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Prepared by FM Staff
6 February 1953

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PLAN FOR ALBANIAN COUP
INSTIGATED MULTILATERALLY
BY US, UK, AND YUGOSLAVIA

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
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Combined Headquarters

April, 1953

Operation Plan BG _____

Maps: ALBANIA 1 : 638,000

Task Organization: (See Appendix I)

1. GENERAL SITUATION. (Assumption)-- Decision has been made to effect a covert coup d'etat in ALBANIA, supported multilaterally by the US, UK, and YUGOSLAVIA (ALLIES), to replace the present HOKHA Regime with a free independent Albanian Government.
 - a. Opposition Regime and Forces. -- See Appendix II, Intelligence.
 - b. Friendly Forces (Assumption). -- Through negotiations conducted by the US State Department:
 - (1) PRIZREN LEAGUE has been merged with the NATIONAL COMMITTEE for FREE ALBANIA (NCFA), under joint US - UK - YUGOSLAV control, and NCFA will be the instrument for creation of the new provisional government in ALBANIA.
 - (2) YUGOSLAVIA will allow required paramilitary operations to be launched and supported from bases in her territory under supervision of this Combined Headquarters.
 - (3) YUGOSLAVIA will provide necessary "volunteer" and refugee Albanian forces needed (when augmented by emigre Albanian forces available to the West) to accomplish paramilitary phase of coup, and will render additional assistance as mutually developed in detailed planning.
 - (4) Yugoslavian and GREEK armed forces will prevent land or aerial reinforcement of ALBANIAN opposition forces by Soviet or Satellite Nations moving through or over-flying their territory from D-Day until the coup is secure.
 - (5) GREECE will allow necessary coup operations to be conducted from her territory.

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- (6) US and UK will undertake to give certain military support to YUGOSLAVIA and GREECE in the event of invasion of these countries by SOVIET or Satellite forces.
- (7) US Naval forces will conduct maneuvers near the mouth of the ADRIATIC SEA from D-Day until the coup is secure to discourage Soviet or Satellite opposition forces from landing by sea.

c. Additional Assumptions.

- (1) Through negotiations initiated by the US State Department:
 - (a) FRANCE, TURKEY, and ITALY will be advised on a limited need-to-know basis of the ALLIES intent to initiate a coup and will agree to support the coup morally.
 - (b) The US, UK, YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE, ITALY, FRANCE and TURKEY will recognize the provisional ALBANIAN Government as soon as it is established.
- (2) The ALLIES will take all appropriate overt measures to preserve the complete independence of liberated ALBANIA.

2. MISSION AND CONCEPT.

- a. Mission. -- Combined forces overthrow HOKHA Regime and Establish a free independent government in ALBANIA through a covert coup d'etat during a period of D to D + 30 (target D-Day 1 July 1954).
- b. Concept. -- By simultaneous attack, seize and secure the TIRANE area and neutralize and secure the control over the principal opposition forces in outlying areas. Seize key opposition government leaders and install officials of provisional government. Proclaim establishment of free ALBANIA. Consolidate control of government.
 - (1) Phasing.
 - (a) Preliminary Operations. -- Develop, organize, equip, and train in YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE, and other foreign areas the joint field and support forces required to carry out the initial phase of the coup. Develop nuclei of strong resistance forces within ALBANIA to support and augment forces mounted from outside

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ALBANIA. Obtain complete detailed operational intelligence required for successful accomplishment of the coup.

(b) Strike Operations.

- 1.** From selected staging areas in YUGOSLAVIA and GREECE, Support Commands effect night movement of joint field forces to objective areas in ALBANIA, and move reserves and forward additional supply shipments as required.
- 2.** Joint field forces by night attack, seize, secure, and establish control of objective areas. Assault elements overpower sentries, seize and replace officers, seize key supply dumps and installations, cut communications and cause the defection or isolation of opposition armed forces and security forces. All airfields, aircraft, key transportation and communication centers, and headquarters of opposition government are secured. Key opposition government leaders are seized and held.
- 3.** Key NCPA leaders set up provisional government. They publicly announce the establishment of a free independent government of ALBANIA and force leaders of HOKHA Regime to publicly announce their abdication and to urge support of the new provisional government.
- 4.** Through nuclei organized in advance and liaison groups field forces, internal resistance forces are raised to full strength as rapidly as possible and assist field forces in successful completion of the coup.

(c) Consolidation Operations.-- Remaining opposition elements are eliminated. Friendly armed forces, security forces, and agencies of the central and provincial governments are reorganized and strengthened.

3. TASKS FOR SUBORDINATE UNITS.

a. Joint Field Forces.

- (1)** Develop, organize, and train external operational forces at an approximate overall strength of 10,400 as follows

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(for details see Appendix I):

- (a) At Selected Bases in YUGOSLAVIA -- Headquarters Joint Field Forces, Headquarters and one-half central Field Command (including Task Force A), approximate strength -- 2,500; Northern Field Command (including Task Forces C and D), approximate strength -- 1,300; one-half General Reserve (Task Force G), approximate strength -- 1,000. Total approximate strength -- 4,800.
- (b) At Selected Bases in GREECE -- One-half Central Field Command (including Task Force A), approximate strength -- 2,500; Southern Field Command (including Task Forces B, E, and F), approximate strength -- 2,500; one-half General Reserve (Task Force G), approximate strength -- 1,000. Total approximate strength -- 5,600.

(2) By simultaneous night attack beginning 0100 (H Hour) D-Day, neutralize and secure control over opposition armed forces and security forces, seize and secure the following objective areas (see Ops Map, Appendix III):

- (a) Central Field Command -- The TIRANE, DUKAGJ, ELBASAN area.
- (b) Northern Field Command -- SHKODER, KOSOVË, DIBER provinces area, and eastern ELBASAN province, with principal effort on neutralization of opposition forces in vicinity of SHKODER (Task Force C) and KUKES (Task Force D).
- (c) Southern Field Command -- BERAT, KORÇE, VLOJË, GJINOKASTER provinces area with principal effort on neutralization of opposition forces in vicinity of VLOJË (Task Force B), KORÇE (Task Force E), and GJINOKASTER (Task Force F).

b. Internal Resistance Forces.-- Under control of Commander, Joint Forces, collaborate with Joint Field Forces in accomplishment of tasks given in a. above. Rough estimates of rate of expansion of armed elements: D-Day -- 1,000; D + 3 --- 5,000; D + 7 to D + 30 --- 10,000.

c. Support Command North. -- Provides external support from Allied sources to Joint Field Forces based in YUGOSLAVIA (3 a. (1) (a) above) and assisting internal resistance forces, and allied

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elements based in YUGOSLAVIA, including:

- (1) Selection and establishment of external bases.
 - (2) Development, organization, equipment, and training of all external service support units required.
 - (3) Furnishing continuing logistic support through D + 30.
 - (4) Staging, mounting, and transporting field forces to objective areas.
- d. Support Command South. -- Provides external support from allied sources to Joint Field Forces based in GREECE (3 a. (1) (b) above) and assisting resistance forces, and Allied elements based in GREECE, including tasks in 3 c. (1) through (4) above.
- e. Free National Government and National Police Force. -- Select key leaders, develop and organize nucleus of a provisional government and police force for free ALBANIA. As soon as seat of government is secured, install key officials and set up skeleton provisional government. Announce establishment of a free independent government of ALBANIA. Through nuclei developed in advance, expand internal resistance elements of the free government. Develop, reorganize, and strengthen all agencies of the free central and provincial governments.
- f.
- (1) Combined Headquarters, utilizing Allied clandestine service resources made available to them.
 - (a) Develop prior to D-Day nuclei of internal resistance forces and internal free provisional government elements.
 - (b) Obtain complete detailed operational intelligence required.
 - (2) All operations considered necessary prior to D-Day within ALBANIA will be cleared in advance with the combined Headquarters.
 - (3) Principal subordinate commands will prepare and submit detailed plans to the Combined Headquarters for approval, at the earliest practicable date. (Combined Headquarters will issue further planning instructions later.)

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4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL MATTERS. (See Appendix IV)
5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL MATTERS.
 - a. For command organization see Chart _____, Appendix I.
 - b. Locations of CP's and Commo Plan to be issued later.

/s/

Commander

APPENDICES

- I. TASK ORGANIZATION
- II. INTELLIGENCE
- III. OPERATIONS MAP
- IV. LOGISTICS
- V. SIGNAL (to be issued later)

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/s/

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