

ALBANIA

February 1953

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

A meeting to discuss Albania took place between representatives of the Yugoslav UDB and CIA in Belgrade on 16-17 February. [redacted] (former SE/CPP, and [redacted] SE/CPI, represented CIA. The conference was cordial and resulted in preliminary general agreement regarding the full exchange of positive, CE and operational information as well as mutual operational support. There was some consultation on propaganda and emigre matters.

2. STATION SYNOPSIS

The Albanian project, BOYFRIEND, is directed by the Project Field Chief, [redacted] departed from Washington on 26 February en route [redacted] where he will act as Deputy Project Field Chief.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Current objectives at which our PM and PF activities were aimed during the period continued to be the development of existing underground assets, the expansion of our present limited working relationship with the Yugoslavs vis-a-vis Albania, harassment of the regime by all forms and media of P/W, and improvement of the effectiveness of the political front (National Committee for Free Albania, NCPA).

a. Paramilitary

(1) On 31 January the Apple Team killed one member of a Communist force operating in the area of the resupply drop made on 29 January. Team members were uninjured but the team was forced to move to a new area, where they are now in a secure base. A diversionary dummy drop to relieve pressure on the team was completed on the night of 20-21 February.

(2) Two members of a four-man British team infiltrated into Albania in July 1952 were tried in Tirana on 22-25 February and were sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The other two members successfully exfiltrated.

b. Political-Psychological

(1) The regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio during February, including the transmissions every Monday and Thursday at 1730 GMT from a plane.

(2) The NCPA semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed in Rome on schedule. Fifty-thousand copies of the miniature edition of the paper were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

(3) The Albanian News Bulletin printed irregularly in English, French and Italian published its 11th issue on 20 January.

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