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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	AID-01	AMAD-01	BIB-01	CIAE-00	C-01
	OASY-00	E-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-03
	ADS-00	MOFM-04	MOF-03	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SDEL-00	SIL-00
	SNP-00	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01
	RPE-01	CORE-00	SNIS-00	NISC-02	/041W		

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O 070628Z JUN 93
FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2572
DIA WASHDC//DO-1//
SECDEF WASHDC//REE//
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USDAO VIENNA//TIRANA DATT//

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--CORRECTED COPY - PARA TWO LINE TWO--

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/EE AND EUR/RPM
DOD FOR OSD/EEP GLENN LAZARUS

E.O. 12356: DECL OADR
TAGS: OTRA, PREL, PGOV, MARR, AL, US
SUBJECT: U.S. VISIT OF ALBANIAN MOD ZHULALI --
HIS AGENDA

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1. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT.

ZHULALI: QUIET, EFFECTIVE

- ALBANIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE SAFET ZHULALI ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY, JUNE 8. HE IS SCHEDULED TO MEET DEFENSE SECRETARY ASPIN ON JUNE 10 AND OTHER SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DURING HIS OFFICIAL FOUR DAY STAY IN WASHINGTON.
- ZHULALI, A MATHEMATICIAN WHO TAUGHT SCHOOL IN A REMOTE TOWN IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE NORTH EAST, HAS

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A SOFT SPOKEN NATURE WHICH MASKS A SHARP INTELLECT
AND A STRONG DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE
ALBANIA'S DEFENSE AND DEFEND ITS FRAGILE DEMOCRACY.

ZHULALI HAS BEEN A KEY MEMBER OF THE FIRST
NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT TO LEAD ALBANIA SINCE
BEFORE WORLD WAR II. HE HAS QUIETLY SET ABOUT HIS
MISSIONS TO REORGANIZE HIS ILL-EQUIPPED AND ILL-
TRAINED MILITARY INTO EFFICIENT UNITS CAPABLE OF
DEFENDING THE COUNTRY. WITH THE COUNTRY STILL
REELING FROM THE EFFECTS OF A BRUTAL 50 YEAR
DICTATORSHIP IT IS A DIFFICULT TASK. AS HE WROTE
IN A LETTER TO UNDERSECRETARY WISNER (TIRANA 1090;
DTG 081121Z) : "IT IS MY COUNTRY'S CRUEL FATE THAT
AT A TIME WHEN WE CAN FINALLY CRAWL OUT OF THE
ABYSS OF TOTALITARIAN COMMUNISM, WE ARE CONFRONTED

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WITH A TRULY DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE SITUATION
IN THE REGION."

4. ALBANIA'S BREAK WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
WARSAW PACT IN 1960-61 HAS LEFT IT WITH BY FAR THE
WORST EQUIPPED MILITARY IN EASTERN EUROPE. THE
FORCES UNDER ZHULALI ARE COMPRISED OF OLD CHINESE
EQUIPMENT FROM THE 1960'S. EVEN THE UNIFORMS ARE
CHINESE. THE TOP OF THE LINE JET FIGHTERS, FOR
INSTANCE, CONSIST OF CHINESE-MADE MIG 19'S AND
21'S. ALTHOUGH MORALE AND MOTIVATION IN THE
MILITARY IS HIGH, EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING ARE VASTLY
INADEQUATE. TWO PILOTS WHO IN A RECENT DRILL
DURING THE VISIT OF SENATOR LEVIN SCRAMBLED THEIR
MIG 19 AIRCRAFT IN LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES HAD
RECEIVED LESS THAN FOUR HOURS OF FLYING TIME THIS
YEAR.

5. NATO SECGEN MANFRED WOERNER VISITED ALBANIA IN
MARCH AND AFTER VISITING SEVERAL MILITARY BASES
DECLARED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT NATO MEMBER
STATES SHOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER PROVIDING ALBANIA
WITH DEFENSIVE ARMS.

6. FOR ALL ALBANIAN OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY ZHULALI,
THE MOST PRESSING INTERNATIONAL CRISIS THEY FACE IS
THE POTENTIAL FOR SPILLOVER OF THE CONFLICT IN
KOSOVO. PRESIDENT BERISHA AND MINISTER ZHULALI ARE
PAINFULLY AWARE THAT, SHOULD FIGHTING SPREAD TO
KOSOVO AND ALBANIA BECOME INVOLVED, THE COUNTRY IS

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UNPREPARED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST A SERB ATTACK.
BERISHA HAS CALLED ON THE UNITED STATES TO BOMB
SERB MILITARY TARGETS IN BOSNIA AND SERBIA ITSELF
AS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING THE SERBS TO THE
NEGOTIATING TABLE AND FORESTALL SPREAD OF THE
FIGHTING TO KOSOVO (REPTTEL). HE AND ZHULALI ALSO
HAVE PURSUED CLOSER DEFENSE TIES WITH NATO AND
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY TURKEY,
ITALY AND THE U.S.

POINTS ZHULALI WILL MAKE WITH SECRETARY ASPIN

7. IN HIS JUNE 10 MEETING WITH SECRETARY ASPIN,
ZHULALI WILL LIKELY MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- ALBANIA IS COMMITTED TO DEMOCRATIC AND MARKET
ECONOMIC REFORMS AND IS DETERMINED TO BE A
FACTOR FOR STABILITY IN THE BALKANS.
- DEMOCRATIC REFORM OF THE MILITARY HAS BEEN A
RESOUNDING SUCCESS. THE MILITARY SUPPORTS

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DEMOCRACY AND WILL DEFEND IT AT ALL COSTS.

-- THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBANIA HAS NO INTEREST AT ALL IN CREATING A "GREATER ALBANIA." HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY IF ETHNIC CLEANSING IS BEGUN BY SERBS AGAINST ALBANIANS IN KOSOVO.

-- THE UNITED STATES MUST REMAIN ACTIVE AND ENGAGED IN THE BALKAN CRISIS. ONLY U.S. LEADERSHIP CAN RESOLVE IT.

-- ALBANIA RENEWS ITS OFFER TO U.S. MILITARY FORCES OF OPEN SKIES, ROADS, PORTS, AND AIRFIELDS IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION OF THE CRISES IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA.

-- ALBANIA EXTENDS A SIMILAR INVITATION TO NATO FORCES, BUT ONLY IF U.S. FORCES ARE INCLUDED.

-- ALBANIA WILL NOT ALLOW ITALIAN, GREEK OR TURKISH FORCES TO BE THE SOLE NATO REPRESENTATIVES ON ALBANIAN TERRITORY. AS NATO WOULD NOT ASK POLAND TO ACCEPT GERMAN TROOPS, IT SHOULD BE COGNIZANT OF ALBANIA'S SECURITY AND HISTORICAL CONCERNS ABOUT ITS NEIGHBORS.

-- AWARE THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP IS A LONG-TERM PROSPECT, ALBANIA PLEDGES TO PURSUE POLICIES IN COMPLETE CONFORMITY WITH NATO BECAUSE DOING SO IS CORRECT AND IN ALBANIA'S NATIONAL

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INTERESTS.

- IN THIS LIGHT, ALBANIA WILL CONTINUE FULL COOPERATION WITH NATO AND WEU NAVAL FORCES IN THE ADRIATIC IN ENFORCEMENT OF UN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SERBIA/MONTENEGRO.
- ALBANIA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSISTANCE THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED, INCLUDING MILITARY TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE IMET PROGRAM AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIL-TO-MIL CONTACT PROGRAM (THROUGH EUCOM) IN TIRANA.
- BUT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED. IN THE ABSENCE OF WESTERN SECURITY GUARANTEES, ALBANIA NEEDS ARMS AND EQUIPMENT WITH WHICH TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT. SPECIFICALLY, ALBANIA WILL REQUIRE ANTI-AIR SYSTEMS AND ANTI-TANK WEAPONS. IT HAS NONE NOW AND IS COMPLETE PRONE TO A SERB ATTACK, AND TO SERB INTIMIDATION.
- ALBANIA REQUESTS THE U.S. INITIATE AN FMS PROGRAM WHICH WILL LEAD TO ALBANIA'S ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCESS U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT NOW BEING DECOMMISSIONED IN EUROPE. SUCH EQUIPMENT AS TRUCKS, JEEPS, CLOTHING, MEDICAL ARE ALL DESPERATELY NEEDED.

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