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CAPITAL, PUBLIC PLACES AND HOTELS.

3. COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS HELD IN EARLY JULY 1983 DREW ATTENTION TO HOXHA'S PUBLIC APPEARANCE AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS--NO MORE THAN THREE TIMES--AND TO OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH HE APPEARED ON TV. WHAT IS NOTEWORTHY IS THE INCREASING IMPORTANCE WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO RAMIZ ((ALIA)), CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDUM. HOXHA HAS BEEN APPEARING WITH A WEAK, FIXED SMILE ON HIS FACE AND HIS MOVEMENTS WERE VERY SLOW, WHILE ALIA APPEARED TO BE DYNAMIC AND SURE OF HIMSELF. LATELY ALIA HAS BEEN GIVING ALL SPEECHES TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE COUNTRY.

4. WHATEVER THE DICTATOR'S PHYSICAL CONDITION MAY BE, AS OF MID-JULY HE WAS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PART OF ALBANIA ON LAKE DOGRADEC. BESIDES THE HOT WEATHER IN ALBANIA, NECESSITATING THE MOVE TO A COOLER LOCATION, IT APPEARS THAT HOXHA IS INCAPABLE OF FACING ANY MAJOR STRAINS. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRO-SOVIET GROUP LED BY ALIA HAS ALREADY BEGUN PREPARING FOR A POST-HOXHA PERIOD IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO TRAUMATIZE ALBANIA.

5. FILE: e J. DECL: OADR DRV HUM 4-82. ALL SECRET.

END OF MESSAGE

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13 AUG 1983