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FR6

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INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-08
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R 241352Z APR 85
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5093
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16726

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, FR, AL
SUBJECT: FRENCH-ALBANIAN RELATIONS AFTER HOXHA

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE FRENCH WILL BE PROBING FOR ANY SIGNS OF CHANGE IN ALBANIA DURING QUAI NUMBER TWO BAYLET'S PLANNED LATE MAY VISIT TO TIRANA, BUT MEANWHILE EXPECT FEW IF ANY CHANGES FROM THE NEW ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP. AS IF TO UNDERLINE THEIR LIMITS, THE ALBANIANS HAVE AGAIN POSTPONED BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN APRIL 22. END SUMMARY.

3. EMBOFF MET [REDACTED]
APRIL 19 TO REVIEW FRENCH RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA
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IN THE WAKE OF ENVER HOXHA'S DEATH. [REDACTED]
DESPITE HOXHA'S GENERAL POLICY OF ISOLATION, FRENCH-ALBANIAN RELATIONS DURING HIS RULE HAD BEEN REASONABLY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM J GEHRON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.6(5), 1.6(6)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 23 APR 2010
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GOOD IF RATHER LIMITED. [REDACTED] HOXA HAD STUDIED IN FRANCE, HAD ONCE TAUGHT FRENCH LITERATURE AND SPOKE FRENCH WELL. HOXHA ALSO APPEARED TO REGARD FRANCE'S "INDEPENDENT" POSITION WITHIN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS MAKING FRANCE A MORE ACCEPTABLE INTERLOCUTOR THAN SOME OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

4. [REDACTED] EXPECTED NO REAL CHANGE IN THE RELATIONSHIP UNDER ALIA. DURING LAST NOVEMBER'S FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY, [REDACTED] ALIA'S ADDRESS HAD EMPHASIZED ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE, BUT ALSO LISTED FRANCE, JUST AFTER ALBANIA'S IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS - GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, AND ITALY - AMONG THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ALBANIA WANTED TO COOPERATE. MOREOVER, [REDACTED] BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE GOING TO INCREASE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HE SAID BILATERAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN PARIS THE DAY OF HAZHA'S DEATH BUT HAD BEEN QUICKLY RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 22. (IN FACT, OTHER [REDACTED] SOURCES INFORMED US APRIL 22 THAT THE ALBANIANS HAD TOLD THE FRENCH APRIL 21 THAT THESE TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE POSTPONED AGAIN; ILL HEALTH OF THE ALBANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VICE MINISTER, WHO WAS TO LEAD THE DELEGATION, WAS THE REASON GIVEN FOR THE POSTPONEMENT). [REDACTED] THAT THE SECOND-RANKING QUAI OFFICIAL, SECRETARY OF STATE BAYLET, WOULD BE VISITING TIRANA IN LATE MAY. THIS LATTER VISIT WOULD BE THE FIRST BY A SENIOR FRENCH OFFICIAL IN RECENT MEMORY, HE SAID.

5. HOWEVER, [REDACTED] THE QUAI HAD NO
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GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM THE NEW ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP. HE FELT THEIR CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY COURSE OF SEEKING VERY LIMITED ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE WEST WHILE MAINTAINING DISCIPLINE AT HOME HAD BEEN SET IN PLACE BY HOXA BEFORE HIS DEATH WITH ALIA'S FULL COOPERATION. EVEN SHOULD THE NEW LEADERSHIP WISH TO INNOVATE - AND [REDACTED] THE FRENCH HAD NO EVIDENCE THIS WAS THE CASE - THE MONOLITHIC NATURE OF THE REGIME WOULD MILITATE AGAINST ANY RAPID SHIFTS.

6. COMMENT: HOXHA'S DEATH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF PRESS EULOGY HERE - MUCH OF IT FOCUSING ON HIS ROLE AS THE FATHER OF MODERN ALBANIA IN DEFIANCE

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OF MOST OF THE REST OF THE WORLD. HOWEVER, WHILE HOXA'S SINGLE-MINDED PURSUIT OF INDEPENDENCE MAY EVOKE A CERTAIN DEGREE OF APPRECIATION AMONG THE FRENCH PUBLIC, IT APPEARS THE GOF HAS LIMITED EXPECTATIONS FOR THEIR POST-HOXHARELATIONS WITH TIRANA. GALBRAITH

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