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FRS

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	NSC-01	NSAE-00	HA-08	L-03	PM-10	PA-01
	OMB-01	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	PRS-01	SPD-02
	/054 W						

-----361066 250635Z /21

R 241605Z APR 85
 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0124
 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
 AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
 AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
 AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
 AMEMBASSY SOFIA
 AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
 AMEMBASSY VIENNA
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ATHENS 07228

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, GR, AL
 SUBJECT: GREEK REACTIONS TO ALBANIAN SUCCESSION

1. (C) SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF ENVER HOXHA, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT -- AND A LEFTIST PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO ATTENDED THE FUNERAL -- FORECASTS CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-ALBANIAN RELATIONS AND DETERIORATION IN ALBANIA'S TIES TO YUGOSLAVIA. MEANWHILE, THE MOSCOW-LINE KKE COMMUNISTS LAMENT PERSISTENT ALBANIAN REJECTION OF SOVIET AND THE WARM KKE CONDOLANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. (C) IN A CONVERSATION OUTLINING GOG REACTION TO THE RECENT CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN TIRANA, THE CONFIDENTIAL

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[REDACTED] TOLD POLOFF
 APRIL 19 THAT THE SMOOTH AND RAPID TRANSITION OF
 POWER TO RAMIZ ALIA "CORROBORATED" THE GOG VIEW

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THAT, ALREADY DURING THE PAST YEAR, ALIA HAS BEEN THE EFFECTIVE RULER OF ALBANIA. ATHENS THUS EXPECTS THAT ALBANIA WILL CONTINUE THE POLICY OF GRADUAL OPENING IN FOREIGN RELATIONS WHICH IN THAT SAME PERIOD BROUGHT A MARKED INCREASE IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN ATHENS AND TIRANA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALSO SAID HE EXPECTED TO SEE A DEGREE OF "HOUSE CLEANING" OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTY CADRES TO SIGNAL THAT ALIA FEELS SECURELY IN CHARGE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADDED THAT GREECE'S DEPUTY FM KAROLAOS PAPOULIAS, WHO MADE A HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED VISIT TO TIRANA LAST DECEMBER, PREDICTS THAT ALBANIA WILL ASSUME WHAT [REDACTED] TERMED THE "CHINESE BEHAVIORAL MODEL," SELECTIVELY DEVELOPING OUTSIDE TIES IN ORDER TO PROCURE GREATER CAPITAL INVESTMENT, TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND TECHNOLOGY. [REDACTED] CITED ALBANIA'S TIES WITH WEST GERMANY AS AN INDICATION OF THIS TREND.

3. (C) TURNING TO THE DEATH OF HOXHA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SAID THAT OFFICIAL CONDOLANCE MESSAGES WERE SENT TO TIRANA BY BOTH PRIME MINISTER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU (SEE FBIS NICOSIA #0883 - DTG 112130Z APR 85) AND PAPOULIAS. [REDACTED] DESCRIBED THE LATTER AS PERSONAL IN TONE. ITS TEXT HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC. BEFORE IT BECAME KNOWN THAT FOREIGNERS WERE NOT INVITED TO HOXHA'S FUNERAL, THE GOG HAD ANNOUNCED THAT PAPOULIAS WOULD ATTEND.

4. (U) UNOFFICIAL GREEK ATTENDANCE AT THE FUNERAL
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WAS MARKED BY THE PRESENCE OF MANOLIS GLEZOS, LEADER OF THE HELLENIC DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA), THE SMALL REMNANT ORGANIZATION OF THE LEFTIST POPULAR FRONT WHICH FOUGHT IN THE GREEK CIVIL WAR. GLEZOS, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, LAID A WREATH ON HOXHA'S COFFIN. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY ELEFTHEROITYPIA APRIL 19, GLEZOS EXPLAINED THAT, UPON LEARNING OF HOXHA'S DEATH, HE HAD SOUGHT FROM THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL. THE REQUEST WAS GRANTED TO HIM AS A "PERSONAL FRIEND" OF THE LATE LEADER. GLEZOS SUGGESTED THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A SIMILAR INITIATIVE WITH THE SAME SUCCESS.

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ACCORDING TO EYE-WITNESS AND NEWS REPORTS, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT PROVIDED GLEZOS WITH HELICOPTER AND MILITARY TRANSPORT TO TRAVEL TO NORTHERN GREECE IN ORDER TO ATTEND. IN TIRANA, GLEZOS SAID, THE TWO "RUMORS" JUSTIFYING THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN DELEGATIONS AT THE FUNERAL WERE (A) HOXHA HAD REQUESTED TO BE BURIED IN THE HIGHLY-REVERED MARTYR'S TOMB AND (B) HIS LAST WISH HAD BEEN THAT ONLY FRIENDS ATTEND HIS BURIAL.

5. (U) IN THE INTERVIEW, GLEZOS SAID THAT HE HAD HELD "LONG AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS" WITH THE NEW ALBANIAN LEADER WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "A CLEVER MAN AND FRIEND OF GREECE." ALIA STRESSED THAT ALBANIA HAS "NOT A SINGLE CLAIM" AGAINST GREECE, GLEZOS SAID. GLEZOS SAID ALIA ALSO HAD RECOGNIZED GREEK CONCERN ABOUT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN ALBANIA, BUT HAD EXPLAINED THAT ALBANIAN POLICY TOWARD RELIGION DID NOT SINGLE OUT THE ORTHODOX CHURCH BUT ALSO APPLIED TO CATHOLICISM AND ISLAM AS

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WELL. WHERE THE CHURCH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FREEDOM AND UNITY IN GREECE, GLEZOS SAID THE ALBANIAN LEADER TOLD HIM, IN ALBANIA RELIGION HAD FOSTERED DISUNITY AND SUBMISSION.

6. (U) IN THE WAKE OF HOXHA'S DEATH, ARCHBISHOP OF GREECE SERAPHIM MADE AN UNUSUAL APPEAL IN HIS APRIL 14 EASTER SERMON FOR THE FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE FOR THE GREEK MINORITY LIVING IN ALBANIA. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TELEVISION AND RADIO CUT THIS PORTION OF HIS SERMON FROM ITS
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REBROADCAST OF THE EASTER SERVICE.

7. (U) THE MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY "RIZOSPASTIS," IN ITS FRONT-PAGE REPORT OF HOXHA'S DEATH, CARRIED A PHOTO OF HOXHA, WITH A RUN-DOWN OF HIS LIFE AND THE TEXT OF THE KKE CONDOLANCE MESSAGE IN A FRONT-PAGE BOX. HAILING HOXHA AS A PATRIOT, LEADER OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND NATION BUILDER WHO DEVOTED HIMSELF TO PROGRESS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE, THE KKE EXPRESSED ITS "DEEP SORROW" AT HIS DEATH AND SAID THE PARTY WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GREEK AND ALBANIAN PEOPLES "FOR PROTECTION AND FURTHER SUPPORT OF DETENTE IN THE BALKANS AND THE WORLD." LATER, FOLLOWING THE ALBANIAN REJECTION OF SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST CONDOLANCE MESSAGES, "RIZOSPASTIS" QUESTIONED THE COST TO PEACE OF ALBANIA'S REPEATED NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO SOVIET OVERTURES.

8. (C) COMMENTING ON ALBANIA'S NEW LEADER [REDACTED] DESCRIBED ALIA VARIOUSLY AS A CHESS PLAYER, SURVIVOR AND TECHNOCRAT. CONSULTING BIOGRAPHICAL PAPERS, [REDACTED] SAID THAT ALIA WAS BORN IN NORTHERN ALBANIA, OF THE GEG TRIBE, AND PARENTS WHO WERE MOSLEMS FROM KOSOVO.

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HE WAS RELATED TO HOXHA BY MARRIAGE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ALSO REPORTED THAT AT THE FUNERAL THE KOSOVO FLAG WAS DRAPED OVER HOXHA'S COFFIN AND THAT, IN HER EULOGY, HOXHA'S WIDOW REFERRED TO "OUR UNREDEEMED BROTHERS" STILL IN KOSOVO. FROM THIS [REDACTED] FORECAST THAT TIRANA MAY
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INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE KOSOVO ISSUE WITH THE RESULT THAT RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA WILL DETERIORATE.

9. (C) [REDACTED] ALSO INFORMED POLOFF THAT MRS. ALIA WAS TO TRAVEL TO PARIS APRIL 20. NEWS REPORTS CARRYING PICTURES OF HER AND HER DAUGHTER IN TRANSIT AT ATHENS AIRPORT STATED THAT THE TRIP WAS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES. STEARNS

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