

4 November 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SE

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - October 1952.

1. During the month of October the BOFIEND agent operations were active and successful, with 17 team members operating inside Albania. The volume of intelligence being received through W/T contact with the teams and through the network established by one team has increased and is a valuable source of material for use in our P/W activities. In addition, the W/T contact enables us to verify rumors through the teams.

2. Although no real progress was made in our efforts to reach agreement with members of the NCPA on broadening the Committee, it is believed that the fact that the more intransigent members of the BK show signs of alarm over the trend of the negotiations is a hopeful indication of future success.

3. It was hoped that interrogation of the defector from the League of Albanian Refugees in Prizren would provide us with valuable information regarding Yugoslav plans for the use of this group. Receipt of such information would have been of great assistance in evaluating the many rumors relating to Yugoslav intentions toward Albania, a question which is assuming ever greater importance in any planning for Albanian operations. Unfortunately, it appears that the defector knows nothing factual about Yugoslav plans. He is, however, in possession of a great deal of other valuable information and he will be thoroughly interrogated.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

(Chief, SE-1)

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CLASSIFICATION REVIEW DIVISION
R DDO JAN. 1988

MONTHLY PROJECT STATUS REPORT
FOR MONTH OF
October 1952

1. CRYPTONYM BOPTIND		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH SE-1		3. COUNTRY(S) ALBANIA		4. ESTIMATED COMPLETION	
						PERCENT	DATE
5. PLAN							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICAL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC		<input type="checkbox"/> PARAMILITARY		<input type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT	
6. FINANCIAL MECHANISM							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIRECT		<input type="checkbox"/> SUBSIDY		<input type="checkbox"/> PROPRIETARY		<input type="checkbox"/> PURCHASE OF SERVICES	
7. PHASE							
<input type="checkbox"/> PLANNING		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL		<input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING		<input type="checkbox"/> TERMINATED	
8. FUNDING							
FY ALLOTMENTS TOTAL TO DATE		OBLIGATIONS CURRENT MONTH		FY OBLIGATIONS CUMUL. TO DATE		UNOBLIGATED BALANCE	
()		()		()		()	
9. NAME OF CASE OFFICER ()		ROOM NO. 135 J	EXTENSION 672	SIGNATURE			

10. FACTS, EVALUATION AND COMMENT: (Use additional plain sheet 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.** During October W/T contact was maintained with this 4-man team, which has continued to operate successfully northeast of Tirana. The team reported on conditions in northern Albania and stated that its contacts advised that, contrary to rumors, a state of armed revolt does not exist in that section. At the team's request no resupply drop was made to them in October.

b. **Willow Team.** On 14 October this 4-man team was reinfilitrated into the Korca-Pogradec area. The Willow Team established an intelligence network when first infiltrated in June and has since regularly reentered Albania to collect information and service their dead drops. The team exfiltrated on 27 October.

c. **Fig Team.** The five-man Fig Team, which will establish a permanent W/T base north of Korca and investigate the possibility of the defection of high level army and political figures, was infiltrated on the night of 3/4 October. Through W/T messages the team has reported that they have made contact with friends, are secure and working freely.

d. **Red Team.** Although no word has been received from this team since May, we will continue to carry it as active in Albania until definite information on its fate is available.

TOP SECRET
Security Information

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e. Obsession Team. The reconnaissance and coup de main operation planned for this 3-man team was cancelled since confirmed reports have been received that the same operation was successfully mounted by the Yugoslavs in the early summer of 1952.

f. Throttler Team. The 2-man Throttler Team which had operated in the Mille area since its infiltration on 19 August, exfiltrated on 21 October due to bad weather conditions and the state of alarm which existed following a skirmish the team had with a patrol on 9 October.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Teams	2	3	16
Infiltrates	9	10	73
Exfiltrates	6	12	42
Active (presently in Yugoslavia)	0	0	0
Active (presently in Albania)	13	10	13
Defected to Yugoslavia	0	0	2
Captured	0	0	4
Killed	0	0	9
Status Unknown	0	0	3

g. There were no resupply missions in the month of October.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Supply Missions	0	2	20
Supply Missions Successful	0	1	9
Total Weight	0	385#	6 tons approx.

h. Thornapple Project. The second photographic reconnaissance mission was completed in October. The results are reported to vary from fair to poor.

(2) Political

a. The NCFA was invited to present testimony before the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on Slave Labor in Geneva. Mr. Hasan Desti, President of the NCFA, left Rome for Geneva on 13 October and on 16 October testified before the U.N. Committee. Six copies of a detailed brief, including material obtained from refugees, some of whom were inmates of labor camps in Albania, have been submitted to the U.N. Committee. A press conference, which was attended by members of the NCFA and one slave labor witness, was held in Rome on 24 October.

b. Psychological Warfare. During October a regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio located near Athens.

c. Publications.

1. The NCFA semi-monthly newspaper Shqiperia was printed in Rome on schedule. 84630-A

2. Fifty thousand copies of the 16th issue of the miniature edition of Shqiperia were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

3. The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in Rome in English, Italian and French, published its 12th issue on 9 October.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Shqipëria (issues)</u>	2	2	51
<u>Miniature Shqipëria (issues)</u>	1	1	16
<u>News Bulletin</u>	1	1	12

d. We have been advised that the ban on our propaganda supply drops will not be lifted at this time. The British agreed to postpone their scheduled October article drop with the understanding that this matter will be discussed by a SIS official who will visit Washington soon.

<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. A P/W leaflet raid over Albania was successfully completed on 10 October.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Current No.</u>	<u>Previous No.</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
<u>Leaflet</u>	Unreported	598,000	6,278,000 plus

f. Discussions on the reorganization and broadening of the NCPA continued in Rome during October, although no agreement was reached. After a period during which it appeared that the British were tacitly encouraging the left-wing of the Balli Kombetar to resist the broadening, the British now seem to be actively supporting our position. Our representative will continue discussions with the British and members of the NCPA. In the meantime we are awaiting a promised statement from the British on their future plans for operations against Albania, and are examining the history of the VALUABLE/FIEND relationship to determine what unilateral action is permitted each under existing agreements.

A preliminary interrogation in Munich of Mr. Jovan Mema indicated that he was sincere in his claim that he had defected from the League of Albanian Refugees in Priaren, Yugoslavia, and escaped to Austria. Our Rome representative, accompanied by a member of the NCPA, went to Austria to interrogate Mema on 28-29 October in the hope that he could provide information on Yugoslav intentions toward Albania as he claims to have been the right-hand man of Mr. Dushan Mugesha, one of the Yugoslav leaders of the Yugoslav-sponsored Priaren League. The results of this interrogation showed that, although Mema has no factual information concerning Yugoslav plans for Albania he does possess a great deal of valuable information on the attitude of the Yugoslavs who are directing the League, the attitude of the Albanian exiles toward Yugoslavia and its aims and toward the NCPA, and on the increased difficulties the Yugoslavs are having in controlling the exile group. It is planned to take Mema to Athens, where he will be further interrogated.

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In late September an Albanian in Rome, Mr. Mentor Coku, approached the Americans with a proposal that we provide a W/T agent and guarantee the safety of three persons now in the Albanian Government following the coup d'etat which they will undertake. In an attempt to obtain the names of the three individuals who are said to be in a position to overthrow the Hoxha regime and determine the capabilities of the group, we have authorized Rome to agree to Coku's proposal and see what develops.

G. Intelligence

In response to our request that our teams operating in Albania report on rumors of revolt in Northern Albania, both the Apple and Throttler Teams advised that their contacts informed them that a state of armed revolt does not exist. However, the number of reports of disaffection in the country are evidence of increasing unrest.

A British team reported that around Peshkopi, Burrel, Tirana, Kruja and Martanesh most of the people are against the Communists because of the difficult economic situation.

In spite of the lack of confirmation of organized revolt a nervousness and apprehensiveness is reflected in the speeches of even top-ranking Communists in their currently favorite subjects: "Foreign spies, traitors, infiltrators, organized by the Yugoslav, British, Greek and American imperialist forces to divide Albania." Specific references are made to the traitorous Priaren League and NGFA in the Party newspaper. This line of counterattack is strengthened by the Greek concern, for example, over Yugoslav intentions toward Albania in the light of recent British exchanges with Yugoslavia and Yugoslavia's attempts to cast suspicions on the intentions of Greece, as reported by intelligence sources in Athens. The state of unrest is reflected in increased restrictions on military leave and introduction of censorship of correspondence of the soldiers.

Regulations have been instituted banning books dealing with subjects on ethnical laws or Albanians in foreign territory, criticisms of the Soviet Union, pro-American, pro-British or pro-Italian texts, religious subjects, writings on ex-King Zog, or any texts published prior to 1944.

(3) Economic

Negative

(4) Support

a. Clearances

Granted

7

Requested

4

Outstanding

10

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C. Reactions

When debriefed a British team stated that in the Legurat-Dukat area some persons kept the food items dropped in our BOBEGOOD operations. This was possible, however, only in isolated places. They also stated that the NCFR radio programs are heard and have a good effect on the population.

The same team reported that in the Valona area the NCFR enjoys a great deal of respect among the population; there is hatred toward the Greeks, no sympathy for the Yugoslavs and only ill feeling toward the Soviets.

D. Conclusions

- (1) Favorable conditions of which advantage was taken:

Negative.

- (2) Problems Encountered:

Negative.

- (3) Deficiencies noted and corrective action taken:

Negative.

- (4) Lessons learned:

Negative.

- (5) Course or course of action to be taken:

After careful study of the past VALUABLE/FIEND relationship and receipt of the British program for their future Albanian operations, we will prepare for presentation to the British a proposal for the future conduct of our joint operations.