

ALBANIA

April 1953

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

After the flurry of March alarms and rumors in the international press of possible revolution in Albania, April found Albania again out of the spotlight and there were no significant developments.

[ ] formerly SE/CPP and now [ ] in Istanbul, conferred, at the request of SE-1, with King Zog in Alexandria on 16-17 April. King Zog informed [ ] that the Yugoslavs have made no move toward arranging the meeting between Zog and Yugoslav representatives which was agreed upon at Skoplje in August 1952. However, a resident of Cairo who is trusted by Zog recently received a letter from the personal secretary of Hantkevitch, former Minister of the Interior and now a Vice Chairman of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The letter is interpreted by Zog to mean that Yugoslav plans with regard to Albania were held up while Tito consulted with the British. Zog promised to furnish further details as they are received.

2. [ ] SINOPSIS

[ ] The Albanian project BOFIEND is directed [ ] by [ ]

The construction of an island training site near Athens, which was begun in March and continued through April, is expected to be completed by 15 June, at which date a comprehensive agent training program is scheduled to begin. The BOFIEND field staff is in the meantime making intensive preparations for the operational season.

On 20 April, [ ] formerly P/W Director in Athens, became Chief of [ ]

On 29 April, [ ] BOFIEND representatives [ ] arrived in the U.S. for consultation.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (BOFIEND)

A. Parasilitary

Parasilitary operations in April were limited to one attempted resupply and body drop to the Apple Team. This mission was aborted due to the overcast at the drop zone.

B. Political-Psychological

1. Members of the Military Junta of the NCPA, Messrs. Abas Kupa, Abas Emranji, and Said Kryeziu made an inspection trip to the Albanian Guard Company in Germany during the week of March 23rd.

2. The regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio during April with minor time changes. New and more powerful transmitters are now being used for one broadcast each day.

3. The semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed 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.

4. The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in English, French and Italian, published its 16th issue on 20 March 1953.

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