

18 March 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR: PRAPTOLD

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FROM: [redacted]

SUBJECT: HTGRUBBY Monthly Report - 15 February to 15 March 1953

1. Program Content

The main topic this period was naturally Stalin's death and his replacement by Malenkov. HTGRUBBY interpreted the circumstances surrounding Stalin's death as indicating Stalin was probably murdered by Malenkov and his clique. Malenkov was pictured as being even more evil and imperialistic than Stalin, and one whose position was very insecure as was shown by his catering to the secret police and the army. It was stressed that purges in Albania were inevitable as repercussions of Malenkov's consolidating his power, and the unstable situation in Albania was contrasted to the unity of the Balkan entente to which Albania has indirectly been invited. Other topics treated during this period included appeals for defections to the Communist party members and Albanian Army. The third state loan was also emphatically deprecated.

2. Transmission

HTGRUBBY transmitted every day during this period with the exception of 18 and 25 February. The aircraft broadcasts discontinued March 3, since it was evident from the Apple Team reports and the monitoring at Brindisi that the transmission was not audible in Albania. The communication engineers were of the opinion that the 50 watt transmitter aboard the aircraft was far too small for the particular target area.

[redacted] has just been informed by Commo that the diesel engine generators for the 2 to 3 thousand watt transmitters have finally been released by the Greek custom officials, so that it is hoped that tests will be run on the new transmitters in about two weeks. Soon afterward it is expected that HTGRUBBY will begin broadcasting over the new transmitters which are over ten times as powerful as the present ones. The arrival of these transmitters promises to open a new era for HTGRUBBY because it is hoped that not only will it make it possible for HTGRUBBY to be clearly audible in Albania, but also that it will afford opportunities to use clandestine radio techniques such as "phantom broadcasts" whereby the shortwave transmissions of Radio Tirana can be interrupted with comments by HTGRUBBY.

3. Reception and Effect

284

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Apple Team has sent in two messages informing us that they have been able to hear the morning and noon but not the evening broadcasts of HTGRUBBY. They were not able to give any information at this time as to whether the populace is listening to and being influenced by HTGRUBBY, but they promised to try to obtain this information as soon as possible.

4. Organization and Personnel

[] had expected to leave for the U.S. this month, however, he was again put off because it seems that someone with a priority visa has replaced him. [] and Juka are still awaiting news on their quota number.

[] has applied for a visa to Italy, but has received no reply as yet.

[] has asked [] to send [] to Athens as soon as possible as well as obtaining clearances for Niko Papalili and Thanos Gega in view of [] and [] departure and the extra work load on the HTGRUBBY staff in connection with the project of writing the book on Communism in Albania.

RNADUANA is departing on the 18th of March for a one month personal trip to visit his brother in Paris with a stopover in Rome on his return voyage.