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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S E C R E T

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COUNTRY Albania

REPORT [Redacted]

25X1

SUBJECT [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

report contains the

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following information:

[Redacted]

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b. Armed Forces

- (1) Unidentified infantry unit transferred from Vlone. 5
- (2) Artillery group stationed at Vlone.
- (3) Reserve units from Gjinokaster mobilized in February-March 1957.
- (4) Military equipment of the artillery group at Vlone and the artillery regiment at Tirana. 6
- (5) Location and description of the barracks of the infantry unit at Vlone. 7

c. Personnel of the internal affairs section in Vlone. 8

d. Pursuit Brigade reinforced after the November 1956 Hungarian uprisings.

e. Organization of the Vlone Rreth Executive Committee. 10

f. Elementary and Unike schools at Polican. The report points out that Greek is primarily taught in the elementary schools and Albanian in the Unike schools. 11

g. Churches and mosques in Vlone and attendance at religious services.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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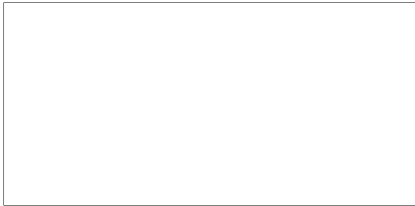


- h. Description, location and personnel of the hospital at Vlone. Page 12

- i. Criticism of the Party at a Tirana Central Committee meeting in the spring of 1956. As a result of this criticism, some delegates were accused as traitors and reactionaries, and Maj. Gen. Hulusi Spahiu and Tahir Kadarea were dismissed. 13

- j. Economic: prices, campaign for collectivization, Vlone cement factory. 15

- k. Transportation: schedule and cost of bus service on the Vlone-Rrogozhine, Vlone-Himare and Vlone-Gjinokaster roads. The report notes that Skoda busses are used primarily. 17



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PART. B. - I N F O

FIRST CHAPTER

ARMED FORCES

A R M Y

1. - Order of Battle

✓ (a) Unknown Unit transfered from Vlone

In Sept. or Oct. 1956, an unknown unit (infantry) which was stationed in Vlone, moved from this town and its troops were distributed to other units stationed in GJINOKASTEJ PERMET, KORCE, and SHKODER. To the barracks of Vlone remained about 150 men.

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[Redacted]

Purpose of

the a/m movement is to reinforce the units stationed nearby the Greek and Yugoslav border.

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[Redacted]

October 1956

VLONE

✓ (b) A.A. Group in VLONE

An A.A. Arty group has been located in VLONE

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The Command Office of this unit is located about 1000 m. South of town.

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Commander of the said Arty Group is a Cpt B' named Vasil XHELO from

HIMARE. The sub-units of the Arty group in question are distributed as follows:

SHKALLE E VLONES (Commanding Office).

Hill of KUZ-BABA.

At the East side of the town.

At the airfield of Vlone.

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[Redacted]

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2. - Recruiting Service

[Redacted]

✓ a) Calling up Reserve Troops

From the beginning of Feb. 1957 up to early in March 1957, took place a mobilization exercise. Reserve soldiers belonging to unknown military class, and who lived in the town and the area of Gjinokaster were called. They were kept in the service for about 5-7, and were engaged in light training.

[Redacted]

this info was widely spread in the town of Vlone.

3. - Military Equipment

✓ a) A.A. Arty Group, VLONE

A.A. Guns

The A.A. Arty Group of Vlone is equipped with the following types of guns:

- ✓ ~~4~~ A.A. guns, 37 mm, located within the barracks.
- ✓ ~~4-8~~ " " 20 mm, " at the hill KUZ-BABA.
- ✓ ~~4~~ " " 37 mm, " in the airfield of VLONE.

✓ The said guns are permanently installed at the a/m positions.

✓ [Redacted]

10-12 A.A. guns (calibre 37 & 20 mm) moving out of town (towed by trucks) for training purposes.

Type of vehicles: ZIS trucks.

[Redacted]

✓ b) A.A. Arty Rgt, TIRANA

[Redacted]

The A.A. Arty Rgt of Tirana

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

had the following guns:

German guns, caliber 20mm:	12 ea.
Soviet " " 85mm:	11 ea.
" " " 37mm:	16 ea.
" " " 12,7mm:	8 ea.

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During Dec. 1956, the a/m regiment was supplied with a number of 95mm guns.

c) Armored Cars

In Nov. 1956, when the preparatory parade took place in the airfield of Tirana,

about 50 medium and heavy armored cars,

Dec. 52- March 1957

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TIRANA- VLONE

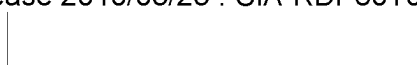
Military Installations

✓ a) Barracks of the Vlone Inf. Unit

The barracks of the Vlone infantry unit are located towards the east side of the central road leading to the port (SHKALLER E VLONES), about 500 m. from the port, and 1500 m. from the central square of VLONE. The said barracks have the shape of a Greek P (Π); each side of them is about 150 m. long. The headquarters are sheltered in a building located on the West side of the road, and about 350 m. from the port. The dimensions of this building are about 6 x 6 x 6 m.

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SECOND CHAPTER

29 MAY 1957

MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TROOPS & PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

1. - State Police

a). Section of Internal Affairs for the district of Vlone


In Vlone there is a section of Internal Affairs. The said section is divided in two sub-sections 

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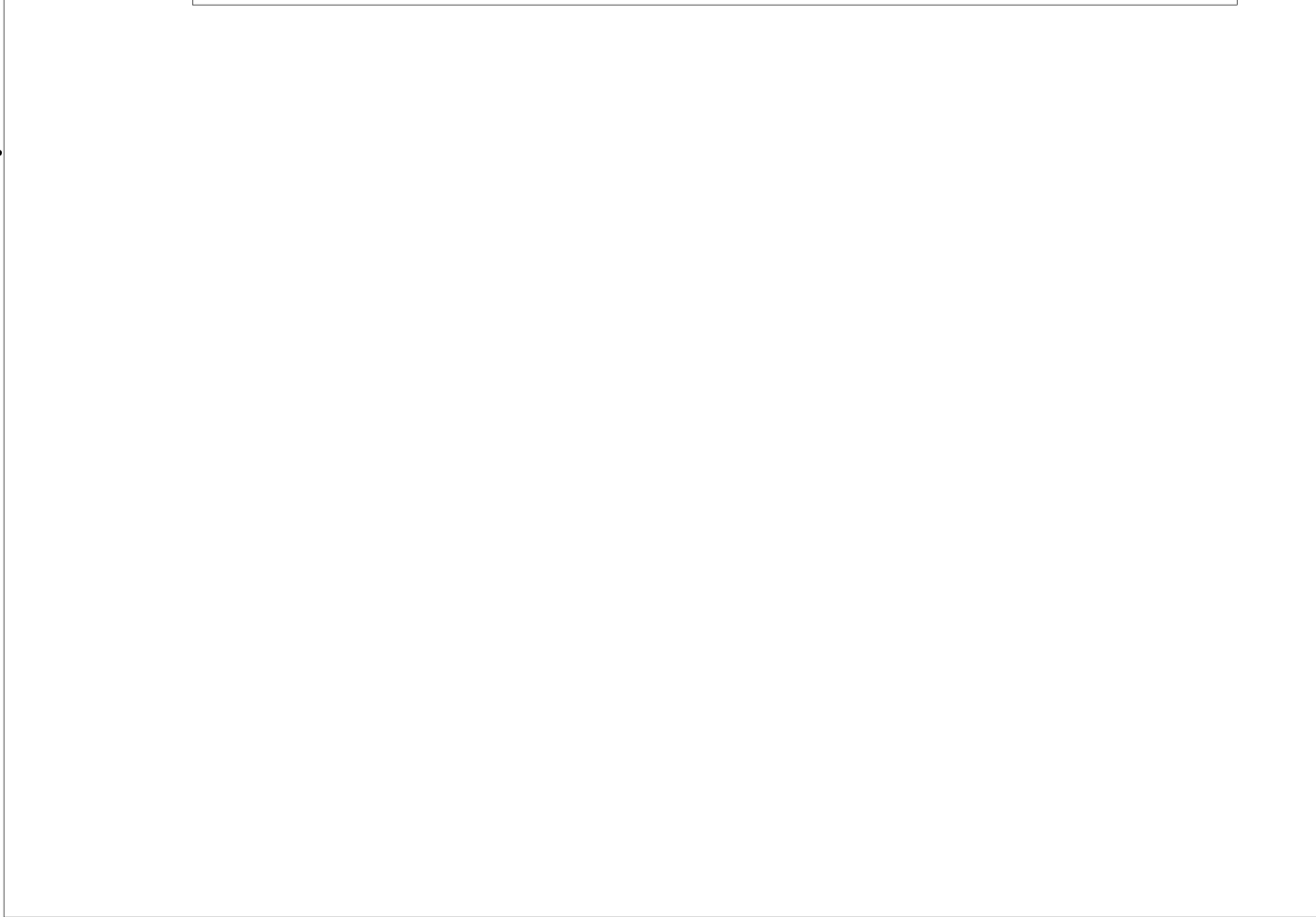
Commander of the a/m section is a Sigurini Lt Col. from Elbasan, ^{named} based Petrit

AKANI  Deputy Commander is a Police Major named Skender PAISI 

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from Vlone. 

2. -



3. - Special Brigades of the Security Forces

a). Recruits assigned to the Furmit Brigade



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[redacted] the special pursuit brigade [redacted] after the Hungarian events, was reinforced with new men called up to join it.

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THIRD CHAPTER

FORTIFICATIONS

COASTAL DEFENCES

1. - Control Vessels

a) Patrol Boats

[redacted] 2-3 fast sailing boats(MAS) carrying out patrol service at the entrance of the Vlone bay, and towards the western coast of the same bay. They were coming from the island of SAZAN. The patrol service was carried out in different hours of the day; [redacted]

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2. - A.A. Defences

a) Location of A.A. Guns

✓ A.A. guns of the calibre 20 mm are located on the hill KUZBARA [redacted]

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[redacted] Estimated number of guns: 4-8.

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✓ Four A.A. guns (caliber 37mm) are located in the barracks of the A.A. Arty Unit Vlone. [redacted]

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✓ Another four guns (calibre 37 mm) are located in the airfield of Vlone.

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✓ Furthermore [redacted] 10-15 A.A. guns (caliber 37 & 20mm) towed by vehicles while they were going out of barracks for training. [redacted]

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March 1952

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V L O N E

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FOURTH CHAPTER

INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

STATE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATIONS

1. - Administrative Division of the Country

Albania is divided in 4 Regions and 8 independent districts which are directly under the government.

The 4 Regions are as follows:

SHKODER, ELBASAN, KORCE, GJINOKASTER.

The 8 districts (Rrethë) are as follows:

TIRANA, DURRES, LUSHNJE, FIER, KRUIJE, BERAT, VLOME, KOTI.

Organization of the Executive Committee for the District of Vlone.

President of the Committee: Hristo PAPAJANI

[Redacted]

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Vice-President: Name unknown.

Secretary: " "

Section of Finance.

- " " Agriculture.
- " " Education.
- " " Commerce.
- " " Public Health.

[Redacted]

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March 1957

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ALBANIA-VLOME

2. - Education

Gymnasium of Vlone

In Vlone operates a gymnasium to which was given the name of the Albanian hero

Ali DEMI.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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29 MAY 1957

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Seven-year (Elementary & Unike) school in [redacted]

In Polican [redacted] there are a 4-year elementary school and a 3-year school called UNIKE. The pupils of the elementary school learn Greek while very few hours are disposed for Albanian. On the contrary, in the ~~UNIKE~~ program of the Unike is taught Albanian mainly, and very few hours are disposed for Greek.

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[redacted] The names of the educators (school-masters) working in the a/m school are as follows:

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Aristidhi Jani QIRUSHI [redacted]

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Hristoforo HRISTO [redacted]

Mili Panajot HANO [redacted]

Fane ZOTO [redacted]

Aristidhi Safokli IASONIDHI [redacted]

March 1957

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VLOJNE - POLICAN

3. - Religion

a). Orthodox Church of Vlone

In Vlone there are two Orthodox Churches and three priests. Church Service takes place every Sunday and Holiday. Old-aged people attend the Church Service during Sundays; on the contrary during the big Orthodox Holidays the churches are crowded.

But even in these cases the Divine Service is not respected accordingly because the Communists go into the Church and try to draw the attention of the people in it with their loud discussions, so that the Divine Service goes beyond its holy limits.

But in general, the religious sentiment remains strong inspite of the oppressive Communist measures. Many families possessing radios listen to the church service

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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b) Catholic Church

[Redacted]

20 MAY 1957

In Vlone there is a Catholic Church and a priest. Very few people go to this Church because in Vlone there are not many Catholics.

c) Moslem Church (Mosque)

In Vlone there are 4 Mosques but only 3 of them are used as churches; the 4th has been converted to museum(Archeological).

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

there are many of them. Very few people go to the Mosques, except for the important moslem holidays that the mosques are crowded.

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[Redacted]

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March 1957

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VLONE

4. - Social Welfare

a) Hospital of Vlone

The civilian hospital of Vlone is located at the N.E. end of town.

The said hospital is sheltered in 5 buildings 15x16x4 m. and another building 15x15x6 m. The buildings have arched roof covered with tiles.

The first building is a clinic for paralytic diseases, the second for contagious diseases, the third is for the treatment of the diseases of women, the fourth for children

[Redacted]

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The 5 buildings which are 15x15x4 m. have 30 beds; the building which is 16x16x6 m. has less bed(although bigger than the other 5), because in the same one are the offices of the hospital.

Director of the hospital is a surgeon named MHUTI (fmu)

[Redacted]

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Names of doctors

ELOKO (fmu)

Isuf HASANBEGA

Irfan PRISTINA

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TAKO (fmu)

SHEHU (fmu)

Name unknown,

A new building 30x5x 4 m. has been constructed about 20 m. South of the a/m buildings.

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In the town of Vlone there is a maternity house.

Insured persons are provided with free hospital treatment.

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March 1957

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VLONE

5. - PARTY ACTIVITIES

Existence and Dispute among C.P. Members

At a meeting of the Tirana C.P. Committee, which was held during the spring of 1956, the delegates of the Tirana area expressed violent criticism against the Central Committee of the Party, against the policy of the Communist Party, and the members of the Albanian cabinet. The said meeting had the nature of preparatory work for the Party Congress which was held in May 1956. The Albanian government was represented in this meeting by Beqir BALLUKU, Minister of the People's Defense. Enver HOXHA had gone to Vlone for some rest, and Mehmet SHEHU was in Shkoder.

Beqir BALLUKU was asked by the delegates to give certain explanations concerning the control of the press, the censorship, and the scandalizing difference between the people and the high functionaries. Beqir BALLUKU felt himself unable to answer these questions, and he feared the consequences of such criticism; so he called Enver HOXHA and Mehmet SHEHU to return to Tirana urgently. These two Party leaders went both to the meeting and tried to calm down the excited feelings of the representatives. That was mainly done by Enver HOXHA who gave them a lot of promises for the future.

In the following day, during the meeting of the Central Committee Enver HOXHA and

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[REDACTED] page 14.

Mehmet SHEHU attacked certain of the said representatives and accused them as traitors and reactionaries; their attack resulted the dismissal of two Major Generals named Hylai SPANIU and Tahir KADAREKA; some others were transferred to areas located far from the capital; high functionaries were terminated, like the President or the Vice-President [REDACTED] of the Tirana Executive Committee, etc.

Members of the Central Committee of the Albanian C.P. were sent as delegates to all parts of the country in order to calm down the excitement of the population. Mehmet SHEHU went to Vlone and spoke in a meeting held in the motion pictures theater of that town, praising the successful realization of the governmental program.

[REDACTED]

March 1952

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ALBANIA

6. - Morale of the People

Great resentment and discontent is ruling all over Albania due to the bad economic conditions existing in this country.

The people wait and hope for a war to break up from outside the country, because the internal security measures render almost impossible an internal up-raise.

Inspite of the fact that everybody is aware of the terrible consequences of a war, none seems to fear it because that is the only solution which will lead to a change and towards an improvement of their living conditions.

It is prohibited to listen to foreign radio broadcasts. But those who possess a radio use to listen to the Albanian and Greek broadcasts of VOA, to EBC, and Radio Athens.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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FIFTH CHAPTER

ECONOMIC SITUATION

29 MAY 1957

1. - Farming

a). Campaign for Collectivization

[redacted] the program of the Albanian government is to complete the collectivization (farming) of the country within 1958.

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All kinds of measures are taken for the successful realization of the said program. Villagers (peasants) living in towns are told to return to their village in order to reinforce the farming projects.

Generally all the efforts of the Albanian government are directed towards the improvement of farming and stock-farming.

b). Stock-farming Cooperative of Vlone

In the area of Vlone has been organized the # 4 Government Stock-farming Cooperative which owns 25 - 30.000 sheep.

Manager of this cooperative is Hasan MUCO, [redacted]

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[redacted] The said cooperative had a small apiary of 40 beehives [redacted]

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[redacted] The beehives were of the European types; they were made in Albania and produced about 200 kgs of honey yearly.

[redacted]

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2. - Food Supplies

a). Wheat Provision

[redacted]

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[redacted] the managers of the cooperative and the union had received instructions to evacuate the depots [redacted] because they were reserved for wheat storage. It was rumored that the wheat will come by sea¹⁵ and will be

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transported at the port of Vlone.

29 MAY 1957

Cost of Foodstuffs

I t e m	Special Shops	Rationed
Bread (made of wheat flour):	55 lek per kg	6 lek per kg.
" " " corn "	45 " " "	4 " " "
Cooking oil:	280 " " "	50 " " "
Beans:	78 " " "	16 " " "
Rice:	136 " " "	24 " " "
Meat:	125 " " "	48 " " "
Sugar:	200 " " "	40 " " "
Macaroni:	100 " " "	25 " " "
Potatoes:	22 " " "	-
Kerosene:	30 " " "	-
Coffee:	1000 " " "	-
Soap:		45 " " "
Salt:	10 lek per kg	-
Butter:	550 " " "	-
Cheese:	200 " " "	-
Honey:	230 " " "	-
Conserved Sardines:	60 " " "	-
Fish:	80 " " "	
Olives:	50 " " "	-
Milk:	40 " " "	20 lek per kg.

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VLONE

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INDUSTRY



a). Cement Factory, VLONE

The construction of the cement factory in Vlone was completed in 1954; it is located  about 1000 m. East of the road Vlone-UJT E FTOHTE, or ~~AAA~~ 3 km S.E. of Vlone. The cement factory was constructed under the supervision of Soviet Engineers. The factory works with electrical power received from the nearby located power plant. 

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March 1957

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VLONE

SIXTH CHAPTER

COMMUNICATIONS

Road Communications

Vlone

Vlone communicates by road with the following towns:

- a). VLONE-FIER-LUSHNJE-RROGOZHINE: The transportation from Vlone to RROGOZHINE is carried out by vehicles; then the passengers continue their trip by train, towards DURRESE-TIRANA, or towards ELBASAN.

This line is serviced by 3 SKODA busses 52-seat.

Two of them accept passengers for RROGOZHINE only; in case that there are empty seats they may take passengers for the intermediate towns too. The third bus takes passengers for FIER only. When this bus arrives to Fier, it takes passengers from Fier to RROGOZHINE. One who traveled with that bus from Vlone to Fier, cannot take it again in order to continue his trip from Fier to RROGOZHINE. That can be done only in case that the bus-agency of Fier has not reserved all the seats of the bus leaving for RROGOZHINE. The busses return to Vlone within the same day.

Bus Schedule, Winter

Departure from Vlone: 0800 hrs (Albanian mean time).

Summer Schedule

Departure from Vlone: 0800 hrs (" " ")

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Departure from BREGOZHINE

At 1300 hrs for Vlone and Fier, and another leaves at 1400 hrs for Vlone.

The bus ticket for a trip from Vlone to BREGOZHINE costs 95 lek.

b) Vlone-HIMARE

This line is serviced by a truck [redacted] which can take about 30 passengers. It leaves from Vlone at 0800 o'clock.

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c) Vlone-GJINOKASTER

This line is serviced by the busses of the line TIRANA-GJINOKASTER (1-3 busses daily passing from Vlone).

Note

SKODA busses are mostly used. Besides them there are certain Soviet busses.

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