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PRIORITY

ADV EUR 2055Z

STAFF

ACTION: SE/RR-3 (578) INFO: OOPD-D, VR, FILE, MONITOR, SEDORECORD, SESUSPENSE, DDO-4, EUR/C1, EUR/1-4, EUR/RR-2, SE/BB-3, SE/10, SE/OPB, SE/DREE, SE/ORP, SE/RBE, SE/USSR-2, SE/XEU-2, SE/XO, C/CPN, C/PPS, CI/EU, CI/SE, CPN/OCG, EPI/EE, EPO/EUR, IID, INT/RR, OCG/ICB-2, OED, PPS/AO-3, PPS/PO-3, PPS/SEO-5, PWSTAFF/BJ, (55/W)

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TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR INFO ()

WNINTEL INTEL [] FGI

SUBJECT: ALBANIA - AFTER HOXHA

REF: DIRECTOR 333406

1. AS A DIRECT RESPONSE TO REFERENCE, [] HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING REPORT, DATED 22 APRIL, WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE. THE [] REPORT DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN REF BUT WE FORWARD IT TO HQS FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH.

2. THE ELECTION OF RAMIZ ((ALIA)) TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE PLA SOON AFTER HOXHA'S DEATH, AND ALIA'S FUNERAL ORATION DEALING WITH THE USUAL THEMES OF U.S. AND SOVIET IMPERIALISM, SUGGEST THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN PREPARED SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LATE LEADER.

3. THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE DATE OF HOXHA'S DEATH, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ON 11 APRIL, AND THAT OF THE FUNERAL (15 APRIL) MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE TIME REQUIRED FOR THE NEW LEADERS, WHOSE VIEWS DIFFER, TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO INVITE CERTAIN FOREIGN DELEGATIONS, WHOSE ATTENDANCE WOULD HAVE REQUIRED TALKS OF A POLITICAL NATURE BY DELEGATION CHIEFS AND THE ALBANIAN LEADERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE FACT THAT THE OFFICIAL ALBANIAN PRESS SPOKE OF A FIRST HEART ATTACK ON 9 APRIL AND A SUBSEQUENT SHORT RECOVERY OF THE PATIENT CAN REASONABLY SUGGEST THAT THE DEATH TOOK PLACE 48 HOURS BEFORE THE DATE DECLARED.

4. THE SUBJECTS TOUCHED UPON IN ALIA'S SPEECH AND THE ALBANIAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET CONDOLENCE MESSAGE UNDERLINED THE ALBANIAN INTENTION TO CONFIRM PREVIOUS POLICY. THE NON-INVITATION OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN A BREAK IN THE POLICY OF "OVERTURES" RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN, BUT ONLY A WISH TO AVOID SUDDEN ACCELERATIONS OF THIS PROCESS BEFORE THE NEW LEADERSHIP HAS FIRMLY CONSOLIDATED ITS POSITION.

5. THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT RECENT ALBANIAN "OVERTURES" COINCIDED WITH THE DETERIORATION OF HOXHA'S HEALTH SUGGESTS THAT ALIA WAS POSSIBLY THE AUTHOR OF THESE OVERTURES WHICH, HOWEVER, DO NOT REFLECT PRO-WESTERN POSTURES, BUT A CAUTIOUS ECONOMIC RELATION BOTH WITH WESTERN AND COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, CONFIRMING THE FIRM EXCLUSION OF BOTH SUPER POWERS.

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
(A) Privacy
(B) Methods/Sources
(C) Foreign Relations

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6. FILE: 43-2-13/3. DECL OADR DRV LIA 1-82. ALL
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