DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B28
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003. 2008

Albania/Italy

Subject: Gathering of Albanian Political Leaders in Italy

~~Report No.: PIR-4606~~

Place Acquired: Italy, Rome

Date of Info.: August 1949

Evaluation: *3

~~Date Acquired: 20 August 1949~~

*Source: ~~[illegible]~~ through a well-placed source.

~~Date of Report: 6 September 1949~~

1. A meeting of Albanian political leaders, which has been planned for some time, is now taking place in Rome. A considerable number of Albanian leaders have arrived recently, either from Greece or Egypt, or else from Sicily, which recently has become the Albanian center of Italy. Sicily's importance for the Albanians has arisen from the establishment there of an International Center of Albanian Studies to which the provincial government has allotted several million lire (for research and scholarships), and which has been taken under the wing of ALNESI, and Italian parliamentary deputy. It has acquired an importance which transcends the cultural field, for among the Albanian political leaders who gathered there in March 1949 were ~~[illegible]~~ Said MYRITIU and Ibrahim PANDI.

2. In the first week in August Abas KUPI arrived in Italy with a special permit granted him by the Italian government, as did Midhat FRASHERI, leader of the Balli Kombetar. The minute the various emigrés [illegible] relatives met, they began squabbling. FRASHERI, mouthpiece of the intransigent majority of the Balli Kombetar, declared that he did not intend to cooperate with the Zogists, (Zogists) whom he regarded as responsible for all the ills which had befallen his country. The moderate faction of the Ballists, on the other hand, let it be understood that they were perfectly willing to cooperate with ZOG's followers.

3. The rumor is current in Albanian circles that Count SFORZA considered it most inopportune for the Albanian leaders to be allowed to gather in Italy at a time when Italy and Albania are re-establishing diplomatic relations, but DE GASPERI and his Christian Democrats, as well as the Vatican, insisted that the Albanians be allowed complete freedom. This rumor is, however, so far unconfirmed.

Source states that

Source states that

Classification: SECRET/BORNOX (U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY)

SD-29357

Cl 2
OPC

PIR 4606

FISP

REGISTRY COPY

5-14-17