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ACTION: SE-8 () INFO: ODPD-0; VR; FILE; RP; DORECORD; DDD-4;
SUSPENSE; CDD; CI-4; CI/FL; EPS/EG-2; EUR-8; IAD; IAD/CS-4; IID; OED;
PCS/INT-2; (41/W)

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PAGE 001

IN 6036545

TOR: 131740Z MAR 81

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SECRET 131655Z MAR 81 STAFF

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TO: DIRECTOR.

WNINTEL [] [] FGI INTEL

REF: DIRECTOR 068449

1. PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 CONTAIN THE COMMENTS OF []
ON ALBANIAN PARTY LEADER ENVER H O X H A S AND ARE FOR PASSAGE
TO THE OPA ANALYSTS WHO GENERATED REF QUESTIONS.

2. OUR INFORMATION INDICATES THAT HOXA HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM
THE POLITICAL SCENE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS. WE AGREE THAT DESPITE
THIS ABSENCE HE HAS NOT LOST HIS PRESTIGE. THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION MAY BE OF INTEREST:

A. HOXA DID NOT ATTEND THE 7 FEBRUARY CEREMONY WHICH
BESTOWED THE TITLE OF "HEROINE OF SOCIALIST WORK" ON HIS WIFE
NETZIE ON THE OCCASION OF HER 60TH BIRTHDAY. ALMOST ALL OF THE
OTHER IMPORTANT ALBANIAN FIGURES WERE AT THE CEREMONY.

B. MANY ALBANIANS ARE NOW DISCUSSING HOXA'S
"ILLNESS."

C. FRENCH MEDICAL PROFESSOR PAUL M I L I E Z I
VISITED ALBANIA IN NOVEMBER 1980 IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA MEDICAL SCHOOL. THIS PROFESSOR IS
KNOWN TO FOLLOW THE HEALTH OF HOXA AND OTHER PARTY MEMBERS.
(PARTY SECRETARY MIUZI K A P O; ONE OF HOXA'S POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS
DIED IN MILIEZI'S PARIS CLINIC IN SEPTEMBER 1979.) THE VISIT
OF MILIEZI TO ALBANIA STRENGTHENS THE RUMORS THAT HOXA IS ILL.
HE IS BELIEVED TO SUFFER FROM A SERIOUS FORM OF DIABETES AND
PROBABLY ARTERIOSCLEROSIS.

D. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE RUMORS THAT

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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STAFF

01 6036545

PAGE 002

IN 6036545

TOR: 131740Z MAR 81

01 59247

ASPIRING SUCCESSORS ARE MANEUVERING TO TAKE OVER IF HOXA LEAVES THE SCENE. IF WE RECEIVE ANY APPLICABLE INFORMATION, WE WILL BE PLEASED TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE.

3. ALTHOUGH CONDITIONS IN ALBANIA ARE SUCH THAT IT IS HARD TO FORM A CLEAR OPINION ABOUT THE INTERNAL SITUATION, IT SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT THAT AN INVISIBLE RIVALRY FOR THE POWER HELD BY HOXA DOES EXIST. IT APPEARS TO US THAT AT PRESENT, THE MAJOR ASPIRING SUCCESSORS OF HOXA ARE (IN THIS ORDER): PRIME MINISTER MEHMET S H E H U; DEFENSE MINISTER KADRI H A S B I U; PARTY SECRETARY AND THEORETICIAN ALIA R A M I '2; FINANCE MINISTER HAKI T O S K A; AND VICE PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT BERKET P E T S I.

4. NO FILE. RVW W3MAR11 DRV D981. ALL SECRET.

END OF MESSAGE

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