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

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	BIB-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-02	OASY-00
	DODE-00	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00
	MOFM-04	MOF-03	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01	SNIS-00	NISC-01
	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/030W		

-----AD4386 061639Z /38

O 061453Z MAR 95
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6853
INFO USLO SKOPJE
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

SECTION 01 OF 02 TIRANA 000740

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SCE

USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AL
SUBJECT: SELAMI REMOVED FROM PD CHAIRMANSHIP

REF: TIRANA 590 (NOTAL)

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

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SUMMARY

2. ALBANIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PD) CHAIRMAN EDUARD SELAMI WAS OUSTED AT THE MARCH 5 EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE OF THE PARTY. LESSER INCUMBENTS WILL CONTROL THE PARTY UNTIL THE NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THE LOPSIDED, OPEN-BALLOT VOTE SHOULD LEAVE PRESIDENT BERISHA IN FIRM CONTROL OF THE PARTY, BUT THE AFFAIR WILL LIKELY ALIENATE SOME MEMBERS AND ULTIMATELY WEAKEN THE PARTY. SELAMI'S DEPARTURE FROM THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLES OF THE PD WILL SEND SHOCK WAVES THROUGH A POPULATION INCREASINGLY INCLINED TO QUESTION PRESIDENT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ERIC W. FLEISHER
DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200100882

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BERISHA'S COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC MEANS AND GOALS.

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SELAMI'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE

3. DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PD) CHAIRMAN EDUARD SELAMI'S PREDICTION OF HIS OWN OUSTER WAS REALIZED LATE IN THE EVENING OF MARCH 5 AT THE PARTY'S EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE. WHEN THE ISSUE OF THE PARTY'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM AS LEADER WAS VOTED, LATE IN THE EVENING, SELAMI RECEIVED LESS THAN 10 PERCENT SUPPORT (VOTES FOR HIM OR ABSTENTIONS) FROM THE ASSEMBLED 660-SOME ODD DELEGATES. EARLIER IN THE EVENING, SELAMI HAD LOST A BID TO MAKE ANY SUCH VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT. SOME 50 DELEGATES SPOKE ON THE ISSUES BEHIND THE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE - THE MANNER OF APPROVING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE

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ADVISABILITY OF FORMALLY MERGING THE POSITIONS OF PARTY LEADER AND PRIME MINISTER IN FUTURE PARTY/GOVERNMENT CONFIGURATIONS - WITH MOST SPEAKERS LINING UP AGAINST SELAMI.

LESSER INCUMBENTS TO GUIDE PARTY MEANWHILE

4. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED THAT, RATHER THAN ELECT A SUCCESSOR TO SELAMI, THE PARTY WOULD BE LED BY GENERAL SECRETARY TRITAN SHEHU AND VICE-CHAIRMEN SPAHIA AND DOSTI, UNTIL THE REGULAR ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HELD SOMETIME IN THE AUTUMN. SHEHU HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 6, AT WHICH HE CLAIMED THE PARTY CONFERENCE HAD NOT CHOSEN A SUCCESSOR BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN CALLED SPECIFICALLY TO OUST SELAMI AND WAS NOT PREPARED TO ELECT A REPLACEMENT.

PUTTING ON THE BEST FACE

5. DCM SPOKE WITH SELAMI AT HIS APARTMENT, MARCH 6, FINDING HIM IN FAIRLY GOOD SPIRITS AND CLEARLY TRYING TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON HIS CIRCUMSTANCES. HE MAINTAINED THAT PRO-BERISHA FORCES HAD WRONGFULLY INFLUENCED THE DELEGATION SELECTION AND SUBSEQUENTLY URGED PRO-SELAMI DELEGATES TO "BE SICK" AND ALLOW THEIR PLACES TO BE TAKEN BY OTHERS. WHILE HE HAD NOT REALLY EXPECTED TO WIN THE SHOWDOWN, HE INSISTED THAT A SECRET BALLOT WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A MUCH CLOSER RESULT.

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WORSE FOR THE PARTY AND COUNTRY

6. MORE DISAPPOINTED THAN BITTER, SELAMI CONSIDERED THIS RESULT HIGHLY NEGATIVE FOR THE PARTY ("THE BEGINNING OF THE END...") AND FOR THE COUNTRY ("WE ARE INVITING THE SOCIALISTS BACK..."). HOWEVER, HE PREDICTED THAT BERISHA AND THE PD WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DRASTIC CHANGES OR REACT TO CORRECT OR MODERATE WHAT SELAMI DESCRIBED AS BERISHA'S GROWING TENDENCY TO GOVERN AUTOCRATICALLY. WHAT DISTURBED HIM MOST, ASIDE FROM SEVERAL PERSONAL BETRAYALS, WAS THAT HE FELT HE HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE LEADERSHIP SIMPLY BECAUSE HE TOOK A STAND CONTRARY TO THAT OF THE PRESIDENT, AND BECAUSE HE CHALLENGED HIM OPENLY IN SO DOING.

COMMENT

7. SELAMI'S OUSTER IS A NEGATIVE MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF DEMOCRATIC ALBANIA. AS A PARTY FOUNDER AND

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[REDACTED]

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EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TIRANA 000740

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SCE

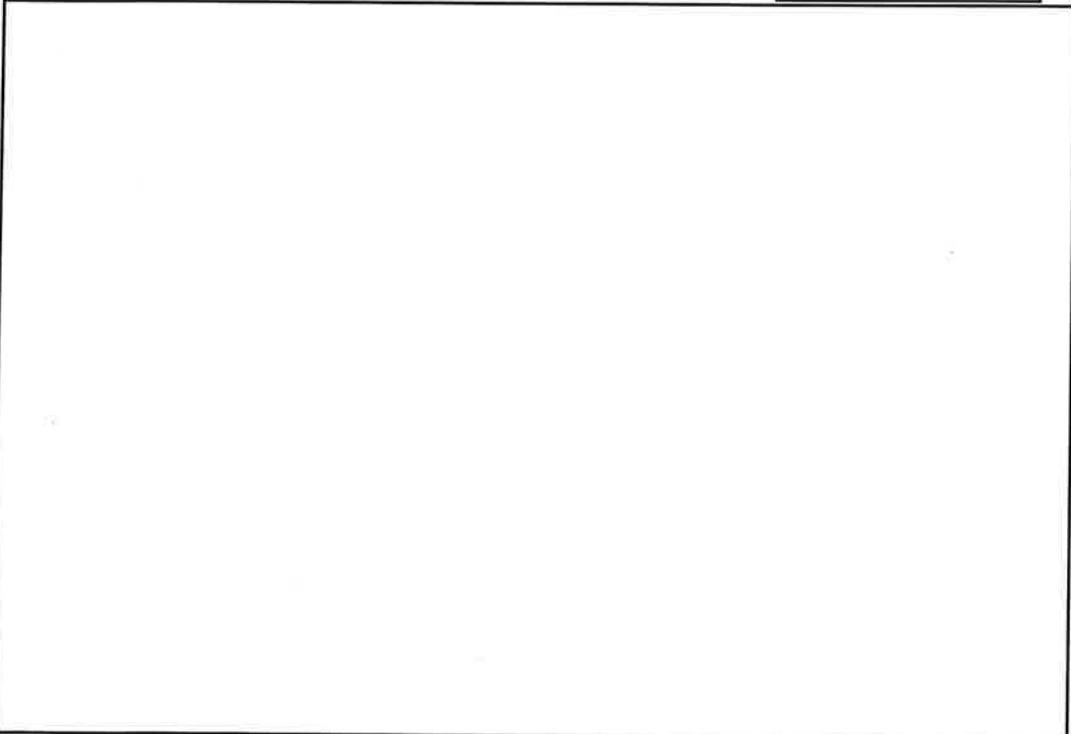
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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, AL

SUBJECT: SELAMI REMOVED FROM PD CHAIRMANSHIP

STUDENT LEADER, SELAMI WAS ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE AND
POPULAR FIGURES ON THE POLITICAL SCENE. [REDACTED]



LAKE

[REDACTED]

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