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Incidents on Greek-Albanian Border.						

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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From Military Attache Office Belgrade, Yugoslavia Date 9 July 1947
AGENCY OR OFFICER STATION

Source Press Eval. G-3

Area Reported On Greece - Albania Subject Incidents on Greek-Albanian Border

Reference R-75-47, R-90-47, Our Cables 1259, 1276, 1280 and 1295
(DIRECTIVE, CORRESPONDENCE, PREVIOUS REPORT, ETC., IF APPLICABLE.)

SUMMARY: ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY OF REPORT, CONTAINING SUBSTANCE SUCCINCTLY STATED. ANSWER QUESTIONS WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, HOW, HOW MANY, AND GIVE DATE OF EVENT. IN A FINAL ONE SENTENCE PARAGRAPH GIVE SIGNIFICANCE. BEGIN TEXT ON PAGE 2.

SUMMARY

Nine press articles which purport to show 14 incidents allegedly provoked by Greeks on the Albanian border during period 21 May - 30 June. Denials in two cases when Greeks had claimed Albanian provocations during same period.

A/M/A COMMENT

The actual facts in the incidents mentioned have probably been greatly distorted by the press. This office would appreciate comment on the Greek claims reference these incidents. This deluge of reports of incidents beginning the last of May has two probable purposes. First to discredit the work of the Sub-Commission and second, to prove to the world the incorrectness of the Balkan Commission's majority report in placing some blame on Albania.

John F. Twombly III
JOHN F. TWOMBLY III
Major, F. A.
Assistant Military Attaché

APPROVED:

R. C. Partridge
R. C. PARTRIDGE
Colonel, GSC
Military Attaché

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INCIDENTS ON GREEK-ALBANIAN BORDER

(A.T.A., Tirana, 24 May 47). Colonel-General Enver Hoxha has sent a telegram to Mr Trygve Lie calling his attention to the provocation caused by three Greek planes flying over Albanian territory. The telegram says that on 21 May at 1040 hours three Greek planes crossed over Albanian territory to a depth of 15 kms. and flew over the Leskovika, Perata and Charchova districts for 40 minutes. Descending to 100 meters, they machine-gunned the villages of Djep and Kuchova and also shepherds and their flocks at a place called Fubha Serani. A seven year old child and a girl of 17 were killed and 8 women and children were wounded. 48 animals were also killed. At 1120 hours the planes returned to Greece.

Albanian Telegraph Agency reports:

United Press and French Press Agency have published a Bulletin issued by the Greek Ministry of Public Welfare, that on 22 May an Albanian war ship allegedly entered Greek territorial waters north of Corfu and fired from cannons at the coastal battery located on the island.

The Albanian Telegraph Agency is permitted to deny with determination this invented news. The entire world knows that Albania has no war ships. The Albanian peoples are even more indignant against this new slander committed by Greek Monarcho-Fascist Government which comes after the shameless crime committed on 21 May, and they are lifting their voices against the criminal policy committed by provocators against the People's Republic of Albania. (Politika, 28 May 47)

Albanian Telegraph Agency reports from Tirana that the Albanian Ministry of People's Defense has published a statement on provocations committed by Greek Monarcho-Fascist planes over Albanian territory. It is stressed in the Bulletin that planes of all nationalities are forbidden to fly between Cap Stile, Sazana, Podgradets and Biliht, without proper permit issued by competent military authorities. If foreign military planes fly over this zone without permit, fire will be opened at once against them.

It is further said in the statement that this measure has been undertaken after continuous provocations made by the Greek aviation, which has overflowed Albanian territory eighteen times during May. Places are enumerated in the Bulletin where these provocations were committed and it is underlined that these violations are aimed aggressively against the Albanian territorial integrity. This was proved on 21 May when three Greek planes fired from machine guns at Albanian shepherds on the field of Serani, on which occasion they killed three persons. (Politika, 9 June 47)

Albanian Telegraph Agency reports that Greek Monarcho-Fascists continue with provocations against democratic Albania.

From the border post Palambas, Greek soldiers fired from machine guns at Albanian patrol in Janjina (sector Konispol) on 10 June at 0600 hours.

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and 54th border kilometer east from the patrol
Whereas the Greek authorities, and did not
provocation, saying allegedly gave
because it had entered de
"On 10 June
Greece flew
(sector
call

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...ing the Albanian patrol was located at the place
... a kilometer east from the village Janjar, between the
... and 54th border stones, and did not take notice of these provocations.
Whereas the Greek authorities gave a statement in connection with this
provocation, saying allegedly that they fired against the Albanian patrol
because it had entered deep into Greek territory.

"On 10 June at 1:30 p.m. a Greek three-motored plane coming from
Greece flew over Albanian territory between 16 and 17 border stones
(sector Argirocastro), at the height of 2,000 meters over the places
called Pogon, Libovocho and Teplene and then flew towards the east.

"On the same day another three-motored plane coming from the Corfu
direction flew over the town of Valona and proceeded towards the east
flying over Vitkuk and Kologna, region of Korcha and then returned to
Greek territory.

"On 12 June at 11:15 a.m. a Greek plane flew at the height of 700
meters over the place called Himar and flew back in the direction of
Corfu. Fifteen minutes later two more planes appeared over Himar and
flew away in the direction of Corfu. On the same day at 1:15 p.m. another
three-motored plane came from Greece and flew over Albanian territory
going in the direction of mountain Ravonik (Korcha sector) and then pro-
ceeded eastwards." (Borba, 18 June 47)

"A Greek plane, model Spitfire, crossed the Yugoslav border along
Greece near cote 1.520 on 13 June at 9:45 a.m. about four kilometers west
of the Village Um. The plane flew one kilometer deep into our territory
and then returned to Greece. On his way back he fired at our border post
which is located near the mentioned cote. The shots fell down 20 meters
away from the post. There were no victims." (Politika, 18 June 47)

(A.T.A., Tirana, 27 June 47). On 24 June, the A.P., France Press and
Reuter agencies sent the statement from Athens of the Greek Ministry of
Public Security according to which Albanian coastal batteries were said to
have fired 10 shells onto the Greek ship "Kerkiri" when it was passing
through Greek territorial waters in the Corfu Channel about 500 yards from
the island. The Albanian Telegraphic Agency is empowered to deny this
lying statement of the Greek Ministry of Public Security as one of the
most ordinary libels with which the Greek Monarcho-Fascist circles carry
on their continual provocations against the Albanian Republic. By these
provocative libels the Greek authorities attempt also to give strength to
the arguments to their foreign protectors, in the campaign which is carried
on for the purpose of convincing the world that the civil war in Greece is
supposed to have been provoked by the democratic neighbours of their
country.

Albanian Telegraph Agency reports from Tirana:

"Besides the 21 provocations which the Greek Monarcho-Fascists have
committed against the Republic of Albania during the period 1-18 June, 1947,
on sea and land, regarding which reports have already been given, three

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new provocations have taken place on the southern border of Albania, as well as the violation of air space over Albanian territory by Greek planes.

"On 25 June three Greek Agents crossed into Albanian territory during the morning, at the 46th border stone on the mountain Shendenik, on the border sector Theologos, district of Delvin. The Albanian border patrol ordered them to go back to Greek territory, but, in spite of the order given, the agents entered deeper and deeper into Albanian territory. Then the Albanian patrol forced them to return to the Greek side.

"A little later, three other armed Greek agents appeared at the 44 border stone and began firing in the direction of Albanian territory. The Albanian border guards did not take notice of this provocation.

"On 24 June, at 5 p.m. a three-motored plane appeared over the Albanian territory coming from Greece. After flying over the border stone No. 66 which is located in the border sector Theologos, the plane flew towards Ksamil and Saranda. After having flown around several times over Ksamil and Butrint, the plane disappeared in the direction of Korfu." (Politika, 30 June 47)

The Albanian Telegraph Agency reports that:

"On the day of 26 June, Greek Monarcho-Fascists have committed two new provocations on the Albanian border. The number of provocations which have been committed during the month of June against Albania has reached up to 26.

"On 25 June at 8 p.m. at the 50th border stone section of Konispol, two Greek soldiers, dressed as shepherds, entered ten meters deep into Albanian territory. At the same time two other Greek soldiers took positions, hiding, and were ready to shoot. The first two soldiers went back to Greek territory after 20 minutes wandering on the Albanian side. The Albanian border guard did not take any notice at this provocation.

"On the same day at 7:30 a.m. several Greek soldiers appeared at the 36 and 37 border stones, sector Gornji Dropul (Libohov). They began shooting towards the Albanian territory. Three shots struck the walls of the Albanian border post near Monatir. The Albanian guards did not respond to this provocation." (Borba, 2 July 47)

The Albanian Telegraph Agency reports from Tirana:

"Greek Monarcho-Fascists have committed 28 provocations against the Republic of Albania in June. The last two provocations were committed on 29 and 30 June.

"On 29 June at 7 a.m. twenty Greek soldiers advanced towards the frontier at the border stone 25 (border sector Libohovo) and shot more than thirty times in the direction of Albanian territory. The Albanian

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at 7 a.m. twenty G...
border stone 25 (bor...
in the direction of

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did not take notice of this provocation.

On 30 June in the afternoon, two motor boats who came from the direction of Corfu, entered Albanian territorial waters, and navigated during a certain time along the Albanian coast; the Greek boats disappeared finally in the direction of Corfu. The Albanian Coastal Guard did not pay any attention to this provocation either."
(Politika, 4 July 47)

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