

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 1 -

A L B A N I A

Apr. 5, 1954

TRIAL OF U.S. DIVERSIONISTS TO BEGIN

Tirana, Albanian Home Service, Apr. 4, 1954, 0600 GMT--M

(Indictment of the General Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Albania, Syri Carcani, against the band of diversionists and spies in the service of American espionage)

(Text)

On Apr. 5, 1954, at 0900 hours, the trial against a group of spies and diversionists in the service of American imperialism, sent to our country with the aim of organizing an armed uprising, will take place at the Brigades Cinema in Tirana.

The case will be tried by the Military Collegial High Court of the People's Republic of Albania headed by Shuaip Panariti, chief of the High Court, and with the following as members: Major Loni Dimoshi and Captain First Class Ilmi Telegrafi, both members of the High Court. The case for the prosecution is presented by Syri Carcani, General Prosecutor of the People's Republic of Albania.

The following is the indictment of the General Prosecutor against a band of diversionists and spies in the service of American espionage:

Indictment against the accused:

1--Zenel Shehu.

2--Halil Branica.

Both charged with crimes against the State under Arts. (2) and 3--Paras. 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, and 13--and Art. 4 of law No. 372, dated Dec. 12, 1946, on penalties against the people and the State.

3--Ahmet Kabashi.

4--Hamit Matjani.

5--Naum Sula.

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OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 2 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

6--Gani Malushi.

All charged with crimes against the State under Arts. 64, 69, 72, and 78 of the Penal Code.

The accused Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula are also charged with crimes under Arts. 67 and 82 of the Penal Code. The accused Hamit Matjani is also charged with crime under Art. 70.

7--Rapush Agolli.

8--Ibrahim Lamce.

Both charged with crimes against the State under Arts. 14, 64, and 69 of the Penal Code. The accused Rapush Agolli is also charged with crimes under Art. 72.

Sometime ago the State security organs captured the armed band of diversionists and spies organized abroad by American intelligence (zbulimit--Ed.) and sent into Albania by air and land with the aim of organizing an armed uprising and thus forcefully overthrowing our People's Regime.

Investigations disclose that American imperialism, which plays the leading role in directing and organizing the criminal plan of aggression, espionage, and diversion against the Soviet Union and the countries of the People's Democracies, has in a systematic manner carried out and continues to carry out great hostile activities against the People's Republic of Albania, thereby preparing plans with the aim of organizing an armed uprising, for which they send bands of spies and diversionists.

For preparing these bands the American imperialists are using bases of their satellite countries, such as West Germany, Italy, and Greece. At these bases, through their secret services, they organized exiled Albanian war criminals--remnants of the treacherous organizations of Balli and Legaliteti of the so-called notorious committee "Free Albania"--recruited and trained ... democratic State, against the patriotic and peace-loving Albanian people.

The participants in this band are traitors of the Fatherland Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica, as well as terrorists Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula, and other criminals who collaborated with the fascist invaders and later put themselves in the service of American espionage.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 3 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

Investigations disclose that recruitment of these spies in the service of the American agency has been implemented through the sworn enemy of the Albanian people, traitor of the Fatherland former King Zog, an old agent of foreign espionage who now has put himself in the service of American imperialism. He has (also) put into the American espionage service his loyal servants, officers of his bodyguard Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica, to be used against the interest of our Fatherland and the Albanian people.

Speaking on the circumstances of his being recruited as an agent of American espionage, the accused Zenel Shehu confessed at the investigation as follows: "I became an agent of American reconnaissance through former King Zog after his return from his 1951 trip to the United States."

Asked about the circumstances of his being recruited as an agent of American espionage, Branica confessed the following:

"I became an agent of American espionage through Zog shortly after his return from his trip to the United States."

The rest of the accused, including Hamit Matjani, Ahmet Kabashi, Naum Sula, and Gani Malushi--all members of the treacherous organization of Legaliteti--have been recruited as spies in the service of the American agency.

Speaking on his recruitment as an agent in the service of Americans, the accused Hamit Matjani confessed that in this respect Greek officers also render great help. Greek officers, after recruiting for sometime exiled Albanian criminals as spies for their aims against the People's Republic of Albania, handed them over to the American espionage. Thus, the accused Hamit confessed: "I was put into the American espionage intelligence service by the Greek general Nikolopoulos at his office in Athens in the presence of an American intelligence colonel called John, permanently at Nikolopoulos' office, and of another American called Michael, and of Asim Jakova, to whom the Albanian exiles were handed over by Gen. Nikolopoulos for espionage activities on behalf of American espionage."

During the investigation, it was stated that the accused, after having been recruited by the American espionage service, were trained in special courses given in secret bases, such as Klifadhi, near Ayios Nikolaos Station, and Katsika, Janina, and elsewhere. The instructors of these courses were officers of the American and Greek espionage agencies. Their lessons and instructions dealt with their preparations for the execution of criminal plans against the People's Republic of Albania.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 4 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

The accused Zenel Shehu, asked about the organization of these courses and about their preparations, confessed all and said: "During our stay in Greece, we were instructed in various things--map orientation, conventional signals which had to be sent by the planes dropping us materials, and other things. For our instruction, they brought some instructors of the American espionage who were dressed as civilians. One of them was called Michael and actually spoke Albanian. The others were called Charles, John, and other names."

Referring to the organization of the espionage courses, the accused Hamit Matjani declared: "At the Katsika course we were trained for a period of 15 days on the manipulation of different mines, the way to attack the armed forces and the police, the way to collect different military information, the use of radio codes, and other things by the Greek officer Maniatis, the American John, and others."

In these espionage courses, according to the confession of the accused, the American instructors gave instructions on the use of different arms in order to carry out terrorist activities, on the use of mines to carry out diversionism, and on the use of collecting military, political, and economic information, and taught them how to manage a radio transmitter. Thus the accused Ahmet Kabashi of the secret base Klifadhi learned from American instructor (Riko) the use of radio, by which he had to transmit by code all the information collected in Albania to the American espionage center in Athens.

According to investigations, this armed group- which is going to be tried to give an account of the organization of its criminal plan--had received instructions and concrete tasks against the People's Republic of Albania. The hostile work of this band of spies and diversionists, headed by traitor Zenel Shehu, above all consisted in organizing and preparing for an armed uprising to destroy by force our People's Regime.

During his interrogation, the accused Zenel Shehu confessed that the main objective of the diversionist group, "headed by myself" and sent by the Americans to Albania, was the organization of an armed uprising for the destruction of the People's Regime. Concrete details on the organization of an armed uprising in Albania have been found in the document captured on Zenel Shehu when he was arrested. This document deals with the three different steps of the hostile activities of this group which he headed in organizing this armed uprising.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 5 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 5, 1954

The first stage deals with the creation of a favorable ground for the activities of the group and with the popularization of Zog. Then the group was to notify the American center in Athens, through the password "good condition."

Once they had extended their bases and had assimilated the dissatisfied and anti-Regime elements, they had to inform their center through the password "very good conditions." In the third state--when they were ready to start the armed uprising--they were to notify their center through the password "situation in our favor."

In addition to this document, material evidence in the case, in connection with the preparations for an armed uprising against the Regime, we have the letters of Zenel Shehu sent to him by the American espionage through his collaborator Ahmet Kabashi. These letters too were captured on him when he was arrested. One of these letters said: "Tell us how many arms you may be in need of for your friends."

The accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica confessed during their interrogation that, before their departure from Athens to Albania, the American colonel John had promised to send them by plane as many arms and other different materials as they wanted as soon as they had created sure bases.

The accused Halil Branica confessed during the interrogation that with these arms they were to equip the people following them for the preparation of an armed uprising against the People's Regime.

In addition to the objective of armed uprising, the band of spies and diversionists had to carry out terrorist activities against the personages of the People's Regime, diversionist acts in different enterprises, and collect secret, agitation, and propaganda information against the People's Regime.

This armed group of spies and diversionists, equipped with automatic weapons and munitions, bombs, poison tablets, knives, gold pounds, false documents, carrying American-type radio transmitter sets and dressed in American clothes, under instructions of the American Espionage center in Athens, was sent to the territory of the People's Republic of Albania through the Albanian-Greek border with the aid of Greek officers or was dropped into Albania by parachutes from American military planes.

The accused Hamit Matjani, interrogated about his entry into Albania with his band, declared: "On May 1, 1953, an American military plane dropped us into Albanian territory, but as soon as we landed the three of us--myself, Gani, and Naum--were caught by the security forces of the State."

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 6 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

The other accused, members of the armed group, after distributing and taking up their roles and after getting the necessary means and weapons and receiving their instructions from the American espionage service, entered the territory of our Republic to put into execution the criminal plan against the People's Republic of Albania directed by American espionage.

The development of the interrogation has proved that the criminal activities of each of the accused--members of this band--were carried out on instructions for the achievement of this criminal plan against our State.

1--The accused Zenel Shehu, former captain of 1938, was in the service of the princesses, sisters of former King Zog, and on Apr. 5, 1939, along with them--at the time when the fascist hordes were robbing the Albanian people of their freedom and national independence--betrayed the people's interests and left the country. In exile, the accused Zenel Shehu became a member of the treacherous Legaliteti organization which, during the occupation, collaborated with the fascist Germans and now has become a mere tool in the hands of the American and British espionage agencies. In November 1951, when in Egypt, the accused Zenel Shehu, through his master Zog, put himself at the disposal of the American espionage.

To cover up their intentions, the accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica left Egypt for France, Paris, then for Western Germany, Munich, and afterward for Greece, Piraeus. During their trip to France, they were accompanied by American agent Hysen Selmani. To hide their identities, an American agent in charge of their trip changed their names. For example, Zenel Shehu was called "Oscar Frederic," and Halil Branica "Williams." On Mar. 14, 1952, accompanied by the American agent, the accused Zenel Shehu and Halil Branica left Paris for Western Germany. In a forest near the French-German border, they put on American military uniforms in order to hide their identities. On Mar. 26, 1952, they left Munich for Greece, Piraeus, in an American military plane. They crossed the French-German and the Greek borders without passports, without personal documents.

After being trained in espionage courses and instructed by American espionage authorities in Athens--especially by Col. "John"--on Apr. 30, 1952, the traitor Zenel Shehu, heading a diversionist group composed of Hamit Matjani, Haxhi Gjyli, Tahir Preci, and Heladin Trezova (last three not mentioned previously in the indictment--Ed.), equipped with weapons, a radio transmitting set, and other things, entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania to carry out the criminal plans drafted against our People's Regime.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 7 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 5, 1954

During his short sojourn in Albania--May and June 1952--as a diversionist he tried to recruit people in order to use them for the organization of an armed uprising against the People's Regime. He collected secret military information and transmitted it by radio to the American center in Athens: He continually asked the American espionage service for weapons, radio sets, and other propaganda materials. He carried out propaganda and agitation activities against our Regime, and was instructed to carry out terrorist and diversionists acts, but he could not achieve them because, as he himself confessed, he found in Albania a situation entirely different from what he had been led to expect by Zog and the Americans before he left for Albania.

2--The accused Halil Branica, former captain of the guard of former King Zog, left Albania on Apr. 5, 1939, and until 1952 remained a faithful domestic to his master, the traitor to the Fatherland, Ahmet Zog. In November 1951, through Zog, he put himself in the service of the American espionage. After being trained in special courses in Greece, along with his colleagues, members of the band, on Aug. 4, 1952, equipped with weapons, poison, and false documents, and under the name Ahmet Jusufi, was dropped into Albania from an American plane--which had taken off from the Athens airport--in order to establish connection and collaborate with Zenel Shehu's group for the preparation of an armed uprising against the People's Regime, and in order to carry out terrorist, diversionist, espionage, agitation, and propaganda activities against our Regime.

After his departure, the American agent called "Jim" gave him the password with which he was to contact the accused Zenel Shehu. The password was "berat" and the reply he was to receive, "burrel."

The accused Halil Branica, member of the treacherous Legaliteti organization, collaborator of Zenel Shehu, could not achieve the tasks he was instructed to carry out by American espionage because he was caught by the security forces, along with all the materials and documents he was bringing for Zenel Shehu.

3--The accused Ahmet Kabashi, being like all his family a collaborator with the fascist occupiers, after the country's liberation left the country for Greece, and in 1949 went to Italy. In 1950 at a place called Bitanto, near the city of Bari, through the intervention of the enemy of the peoples of Albania, the criminal Zhafer Deva, he was recruited as a spy in the service of the Italian espionage and there attended a special course on radio transmitting. When his band, dropped in Albania in 1950, was liquidated, the accused passed to Greece. Here, recommended by Asim Jakova in Athens, he entered the American espionage service.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 8 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

From 1950 to 1953, the accused Ahmet was sent four times to the People's Republic of Albania with the intention of carrying out espionage activities. The first three times he was dropped along with other diversionist and spy groups and collected military, economic, and political information which he handed over to the American espionage center in Athens. He spread propaganda material against the People's Regime in Albania. The last time, in January 1953, the accused Ahmet Kabashi, equipped with weapons and an American radio transmitter, was dropped into Albania from an American military plane in order to collaborate as a radio and code man with the group of Zenel Shehu for the achievement of their criminal plans--organization of an armed uprising and terrorist, diversionist, and espionage activities.

The capture of this spy brought to light important documents dealing with the relations between the American espionage center in Athens and the group of Zenel Shehu. These documents show clearly the intention of the criminal plans of the American imperialists against the People's Republic of Albania. In addition to these documents, the accused Ahmet was found in the possession of an American radio transmitter along with its accessory equipment.

4--The accused Hamit Matjani, a professional bandit and criminal, well known in our country for his killing, plundering tortures, and mass robberies of the people, is one of the elements most predisposed to serve as a mercenary for the internal and external enemies of the Albanian people.

From 1930 to 1939, he served in the gendarmery of the traitor Zog. From 1940 to 1943, heading a criminal group and in collaboration with another bandit, Isa Toska, he carried out killings and plundering of the people. Thus in July 1943, along with his band, the accused killed Ibrahimgeco, a woman of the Greco family, and wounded Riza Greco, both of Zegak Village. In July 1943 the accused Hamit Matjani entered the treacherous Balli Kombetar organization and as the commander of this organization in Peqin District, thus holding a responsible position in this treacherous organization, carried out an active struggle against the National Liberation Movement.

Referring to his criminal activities during his sojourn in the ranks of Balli Kombetar, the accused Hamit confessed the following during his interrogation: "During my stay with the Balli Kombetar organization, I killed with my own hands Zejni Megani, a carpenter of Peqin, (son) of the National Liberation Movement and Arif Hasallaj and Musa Hasallaj--brother--both my covillagers."

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 9 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

Interrogated concerning his burning and plundering of the people, the accused Matjani declared: "I cannot remember how many burnings and plunderings we have carried out, but I remember that about August 1944 I burned two partisan houses in Peqin. I burned another house, together with the Germans, in Vrapit Village of Peqin. In Memullaj, in order to plunder, we called the villagers to a so-called conference. We plundered the houses of the villagers who were gathered at the conference."

After the liberation of Albania and the establishment of the People's Regime, the criminal Hamit Matjani, along with the remnants of his band, following the path of treachery, continued his criminal activities by carrying out terrorism, plundering, and disgraceful activities against the people. Thus, in the summer of 1946, under the orders of Hamit Matjani, the members of his band killed the villager Naum Vata; member of the People's Council of the In 1946 they also killed Veli Kollaj, villager of Peqin of Elbasan, and others. In April 1947 the bandit Hamit Matjani and his band robbed and destroyed the State ... at the (Vogo Cenik) Station.

Finding that the people would not support them, the criminal Hamit Matjani along with the remnants of his band--(Ul Shkula, Bylyk Dashi), and others--exiled themselves to Greece in ... of 1947, where they carried out their hostile activities against our People's Republic.

After entering the American espionage service and attending a special course, the accused was sent several times to Albania to carry out terrorist, diversionist, espionage, and propaganda activities against the People's Republic of Albania.

(One and one half minutes unintelligible--Ed.) the accused Hamit Matjani, every time he entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, collected secret military information, tried to create bases by means of hostile elements, in order to use them against our Republic, and distributed newspapers and pamphlets against the People's Regime of Albania.

5--The accused Naum Sula served in the ranks of the Balli Kombetar organization during the occupation, participated in active fighting against the National Liberation Army, and recruited by force people for the Balli Kombetar organization.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 10 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 5, 1954

In October 1946 he joined the group of the war criminal (Selim Djalci), and later, in 1947, together with Hamit Matjani, left for Greece, where he carried out his criminal activities against our State. In May 1949, though Hamit Matjani's intervention, the accused Naum Sula entered the American espionage service. Together with the other diversionists, he was sent to Albania by the American espionage to carry out espionage, and diversionist and terrorist activities. As the other members of the group, he tried to create espionage, diversionist, and terrorist groups. Every time he entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania, the accused distributed newspapers and pamphlets against the People's Republic of Albania. The accused Naum Sula is a close collaborator of Hamit Matjani and of others in the execution of terrorist activities against Thoma Prifti and Llaz Dollani. The last time the accused, Naum, equipped with false documents, bearing the name (Vasil Tapalli), and having in his possession poison tablets, gold pounds, and all the military materials given by the Americans, entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania in May 1953--dropped by parachute from an American military plane--in order to collaborate with the diversionist band of Zenel Shehu for the preparation of an armed uprising and for other terrorist, diversionist, and espionage activities against the People's Republic of Albania. He could not fulfill his pledges because he was caught immediately by the State security organs after he was dropped in Albania.

6--The accused Gani Malushi gave shelter and full assistance to the diversionist band of Safet Malushi, his brother, in 1949. Later, together with him, he left for Greece. With the recommendation of the accused Hamit Matjani he entered the American espionage service, and, together with his collaborators--Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula--was sent to Albania several times to collect secret information, to create diversionist groups in Albania by means of anti-people's elements, and to carry out propaganda against our People's Regime by distributing propaganda materials, prepared in Greece by the American agency, against the People's Republic of Albania.

In May 1953, when he was sent to Albania to collaborate with Zenel Shehu's group for the preparation of an armed uprising, the accused Gani was caught along with his group. Thus he could not continue the work for the achievement of the criminal plan.

7--The accused Rapush Agolli has since 1943 collaborated with such war criminals as Pasho Kolamiti and others and, heading the mercenary bands of the Balli Kombetar organization, has actively participated in fighting against the National Liberation Movement.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 11 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 5, 1954

After the liberation of Albania, the accused Rapush had converted his house into a shelter and supply center for exiles and diversionists. The criminal bands of Xheladin Trezova and of Hamit Matjani, through the accused Rapush Agolli, have several times been assisted in their criminal activities by the receipt of ~~secret~~ information and by being put into contact with the anti-people's elements through the intervention of Rapush Agolli.

In May 1952 the accused Rapush sheltered the band of the accused Zenel Shehu and of Hamit Matjani, aided them with secret information, supplied them with food, and accepted the tasks given to him by the traitor Zenel Shehu dealing with the leadership of a terrorist band which would be ready for the uprising period. He received a contribution in gold pounds for this work from the traitor Zenel Shehu.

The accused Rapush Agolli stated that he would collaborate with Zenel Shehu's band, propagandized against the People's Regime, and met with Hamit Matjani and Xheladin Trezova, to whom he reported on his activities by providing them with secret information and by receiving from them further instructions for his criminal activities against the People's Republic of Albania.

With regard to the implementation of the criminal plan of this band, preparations for an armed uprising and other criminal activities, the role of this collaborator was of major importance, thereby resulting in grave consequences.

8--The accused Ibrahim Lamce began his hostile activities against the People's Republic of Albania in 1946. He provided shelter and supplies to criminals Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, Emin Lamce, and so forth. Later, he became a direct collaborator with the diversionist and espionage bands, providing them in a systematic way not only with shelter and supplies but also with other means of assistance--arranging contacts between the bands and hostile elements, such as Kasem Hoshi, against the People's Regime and urging them to join the band and together escape to Greece.

The accused Ibrahim ~~stated~~ that he would collaborate with the band of diversionists and spies with regard to the implementation of its criminal plan directed against our State. ... acting according to a plan drafted by the American imperialists aiming to organize an armed uprising and thus forcefully overthrow the People's Regime

The six accused are ... of this criminal plan. Their collaborators, Rapush Agolli and Ibrahim Lamce, have helped the band in carrying out its hostile activities against our People's Republic.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 12 -

ALBANIA

Apr. 5, 1954

Due to the evidence presented, the accused Zenel Shehu, Halil Branica, Ahmet Kabashi, Hamit Matjani, Naum Sula, Gani Malushi, Rapush Agolli, and Abraham Lamce fully confess their guilt. The guilt of the accused is proved by their confession submitted at the investigations, by the statements of the witnesses, by the reports of experts and by other material proofs accompanying the case.

On the basis of the presented facts the (following is the background of each accused):

1--Zenel Shehu, son of Ali and of (Like), born in 1906, resident in Bulquize, of Albanian nationality and origin ... and officer by profession.

2--Halil Branica, son of ... born and resident at

The accused Zenel Shehu has collected espionage information and transmitted it to the American espionage center in Greece. He tried to organize terrorist, diversionist, and espionage groups and propagandized against the People's Regime.

The accused Halil Branica could not continue this kind of criminal activity with regard to the fulfillment of the general plan, because he was caught at once by the State security forces.

The (guilt) of the accused is foreseen by Art. 43 and (Paras.) 10, 12, 13, and Art. 4 of Law No. 372 of Dec. 12, 1946, on punishments for crimes against the people and the State.

3--Ahmet Kabashi, son of Asgush and of Hatixhen, born at Tabak of (Shkoder), and resident at (Fier), of the 1913 subscription, of Albanian nationality and origin

4--Hamit Matjani, son of Hasan and of ..., born in 1909, born at and resident of (Verunj) Village of ..., of Albanian nationality and origin and with two elementary classes.

5--Naum Sula, son of Vasil and of (Efgeni), born and resident at Bujara Village of Elbasan, born in 1921, of Albanian nationality and origin, villager, (without profession).

6--Gani Malushi, son of Mehmet and of Hajrije, born and resident of (Tash) Village of Erseke, born in 1928, of Albanian nationality and origin, villager, and with four elementary classes.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

- LL 13 -

ALBANIA
Apr. 5, 1954

All are accused of having betrayed the Fatherland by exiling themselves to Greece. They have been recruited in the service of the American espionage service.

The accused Ahmet Kabashi was formerly recruited by the Italian espionage service, then by American espionage.

They have participated in criminal organizations aimed at carrying out crimes against the State under the guidance of American espionage. They were organized into criminal organizations abroad and entered the territory of the People's Republic of Albania with the intention of organizing armed groups against the People's Regime by carrying out espionage, terrorist, diversionist, propaganda, and agitation activities against the People's Regime--they have committed crimes foreseen by Arts. 64, 69, 72, and 75 of the Penal Code.

The accused Hamit Matjani and Naum Sula have committed crimes punishable by Arts. 67 and 82, in addition to the above-mentioned. The accused Hamit Matjani has committed crimes also foreseen by Art. 70 of the Penal Code.

7--Rapush Agolli, son of Qerim and of ..., born in 1889 and resident at Macan Village of Maliq District, of Albanian nationality and origin, without education.

8--Ibrahim Lamce, son of Sulejman and Esma, born in 1920 and resident at Stefan Village of Gostime locality, of Albanian nationality and origin, without education.

All are accused of having willingly collaborated with armed groups of spies and diversionists and having applied them with all means by executing the directives of the criminal plan drafted by American espionage against the People's Republic of Albania. They have committed crimes foreseen by Arts. 14, 64, and 69 of the Penal Code. In addition, the accused Rapush Agolli has committed crimes punishable by Art. 72 of the Penal Code.

Considering the character and importance of the question and on the basis of Art. 27 of the procedure of the Penal Code, the (indictment) is handed over to the Military Collegial of the High Court of the People's Republic of Albania for judicial competence.

The indictment was drafted on Mar. (28), 1954, in Tirana Town.

The General Prosecutor. (Signed) Syri Carcani.