

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1998TIRANA02892

UNCLASSIFIED

Page: 1

Channel: n/a

RELEASED IN FULL

PTQ9620



CONFIDENTIAL

PTO6357

PAGE 01 TIRANA 02892 210851Z  
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	INLB-01	AF-01	AID-00	ACQ-01
	SMEC-00	INL-01	DOEE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-01	ADS-00	MOFM-04
	MOF-03	M-00	NSAE-00	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	SA-01	FMP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-01	DRL-04	G-00	SSAS-00	SSR-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/031W					

-----5660C3 210851Z /38

O 211053Z JUL 98  
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6247  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CIA WASHDC  
DIA WASHINGTON DC  
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK  
COMSIXTHFLT  
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TIRANA 002892

STATE ALSO FOR S/SR - AMB. GELBARD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: FRANK TUMMINIA  
DATE/CASE ID: 02 MAR 2004 200103227

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1998TIRANA02892

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

PAGE 02 TIRANA 02892 210851Z  
STATE ALSO FOR EUR/SCE - ANDREW HYDE

STATE PLEASE PASS AID/ENI/ECA AND AID/BHR/OFDA  
(ARTIFICIO-ROGERS)

ROME ALSO FOR EMBASSY VATICAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/21/08  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PREF, SR, AL  
SUBJECT: ALBANIA-KOSOVO BORDER -- SITREP 42

(U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. M. R. LINO FOR REASONS 1.5  
(B) AND (D).

1. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS THE SITUATION BASED ON  
REPORTS RECEIVED AS OF 1000 LOCAL TIME, JULY 21.

CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION  
-----

2. (U) NO NEW REFUGEES WERE REPORTED. TODAY,  
UNHCR IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY OF POSSIBLE SHELTER  
OPTIONS IN THE MINING TOWN OF BURREL, IN THE MATI  
DISTRICT OF CENTRAL ALBANIA, ALONG WITH THE GOA'S  
OFFICE OF REFUGEES. WHILE BURREL IS SOMEWHAT  
ISOLATED, NET OUT-MIGRATION OF LOCAL INHABITANTS  
OVER THE YEARS HAS RESULTED IN SOME HOUSING  
CAPACITY THERE WHICH COULD BE USED AS A  
CONTINGENCY.

3. (U) ICRC FEARS REFUGEES CURRENTLY RESIDING IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TIRANA 02892 210851Z  
TROPOJA DISTRICT MAY ACCELERATE THEIR PLANS TO  
LEAVE AND SEEK OTHER SHELTER BECAUSE OF THE JULY  
18 FIGHTING AT THE BORDER NEAR TROPOJA VILLAGE.

SECURITY SITUATION  
-----

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED

4. (U) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS REPORT THE BORDER AREA IS GENERALLY QUIET.

5. (C) ECMM MONITORS OUT OF BAJRAM CURRI WERE TOLD CONFIDENTIALLY BY AN ALBANIAN BORDER GUARD THAT THE GROUP OF KOSOVAR ALBANIAN FIGHTERS AMBUSHED JULY 18 CONSISTED OF 300 PERSONS. IT WAS THE BORDER GUARD'S BELIEF UP TO 200 UCK FIGHTERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE AMBUSH. ACCORDING TO OSCE AND ECMM REPORTS FROM INTERVIEWS WITH SURVIVORS, THE UCK GROUP WAS LED INTO THE AMBUSH BY UCK "GUIDES" WHO FLED THE AREA AS THE TRAP WAS SPRUNG.

6. (C) ICRC REPS REPORT THEY WERE TOLD BY SURVIVORS OF THE JULY 18 ACTION THAT THE UCK FIGHTERS HAD GONE INTO KOSOVO WITH THE INTENTION OF ESCORTING BACK TO ALBANIA A GROUP OF 1500 DISPLACED PERSONS WAITING ON THE KOSOVO SIDE OF THE BORDER. ICRC HAS HEARD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THIS GROUP OF DISPLACED PERSONS EXISTS BUT CANNOT CROSS THE BORDER ALONE FOR FEAR OF BEING INTERDICTED AND FIRED UPON BY SERB SECURITY FORCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TIRANA 02892 210851Z

7. (C) A UK CITIZEN, SALLY BECKER, WORKING WITH "OPERATION ANGEL" IS REPORTEDLY IN SERB CUSTODY IN GJAKOVA, ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED BY OSCE FROM THE "KOSOVO INFORMATION CENTER." BECKER HAD CROSSED FROM ALBANIA INTO KOSOVO WITH A UCK ESCORT LAST WEEK TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES. THE GROUP, WHICH LATER INCLUDED THREE ITALIAN JOURNALISTS, WAS REPORTEDLY SHELLED AND FORCED TO DISPERSE ON ITS WAY BACK TO THE ALBANIAN BORDER. GROUP MEMBERS LATER REUNITED AT JUNIK ON JULY 17. BECKER'S SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE BY SERB AUTHORITIES WAS REPORTED ON JULY 18.

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED  
Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1998TIRANA02892

Page: 4

Channel: n/a

LINO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNN

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 4

UNCLASSIFIED