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Synopsis: Mrs. ARETIV VISO of NYC Branch of Free Albania Organization (FAO) made a speech at gathering of Albanian women at the Albanian Mission to the United Nations on 3/8/75. Information concerning Albanian-American organizations and Albanian anti-Communist nationalist parties in exile set out. Sources had no information that Albanian-Americans had membership in CPUSA.

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I. PROMINENT ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT  
OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF ALBANIA

A. New York City (NYC) Branch of the Free Albania  
Organization (FAO)

On August 29, 1975, NY T-1 stated the FAC is an Albanian-American fraternal organization headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. The NYC Branch of the FAO has no permanent quarters and local meetings are generally held in the residences of the officers of the Branch. NY T-1 said the officers of the NYC Branch are TASIN RUSI, President; HAJDER SHTINO, Vice-President; and MEQIE SHTINO, Secretary.

On August 12, 1975, NY T-1 said there has been no activity on the part of the NYC Branch during the summer months. The NYC Branch has been canvassing the membership to determine whether or not the Branch can charter a bus to travel to the Annual Panair which is sponsored by the national organization of the FAO, to be held on September 21, 1975, at the Scandinavian Athletic Club in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. According to NY T-1, TASIN RUSI, Mrs. ARETI VISO, Mrs. BESSIE WEISEL and Mrs. MEQIE SHTINO are on the committee for this project.

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The April 4, 1975 issue of "Liria," the official publication of the FAO, contained an article which stated there was a gathering of Albanian women from New York, Worcester, Boston, Southbridge, Waterbury, Bridgeport and Philadelphia, at the Albanian Mission to the United Nations, on March 8, 1975. LUIZA NACO, wife of RAKO SPIRO NACO, Ambassador, Albanian Mission to the United Nations, greeted the women and made a speech concerned with the advancement of women in Albania under ENVER HOXHA, Secretary, Albanian Party of Labor. There was a showing of films and the women were treated to a dinner prepared by the wives of the members of the Albanian Mission to the United Nations. Mrs. ARETI VISO of the NYC Branch of the FAO was one of several women who made speeches at the gathering.

NY T-2 advised on August 28, 1975, that "Liria", the official publication of the FAO, is sympathetic to the Communist regime of Albania.

NY T-3 advised in January, 1968, that "Liria" is a pro-Communist publication which supports the Government of Albania.

On June 30, 1975, NY T-1 said the national organization of the FAO held a convention in Boston, Massachusetts, on May 18, 1975, and the following individuals who are members of the NYC Branch of the FAO were named to the national positions indicated:

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HAJDER SHTINO, ASIM V LULO and HULUSI KAVO,  
Honorary Presidents

ARETI VISO, BESSIE VEISEL and MEQIE SHTINO,  
Committee Members

TASIM RUSI, Council Member

II. ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE ACTIVITIES OPPOSE  
THE COMMUNIST REGIME OF ALBANIA

A. St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church

On August 29, 1975, NY T-1 said the St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, 184-14 Midland Parkway, Jamaica Estates, NYC, is operated under the constitution of the Albanian Orthodox Church in the United States with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. The St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church is the center of the social and religious activity of the Albanian-American Orthodox Christians in the NYC area. NY T-1 stated that Reverend CHRISTO COSTA is the Pastor of the Church and the leading layman is LARRY PILLARY, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

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✓ On May 14, 1975, NY T-4 stated that Bishop STEPHEN LASKO, head of the Albanian Orthodox Church in the United States, died on April 30, 1975, and Metropolitan VIRENEY of the Orthodox Church of America had appointed Bishop DHIMITRI of Hartford, Connecticut, as interim head of the Albanian Orthodox Church in the United States. NY T-4 said that Bishop DHIMITRI is not an Albanian and there will be much difficulty in replacing Bishop LASKO inasmuch as Albanian priests must be unmarried in order to qualify for the position of Bishop, and there are no unmarried priests of Albanian extraction in the United States with the possible exception of a priest in Worcester, Massachusetts. According to the source, it was planned to have a meeting of the elders of the Albanian Orthodox Church in the United States sometime in June or July, 1975, for the purpose of discussing a replacement for Bishop LASKO.

B. Pan Albanian Federation of America (VATRA)

On August 27, 1975, NY T-4 stated VATRA is a fraternal Albanian-American Organization with national headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. The NYC Branch of VATRA holds general meetings at the Young Men's Christian Association, 356 West 34th Street, NYC, inasmuch as the Branch does not have permanent quarters in NYC. According to NY T-4, the officers of the NYC Branch of VATRA are RAMIZ DANI, President; ALLCELAJ, Secretary; and TONIN MIRAKAJ, Treasurer.

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NY T-4 stated the VATRA organization is primarily a fraternal and non-political organization; however, inasmuch as VATRA is composed of many members of the Legality Party, an Albanian anti-Communist nationalist party in exile, some members of VATRA feel the organization has become a political rather than a fraternal group. Those who oppose the Legality Party influence in the VATRA organization would like to have all Legality Party members withdraw from the organization. It was the opinion of NY T-4 that if such a thing happened, there would be very few members left in VATRA and the organization would die.

On June 13, 1975, NY T-4 and NY T-5 stated that VATRA held a national convention in Boston, Massachusetts, on May 23 and 24, 1975, and AHMET DELVISHI was elected President of the national organization of VATRA. NICK KRESHPANI and IBRAHIM KULLA, who is from Canada, were elected Vice-Presidents.

NY T-4 said that about ten representatives of the NYC Branch of VATRA attended the convention in Boston, including RAMIZ DANI and ALI CELAJ, President and Secretary respectively of the NYC Branch.



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On June 17, 1975, NY T-6 said ZEF PERNOCA and TONIN MIRAKAJ of the NYC Branch of VATRA were elected Members of the Board of VATRA at the national convention of VATRA. According to NY T-6, PERNOCA and MIRAKAJ were the only people from the NYC Branch of VATRA elected Members of the Board. MIRAKAJ has been a Member of the Board for six years and accepted membership for another year in view of his respect for President DELVISHI.

NY T-6 said that normally local branches of VATRA hold elections of officers shortly after the national convention. Inasmuch as the national convention was formerly held in September, the local elections were held in December or early January. Now that the national convention was held in May, 1975, NY T-6 anticipated the NYC Branch of VATRA would have an election of officers during July, 1975.

NY T-4 and NY T-6 stated on July 24, 1975, and July 25, 1975, respectively, that the NYC Branch of VATRA planned to hold a meeting on Saturday, August 2, 1975, for the purpose of electing officers.

On August 4, 1975, NY T-6 said there was a meeting of the NYC Branch of VATRA on August 2, 1975; however, the weather was so hot that very few members of the Branch attended the meeting. Therefore, the election of officers was postponed until sometime in September, 1975.

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On August 27, 1975, NY T-6 stated there would be a meeting of the NYC Branch of VATRA on September 6, 1975, for the purpose of electing local officers.

III. ALBANIAN NATIONALIST PARTIES  
IN EXILE WHICH OPPOSE THE  
COMMUNIST REGIME OF ALBANIA

A. Balli Kombetar Organization (BKO).

On August 28, 1975, NY T-2 stated the BKO, which is composed of a small number of followers of HASAN DOSTI, a former high official of the Albanian Government prior to the Communist takeover of that country, has had very little influence in Albanian emigre circles for a number of years. There has been no unification of the BKO which has been divided into two factions headed by HALIM BEGAJA and JUSUP LUZAJ.

BEGAJA is completely incapacitated due to a failure of a kidney transplant. NY T-2 said LUZAJ is a resident of Boston and has been inactive relative to Albanian political matters. According to NY T-2, the only person connected with the BKO who has been active is SAMI CAUSHI, Secretary-General of the LUZAJ faction.

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On August 28, 1975, NY T-7 said HALIM BEGAJA of the BKO had received an invitation to attend the Congress of the Balli Kombetar Independent (BKI), which was held on July 4 and 5, 1975, in NYC. BEGAJA did not attend the Congress inasmuch as he is bedridden; however, BEGAJA sent a message to the Congress. According to NY T-7, SAMI CAUSHI attended the Congress as a representative of the LUZAJ faction of the BKO. NY T-7 said he knew of no other activity on the part of the BKO.

B. Balli Kombetar Independent (National Independent Bloc) (BKI)

On August 27, 1975, NY T-4 stated the BKI is headquartered in Rome, Italy, under the leadership of ISMAIL VERLACI. The NYC Branch of the BKI maintains an office at 303 West 42nd Street, NYC. NY T-4 said that NDUE GJONMARKAJ, a Vice-President of the BKI, is the head of the BKI in the United States.

On March 31, 1975, NY T-6 stated the BKI planned to hold a Congress on July 4 and 5, 1975, at the Prince George Hotel, 14 East 28th Street, NYC. NY T-6 said it was anticipated that ISMAIL VERLACI, Chairman of the BKI in Rome, Italy, would come to NYC to attend the Congress.

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On July 9, 1975, NY T-4 stated the BKI held a Congress on July 4 and 5, 1975, at the Prince George Hotel, NYC, followed by a dinner-dance on July 6, 1975. Dr. GJON BUCAJ was Chairman of the Congress and ISMAIL VERLACI, who came from Rome, Italy, to attend the Congress, was re-elected Chairman of the Central Committee of the BKI. Dr. GJON BUCAJ was elected Secretary-General of the BKI to replace the deceased ERNEST KOLIQI. NY T-4 said there were no changes in the policies of the BKI.

On July 11, 1975, NY T-6 stated there were about sixty or seventy members of the BKI who were in attendance at the Congress of the BKI. Representatives of other Albanian nationalist parties in exile were present at the Congress with the exception of the Albanian Agrarian Democratic Party (Agrar), including SAMI CAUSHI of the LUZAJ faction of the BKO, and FUAT MYFTIA, Secretary-General of the Legality Party. According to NY T-6, the Congress sent a telegram to the President of the United States advising him that the BKI supported the policies of the Government of the United States. NY T-6 further stated that about three hundred people attended the dinner-dance sponsored by the BKI on Sunday, July 6, 1975, at the Prince George Hotel.

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On July 24, 1975, NY T-4 said that as a result of the Congress of the BKI, the leadership of the BKI has started a drive in conjunction with the BKO to form a new committee with the cooperation of the present Free Albania Committee located at 150 Fifth Avenue, NYC. NY T-4 said that since the Free Europe Committee ceased financial support of the Free Albania Committee (FAC), the FAC has been functioning on its own through donations made by people in the emigre movement and by the membership of the FAC itself.

On July 25, 1975, NY T-6 stated that ISMAIL VERLACI, Chairman of the BKI, spent a few days with members of the BKI in Cleveland, Ohio, and then returned to NYC. VERLACI departed the United States for Rome, Italy, shortly after the middle of July, 1975.

On August 28, 1975, NY T-7 said the following members of the BKI were either continued as members or elected to the Central Committee of the BKI at the Congress held on July 4 and 5, 1975:

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TAHIR ~~KOLGINI~~, who came from Istanbul, Turkey  
PETER ~~VUCANI~~, a brother-in-law of ERNEST KOLI~~QI~~  
GJON BUCAJ ~~ze~~  
GASPER ~~SHKRELI~~  
NDUE ~~GJONMARKAJ~~  
AGO ~~AGI~~

On August 27, 1975, NY T-4 said the data concerning the activity of the BKI Congress had been sent to Rome, Italy, for publication inasmuch as publishing costs are cheaper in that country, and it is expected that a bulletin setting forth the results of the Congress will be circulated in the United States about November, 1975.

C. Albanian Agrarian Democratic Party  
(Balli Kombetar)(Agrar)

On August 28, 1975, NY T-2 stated ~~the~~ NYC Branch of the Agrar is headed by NEXHEP ~~DAUTI~~. The Agrar operates under the dual leadership of ~~ADAS~~ ERMENJI, a resident of France, and VASIL ~~ANDONI~~, a resident of London, England. The NYC Branch of VATRA utilizes the facilities of the Salvation Army in Hackensack, New Jersey, for meetings, and the Branch continues to sponsor a weekly Albanian program over radio station WHBI, Newark, New Jersey. NY T-2 stated there has been no activity concerning the Agrar during the past six months.

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NY T-2 said that on October 2 and 3, 1975, the University of Detroit, in conjunction with Congressman WILLIAM BLOOMFIELD of Detroit, Michigan, was arranging a symposium regarding the situation in Eastern Europe from the period of 1964 until the present time. The Albanian phase of the symposium will be chaired by LUAN GASHI of the NYC Branch of the Agrar and will include Professors PETER PRIFTI of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and NIKOLLA PANO of Western Illinois University.

NY T-2 also said that the Agrar planned to send a representative to the Congress of European Minorities to be held in Denmark, on September 15, 1975. According to NY T-2, the Parliament of Denmark has donated its chambers as a meeting place for this Congress.

D. Legality Party (Organizata Kombetare  
Levitzja e Legalitetit) Legalite (OKLL)

On August 27, 1975, NY T-4 said the OKLL is operated under the leadership of King LEKA, son of deceased King ZOG of Albania. The OKLL is a monarchist Albanian nationalist party in exile which sponsors King LEKA as the rightful heir to the throne of Albania. FUAT MYFTIA is the Secretary-General of the OKLL and the Honorary Chairman is ABAS KUPI.

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NY T-4 and NY T-2, on August 28, 1975, advised that the OKLL had not published a bulletin setting out the results of the Congress of the OKLL which was held on November 23 and 24, 1974, at the Hotel Mc Alpin, NYC.

NY T-2 said FUAT MYFTIA was laid off from his employment with Pan-American Airlines. MYFTIA departed NYC about three months ago with his wife, who is from Italy. Source believed MYFTIA first went to Italy and then joined King LEKA in Madrid, Spain. NY T-2 said that King LEKA issued a press release announcing his intention to marry an Australian woman in Madrid, Spain, on October 10, 1975. According to NY T-2, the OKLL's main concern at the present time is to solicit gifts and money for King LEKA.

E. The Prizren League (Lidhja e Prizrenit)

On August 28, 1975, NY T-7 stated The Prizren League is an Albanian nationalist party in exile which is dedicated to the liberation of the Kossova area of Yugoslavia from the control of Communist Yugoslavia. The leader of The Prizren League is ZHAVER DEVA, a resident of California. The Secretary-General is ISMET BERISHA, who resides at 1 Walker Court, Greenwich, Connecticut.



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NY T-7 said that IDRIZ LAMAJ is the Editor of the official publication of The Prizren League; however, there has been no publication of the newspaper in the last six months, and there has been no activity on the part of The Prizren League. NY T-2 said ~~two~~ former Vice-Presidents of The Prizren League, HYSEN TERPEZA, who resigned, and TAHIR ZAJMI, who is deceased, have not been replaced.

F. Albanian Democratic Union

On April 21, 1975, NY T-2 stated he had received a bulletin which set out the results of a meeting which was held during the middle of September, 1974, in Florence, Italy, for the purpose of the unification of the Peasant Party (Partija Katundare), which was headed by ISA NDREU, and the Bashkimi Kombetar, headed by LORA STAJKA. NY T-2 said a new Albanian nationalist party in exile, the Albanian Democratic Union, <sup>is</sup> was formed with ISA NDREU as Chairman, LORA STAJKA, Vice-Chairman, and ADAM HODO, Vice-Chairman. A Central Committee was formed with about ten or twelve members. NY T-2 said that HODO had formerly been on the Central Committee of the OKLL.

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According to NY T-2, about thirty-five people from all parts of the world had attended the meeting in Florence, Italy. Source stated that NDREU is a very wealthy man and he paid for the travel expenses for about eighteen of the thirty-five people who went to the meeting. NY T-2 had been invited to attend the meeting at NDREU'S expense but he did not accept. NY T-2 stated that HALIM BEGAJA and SELAUDIN VELAJ of the BKO, and FUAT MYFTIA, Secretary-General of the OKLL, attended the meeting as guests of NDREU. ERNEST KOLIQI, now deceased, of the BKI, as well as another BKI representative sent by ISMAIL VERLACI, were also in attendance at the meeting.

On August 28, 1975, NY T-2 said the Albanian Democratic Union has an official publication entitled "Koha e Jon" (Our Time), which is published in Paris, France. LEC SHLLAKU, a resident of Paris, France, who is a former teacher now unemployed, is the Editor of "Koha e Jon."

G. Albanian Unity (Bashkesija Shqiptare)

On June 23, 1975, NY T-4 stated Albanian Unity, headed by AHMET ZHERKA, sponsored the showing of a film about the life of the Albanian national hero "Skanderbeg." The film was shown on April 26 and 27, 1975, at the Croatian Center, which is located at 507 West 40th Street, NYC.

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IV. MOSLEM ALBANIAN ACTIVITIES IN  
THE NYC AREA

On August 13, 1975, NY T-5 stated that the Albanian Center, which is located at 800 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY, is the headquarters for the social and recreational activities of Moslem-Albanians in the NYC area. AGIM KRAGJICZI is President of the Albanian Center. On June 29, 1975, the Albanian Center held an annual picnic and no other activity was sponsored by the Center.

NY T-5 said the New York-New Jersey Islamic Center's Mosque, 1325 Albemarle Road, Brooklyn, New York, serves the religious needs of Moslem Albanian-Americans in the NYC area. ABDULAH KALOSHI, Chairman of the Executive Committee, is the leading layman at the Mosque, and Reverend ISA HOXHA conducts the religious services at the Mosque.

V. CATHOLIC ALBANIAN ACTIVITIES  
IN THE NYC AREA

NY T-5 and NY T-6, on August 27, 1975, stated the center of Albanian-American Catholics in the NYC area is the Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church, Park Avenue, Bronx, New York, headed by Monsignor ZEF OROSHI. ANTON SYKU is the Secretary

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and FRAN<sup>V</sup>SOKOLI is the Treasurer of Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church. According to NY T-5 and NY T-6, most Albanian-American Catholics attend Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church; however, some Albanian-American Catholics who are members of Agrar frequent St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, 1949 Bathgate Avenue, Bronx, New York, where another Albanian Priest, Reverend LAZER<sup>V</sup>SHELDIJA, conducts services.

VI. COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AMONG  
ALBANIANS IN THE NYC AREA

The sources mentioned in this report had no information that the Communist Party, United States of America (CPUSA) had infiltrated the Albanian Community in the NYC area.

VII. PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES

Outside of the information set out in this report regarding the FAC, the sources mentioned in this report had no information concerning propaganda activities in the NYC area by Albanian-Americans in behalf of the Communist regime of Albania.

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