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11 May 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE : Info from Edgar M. Church  
husband of Geraldine's cousin  
Zog's attorney

1. King Zog lives at 16 Rue El Mkal, Ramleh, Alexandria.
2. As far as I could ascertain while I visited the King as his guest, his household consists of the following:

a. Kenal Bey Messari. Messari is the major domo who apparently takes care of the running of the establishment and protocol. He was sent to meet me when I arrived at my hotel, which is right next to Zog's residence and which he reserves for all guests. He failed to introduce himself to me and spent approximately two hours observing me from a distance before identifying himself. I assume this was for security reasons. He is on the bald side, wears a monocle and seems to be merely a hanger-on enjoying a comparatively soft life--doing nothing.

b. Georges Gog. Gog is a former military resistance movement leader in Albania. He is young--approximately 30 years of age-- and has dark hair and blue eyes and high cheek bones. He is approximately 5'7" in height and is in excellent physical shape as far as I could tell. It is my understanding that he arrived in King Zog's household approximately six months ago (October 1948), having been very active in resisting and organizing resistance to Communism in Albania.

c. Sater Martini. Martini apparently was Zog's prime minister and most trusted friend while he was officially King of Albania. He was obviously a tribesman, along with Zog, before Zog became King. He is approximately 60 years of age with hair that is turning grey, and is at the same time on the curly side. He has blue eyes, high cheek bones and must weigh between 190 and 200 pounds. He is about 5'7" in height. He is Zog's most trusted retainer, as it is quite obvious that he supervises all of Zog's affairs of a political nature. His loyalty to Zog seems to be unquestioned, and it appeared to me from my contact with him that he would risk his life for "his king".

d. Count Alexander (Skander) De Villa. Villa has a French mother and an Albanian father. It appears that his father was an Albanian minister to Paris sometime prior to 1940. Villa is a recent acquisition to the so-called "Royal group". He seems to concern himself mostly with King Zog's finances and financial transactions. He commutes rather frequently between Alexandria and Paris. When he was negotiating with Zog for the transfer of funds from the Guaranty Trust Company of New York to the National City Bank, Villa took it upon himself to prepare the necessary Powers of Attorney which he thought would be sufficient to effect the transfer.

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While I was in Alexandria, Zog's wife, Geraldine, asked me to purchase for her a seven-passenger Cadillac limousine. I was about to obtain a limousine recently for them and heard indirectly that Villa would be able to effect the necessary transfer of funds to me in order to pay for this car.

In my judgment Villa is used by Zog more or less as an attendant upon his wife and, as above stated, to negotiate various black-market and international transfer of funds.

3. Of all the names above-mentioned I would be inclined to trust Villa the least. He seems to be out for all he can get and appeared to resent my interjecting myself into Zog's American affairs. On several occasions Zog had to order him to do what I asked. Villa appears to be rather canny and rather quick on the up-take, although I also have a considerable respect for the intelligence of Gog and Martini.

4. Zog's five sisters apparently live with him in his residence. They are in the order of their age, as follows (beginning with the oldest).

- a. Majide
- b. Muzesan
- c. Xeneia
- d. Naphia
- e. Adele

I did not meet any any of these sisters, and it appears that in accordance with strict Mohammedan custom they live in another part of the Palace in seclusion. I was told by the Queen indirectly and by her sister Virginia, very directly, that Xeneia has a very great influence on Zog indeed. It is quite obvious and apparent that Zog is living with his sister as man and wife, and it may well be that in addition to his official duties, Villa has been imported to entertain Zog's wife. According to the best information I could obtain, and I bent every effort to obtain this information, as tactfully as possible, the sisters are only interested in being supported by their brother and obtaining as much money from him as possible. None of them possess any marked degree of intelligence as far as I could gather.

5. Zog and his wife have one child, age 11 years. He is known as Leka. He is blond, blue-eyed, very precocious, spoiled and speaks English, French, German and Albanian. Leka is very mature for a boy of eleven. Zog seems to be perfectly willing to risk his life and let his wife and child take care of themselves if he can return to Albania, and indeed, the Queen told me that she and her son would come to America before too long.

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6. While I was visiting Zog and his wife, she took me through the new residence that they are building. The house is very large and is being erected upon a plot of ground approximately three acres in area. The land cost 20,000 Egyptian pounds and the house is being constructed at the cost of 10,000 pounds. It is diagonally across the street from the present residence of Zog. All of the sisters, above mentioned, with the exception of Xeneia, will live in another house approximately 300 yards away from this residence. As it is now arranged, Xeneia will occupy quarters immediately adjacent to Zog and the Queen will occupy quarters somewhat removed from the King.

7. The child, Leka, up until recently had an English governess. She apparently was well-trusted by every member of the household including the King and Queen. I have heard within the last month from the Queen's sister (an American citizen since March 22, 1949) when she was in this country that because of a theft of personal property the English governess had either been dismissed or was about to be dismissed. I did not meet the governess, nor did I see her.

The governess apparently had been employed by Zog sometime around 1943 in England and had moved to Alexandria with the family when they moved there in 1946. Regarding the causes for the dissatisfaction with the nurse, it is my understanding that Zog keeps his money in gold louis, which according to my best calculations amount to approximately 300,000, in coffers located in his bedroom. In addition, he keeps his wife's jewelry and presumably his own crown jewels, such as they may be, in the same coffers. It is a rule of the household that only the King and Queen have the keys to these boxes and that a servant or trusted retainer must sit physically on these boxes when the room is unoccupied by the King or the Queen. Apparently someone had access to these boxes, which resulted in the theft above mentioned. It seems that after careful consideration it was decided that the English governess was the guilty party, and this is the alleged cause at least for her dismissal. It may well be that she will be able to clear herself with Zog, as he is prone to be overly suspicious of all but his trusted Albanian friends.

8. Messari, Martini and Villa all speak good French in addition to Albanian. Zog speaks no language except Albanian as far as I could ascertain. The King speaks mediocre French, good German, no English, fair Turkish and of course--Albanian. The sisters speak very poor French in addition to their native tongue. The Queen speaks perfect English, perfect French, perfect German, perfect Hungarian, perfect Albanian and some Arabic.

9. Sometime in 1947 it appears that the sister of the Queen of Albania made a personal visit to Rome and had an audience with the Pope. I could not ascertain the reason for this visit. An educated guess on my part would be that either the Queen or the King wished to obtain a divorce, or it may be that the Queen was upset over the lack of a Catholic education for her son in view of the King's strict Mohammedanism. I am inclined to think that should a divorce occur it would be more from the King's desires than those of his wife. I believe she feels that she is better off under the present

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circumstances as his wife that he would be as a divorced woman living in America on a small income.

10. The Queen's closest non-family friend is the Queen of Bulgaria, Giovanna. The Queen of Bulgaria and the Queen of Albania generally have tea together at least three times a week, and I know from having talked to the Queen of Bulgaria that she is very fond of Geraldine. The Queen of Bulgaria, being older than Geraldine, is in a position to help her and advise her with respect to the many personal problems that Geraldine is faced with as the wife of Zog. I received the distinct impression that Giovanna is more intelligent than she looks or appears to be.

11. Queen Geraldine has a sister above mentioned (Mrs. Virginia Apponyi Blackburn) who is married to an American, Joseph Blackburn. Blackburn was born in Denver, Colorado, graduated from Yale in the class of 1943 and is presently employed by TWA Airlines, 101 Champs Elysees, Paris, France. Blackburn is a rather irresponsible, nice, happy-go-lucky, talkative fellow. Virginia, his wife, has more influence over Geraldine than anyone else. She has apparently worked with G-2 in Hungary during the war. She is in very poor physical and mental shape as a result of her wartime experiences with the Nazis in Hungary. Virginia is extremely fond of her sister and will cooperate to the best of her ability--which is limited. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Blackburn are particularly reliable, although they both possess the greatest integrity.

*Know this Guy - Saw*

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