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FROM : ISTANBUL 331 DECEMBER 7, 1950.

REF : ISTANBUL DESPATCH 276/19 NOVEMBER 7, 1950.

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SUBJECT : BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON BISHOP MARKO LIPA (LIYA).

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Marko Lipa (Liya) was ordained as a Bishop by the Oecumenical Patriarch in September of this year for service in the United States. He was issued a visa by the Consulate General at Istanbul on November 15, 1950, and expects to arrive in the United States around the middle of December. He will make his headquarters at the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America, 10 East 79th Street, New York 21, New York.

Lipa was born of Albanian parentage on December 25, 1919 in Kadikoy, Istanbul. His mother presently resides in Kadikoy; his father, Ispiro Lipa, is deceased. He received his early education in a Greek school in Istanbul. In 1933 he went to Albania, where he attended a Lycee in Koritza in which Enver Hoxha was a teacher. He returned to Istanbul in 1937 to continue his theological education. He graduated from the Greek Theological Seminary in Heybeliada in 1944-45, and was an instructor and a priest in the Seminary from 1945-50.

Lipa is of medium height, wears a heavy beard and glasses. He is of a retiring personality and not particularly prepossessing in appearance. He speaks fluent Greek, Albanian and Turkish, some French, and has only a slight knowledge of English.

The purpose of Lipa's assignment as a Bishop for the Albanian Orthodox churches in the United States is to offset the harmful influence among the Albanian community of Bishop Fan Noli, who is of communist leanings. The Oecumenical Patriarch states that Lipa is firmly anti-communist, in fact, dedicated to working against communist influences within the Orthodox Church. He will not be under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Michael, and will presumably work under the direct instructions of the Phanar.

Charles W. Lewis, Jr.  
American Consul General

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