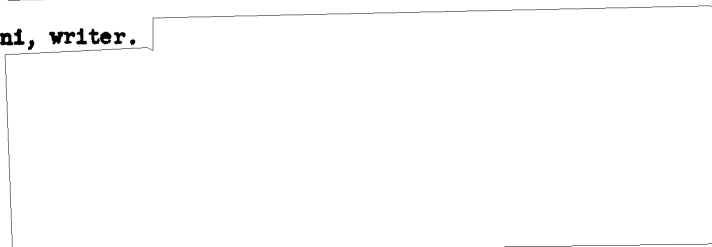
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k. Anali Dishnica, writer.



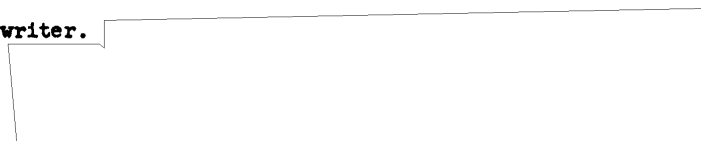
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i. Adriatik Kanani, writer.



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m. Llambi Papa, writer.



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n. Koli Dhimarku, writer.



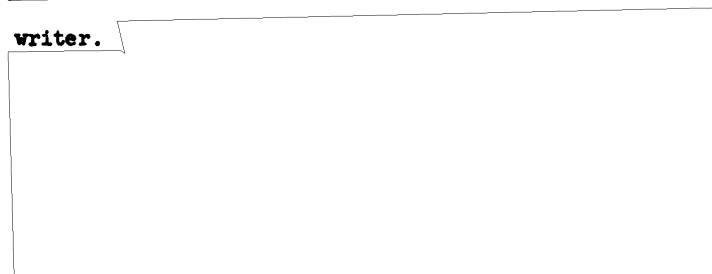
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o. Vasil Prifti, writer.



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p. Guri Lubonja, writer.



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q. Gjulso Shtino, writer.

[Redacted]

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r. Qako Dango, writer.

[Redacted]

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s. Vasil Pali, writer.

[Redacted]

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1. [Redacted] Comment: In Communist terminology, a collegium is a group of persons jointly administering an enterprise or institution; a board.

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2. [Redacted] Comment: See attached sketch.

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[Redacted] Comments:

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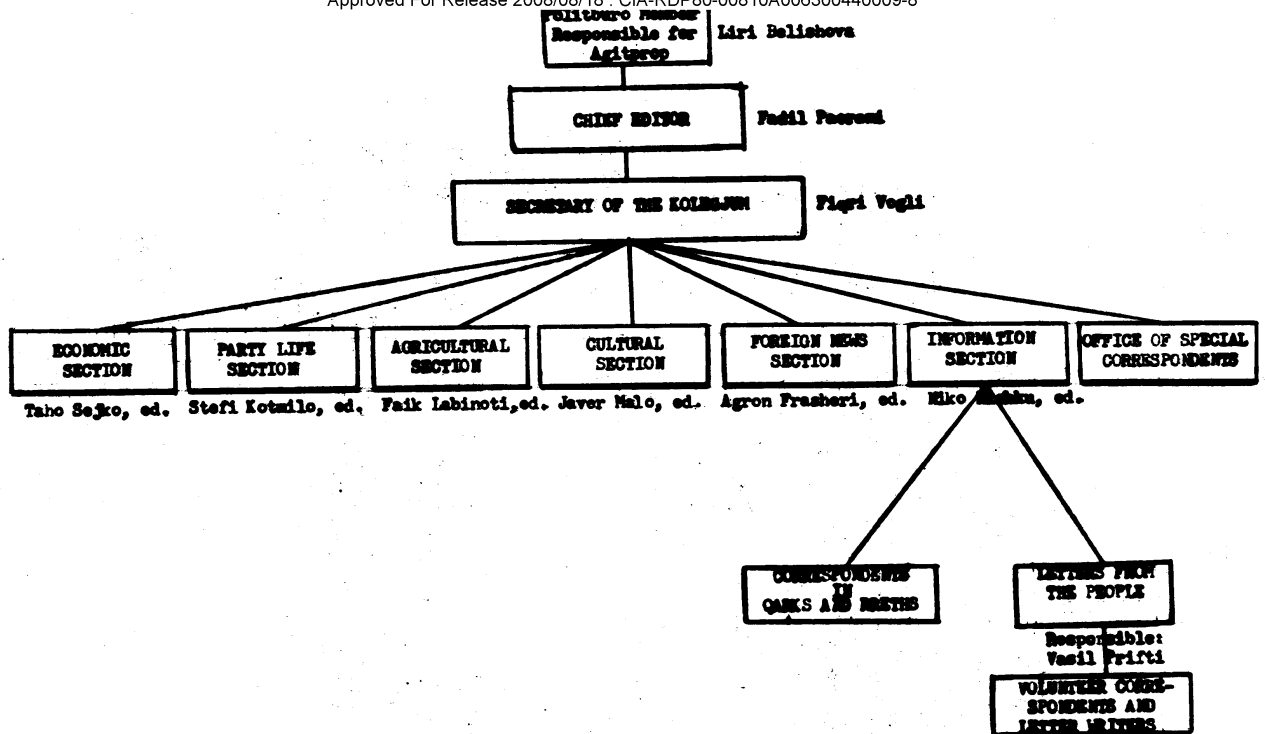
3. Qark (region) and rreth (district) are administrative subdivisions of Albania.

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