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5 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/OPS
VIA: SE/PPP
SUBJECT: Daily Progress Report for Friday, 2 January 1953

REFREND

1. The [] has been informed through his UDB contact that the Yugoslav UDB agrees "in principle" to collaborate in intelligence work regarding Albania, to facilitate the movement of CIA agents into and out of Albania, to provide small amounts of Albanian currency, and to a meeting between CIA and UDB Albanian experts to discuss questions of mutual interest. It was further specified that the time and place of the meeting and the number of persons to participate would be decided by General Rankovic within the next ten days.

2. The UDB representative further stated that he was aware of a discussion which took place recently in Rome between a senior member of the National Committee for Free Albania and a counselor of the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry. At this meeting the representative of the NCFA suggested that the NCFA and the Yugoslav-sponsored League of Albanian Refugees could make a joint attempt to overthrow the Hoxha regime in 1953. The Yugoslav representative reportedly replied that the time is not ripe for such action, that action at this time would furnish Stalin with an excuse to interfere and to strengthen Hoxha, and that Yugoslavia could be endangered and the internal situation in Albania worsened. The UDB official reporting this information to [] expressed astonishment at the "approach" of the NCFA representative and said that the latter's proposal was unrealistic and not only would stand no chance of success but would

aggravate the

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aggravate the position of the Albanian people.

3. The new attitude of the UDB, reflected in paragraph 1 above, represents a substantial change from their previous disinclination to discuss Albanian matters. ~~It is possible that their new interest may be~~ the result of a growing awareness of the strength of the CIA position and of the importance of the CIA-sponsored National Committee for Free Albania. This awareness may have resulted from the numerous unsuccessful Yugoslav efforts to induce prominent Albanian emigre leaders outside NCFA to visit Yugoslavia in connection with the development of plans for a revolution ~~in Albania under the Yugoslav-sponsored League of Albanian Refugees.~~

(IN-25059, 1 January 1953)

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