

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Persecution of Clergy of Orthodox Church in Albania

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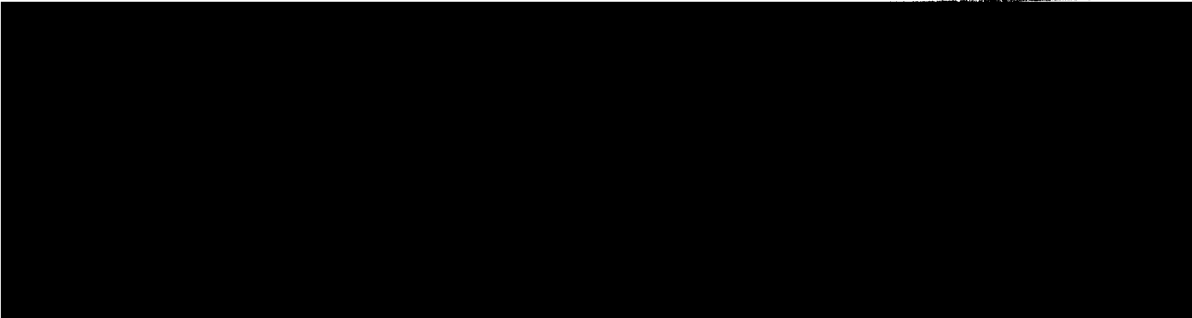
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. The assistant of the Archbishop of Albania, Bishop Irineos Bancusis, was arrested by the Albanian Security. He is accused of having stigmatized from the pulpit the Albanian Government, the policy of which is keeping the Christian population away from the churches.
2. Besides the above mentioned bishop, the Bishop of Berati, Vissarion Tzovanis, is also imprisoned, accused as a reactionary.
3. The following are now free, obeying the orders of the Albanian Communist Party:
 - a. The Archbishop of Albania, Christoforos Kissis, from Berati;
 - b. Paisios from Koritsa, who is a "blind instrument" of the Albanian Government and was ordained as Bishop after his return from Moscow, where he went at the head of a representation of the Orthodox Church of Albania as Archimandrite Pascal Votitsa; and
 - c. The Archimandrite, Marcos Papavassilios, from Koritsa, who has the jurisdiction of a bishop but is still not appointed as such.
4. The episcopal seats of Argyrocastro and Berati are still unoccupied. Irineos Bancusis was appointed to the former, but declined to accept it, owing to his friendly relations with the Metropolitan of Argyrocastro, Panteleimon, who is in Greece.

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