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

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	OASY-00	SRPP-00	EB-00
	E-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00
	NSAE-00	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/023W					

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O 271710Z MAR 97
 FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1861
 INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
 USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
 DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
 NSC WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 DIA WASHINGTON DC
 CIA WASHDC
 USIA WASHDC 3308

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STATE FOR EUR/SCE - LUNDBERG AND DRL - BIGUS

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/27/07

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TAGS: PREL, PGOV, EFIN, GR, AL
 SUBJECT: SHIKU DIRECTOR AND PARLIAMENTARIANS
 ACCUSE U.S. AND GREECE IN TELEVISED
 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY DCM ROBERT F. CEKUTA.
 REASON: 1.5 (B).

2. (C) DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
 SERVICE (SHIKU), BASHKIM GAZIDEDE MADE A
 PRESENTATION BEFORE THE ALBANIAN PARLIAMENT MARCH
 26 IN WHICH HE IMPLICATED THE U.S., GREECE, AND
 YUGOSLAVIA AS HAVING AN INTEREST IN CAUSING THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: HANS HOLZAPFEL
 DATE/CASE ID: 4 JUN 2002 200100875

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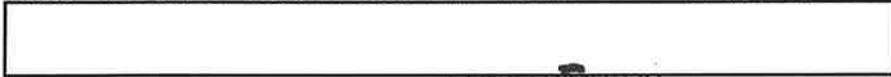
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UNREST IN ALBANIA IN ORDER TO MEET THE GOALS OF A 1990 PLAN ("LOTOS") TO "LIBERATE ALBANIA FROM THE ALBANIANS." HE ALSO REPEATEDLY MENTIONED NICHOLAS GAGE ("...WHO HAS EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS TO HIGH U.S. OFFICIALS"), THE GREEK LOBBY IN AMERICA, AS WELL AS CURRENT EFFORTS BY GAGE, OMONIA REPRESENTATIVES, AND OTHER "SEGMENTS OF FOREIGN SECRET SERVICES" WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE MOVEMENT TO RECRUIT ALBANIANS TO WORK IN A "PAN-EPIRIOTIC" EFFORT.

3. (C) GAZIDEDE, WHO FOCUSED ON "...ENEMIES OF ALBANIA WHO WANT TO BREAK UP THE COUNTRY," ALSO STATED "...NICHOLAS GAGE HAS BEEN HELPED A LOT BY A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT IN TIRANA WHO WAS ALSO THE ONE WHO SECURED FUNDS FOR THE KOHA JONE NEWSPAPER."



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GAZIDEDE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SOME PYRAMID SCHEMES WERE FUNDED FROM "...FOREIGN SECRET SERVICES." HE CHARGED THE XHAFERRI AND POPULLI FUNDS IN THIS REGARD AND ALLEGED DISCHARGED MILITARY OFFICERS AND FORMER SIGURIMI AGENTS WERE INVOLVED IN THESE OPERATIONS. HE CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT THE COLLAPSE OF THESE FUNDS WAS MANIPULATED FROM THE OUTSIDE. GAZIDEDE DENIED THAT MEMBERS OF THE SHIK PROVOKED ANYONE AT ANY TIME.

4. (C) AT THE END OF THE SPEECH, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT PJETER ARBNORI, IN AN A VERY UNUSUAL AND DIRECT REBUTTAL OF GAZIDEDE'S STATEMENTS, SAID: "THE GREEK MINORITY IN ALBANIA CANNOT BE TOUCHED OR VIOLATED. THE RELATIONS WITH GREECE ARE AS GOOD AND EXCELLENT AS THEY HAVE BEEN DURING THESE LAST YEARS."

5. (C) DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD GAZIDEDE AVOIDED ANSWERING NUMEROUS INQUIRIES ABOUT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FORMER MINISTER ZHULALI. HE DENIED ACCUSING THE CURRENT GREEK GOVERNMENT OF ANYTHING, BUT SAID HE BROUGHT FORTH THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE "...EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW THE TRUTH." HE STATED HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT THE EU OR U.S. THOUGHT ABOUT ALBANIA AND REFUSED TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT DIFFERENT LOBBIES' POSSIBLE INFLUENCE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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6. (C) GAZIDEDE SAID HE GAVE ALL HIS INFORMATION ABOUT THE PYRAMID SCHEMES TO THE PREVIOUS

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GOVERNMENT, SO THAT INFORMATION MUST STILL BE AVAILABLE. HE DID NOT WANT TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF ALBANIAN POLITICIANS IN THE PYRAMIDS. GAZIDEDE DID ADD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION HAS "... EVERY POSSIBILITY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION. SO FAR IT HAS DONE A GOOD JOB."

7. (C) PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE DISCUSSION PERIOD AFTERWARDS GAVE MIXED MESSAGES. PD DEPUTY BLERIM CELA, HEAD OF THE STATE AUDITING SERVICE AND CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH PRESIDENT BERISHA, UNDERSCORED THE POWER OF THE GREEK LOBBY IN U.S. POLITICS. HE ADDED THAT ALL OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ADVISERS ARE GREEK. HE ACCUSED AMBASSADOR LINO OF LYING ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARD ALBANIA AND ACCUSED THE U.S. OF OPENLY PLOTTING FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY. THIS IS THE ONLY MESSAGE WHICH GOT APPLAUSE FROM SOME IN THE ROOM. ONE ADDITIONAL PD DEPUTY BACKED THIS ANTI-U.S. LINE. TWO OTHER PD MEMBERS SAID ALBANIA SHOULD "...STOP SEEKING FOREIGN ENEMIES."

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FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
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FINALLY, TWO PD DEPUTIES OPENLY ASKED FOR U.S.
SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP TO CONTINUE.

8. (C) THE MOST SUPPORT CAME FROM SABRI GODO,
REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN. GODO REFUTED
GAZIDEDE'S EXPLANATIONS AS "SHAMEFUL." HE SAID
ANY EXPLANATION WHICH IMPLICATES THE U.S. IS WRONG
AND IRRESPONSIBLE. "LET AMERICA CONTINUE ITS
NOBLE MISSION OF PROTECTING AND DEVELOPING
DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND LET US FOCUS ON OUR
RESPONSIBILITIES."

9. (C) EQUALLY FORCEFUL, HUMAN RIGHTS PARTY
CHAIRMAN VASIL MELO -- NORMALLY SOFT-SPOKEN AND
VERY LOW-KEY -- VEHEMENTLY DECLARED THAT
GAZIDEDE'S REPORT WAS THE MOST SCANDALOUS HE HAD
EVER HEARD. HE SAID ALBANIANS HAD ALWAYS LOOKED
TO FIND FAULT IN OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.
HE ACCUSED GAZIDEDE OF SLINGING ABOUT RUMORS
INSTEAD OF FACTS. WHAT, MELO ASKED, ABOUT THE
NOTORIOUS REPUTATION SHIK HAS AMONG THE PEOPLE?
HE ALSO REMINDED THE ASSEMBLY ABOUT THE 300,000
ALBANIANS LIVING AND WORKING IN GREECE AND ASKED
RHETORICALLY WHY GAZIDEDE HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT ALL
THE SUPPORT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN TO
ALBANIA. MELO SAID EMPHATICALLY IT WAS A GOOD

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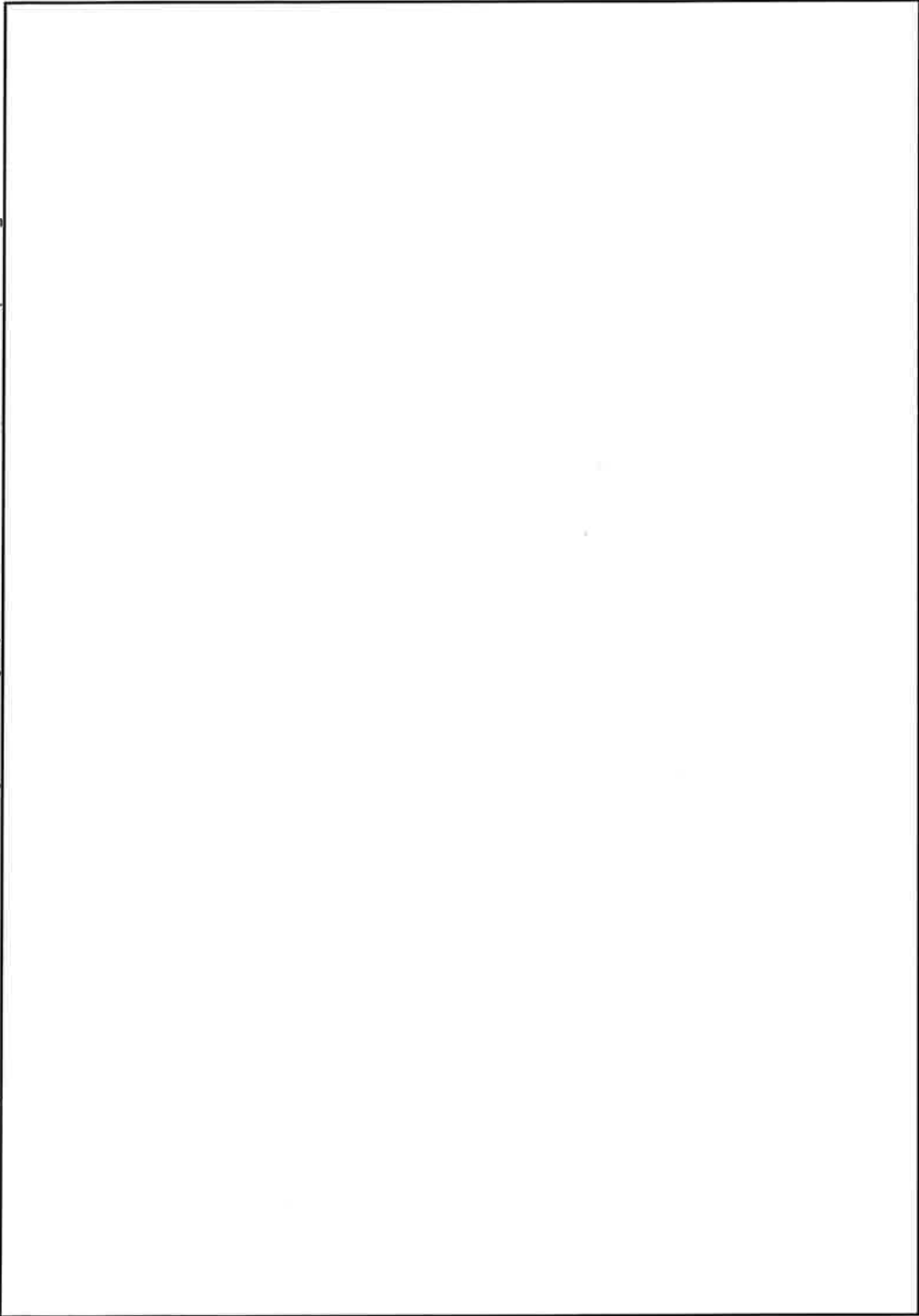
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THING GAZIDEDE HAD RESIGNED.



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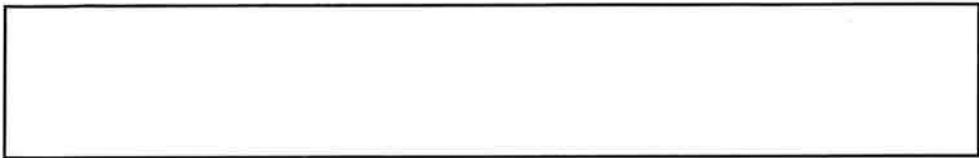
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