

RADIO TIRANA MONITORING STATION.

Albania, located at the Adriatic Sea has an area of 28.748 square kilometres and as of July 2004, 3.544.800 inhabitants. Between 1990 and 1992 the communist rule ended and a multiparty democracy was established.

Forty years ago Radio Tirana was known for its broadcasts in numerous languages. For instance, 9 languages in 1966 to 20 in 1975. In 1985 in 22 languages, but after 1992 the number of languages dropped to 8-9 from this small country! It was the Chinese that in 1966 established a small monitoring station, whose task was to monitor these broadcasts via the ground wave on MW and SW to hear, if the transmitters Fllaka, Shijak and Cerrik were on the correct frequencies etc. The personnel consisted of 4 technicians and a chief who was an 'electronic engineer'.

The photo shows the Chinese equipment (but copied from the Russians), that was in use from 1966 until December 1993, with its present chief, Drita Cico, sitting in front of the modulation and frequency measuring tube system. It consisting of a.o. two WS423 receivers for MW and SW, two modulation meters TF-2, a PBE-1 frequency meter measuring up to 30 MHz and a standard frequency generator for 500 Hz, 1, 10, 100 kHz and 1 MHz etc. Although



and 1 MHz etc. Although the monitor room only measures 7 x 4 x 3.3 meters this old equipment is still saved as a curiosity, although Drita was asked to have it removed. In front, to the left, is a Rohde-Schwartz field strength meter for the medium- and short wave bands. The meter came to the station in 1999, but I doubt that it is in use.



Here you see a technician, Robert Omari, at one of the receivers. He has worked at the monitoring center for many years. Today the following equipment is in use: two Yaesu FRG-8800 receivers, a Grundig YB-500, a Grundig Ocean Boy,

a Grundig RR1350 radio-magnetophone, plus two Samsung color TV sets. Furthermore they have a portable remote controlled Lowe HF-225 modified so it can measure field strength and modulation, but since September 2001 it is used by Radio Tirana's now resigned technical director. On November 27, 2004, they installed a satellite receiver to be used for monitoring the TVSH (SH=Shqiptar) and Radio Tirana satellite programs on Eutelsat, 16 degrees East (12656.5 MHz vertical, 4883 ksymb/s, fec 1/2).



There are 6 antennas installed on the roof of Radio Tirana, and the main one has the form of the Russian letter G, which is what I call an 'L-antenna'. Others also cover VHF and UHF, besides MW and HF. The photo, taken on November 26, 2004 shows the antennas.

/Erik Kjøie, November 2004