

MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT  
FOR MONTH OF

September 1952

1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY(S)		4. ESTIMATED COMPLETION	
				ALBANIA		PERCENT	DATE
5. PLAN		POLITICAL		ECONOMIC		DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY	
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY	
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		SOURCE METHODS & EXEMPTION 3020	
6. FINANCIAL MECHANISM		DIRECT		SUBSIDY		NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT	
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		DATE 7007 PURCHASE OF SERVICES	
7. PHASE		PLANNING		OPERATIONAL		LIQUIDATING	
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. FUNDING		FY ALLOTMENTS TOTAL TO DATE		OBLIGATIONS CURRENT MONTH		FY OBLIGATIONS CUMUL. TO DATE	
						UNOBLIGATED BALANCE	
9. NAME OF BASE OFFICER		EXTENSION					
10. FACTS, EVALUATION AND COMMENT: (Use additional plain sheets if necessary)							

A. Mission

See Sections II and III, Part II of the "Country Plan for Albania" for a discussion of the cold war missions and tasks.

B. Accomplishments

(1) Paramilitary

a. Apple Team. W/T contact with the 4-man Apple Team was maintained throughout the month of September and a number of intelligence reports, including several on the activities of Yugoslav teams in Albania, were received. A successful resupply drop was made to the team on the night of 6-7 September after an aborted attempt on the night of 5-6 September. The team reported that, although the drop was received, one container was not located and was later found by civilians and turned over to the Sigurimi. The resulting alarm forced the team to change locations. The team has been successful in establishing contacts in Martanesh, Durrel and Peshkopi and is considering extending their net to Durres and Tirana.

b. Willow Team. The 4-man Willow Team, which was re-infiltrated on 25 August, exfiltrated on the night of 11-12 September. The exfiltration took place ten days ahead of schedule due to the alarm in the Flog-Kamenik area after the Willow Team had a gun battle with two armed civilian volunteers on 9 September and another fight with two officers on 10 September. In each of these encounters the team wounded one Albanian. The team brought out intelligence items, material for use in our clandestine radio broadcasts, recent newspapers and two NCPA leaflets. They reported that the pick-up system they established during their first mission in June-July 1952 worked satisfactorily.

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c. Obsession Team. The two-man Obsession Team, which is a special reconnaissance and possible coup de main team, was infiltrated on 13 September. The team exfiltrated on 15 September because of exhaustion and its inability to move undetected across open country at the point they entered Albania.

d. Fig Team. This six-man team, which was to establish a permanent radio base north of Korce and investigate the possibility of the defection of high level army and political figures, was infiltrated on the night of 23-24 September. Three hours after infiltration the team was challenged by an army unit and a fire fight immediately broke out. The fighting continued for an hour and a half until the team reached the safety of the frontier. One member of the team was wounded slightly and two of the enemy were killed. The team's signal plan was destroyed during the retreat and the radio abandoned after being set afire by a fire grenade. Three members of the team lost their equipment. The team reported that during the course of the battle the lights of 7 vehicles were seen moving southwest from Cangoj. The team is positive from the dialect used that the army unit was made up of persons from the Shkoder area. In the past army units in this area have been made up of southern Albanian troops. The successful exfiltration is attributed to the quality of the team and its excellent leadership. Since the team's morale is high and the general condition of the members good, it is planned to re-infiltrate the team in early October.

e. Throttler Team. This two-man team continues operations in the Sarande area and W/T contact was maintained through the month of September.

f. British Teams.

(1) SALUKI Team. This team, which was infiltrated by sea on the night of 30-31 August was to link up with guerrillas understood to be operating just south of Triana and if possible arrange to winter with them. They established W/T contact but failed to make the contacts necessary to permit them to winter in Albania and exfiltrated by sea on the night of 18-19 September.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Teams *	3	0	14
Infiltrees **	110	5	64
Exfiltrees	12	1	36
Active (presently in Yugoslavia)	0	0	0
Active (presently in Albania**)	10	12	10
Defected to Yugoslavia	0	0	2
Captured	0	0	4
Killed	0	0	9
Status Unknown	0	0	3

g. The resupply mission to the Apple team on the night of 6-7 September was successful, following the unsuccessful resupply attempt on 5-6 September. Judging from subsequent W/T messages from Apple, the nonsuccess of the 5-6 September mission was due to the failure of the air crew to fly over the proper DZ on the night in question.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Supply Missions	2	1	20
Supply Missions Successful	1	1	9
Total Weight	385#	1100#	6 tons (approx)

\* The Throttler Team, which was not carried in this report at the time of its infiltration, has been added this month as it will be included in all future reports.

\*\* The two members of the Throttler Team were added to both of these items, although the Throttler Team was infiltrated in July, so that all of our agent operations will be reflected in this chart, and the total infiltree-exfiltrate picture will be accurate when this team eventually exfiltrates.

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h. On the night of 2-3 September the [ ] staged a dummy drop and leaflet raid over Albania to give the B-26 air crew practice and to harass the authorities. Two bundles, one containing a cake of ice and the other two pieces of broken and unrepairable machinery, were dropped over an area where we have no agent teams operating. It is hoped that intelligence reports on these two bundles will help us to evaluate their effectiveness and determine what place diversion and harassment drops have in future operations.

J. Thornapple Project

Under this project an F-51 pursuit plane has been provided to the Greek Air Force for the purpose of photographic reconnaissance missions. A report from Athens states that the results of the first mission over Albania appear to be very good. The negatives are being forwarded by pouch.

(2) Political

a. In early August Messrs. Hasan Dosti, Muci Kotta and Selim Damani, members of the NCFA, visited the Albanian guard company in Germany. Our Rome representative inspected the company at the same time and reported that the NCFA leaders were pleased with conditions in the company.

On 23 September the five members of the Executive Committee of the NCFA sent cables to the Crusade for Freedom meeting in New York, each giving his own definition of the meaning of "freedom". These messages, with others received, will be typed for rebroadcast over RFA.

b. Psychological Warfare. The covert radio located near Athens continued regular broadcasts during September. We have received a report that the broadcasts are heard in the Albanian area but that the people are afraid to discuss them.

c. Publications

1. The NCFA semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed in Rome on schedule.

2. Fifty thousand copies of the 15th issue of the miniature edition of Shqipëria were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

3. The Albanian News Bulletin, which is printed irregularly in Rome, published its 11th issue on 25 August.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Shqipëria (issues)</u>	2	2	49
<u>Miniature Shqipëria (issues)</u>	1	1	15
<u>News Bulletin</u>	1	1	11

d. There has been no decision on our request that the ban on our propaganda supply drops be lifted. The British have informed us of their desire to make an article drop in October. They have requested our agreement to this drop but have stated they retain the right to make the drop, even if we are still bound by the ban on operations of this type, should they deem it advisable.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Prop/Supply Cans</u>	0	0	3100
<u>Flour Bags</u>	0	0	1000

e. Buzfleets were dropped during the resupply mission to the Apple Team and during the dummy and leaflet mission.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Leaflet</u>	398,000	275,000	6,210,000

f. During the month of September the American and British representatives in Rome continued to hold meetings with the Executive Committee of the NCNA in an endeavor to reach agreement with all factions on the reorganization and eventual broadening of the Committee. Reports from Rome indicate that, to date, little progress has been made and that the Balli Kombetar is adamant in its refusal to accept broadening. There are contradictory reports of the position the British are now taking, and we have advised our representative to proceed with caution until we can clarify the British intentions and the support we may expect from other elements of the Committee.

During the first week of September, [ ] conferred with King Zog in Alexandria. Zog stated that his emissaries had been received in a very friendly manner by the Yugoslavs during the meetings in Skoplje at the end of August. The Yugoslav spokesman stated that the Yugoslavs would prefer to see the present Albanian regime overthrown by the Albanians themselves with Zog at their head, but that in view of the present intolerable situation in Albania, the Yugoslavs would be obliged to overthrow the regime themselves should Zog and the other Albanians lack the capability to do so. The Yugoslavs agreed to send representatives to meet directly with Zog and in the near future discuss policy and operational details. The Yugoslavs stated that Zog and his family would always be welcome in Belgrade should they find it desirable to leave Egypt.

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The NCFR has received a letter from Jovan Mema, Vice-President of the League of Albanian Refugees in Priaren, stating that he has defected from the League. The letter was postmarked in Vels, Austria. After it has been determined that Mema is sincere and not a plant to penetrate the NCFR, an approach will be made to him and he will be interrogated in the hope of obtaining important information on Yugoslav plans with regard to Albania.

g. Intelligence

There have been numerous reports of localized revolts in Northern Albania, some of them from Yugoslav press sources and others from Italian sources. We are endeavoring to obtain additional information which would confirm these reports and give some indication of the extent of the unrest.

According to information received through the French Foreign Office, the instability of the present Albanian regime is increasing. In the party purge during March and April 6,000 of the 44,000 Albanian party members were eliminated. Bloody incidents involving the use of troops have taken place in Mirdita, and the Tirana hospitals are filled with wounded soldiers. Both Premier Hoxha and Minister of the Interior Shehu rushed to Mirdita, accompanied by important police and military figures.

Our Apple Team has reported increased Yugoslav agent operations in Albania. In addition, we have received reports of an 8-man Yugoslav team which has been operating in the Devoll region for the past two months; a second team in the Scutari region which recently killed a security forces officer as he addressed a village meeting; and a third team which blew up a command post in the Daf L. Thanes sector, killing the soldiers occupying the quarters at the time.

(3) Economic

An economic warfare study has been made and sent to the field. Since the possibilities for employing economic warfare against Albania are extremely limited it is not anticipated that there will be any action in this field in the immediate future.

(4) Support

a. Training

[ J, who will be in charge of the FIAND training in Greece, has completed the Survival Course and has returned to Washington for additional training before proceeding overseas.

b. Clearances

Clearances<sup>8</sup>  
Requested

0

Clearances  
Granted

4

Clearances  
Outstanding

15

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TOP SECRET

c. Recruitment

We have recruited an Albanian and Greek speaking individual for assignment to the CIA training installation in Greece and will initiate clearance on him.

Cc. Reactions

An intelligence report states that the clandestine radio is heard in the Albanian region although the people are afraid to discuss it openly.

D. Conclusions

(1) Favorable conditions of which advantage was taken:

We were advised by [ ] that it was possible Albanian Lek might be obtained through the Quai d'Orsay in connection with the French handling of Embassy property in Albania. The equivalent of \$10,000 in Albanian currency was requested by [ ] and we have cabled a request for up to the equivalent of \$25,000. The lack of Albanian currency has seriously handicapped our operations. The Teams' chances of survival and success will be greatly increased when we are able to equip them with Lek.

(2) Problems encountered:

Negative

(3) Deficiencies noted and corrective action taken:

Negative

(4) Lessons learned:

Negative

(5) Course or Courses of action to be taken:

In view of the apparent differences between the British and our views with respect to the HCPA, a careful study will be made of our entire relationship with them on VALUABLE/FRIEND, taking into consideration reports of British-Yugoslav discussions on Albania and the possibility of our own collaboration with the Yugoslavs on Albanian operations. Also it has been proposed that the Agency run all of the leaflet drops. This could be done from Athens with existing equipment, using air crews who are trained in the area of intended flight and upon whom no minimum flight altitudes are imposed. There has not been time to get the British reaction to the proposed that their operations in this field be discontinued.

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