

SECRET

Security Information

[I SE

ER-2-9470

27 May 1952

Foley

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director for Policy Coordination

FROM : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Comments of Mr. Jacob T. Bean Concerning Albania and Related Matters

1. For your consideration and use in connection with the drafting job you are now doing on the Cold War strategy paper, as well as for other more general operational purposes, I am passing on to you herewith certain statements and observations made to me by Mr. Bean today. Mr. Bean, as you know, is the No. 2 officer in the American Embassy in Belgrade. He has just returned from Belgrade, where he has been stationed for about a year. He is a very keen political observer and analyst, and his views are worthy of careful note.

2. Concerning Albania, it is Mr. Bean's belief that the Yugoslavs still adhere to their policy of a year ago. The Yugoslav policy is to continue to keep things at a slow boil in Albania but to do nothing which would have the result of knocking off the present regime at this time -- for fear of giving provocation to the Russians to attack, and for other special long-range reasons and aspirations of the Yugoslavs. They continue to assert that in the event Yugoslavia is attacked from the East, they will immediately occupy and seize all of Albania, and so far as is known, they have not indicated any interest in or willingness to allow the Greeks or any other powers to participate in this occupation and seizure. The Yugoslavs are believed to have secret agents moving in and out of Albania and to be especially well-informed about prevailing conditions there.

3. In recent weeks the Yugoslavs have warmed up considerably toward the Greeks and have drawn much closer to them. There have been some secret bilateral conversations between the Yugoslavs and the Greeks, and it is very probable that the subject of Albania has been discussed. It would be very helpful indeed for us to learn what were the subjects taken up in these conversations and what agreements were achieved, if any. This is a job for secret intelligence as well as diplomatic action -- to uncover the subject matter of these secret conversations.

4. Mr. Bean is definitely of the opinion that very little can be done or should be attempted with respect to Albania without prior Yugoslav and Greek agreement and without their assistance. This is a matter for U.S. and British diplomacy to work on, if it should be deemed advisable to take a whack at Albania. Mr. Bean is further of the opinion

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

Security Information

FOR COORDINATION WITH

State

SECRET

Security Information

- 2 -

ER-2-9450

that neither the Yugoslavs nor the Greeks would be at all well disposed toward the inclusion of the Italians in any arrangement or action with respect to Albania. If it were proposed to them that the Italians be included, both would resist, and the result would be a lengthy delay if not a total breakdown of the effort.

5. The Yugoslavs have reported to our Embassy that recently a considerable number of Bulgarian administrative technicians and police authorities have been imported into Albania to assist the Albanians in strengthening their governmental administration and in tightening up their counter-espionage and secret police organization.

(Signed) FRANK G. WISNER

FRANK G. WISNER

cc: Mr. Lindsay ✓
cc: Chief, SE

SECRET

Security Information