

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT, ZONE 3
APO 512, U.S.ARMY

173/I

27 September 1946

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION.-

SUBJECT: "BALLI KOMBETARE"

1. As previously reported by these Agents, the "BALLI KOMBETARE" (National Front) is a nationalistic, anti-communist movement that started among Albanian refugees in Italy. During the war it fought against the Italian occupation forces. Its members seem to have developed a tendency to favor good relations with Italy, especially from a cultural and economical point of view, provided that the independency of Albania be guaranteed. Rome is still the center of activity of this organization.

2. Its members are mainly refugees or political exiles. Some of them live in Rome (especially those who have large financial means or who can afford to reside in Rome), but the greatest part of this group lives in or around Reggio Emilia, where special offices for the assistance of these members have been created by the organization.

3. The leader of the BK is Mitat FRASHERI (of the FRASHERI Albanian Clan), an ambitious man, well-learned in Western customs and along the Western cultural lines. As previously mentioned, he was for the period of King Zog's rule, the owner of a book-shop in Tirana and he is well-versed in Italo-Albanian literature. This individual seems to enjoy much popularity among his countrymen in Italy, although it has been noted that he has been losing some of his former prestige during the past month. He lives in Rome and he seems to be in financial difficulties, but he can not be corrupted with money.

4. The most active elements that should be taken into consideration as anti-communists are the following:

- a) KOLE BIB MIRAKAJ, about 50 years old, former Secretary of the Albanian Fascist Party.
- b) MENTOR COKU, born in Kossovo, former member of the Press Bureau of the Albanian Fascist Party.
- c) LODOVIK SHESTANI, an ardent fascist and distant relative of priest Zaf SHESTANI.

d) PANDJ FRASHERI, a lawyer, distant relative of
Lodovik SHESTANI.

6. The Prince of MIRDIZIA is living in Rome with a son of his. The old aristocrat is still faithful to Italy and is very popular in the Zone of Scutari. It is estimated that some 20,000 armed men are loyal to him. It is known that the Zone of Scutari covers 3/10 of the Albanian territory. This Zone is the only one where some kind of anti-Russian activity could be fomented. A resistance movement is still active there and it has the following characteristics: it is a nationalist, anti-Italian, anti-Russian and anti-Communist movement.

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