

**SECRET**

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Colonel General Enver HOXHA (pronounced Hoja), Prime Minister and Commander of the Armed Forces of Albania, is 40 years of age. His father was a cotton factory worker in Gjinokaster, South Albania. At the age of 16 he was affiliated with the Communist Party and reportedly attended the Balkan CP Congress in Vienna in 1924. As a promising student of the local high school he was given a scholarship for studies in Belgium. When the funds of this scholarship ran out, he became secretary of the Albanian Consulate in Brussels. In 1937 he returned to Albania, ostensibly to teach French in a high school at Korce. Working for the downfall of King Zog, however, became his chief occupation. He established himself as a small businessman on one of the main business streets in Tirana and led for the next few years the hazardous double life of a typical conspirator. In the daytime he sold cigarettes and olive oil to the Italian officers and soldiers that crowded his store; at night he held conferences with the leaders of the guerrilla bands waging war on the Italians from their mountain hideouts. HOXHA's influence rose steadily among the Albanian Partisans whom he joined openly in the summer of 1942. He was selected Chief of the National Liberation Movement at a conference of the guerrilla chiefs held in September 1942. During the next two years he coordinated the activity of his Partisans with TITO's guerrillas; after the Nazi domination in the Balkans crumbled HOXHA, who in the meantime had promoted himself to a Colonel General, triumphantly entered Tirana.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
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- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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