

ALBANIA

PRELIMINARY

Before World War II Albania did not have any civil aviation of its own. Air services were taken care of by Italy which obtained a concession for all air traffic.¹ Since the war such services have been taken care of by way of bilateral agreements, by the U.S.S.R. or by other Eastern European countries, and recently to a limited extent, again by Italy.

Legislation dealing with civil aviation has been both scattered and scarce. The People's Republic of Albania may be counted among the few countries lacking a law or a code generally covering civil aviation. Thus, the only provisions touching on the subject are to be found in the Customs Code (1956), in Decree No. 1535 of September 4, 1952 describing and protecting the boundaries of the People's Republic of Albania, and in its criminal code. The latter implies (Art. 256) that Albania complies with established and accepted international rules on flight. This, however, has not resulted in making Albania a party to international conventions on civil aviation or in having her elaborate statutes concerning civil aviation conform to the pattern of such principles. The provisions of Albania law applicable to civil aviation follow:

CUSTOMS CODE²

IMPORT OR EXPORT OF GOODS BY AIR OR LAND

Art. 41. Clearance through customs of goods [shipped] by land and air shall follow the general rules.

Art. 42. Customs supervision and control of goods imported or exported by air shall take place in the airfields established by the Ministry of Communication in accord with the Ministry of Trade.

Art. 43. The commander of an aircraft landing on airports of the Republic with passengers or goods shall submit to the Customs Office of the Airport the following:

- a) The certificates of nationality and registration of his aircraft;
- b) The bill of lading for goods carried together with the documents of the Customs and Post Office of the place of departure;
- c) A list of the names of the passengers and their luggage;
- d) A list of names of the members of the crew of the aircraft.

Art. 44. Before an aircraft takes off from any Albanian airport, it must submit to the Customs Office the following:

- a) A bill of lading and documents of goods transported;
- b) A list of names of the passengers and their luggage.

Art. 45. The loading and unloading of aircraft on the airfield shall take place under the control and supervision of the Customs Authority.

¹ Law of February 20, 1936 in: *Legislazione Aeronautica Estera*, No. XL—Albania. Roma, 1935.

² *Gazeta Zyrtare* (Official Gazette of the People's Republic of Albania No. 16, 1956).