

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Albania/Yugoslavia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Repatriation of Albanian Refugees in Yugoslavia	DATE DISTR.	16 June 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] members of the Albanian Legation in Belgrade made a direct appeal to a group of Albanian refugees for voluntary repatriation. The appeal was made at a UDB (Yugoslav I.S.) sponsored meeting held in Niksic, Yugoslavia. Albanian refugees in Niksic and as far away as Titograd were compelled to attend the meeting.
2. One of the Albanian officials addressed the meeting, in the presence of the UDB officers, on the progress made in Albania under the Communist regime. He stated that it was a great mistake for Albanians to have abandoned their fatherland and urged them to return. At this point the UDB officers applauded the speaker while the Albanian refugees shouted in unison: "West!" Hearing this, the Albanian official replied: "Those who are for Socialism can remain in Yugoslavia because we Albania and Yugoslavia are friends." Once again the refugees shouted: "West!" The Albanian official retorted with the question: "Which West? The NCFA? The United States? Great Britain? Wherever you go you will only be there for a short time because victory belongs to the Soviet Union and then once again you will be in our hands - you can't escape. We will give you an example of the degeneration of the West. The Yugoslav authorities have given you exit permits, you have gone to the embassies of the western countries for entry permits and they have not honored your request. If you had money, they would have opened their doors. Their God is money."
3. At this point the refugees began exposing their bodies to show the burns and scars which they received when tortured by the police in Albania, and saying: "It is true that Yugoslavia has supported us; but we have paid for this because half of our brothers have been lost, therefore there is only the West for us."

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4. The Albanian officials began making derogatory remarks about the United States, the NCPA, ex-King Zog, Hasan Dosti, Abas Kupa, Abas Ermenji and other refugee leaders. The refugees shouted: "Long live the United States who supports the NCPA and will liberate Albania." They rushed to where the Albanian officials were standing and began attacking them. The UDB officers moved in to protect the Albanian officials, but they too were beaten and had several chairs broken on their heads. In the midst of this fracas, one of the Albanian officials, remembering an old Albanian custom which signifies humiliation before an overwhelming force shouted: "We are in your hands O Albanians." Hearing this, the refugees stopped hitting the officials and left the building.
5. The Yugoslav authorities took disciplinary measures against the refugees. Some were fined 8 - 15 thousand dinars while others were put in jail.
6. The Albanian officials had held similar meetings in Podujevo and in other Albanian refugee centers but without incident. No Albanian refugees has requested repatriation to Albania. All want to join the West.

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1. [Redacted] Comment: The reference here is probably to those refugees who have lost their lives while infiltrating into Albania for the UDB.

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