

*Aug 11 1954*

A. Brief Historical Resume

1. Project BGFRIEND came into being in the summer of 1949 as a coordinated enterprise with the British. Because of special international conditions obtaining at that time, our objectives were originally more ambitious than they are at the moment, and there was a rather different approach to the whole problem of action against Albania. Changes in the international situation and the attendant changes in the United States and British policy, resulted in a modification of the objectives of the Project and through continuous review with the State Dept., Foreign Office and British Secret Service have resulted in the continual adjustment of our activities to fit current conditions. At the present time, the major objectives of BGFRIEND are:

a. To reduce the value of Albania to the Soviets by persistently and constantly undermining Communist authority and by harassing the Hoxha regime through domestic difficulties brought on by our covert activities.

b. To fortify the hope of liberation among the Albanian people and to foster their will to resist Communism.

c. To create clandestine underground organizations for the implementation of U.S. policy toward Albania and the Soviet orbit, and to provide a foundation for a liberation movement to be activated when politically and strategically desirable.

2. Plans called for the attainment of these objectives through the establishment of a National Committee for Free Albania to serve as the cover for both overt and covert activities, the use of trained agents infiltrated into Albania from the outside, and the use of various psychological warfare means.

3. The second half of the year 1949 was devoted primarily to political activity which resulted in the creation of the Albanian National Committee. During that year the British succeeded in sending six small intelligence teams into Albania with the sole mission of getting some information on the general state of affairs inside. In the spring of 1950, the Albanian Guard Company was formed in Germany to serve as a pool of selected agent recruits, and during the summer of that year, three teams were picked and trained. These three teams were dropped into Albania by parachute during the month of November. During the autumn of this same year of 1950, publication of the Albanian propaganda newspaper was started by the Albanian National Committee under our direction, and propaganda leaflets were dropped from aircraft. During 1951, seven teams were selected on the basis of recommendations made by the National Committee and were trained and infiltrated. Propaganda activities were intended to include a clandestine radio station

known as the Voice of

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known as the Voice of Free Albania, and the distribution of the propaganda newspaper put out by the Committee was extended through the printing of a miniature light-weight edition which was dropped from aircraft when suitable opportunities occurred.

4. Through the year 1951, altogether ten teams were infiltrated and a great body of operational information was accumulated. Of the total number of thirty-nine men who comprised these ten teams 13 exfiltrated successfully into Greece and 10 into Yugoslavia; 9 were killed in action; 4 were captured and convicted as spies; and 3 are still unaccounted for.

#### B. Current Operations

1. As a result of a careful examination of our past experience, it was decided that our initial approach to the problem of agent operations was incorrect, and our operational policies were reviewed on the basis of the obvious fact that large numbers of low-level teams operating under existing conditions in Albania were simply not suitable for the missions desired by us. Consequently, it was decided that 1952 agent operations would be conducted through a small number of high-grade teams sent in to carry out narrowly defined and limited missions, involving largely the establishment of contact with suitable people on the inside who would be willing to carry on the work and participate in the development and expansion of a revolutionary movement at the appropriate time. Propaganda activities were considered to be reasonably successful and worth continuing along the general lines originally begun, namely, leaflet drops, the newspaper, radio broadcasts, and letter campaigns intended to arouse suspicion on the part of the authorities toward various members of the present regime.

2. This year we have had four teams, totaling fifteen men, in Albania, and two teams are still active inside, the others having come out. All teams were composed of superior agents, a matter which reflects itself in the character of the reports received from them and in the fact that they have so far managed to avoid conflict with the local security forces. Additional teams are in preparation for use later in the year. Psychological warfare operations are underway in the form of four major activities: at the covert radio station in Greece which is broadcasting three times daily; through the activities of the propaganda sub-committee of the Albanian National Committee which is publishing the semi-monthly propaganda newspaper in standard and miniature editions and a periodical Albanian news bulletin in English, French, and Italian; through the distribution of cartoon and propaganda leaflets by air drops and through the mailing of letters and parcels from various European countries to individuals in the Communist regime with a view to embarrassing them and bringing suspicion upon them. I might add that as part of the psychological campaign, we have

made three drops of

made three drops of flour and certain other scarce food supplies in the name of the Albanian Committee. Reports from the interior indicate that these propaganda supply drops had a considerable effect on morale, and on the basis of our own views and those of our British colleagues, we consider it desirable to continue this type of operation in the future.

3. The existing BQFIEND organization is capable of stepping up the tempo of Albanian operations beyond the present level, but a major push to overthrow the regime would require additional personnel. One of the valuable assets which we control is a stockpile of arms and ammunition for approximately 4,000 men, plus all the equipment needed to deliver these weapons by air as well as such communications equipment as would be needed for a force of this size, plus any resistance groups which may rise to the aid of such a 4,000 man force (the total value of these material assets is approximately [redacted] (Also equipment for 2,000 men under BQCONVOY.)

C. F.Y. 1953

1. Activities for FY 1953 will consist of the continuation of current operations to which I have just referred.

a. Agent operations will be designed to provide us with contacts and up-to-date information which would permit us to penetrate various agencies of the Albanian Government and Armed Forces with a view to arranging for eventual large scale defection when and if it becomes desirable to overthrow the current regime. These operations will involve the use of carefully selected men of the highest calibre obtainable and will be conducted in such a manner as to develop the resistance network we are seeking to create and at the same time maintain the best security and conserve personnel for long term use. In addition, these operations will produce a greatly needed yield of operational and general intelligence. At the moment it is proposed to support the two teams which are now inside the country as long as it is feasible to maintain them there, and infiltrate at least two or three additional teams, one of which will be a second high-grade group which is presently being assembled by King Zog. It may also be feasible to carry out one or two special coup-de-main operations, carefully designed to have a harrassing effect on the Government and a psychological effect on the public, to maintain the courage and raise the spirits of the latter.

b. It is proposed to continue the psychological warfare program along the lines indicated previously, namely, radio broadcasts, propaganda leaflet drops at approximately six week intervals, propaganda supply drops, and the overt

propaganda activities



propaganda activities of the National Committee for Free Albania.

c. It is proposed to explore further the possibilities for economic warfare against Albania. This field has proved to be pretty barren so far, but the establishment of the [ ] is making it possible for us to make a first-hand study of the movement of goods to Albania through that port.

d. It is proposed to continue the Guard Company and develop it as an asset for use in the event of a major operation directed at the present Communist regime.

D. F.Y. 1953 Budget

1. The total cost of Project BGFIND up to the first of April 1952 has been roughly [ ] During the first three quarters of FY 1952, which was a year of operation using the bulk of our facilities under conditions of normal peacetime work-load, our expenditures amounted to approximately [ ] It is estimated that we should be assured funds for FY 1953 in the amount of [ ] This estimate was prepared on the assumption that we want a fairly conservative figure reflecting realistic and carefully considered plans.