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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY: ALBANIA

Period: Six months ending December 1953

KEY:

DA - Date acquired

DOI - Date of information

MILITARY

Trainings:

Approximately 16 junior officers from various arms and services of the Albanian Army are currently undergoing training courses in Stalingrad, USSR. These officers are all in their early twenties and represent officer cadre potentials for the Albanian Army. This group left Albania in 1950 and is scheduled to return in 1954.

(Source: From an Albanian refugee) DA 31 March 1953

Soviet Officers:

Thomas NIKOLAS, who escaped to Greece on the motor launch DYNAMO, witnessed the arrival of 100 high ranking Soviet Naval and Coast Artillery Officers at Durres. The officers arrived on the SS TRANSYLVANIA (Rumanian) in late August. Nine of the officers have been assigned in Saranda and 21 have been assigned to various military installations in Vlone, Island of Sason and the Karaburza Peninsula.

DA November 1953

23 Coastal Brigade:

Headquarters of the 23 Coastal Brigade is located in two buildings in Durres. These buildings have been described as constructed during the Italian occupation. This Brigade consists of four artillery battalions and one anti-aircraft battalion. It is under the direct control of the Ministry of Peoples Defense.

(Source: From a former member of the brigade) DA 13 July 1953

Fortifications:

Open trench emplacements forming a zigzag pattern have been observed on the heights above the town of Boboshtice and facing the Greek border. These trenches are approximately 1.75 meters deep, 80 centimeters wide and extend for approximately 500 meters. Below the trenches there are 10-12 machine gun emplacements constructed of logs and stone and covered with a log roof. Each emplacement is capable of holding 5-6 men and is well camouflaged to blend with the surrounding area.

(Source: Informants in Albania) DOI Sept. 1953

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Air

The Albanian air force consists of approximately 13 Soviet YAK-3's and 40 pilots.

(Source: Usually reliable informant) DOI 1953

A new runway 250 feet wide and undetermined length is being constructed parallel to the old runway at Berat.

(Source: Usually reliable informant) DOI August 1953

Comment: Yugoslav overt sources quoting refugees have reported that this new runway is being constructed to accommodate jet planes.

SECURITYBorder Guard:

Border patrols are usually manned by 3 to 5 men, most of whom are armed with German type weapons. Patrols are on duty for 4-hour periods.

(Source: Informants from Korca) DOI October 1953

Border guard posts in the Kukes area have been reported at Gjegjan, Halhoc, Podbrag, Sapot, Orgjoste, Mborje, Shistevic, Topojan, Buzasadh, Kshah, Paganj, Shalqin, Kishaj, and Peraj.

(Source: An Albanian refugee from Kukes) DA 6 March 1953

Comment: The III. Border Guard Battalion has its headquarters at Kukes and may be the parent organization for the guard posts.

Prisons:

There are at present approximately 650 inmates in the "Enemy of the Peoples Prison" in Korca. The prison director is Captain Bekdash NELCANI, his assistant is Warrant Officer Qerim GJEROJEVICH. About 50 prison guards are used at this prison.

Prisoners at the "Metropolitan Prison" in Korca have been convicted of political crimes only, and are serving sentences of 5 years or less. In general these prisoners have been convicted for failure to meet their tax obligations or unable to fill their prescribed produce quotas.

(Source: Fairly reliable informant) DOI September 1953

ECONOMICImports:

Estimated total of future imports in thousands of rubles for Albania during 1953, 1954, and 1955: Soviet Union - 75.5, Czechoslovakia - 18.3,

Poland - 24.8, Hungary - 13.3, Romania - 26.2, Eastern Germany - 18.7,
Bulgaria - 16.0.

(Source: Refugee informant) DA July 1953

Commodity Prices:

The following is a comparison of the official and free market prices of selected food items in the Saranda area, as of August 1953:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Official Price</u>	<u>Free Market Price</u>
1 liter olive oil	50 lek	200 lek
1 kilo flour	8 lek	75 lek
1 kilo rice	24 lek	200 lek
1 kilo macaroni	22 lek	80 lek
1 kilo butter	200 lek	550 lek
1 kilo fuel oil	25 lek	75 lek

(Source: Refugee and other informants) DA August 1953

Maritime Shipping:

The following vessels have stopped at Albanian ports for cargo operations from July-November 1953:

SS AMAZONK (Italian tanker)	SS MARACAIRO (Panamanian tanker)
SS ANNA MARIA NUMMINEN (Finnish)	SS MARCHELENSKI (Polish)
SS BERESINA (Rumanian)	SS MARIA NOMEOS (Greek tanker)
SS BULGARITA (Bulgarian)	SS MICHURIN (Soviet)
SS CRIATUNT (Soviet)	SS MINDA (Rumanian)
SS DOBRUDJA (Bulgarian)	SS NICHOLA VAPTEAROV (Bulgarian)
SS HEBLAG (Polish)	SS RABULVAN (Turkish)
SS FRIEDERICH ENGELS (Rumanian)	SS PUNTA CERNA (Italian tanker)
SS GRENDA TOFT (Danish)	SS RODINA (Bulgarian)
SS HEDJA (Danish)	SS SALLING (Danish)
SS INANDRA (Soviet)	SS STANURA (Italian tanker)
MS KEMAL STAVA (Albanian)	SS SULINA (Rumanian)
SS KRISTO KIRKINENKI (Bulgarian)	SS TRANSYLVANIA (Rumanian)
SS KOLIBRZKO (Polish)	SS UTRISH (Soviet tanker)
SS KOTOVSKI (Soviet)	MS YEUTA (Albanian)
SS KRUSAA (Danish)	SS VARIOOTTI (Italian tanker)
SS LEHMONTOV (Soviet)	SS VOHOSHNILOV (Soviet)
SS LIKA HAESEN (Danish)	SS ZIGARA (Turkish)

(Source: Shipping circles) DOI 1953

Petroleum Shipments:

From January to October 1953 total petroleum and petroleum product imports have been approximately 20,000 tons while total petroleum exports have been 100,000 tons.

(Source: Shipping circles) DOI 1953.