

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Albania
SUBJECT Miscellaneous Information on Albania

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A. Albanian Army

1. In addition to the regular forces in the Albanian Army, drawn from the classes of 1904 - 1929, there are auxiliary troops, as follows:
 - a. About 10,000 "cadets" (from 14 to 18 years of age), armed with [redacted] carbines and various types of machine guns. They wear military uniforms with cadet insignia and live in barracks.
 - b. About 6,000 women assigned to auxiliary services. They are armed with Soviet-type automatic carbines and with automatic pistols.
 - c. A few thousand pro-Communist peasants, armed with hunting rifles.

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Recruiting is done by the conscription system. Voluntary enlistment is permitted only for officers.

2. There are many schools for training military personnel of all ranks. The officers and noncommissioned officers are selected according to their political ideology. One who is completely subservient to the government and proves his loyalty to Communism with deeds, is slated for rapid advancement. The prestige of military personnel, especially officers, is great throughout the country, as much of the authority of the state is in the hands of the military authorities.

3. Discipline in the army and among the auxiliary forces leaves much to be desired. Frequently officers may be seen in the city streets noisily consorting with women and soldiers of lower rank. The moral of the troops is rather low, chiefly because of their pay, which is ridiculously inadequate to meet living costs. The soldiers are well fed, but cannot support their families on their pay. The troops appear to be loyal to the government, but in reality at least 50 per cent of them are opposed to the regime. The most loyal are found among those from the southern provinces of Korce, Gjinokaster, and Sarande. The least loyal come from Shkoder (almost all of them are Catholic), Durres, Tirana, and the coastal districts.

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[redacted] in case of revolt they would be willing to fight against the present government, and maintain that it could be overthrown easily if there were a push from outside.

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[redacted]

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- 4. The infantry is armed with small arms, heavy machine guns, a few mortars, and a few small guns. These weapons reportedly came from the [redacted] Armies, and were not furnished by the USSR. 50X1-HUM
- 5. The artillery has many weapons of all calibers and types, from [redacted] pack artillery to the large-caliber artillery supplied by the Soviets. 50X1-HUM
- 6. There are said to be 22 tanks, of which three are light [redacted] one medium-heavy [redacted] the others medium and heavy Soviet (the last being similar [redacted] in type and size). 50X1-HUM
- 7. The pontonier unit of the engineers has a [redacted] pontoon bridge and much material necessary for repairing iron bridges, supplied by Yugoslavia two or three years ago.
- 8. The cavalry is equipped with all the latest Soviet equipment. It used to be in Tirana on garrison duty [redacted] 50X1-HUM

B. Albanian Navy

- 1. Albania, which has no naval units as such, has two small gunboats, each armed with a small 40 millimeter gun, and five [redacted] submarine chasers armed with machine guns. Propaganda maintains that the USSR will give Albania naval vessels, but [redacted] nobody believes this. 50X1-HUM
- 2. Along the coast between Durres and Cape Pali there are two old coast artillery emplacements, on which camouflage work has been done recently, so that the guns are no longer visible from the coast. A third emplacement half-way between Durres and Cape Pali is under construction. The work is being done by 200 sailors. Materials are transported at night. 50X1-HUM
- 3. Five miles from the sea between Durres and Kavaje, a pontoon has recently been operating for about a month; it is said to have been laying mines. At one point of the barricade, two signal buoys with battery-operated electric lights, one red and one green, have been set up.
- 4. In Durres harbor, construction is in progress on a new breakwater of reinforced concrete, [redacted] 50X1-HUM

- 5. Despite the lack of warships, [redacted] Albania has many sailors and naval officers, all of whom wear uniforms [redacted] 50X1-HUM

C. Albanian Air Force

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- 1. [redacted] the Albanian Air Force has a total of two or three aircraft. It has very few aviation personnel, who wear uniforms [redacted]. There are practically no specialists. Apparently the government is not considering the formation of an effective air force, but depends upon the protection of the Soviet Air Force in case of need. 50X1-HUM
- 2. There are three airfields in Albania (one each at Tirana, Gjinokaster, and Korce), which are kept clear and in fair condition. Soviet and Balkan civilian and military aircraft land there. These fields, however, have no modern equipment, and the sheds and hangars that were destroyed by Allied bombing during the war have not been rebuilt. 50X1-HUM

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D. Albanian Police

1. The police force has a military organization, but is not a part of the armed forces. Discipline is more rigid than in the army. The organization is powerful and penetrates everywhere. It has many personnel, not because the state of order and public security makes this necessary, but to keep constant watch over the population and immediately suppress any revolutionary move. Police of proven Communist fidelity are assigned to special political duties and always wear civilian clothes. Those in uniform serve in institutional posts and exercise surveillance over all the nationalized enterprises. The police are armed with automatic pistols and automatic rifles of Soviet manufacture.
2. Morally, the police force leave much to be desired, as some of its members are ordinary criminals, former brigands, vagabonds, gypsies, and prostitutes.
3. The police use brutal methods of interrogation (torture), as a result of which they are greatly hated and feared by the people. Often persons carried off by the police after being denounced by some spy fail to return to their families and are never heard of again.
4. The police force is divided into the following branches: popular security (political and judicial); highway and railroad; commercial (surveillance over businesses, factories, stores); and secret (in civilian clothes).
5. Crimes against the state are punished with great severity, whereas crimes against citizens generally go unpunished.



E. Economic

1. The economic situation is precarious, and war damage and the crises caused by nationalization in agriculture, industry, and commerce are deeply felt. Everything is rationed, and long queues form in front of state stores where food and clothing are purchased.
2. There are two types of state stores in Albania, one for rationed and one for unrationed goods. In the first type, only bread, oil, (and recently sugar), can be obtained. The population is forced to resort to the free stores, where prices are extremely high, for other commodities.
3. Unemployment does not exist because of the sparseness of the population and the large number of citizens in the armed forces.

F. Finance

1. The currency consists of government notes of 10, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000 lek, and coins (an antimony alloy) of $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, and 5 lek.



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