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MUN96 23 SEPT 61

TO: KAUFMANN INFO RICHARDSON
FM: BURKS INFO SMITH

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- 1) EC
- 2) Carl Buchalla
- 3) German
- 4) A.P.
- 5) Frankfurt

FOLLOWING REPORT IS INFORMATION IN ADDITION TO NEWSPAPER SERIES
APPEARING ON SAME SUBJECT AND SHOULD BE USEFUL FOR BACKGROUND FOR
YOU AND/CHERRY KORAN:
REPORT ON A VISIT TO ALBANIA

2
THE FOLLOWING NOTES ARE BASED ON A CONVERSATION BETWEEN GALLEON
~~KIWI CASTOR IVY GARTER ECLAIR KIOSK ALTO ICON LIBRA ECRU BRASS~~
~~BOOT GAGE GAOL AND MESSRS. R.V. BURKS AND J.F. BROWN ON 21 SEPTEMBER~~
~~1961. HE IS GRINGO MEMBER OF GASTOR HARP TOME JASON STAFF IN PAPAYA~~
~~GUINEA THETA, TOURED ALBANIA FROM AUGUST 13 TO SEPTEMBER 5.~~
HE WAS IN A TOURIST PARTY ARRANGED BY THE OST REISEBURO BRANCH IN
COLOGNE. THE OTHER JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING HIM WERE HARRY HAMM OF
THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE" WHOSE FIRST ARTICLE ON HIS VISIT
APPEARED ON 20 SEPTEMBER 1961, MURAS, A PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE COLOGNE
"NEUE ILLUSTRIERTE" AND WICHMANN OF THE COLOGNE RADIO STATION. THE
OTHER MEMBER OF THE GROUP WAS A MRS. VIDAL, WIDOW OF IMER NUSHANI,
FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE POST - WAR ALBANIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE FIRST HOXHA GOVERNMENT. HE DIED IN 1953.
MRS. VIDAL NOW LIVES IN HAMBURG.

SOURCE SHOWED HIMSELF MOST VALUABLE. HE COMBINED AN OBVIOUS
INTELLIGENCE WITH THE TRAINED EYE OF THE RATHER SUPERIOR JOURNALIST.
HE WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE CURRENT ALBANIAN SITUATION AND KNEW
WHAT TO LOOK FOR. THOUGH HE DOES NOT SPEAK ALBANIAN HE SEEMS TO HAVE
GLEANED A GOOD DEAL FROM HIS TRIP. HE IS NO STRANGER TO EASTERN
EUROPE, HAVING VISITED CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY AND BULGARIA. HE
WAS BORN IN SLOVAKIA AND UNDERSTANDS SLOVAK, CZECH AND HUNGARIAN.
HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF BEING RELIABLE: WHEN HE DID NOT KNOW SOME-
THING HE SAID SO. HE IS PROBABLY IN HIS LATE TWENTIES.

SOURCE ATTRIBUTES THE SURPRISING ALBANIAN DECISION TO LET FOUR
WEST GERMAN JOURNALISTS INTO THE COUNTRY TO A MISTAKE. THE GROUP
IN WHICH THEY TRAVELLED WAS OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS A TOURIST ONE
AND HE IS QUITE

MORE

CONVINCED THAT THE FACT THAT 80 PER CENT OF THIS "TOURIST" GROUP WERE JOURNALISTS HAD SOMEHOW ESCAPED THE ATTENTION OF THE ALBANIAN AUTHORITIES UNTIL THE MALEV PLANE BRINGING THEM FROM BUDAPEST WAS APPROACHING TIRANA'S NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. SOURCE HAS, INCIDENTALLY, BEEN TRYING FOR TWO YEARS TO GET AN ALBANIAN VISA.

THE GROUP TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN ALBANIA GOING AS FAR NORTH AS SCUTARI (SKODER) AND AS FAR SOUTH AS THE GREEK FRONTIER. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A MR. KNOBLOCH OF THE COLOGNE OST REISEBURO WHO HANDED THEM OVER ON ARRIVAL TO GUIDES APPOINTED BY ALBTOURIST, THE ALBANIAN TOURIST AGENCY. THEIR GUIDE FOR THE FIRST DAYS WAS A RIGID COMMUNIST OF MORE HINDRANCE THAN HELP. THEIR SECOND GUIDE WAS NAMED SCHWARZ (SVARC). THIS MAN HAD BEEN BORN IN SARAJEVO OF AN AUSTRIAN ENGINEER FATHER AND AN ALBANIAN MOTHER. HE HAD LIVED FOR A LONG TIME IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE WAS MUCH MORE HELPFUL AND, IN SEVERAL WAYS, VERY VALUABLE AND REVEALING.

THE ONLY TWO ALBANIANS TO WHOM SOURCE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK WERE SCHWARZ AND A PROFESSOR BUDA OF TIRANA UNIVERSITY, APPARENTLY A SCHOLAR OF SOME NOTE. SCHWARZ WAS HELPFULLY UNORTHODOX IN SOME OF HIS VIEWS; BUDA WAS RIGIDLY ORTHODOX BUT QUITE FRIENDLY. CONVERSATION WITH THESE TWO WAS IN GERMAN. SOURCE'S OTHER CONTACTS WERE EAST GERMANS, MOSTLY ENGINEERS AND ONE CZECH ENGINEER.

AS FAR AS POSSIBLE SOURCE'S REMARKS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SUBJECT HEADINGS CONNECTED WITH INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THOSE CONNECTED WITH EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE TWO, OF COURSE, OFTEN OVERLAP.

MORE

EXTERNAL

CHINA AND RUSSIA: OPINION WITHIN COUNTRY:

SOURCE DID NOT GET MUCH INFORMATION ON THE REAL ALBANIAN REACTION TO HOXHA'S PRO-CHINA POLICY. BUT SCHWARZ DROPPED ONE OR TWO INTERESTING HINTS. THE FIRST WAS THAT HE HIMSELF (SCHWARZ) DISAPPROVED OF THIS POLICY AND WAS PRO-SOVIET. (SCHWARZ DID NOT SAY HE WAS ANTI-HOXHA PER SE.) THE FACT, OF COURSE, THAT SCHWARZ HAD A YUGOSLAV BACKGROUND MAY HAVE INFLUENCED HIS OPINION BUT SOURCE THOUGHT THAT HE ALSO

IMPLIED THAT MANY OTHERS SHARED HIS VIEW. SCHWARZ ALSO DEFINITELY SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL A GOOD DEAL OF DISSENSION IN THE PARTY, EVEN IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, OVER THE PRO-CHINA POLICY. SCHWARZ HAD SAID THIS WHILE BEING QUESTIONED ON THE TEME SEJKO TRIAL. HE WAS, HOWEVER, VERY RETICENT INDEED ABOUT PRO-SOVIET PUTSCHS AND PURGES WITHIN THE PARTY. HE PLEADED IGNORANCE. SOURCE WAS UNABLE TO FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THE FATE OF BELISHOVA.

PRO-CHINESE PROPAGANDA

SOURCE SAW A GOOD MANY POSTERS AND DISPLAYS ON FRIENDSHIPS WITH CHINA BUT SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL IN THE SOUTH. A NUMBER OF CHINESE FILMS WERE ALSO SHOWN.

ALBANIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP MONTH

SEPTEMBER 1961 (LIKE THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR) HAD OFFICIALLY BEEN SET ASIDE AS ALBANIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP MONTH. SOURCE ATTENDED TWO RALLIES CONNECTED WITH THIS. THERE WERE MANY BANNERS AND POSTERS MENTIONING MARX, ENGELS AND LENIN; NONE MENTIONED KHRUSHCHEV AND AS FAR AS HE COULD TELL THERE WAS NO MENTION OF KHRUSHCHEV IN ANY OF THE SPEECHES. ALTHOUGH STALIN DID NOT FEATURE IN THE TWO RALLIES ATTENDED BY SOURCE THE MONUMENTS TO HIM ARE VERY CONSPICUOUS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE MAIN

MORE

MUN96 PAGE 4

THEMES OF THE SPEECHES AND SLOGANS AT THE RALLIES WERE THE INVIO-
LABLE UNITY BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND ALBANIAN PEOPLE AND THE SOVIET
AND ALBANIAN PARTIES, THEMES WHICH HAVE, OF COURSE, BEEN MAIN-
TAINED THROUGHOUT THE KHRUSHCHEV-HOXHA DISPUTE.

THE DEPARTURE OF SOVIET AND SATELLITE SPECIALISTS

ALL SOVIET SPECIALISTS, SAID SOURCE, HAD GONE. (THE ONLY RUSSIAN HE SAW WAS AN ARMY COLONEL IN TIRANA.) ALL EAST GERMAN SPECIALISTS WERE TO BE WITHDRAWN BY AUGUST 31 (SEE HAMM'S ARTICLE IN "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" SEPT 20). SOURCE TALKED TO A CZECH ENGINEER IN DURRES HARBOR WHO SAID THAT HE WAS GOING HOME SOON AND THAT SOON "EVERYBODY" WOULD BE GONE. SOURCE HAD NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE PRESENCE OR DEPARTURE OF ANY SPECIALISTS FROM HUNGARY, RUMANIA OR BULGARIA. THE ALBANIANS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN RATHER CONCERNED OVER THE QUICK DEPARTURE OF THE EAST EUROPEAN SPECIALISTS. A DEPARTING EAST GERMAN, QUOTING CONTACTS IN THE EAST GERMAN EMBASSY, HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE ALBANIANS HAD TRIED TO GET PANKOW TO POSTPONE THE DEPARTURE DATE UNTIL DECEMBER BUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN REFUSED. THE REASON SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THAT MANY OF THE REPLACEMENTS FROM CHINA WOULD ONLY ARRIVE NEXT JANUARY.

THE EXODUS OF EAST EUROPEANS SEEMS TO BE GENERAL AND NOT JUST CONFINED TO THE ECONOMIC SPECIALISTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOURCE SPOKE TO THE HEAD OF THE EAST GERMAN YOUTH CAMP IN TIRANA. HE WAS GOING HOME AND THE CAMP WAS FOLDING UP.

THE ABSENCE OF EAST BLOC TOURISTS

SOURCE WAS TOLD THAT THIS YEAR PRACTICALLY NO TOURISTS FROM THE SOVIET EAST BLOC HAD COME TO ALBANIA. THIS INVOLVED A SEVERE FINANCIAL LOSS. HE SHOWED AN ELOQUENT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DESERTED SEA FRONT AT DURRES. HE WAS TOLD THAT AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR IT HAD BEEN FULL OF EAST BLOC TOURISTS.

MORE

WITHDRAWAL OF ALBANIAN STUDENTS FROM EAST EUROPE

ON THIS POINT SOURCE WAS NOT SURE OF HIMSELF WHEN QUESTIONED CLOSELY AND WAS UNABLE TO CLEAR UP THE VAGUENESS IN HAMM REMARKS ABOUT THIS. WHAT DOES SEEM CLEAR IS THAT THE ALBANIAN STUDENTS IN EAST GERMANY WHO CAME HOME FOR THE LONG VACATION AT THE END OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR WERE NOT ALLOWED TO GO BACK. MANY HAD LEFT MANY OF THEIR BELONGINGS THERE AND WERE UNDERSTANDABLY BITTER. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR IS WHETHER ALBANIAN STUDENTS IN OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (INCLUDING RUSSIA) WHO CAME HOME FOR THE LONG VACATION HAVE ALSO BEEN TREATED LIKE THIS. SOURCE SEEMED TO THINK SO BUT COULD GIVE NO EVIDENCE. IT IS ALSO NOT CLEAR WHETHER ALBANIAN STUDENTS IN EAST GERMANY OR ELSEWHERE WHO INTENDED TO REMAIN DURING THE LONG VACATION HAVE BEEN ORDERED HOME.

CHINESE ARRIVALS

THE CHINESE, SAID SOURCE, WERE BY NO MEANS OMNIPRESENT BUT WERE IN EVIDENCE. IN TIRANA HE SAW A PARTY OF SOME SIX TO EIGHT STAYING AT THE DAITI HOTEL. HE ALSO SAW TWO SMALL GROUPS OF CHINESE WALKING IN TIRANA. AMONG THEM WERE WOMEN WHOM SOURCE TOO TO BE THE WIVES OF RESIDENT SPECIALISTS. IN DURRES SOURCE STAYED AT A BEACH HOTEL FOR EIGHT DAYS. DURING THIS PERIOD HE SAW TWO GROUPS OF CHINESE INTENTLY STUDYING THEIR ALBANIAN GRAMMARS.

HE HAD THE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT THE CHINESE WERE ARRIVING IN FORCE BUT WITHOUT OSTENTATION. EAST GERMAN SPECIALISTS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE CHINESE WERE WORKING FOR MUCH LESS THAN THEY HAD DONE. THEY MAY BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THEIR ALBANIAN COLLEAGUES FOR THIS REASON. EAST GERMANS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THEIR TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN EARNING 16,000 LEKS A MONTH AND THEIR ENGINEERS 19,000 (C 25 LEKS TO AN EAST GERMAN MARK). THE CHINESE, ACCORDING TO ONE EAST GERMAN ENGINEER, WOULD BE GETTING

MORE

A FLAT 8,000 LEKS REGARDLESS OF GRADE. THEIR ALBANIAN COUNTERPARTS GOT ABOUT 5-6,000 LEKS.

TRADE WITH EAST AND WEST

SOURCE COULD NOT OFFER MUCH ON THIS POINT. HE CONFIRMED THE STORY ABOUT THE BREAKDOWN IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK-ALBANIAN PROJECT FOR FERROUS NICKEL EXTRACTING AND PROCESSING. (HAMM MENTIONS THIS IN HIS ARTICLE AND WONDERS ABOUT THE FUTURE USE OF THE FERROUS NICKEL REFINING PLANT WHICH THE CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD BUILT IN SLOVAKIA. ACTUALLY THE CSSR HAS RECENTLY ARRANGED TO STEP UP GREATLY ITS IMPORTS OF MINERALS FROM CUBA.)

ON OTHER TRADE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE BLOC, SOURCE QUOTED EAST GERMAN ENGINEERS, WHO HAD HEARD FROM THE EAST GERMAN EMBASSY, AS SAYING THAT PANKOV WAS VERY IRRITATED WITH THE ALBANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR REFUSING TO SELL HIGH GRADE BITUMEN AND CHROME TO EAST GERMANY AS PARTIAL DEBT REPAYMENT. ACCORDING TO THE EAST GERMANS THEY WERE SELLING THE BEST QUALITY ORE TO ITALY. SOURCE COULD ADD NOTHING TO RUMORS ABOUT ALBANIA'S APPLYING TO ITALY AND FRANCE FOR SOME KIND OF ECONOMIC AID. HE HAD, HOWEVER, HEARD THAT TIRANA WAS SEEKING TO STEP UP ITS TRADE WITH THE WEST. HE MET TWO BELGIANS IN TIRANA WHO WERE THERE "SELLING MACHINERY". (SOURCE, HOWEVER -- THOUGH HE ADMITS HE MIGHT BE QUITE WRONG AND WAS NOT TOO SURE OF HIMSELF -- SUSPECTS THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE ON SOME KIND OF ARMS TRAFFIC. HIS ONLY REASON FOR SUSPECTING THIS IS THAT HE OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION BETWEEN THEMSELVES IN WHICH THE WORD "CANONS" CROPPED UP SEVERAL TIMES.)

WHILE SOURCE WAS IN DURRES HE SAW TRUCKLOADS OF WHEAT COMING FROM A SHIP IN THE HARBOR. HE COULD NOT TELL ITS ORIGIN. WHEN IN SARANDA, HOWEVER, HE WAS TOLD THAT IN MID-JULY THE "NORDSEE" OUT OF BREMERHAVEN HAD DOCKED IN THAT PORT WITH A CONSIGNMENT

OF CANADIAN WHEAT, OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED THERE BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. (LATER, HARRY HAMM CHECKED WITH THE BREMERHAVEN PORT AUTHORITIES WHO CONFIRMED THAT THE "NORDSEE" HAD BEEN IN SARANDA AT THAT TIME.) SOURCE QUOTED A RUMOR -- IT IS NOTHING MORE -- WHICH MR. KNOBLOCH HAD GOT FROM A SWISS BUSINESSMAN THAT THE ALBANIANS WERE HAVING TO PAY A HIGH PRICE TO CHINA FOR THIS WHEAT, MORE THAN THE CHINESE WERE PAYING THE CANADIANS.

YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE, USA

UNFORTUNATELY SOURCE COULD GIVE LITTLE INTERESTING INFORMATION ON THE PUBLIC'S REAL FEELING TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA. SCHWARZ, BEING OF YUGOSLAV BIRTH AND BACKGROUND, COULD GIVE NO RELIABLE INFORMATION. MANY ANTI-YUGOSLAV POSTERS WERE TO BE SEEN, ESPECIALLY IN SCUTARI. ONE, WHICH SOURCE PHOTOGRAPHED, SHOWED A BLOATED TITO DRINKING US DOLLARS OUT OF A FLAGON. THE CAPTION WAS SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS WAS THE DRINK TITO PREFERRED. PROFESSOR BUDA, HOWEVER, GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE CURRENT TENSION WITH YUGOSLAVIA. TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO TALKING WITH SOURCE HE HAD BEEN IN ELBASAN WHERE THE CORPSE OF AN ALBANIAN WAS EXPOSED IN THE MAIN SQUARE FOR IDENTIFICATION. HE HAD BEEN KILLED TRYING TO CROSS THE GREEK FRONTIER. (THIS MAY HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH AN INCIDENT REPORTED BY RADIO TIRANA ON JULY 13. "CRIMINAL ELEMENTS" HAD TRIED TO CROSS THE BORDER IN THE COMMUNES OF PESHKOPI AND BUSTRICE. THEY HAD BEEN LIQUIDATED. ELBASAN IS THE NEAREST LARGE TOWN TO THESE TWO VILLAGES.)

SOURCE SAW NO SIGNS OF PROPAGANDA AGAINST GREECE.

HE SAW SEVERAL ANTI-AMERICAN POSTERS. ONE SHOWED THE "METAMORPHOSIS" OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, FROM A GENIAL YOUNG MAN TO A DEPRAVED LOOKING THING CARRYING AN ATOM BOMB.

MORE

INTERNAL

GENERAL MOOD, ATMOSPHERE:

SOURCE CONFIRMED THE ALMOST OVERWHELMING ATMOSPHERE OF OPPRESSION IN THE COUNTRY. TROOPS AND POLICE WERE VERY CONSPICUOUS. THE MOOD WAS MUCH MORE OPPRESSING AND DEPRESSING THAN IN ANY OTHER EAST BLOC COUNTRY. THE PROPAGANDA REASON FOR THIS WAS THE USUAL ONE THAT ALBANIA IS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES. SOURCE'S GUIDE, SCHWARZ, ASCRIBED IT TO THIS AND SOURCE SEEMED TO THINK THAT MANY PEOPLE, INFLUENCED BY REGIME PROPAGANDA, ALSO BELIEVED IT. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT IT MIGHT BE DUE TO THE INSECURITY OF THE REGIME SOURCE WAS NOT ABLE TO ANSWER. IN NO OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY, SAID SOURCE, WAS THERE SUCH CRUDE, BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

SOURCE GAVE THE TWO FOLLOWING EXAMPLES OF SECURITY PRECAUTIONS:

1) THE STREET IN TIRANA ON WHICH ARE LOCATED THE VILLAS OF THE PARTY LEADERS IS HEAVILY CORDONED OFF AND A SPECIAL PERMIT IS NEEDED TO GO DOWN IT.

2) AT THE LAST MAY DAY CELEBRATION ENVER HOXHA SPOKE, AS IS CUSTOMARY, FROM A PLATFORM IN FRONT OF THE DAITI HOTEL IN TIRANA. SOME MEMBERS OF THE EAST GERMAN COLONY IN TIRANA WERE OFFERED SEATS IN THE FRONT ROW BUT SOME OF THEM, RESIDENTS OF THE DAITI HOTEL, PREFERRED TO GO IN OUT OF THE WEATHER AND WATCH THE PROCEEDINGS FROM THE WINDOWS OF THEIR ROOMS AT THE FRONT OF THE HOTEL. IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE PROCEEDINGS, HOWEVER, ARMED ALBANIAN GUARDS BURST INTO THEIR ROOMS, REMOVED THEM FROM THE WINDOWS AND TOOK UP POSITIONS THERE THEMSELVES.

MORE

SOURCE GAVE RATHER BITTY INFORMATION ON TROOPS AND CHECKPOINTS. THE MANY TROOPS IN SCUTARI STRUCK HIM AS EFFICIENT AND BUSINESS-LIKE, DEFINITELY A CUT ABOVE THE REST HE SAW. THERE WERE VERY MANY TROOPS IN VALONA. IN SOUTH ALBANIA HE PASSED THROUGH LESKOVIKU WHICH SEEMED TO HIM TO BE A GARRISON TOWN. HE MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING POLICE AND MILITARY CHECKPOINTS:

A) ON PART OF THE GREEK BORDER AT THE BEGINNING OF A ROAD DIVIDING ALBANIA FROM GREECE. THIS ROAD STRETCHES FOR FOUR KMS, AND IS CLOSED AT SUNSET. A SPECIAL PASS IS NEEDED TO GO ALONG IT.

B) AT LESKOVIKU. THIS CHECKPOINT IS APPARENTLY NEW. SCHWARZ SAID THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN THERE TWO MONTHS PREVIOUSLY.

C) ON THE VJOSA RIVER IMMEDIATELY AFTER WHAT SOURCE THOUGHT WAS THE MAIN BRIDGE ACROSS IT.

D) AT THE ENTRY TO THE VALONA AREA. SOURCE'S DESCRIPTION OF THE VALONA AREA WAS GENERALLY THE SAME AS THAT OF HAMM. (HE WAS THERE ON AUGUST 28.) THERE WERE NO SUBMARINES OF ANY FLAG THERE AT ALL AND NO TENDER. JUST A FEW ARMED COASTAL VESSELS. THE PLACE LOOKED RATHER DESERTED.

E) THREE MILES SOUTH OF VALONA.

SCHWARZ TOLD SOURCE THAT GENERALLY SPEAKING MANY PARTS OF SOUTHERN ALBANIA WERE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ORDINARY ALBANIANS TO TRAVEL IN. HE SAID THAT ONE COULD ONLY VISIT SARANDA AND BUTRINT WITH SPECIAL PERMISSION. SOURCE HIMSELF SAID THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE MANY MORE POLICE PRECAUTIONS IN THE SOUTH THAN THE NORTH.

INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICALLY ALL SOURCE'S INFORMATION ON NEW INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS CAME FROM EAST GERMAN SPECIALISTS WHO HAD BEEN ENGAGED ON SOME OF THEM. HE MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING WHICH HAD BEEN STARTED WITH EAST GERMAN MONEY AND MEN:

MORE

MUN96 PAGE 10

A) A COPPER REFINING PLANT AT KURBNESHI (KURBNESCH) IN NORTHERN ALBANIA. THIS HAD BEGUN OUTPUT IN MAY 1960. IN JULY OF THIS YEAR THERE HAD BEEN NINE EAST GERMAN SPECIALISTS WORKING THERE. SOME OF THEM TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE ALL GOING HOME -- BY AUGUST 31 ALL HAD GONE -- AND SINCE THIS MEANT THAT THE TECHNOLOGISTS WERE ALSO GOING THEY FEARED THAT THE DIRECTION OF THE PLANT WOULD SOON BE REDUCED TO CHAOS. (CHINESE REPLACEMENTS WOULD ONLY BE DUE IN JANUARY 1962.) THEY WERE PRETTY CONTEMPTUOUS OF ALBANIAN MANAGEMENT AND WORKING METHODS. ELEVEN ALBANIAN SPECIALISTS AT THE PLANT HAD BEEN TRAINED IN EAST GERMANY BUT WERE STILL VERY MUCH BELOW STANDARD. WORK DISCIPLINE, ATTITUDE TO WORK WERE POOR. THE PLANT, HOWEVER, WAS A VERY MODERN ONE. SOME OF THE MACHINERY WAS AMERICAN, SOME BRITISH. THE TUBES WERE OF KRUPP MANUFACTURE. THIS PLANT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN CONSTRUCTED AS A WET PLANT (NASSAUFBEREITUNGSANLAGE) BUT THE ALBANIANS HAD CHANGED IT TO A DRY PLANT. THIS MADE THE EXPLOITATION OF THE COPPER MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. HENCE THE ORIGINAL REFINING PLANS FOR THE PLANT WERE LEFT UNFULFILLED. IT ALSO INCREASED GREATLY THE DANGER OF SILICOSIS, TO WHICH THE ALBANIANS WERE REPORTED TO BE COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT.

B) A FISH PROCESSING PLANT AT VALONA. THERE WERE TWO TO THREE EAST GERMAN EXPERTS WORKING THERE. THEY WERE DUE, OF COURSE, TO GO BY AUGUST 31.

SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED TWO OTHER PROJECTS WHICH, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN, WERE TO HAVE BEEN BUILT WITH EAST GERMAN AID. THEY WERE A REFRIGERATION PLANT AND A ROLLING MILL. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THESE WERE TO HAVE BEEN LOCATED BUT HAD HEARD THAT THE ROLLING MILL PROJECT HAD BEEN SHELVED OR SCRAPPED.

MORE

SOURCE ALSO VISITED AN IMPORTANT HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT NEAR ULOXA. THIS HAD BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE JANUARY 1957. THE CHIEF ENGINEER WAS AN ALBANIAN. THERE WAS A GOOD HIGHWAY LEADING UP TO IT WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT FROM 1951-1953. THE MACHINERY WAS SOVIET DATING BACK TO 1951. THE DAM WAS 260 METERS LONG AND 64 METERS HIGH.

ON COMMUNICATIONS SOURCE COULD SAY LITTLE. HE SPOKE OF ROAD BUILDING ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH CLOSE TO LAKE OCHRID AND OF RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION UP TO MILOTI. THIS TAKES THE FORM OF BRANCHING OFF OF THE DURRES-TIRANA LINE. THE RAILROAD UP TO MILOTI IS MOST PROBABLY DUE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LARGE CHROMIUM AND NICKEL ORE PLANT AT MILOTI FOR WHICH A GREAT DEAL OF CZECHOSLOVAK AND SOVIET AID HAD BEEN PLANNED.

ECONOMIC COMPARISON BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

LIVING CONDITIONS AND GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS LOOKED VERY BAD EVERYWHERE, SAID SOURCE. THIS WAS NOT MERELY BY WESTERN STANDARDS BUT BY EAST EUROPEAN STANDARDS. FRAU VIDAL, HOWEVER, WHO WAS ABLE TO COMPARE ALBANIA PAST AND PRESENT, DID SAY THAT GENERAL CONDITIONS WERE MUCH BETTER NOW THAN THEY HAD EVER BEEN. VIDAL WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A VERY USEFUL SOURCE BUT WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO SAY ANYTHING.)

LIVING CONDITIONS AND GENERAL APPEARANCES IN THE SOUTH, PARTICULARLY IN PLACES LIKE FORCE AND DJIROKASTRO WERE MUCH BETTER THAN IN THE NORTH. APART FROM TIRANA, THERE SEEMED TO BE MORE CONSTRUCTION GONG ON IN THESE TWO PLACES THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. SOURCE DID, HOWEVER, MENTION A LOT OF NEW BUILDING GOING ON IN LUSHNIJA.

SOURCE WAS PRESSED ON THE QUESTION OF ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS, HOUSING, ETC. IN THE GEG NORTH. WHILE ADMITTING THAT SOME

MORE

DEVELOPMENT WAS TAKING PLACE HE COULD NOT SAY THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT A SPECIAL EFFORT WAS BEING MADE HERE TO OFFSET THE PREVIOUS SUPERIORITY OF THE TOSK SOUTH OR TO COUNTERBALANCE THE EVIDENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GEG KOSMET REGION OF YUGOSLAVIA. (UNFORTUNATELY HE HAD NOT BEEN TO THE KOSMET. HE WAS URGED TO DO SO.) CONVERSELY, SOURCE COULD NOT SAY THAT THINGS LOOKED DELIBERATELY NEGLECTED IN THE NORTH. THINGS WERE BAD EVERYWHERE BUT LESS BAD IN THE SOUTH THAN THE NORTH.

IT MIGHT BE ADDED HERE THAT SOURCE WAS ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT THE 30 DAY WORK PERIOD A YEAR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE, PROFESSIONAL AND CULTURAL PEOPLE WAS, UNLIKE IN BULGARIA, STILL GOING ON. PROFESSOR BUDA TOLD HIM THAT THIS YEAR HE HAD WORKED FOR FOUR WEEKS IN A VINEYARD; LAST YEAR HE HAD HELPED OUT IN TIRANA'S PARKS.

CONTACT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

VERY INTERESTING PIECES OF INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION:

1) IN HIS HOTEL AT DURRES THERE WERE STAYING A GROUP OF RATHER SMART YOUNG PEOPLE. THEY WERE MAINLY THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ALBANIAN PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE BUT ALSO INCLUDED SOME BALLET DANCERS FROM TIRANA AND ONE YOUNG WOMAN PIANIST WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE VERY PROMISING. THEY WERE VERY "WESTERN" INDEED. THEY SPOKE TO EACH OTHER IN FRENCH AND ITALIAN AND WORE ITALIAN FASHIONS. SOURCE OVERHEARD SOME OF THEM DISCUSSING LITERATURE AND HEARD THEM MENTION THE NAMES OF HEMINGWAY AND MAURIAC. HAMM TRIED TO INTERVIEW THE YOUNG PIANIST WHILE SWIMMING. SHE TOLD HIM SHE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK BUT COULD NOT.

2) DURING THE GROUP'S TOUR, THE GUIDE SCHWARZ SHOWED SOURCE SOME POEMS HE HAD WRITTEN IN GERMAN. THEY WERE AS FAR REMOVED FROM SOCIALIST REALISM AS POSSIBLE. ONE DEALT WITH

MORE

MUN96 PAGE 13

THE FEELING OF BLACK, ALMOST CLAUSTROPHOBIC COMPRESSION AND OPPRESSION WHICH THE AUTHOR FELT. ANOTHER DEALT WITH A YOUNG MAN WHO COMPENSATED FOR HIS FRUSTRATED DESIRE TO TRAVEL BY WANDERING WITHIN HIS OWN MIND AND LETTING HIS IMAGINATION DO THE REST. THERE WERE ALSO ONE OR TWO LOVE POEMS. SCHWARZ WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL PERSON BUT SOURCE DEFINITELY ASKED HIM WHETHER HIS FULL-FLEDGED ALBANIAN FRIENDS ALSO WROTE AND READ SUCH POEMS. SCHWARZ SAID THAT SOME OF THEM DID, THAT THEY HAD A SORT OF CLANDESTINE READING CIRCLE WHERE POEMS LIKE THIS WERE READ. MOST OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS CIRCLE WERE STUDENTS.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

IN SCUTARI SOURCE, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS IN HIS GROUP, ATTENDED MASS AT A ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. (THEY WERE THEN IN THE COMPANY OF THE RIGIDLY COMMUNIST GUIDE WHO DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO DISSUADE THEM FROM GOING.) THE CHURCH WAS FULL. HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WERE A FEW MONKS (SOURCE THOUGHT THEY WERE FRANCISCANS) ATTACHED TO THIS CHURCH BUT THE GUIDE FLATLY DENIED THEIR EXISTENCE. DURING OR JUST AFTER THE SERVICE, HOWEVER, ONE OF THESE MONKS WALKED THROUGH THE CHURCH INTO THE VESTRY AND WAS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY HAMM, WHO BEGAN ASKING HIM ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLICS. THIS MONK HAD JUST BEGUN TELLING HIM OF THE TERRIBLE CONDITIONS OF THE CHURCH WHEN THE CONVERSATION WAS ANGRILY INTERRUPTED BY THE GUIDE. SOURCE TRIED TO GET AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF SCUTARI BUT THIS PROVED IMPOSSIBLE.

THE PREVIOUS PERSECUTION AND BREAKING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH WAS EVIDENT, SAID SOURCE, IN THE LARGE NUMBER OF DERELICT CHURCHES AND CHAPELS TO BE SEEN ON THE ROAD BETWEEN SCUTARI AND DURRES. HE ALSO SHOWED PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOTH ORTHODOX AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES WHICH HAD BEEN CONVERTED INTO

MORE

MUN96 PAGE 14

RESTAURANTS. ONE WAS NOW A STABLE.

THE SAME FATE HAD BEFALLEN SOME MOSQUES AND, THOUGH RELIGIOUS PRACTICE WAS, SO TO SPEAK, FREE, THE NUMBER OF PLACES OF WORSHIP OF ALL KINDS HAD BEEN DRASTICALLY REDUCED. AT THE CENTRAL MOSQUE IN TIRANA SOURCE WAS HOPING TO SEE THE MUEZZIN CALL THE FAITHFUL TO PRAYER. HE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL AND, THOUGH HE WAS ASSURED BY HIS GUIDE THAT THE PRACTICE WAS KEPT, HE WAS ALMOST SURE THAT IT HAD BEEN "ALLOWED TO LAPSE". EVEN THE "FREEDOM" OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE WAS SET AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF POLICE GUARDS OUTSIDE THE CHURCHES AND MOSQUES WATCHING THOSE WHO WENT IN.