

~~TOP SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

23 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

VIA: Chief, Political & Psychological Warfare *a*

SUBJECT: Apostol TENEFI

*our recent discussion of*  
1. Reference is made to ~~the DD/P's request for comments on~~  
the article appearing in the New York Times on 23 March 1953, date-  
lined Paris, 22 March, and entitled "Guerrilla Reports Albania Coup  
Plan" (copy attached).

*We have*  
2. ~~SE has~~ no information to support or substantiate any of  
the information contained in the press report of the large-scale  
guerrilla activities reportedly being conducted by TENEFI and his  
alleged 50,000 followers. On the contrary, CIA representatives who  
met with UDB representatives in Belgrade on 16-17 February 1953 were  
advised that the total strength of those elements composing the  
Prizren Committee of Albanian Refugees (of which TENEFI is the head)  
is not more than 5,000 of all ages and both sexes. Further, the UDB  
officials stated that the Prizren Committee does not now possess,  
nor is it likely to possess in the foreseeable future, the strength  
necessary to effect the liberation of Albania.

3. Within Albania itself, according to the UDB, there is no  
organized resistance and the Hoxha regime is in complete control of  
the country. From our own agents we have no reports that guerrillas  
are in control of any portion of Albania, nor is the claim of any  
substantial number of guerrillas inside the country substantiated by  
the reception received by numerous CIA agents who have entered  
Albania at various times and by the difficulties they have experi-  
enced in operating inside the country.

4. Apostol TENEFI, a former member of the Albanian Communist  
Party, escaped from Albania to Yugoslavia in 1946 and in May 1951 was  
elected President of the Yugoslav-sponsored Prizren Committee of  
Albanian Refugees. An ardent Titoist, TENEFI was a close follower  
of the former Albanian Minister of Interior, Koci XOXE, who was  
executed in 1949 for being pro-Tito. TENEFI is reported to be intelli-  
gent, well-educated and completely loyal to the Yugoslav regime which  
gave him asylum. On several occasions he has been reported as an  
alcoholic.

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5. M. Jean-Francois Devay, the French correspondent who reported TENEFI'S plans in a Paris newspaper late last week, has a reputation for sensational journalism. According to one source of unknown reliability he is a former member of the French Communist Party and in recent years has been in close and friendly contact with Yugoslav Communist Party leaders; he is reported to have written articles under the direction of the Yugoslav Embassy in Paris which attempt to discredit King Peter and Yugoslav emigre circles.

6. Although the <sup>we</sup> ~~SE Division~~ places no credence in the newspaper story in question, it has been called to the attention of [ ] in a cable which requests UDB comments on the story and its author. - a

[ ]  
AC/SE

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article from N.Y Times.  
Paris dateline 22 Mar (AP)  
"Sverillev Reports Albania  
Camp Plan" (re Jasnig)  
detached and filed to [ ]

encl to TS 77020.

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