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PRIME MINISTER.

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In your minute of 28th March, 1949 you asked for an appreciation of Albanian personalities and whether they might possibly be for sale.

The leading members of the present Albanian regime are fully, and quite probably irrevocably, committed to the Soviet camp. The Prime Minister, Enver Hoxha, has just headed a delegation to Moscow. The only circumstances in which any member of the governing group might be persuaded to change his mind would be if he believed, either genuinely or mistakenly, that he was due to be purged by his own Party.

Apart from the hard core of Communists, there are doubtless a number of time-servers and opportunists in the Government who might be encouraged to defect. The majority of the Albanians are ideologically out of sympathy with the regime, and as a race they are very sensitive to their personal interest and changes in the political climate. It is doubtful, however, individuals could be won over unless there were overt resistance to the regime which was clearly counting on outside support and achieving some success. Furthermore, our lack of information/

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information about, let alone contact with, individuals inside Albania, makes it impossible to suggest any possible names at present.

I fear, therefore, that we cannot make much progress by bribery in the first instance. But if the recommendations in the memorandum enclosed in my minute of 26th March are approved, especially recommendation 1, we hope that the increasing flow of intelligence which we should obtain would provide us with some basis for calculating the possibilities of bribery. This is certainly one of the covert methods which we would bear in mind for possible use in due course.

You may like to see the annexed paper on "Leading Personalities in Albania."

WILLIAM STRAND

5th April, 1949.