

VIA: ATR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA-9695
KAPOK #2564

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CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, SE
Attn: []

DATE: APR 22 1954

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBOPUS

SPECIFIC— Field Comment on 1954 Objectives

REF: SGAW-4063, KAPOK-300, 18 February 1954

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

Headquarters' Action Required

Approval for [] Visit to Athens (para 21.c.);
Comment on General Content

1. We would like to confirm in writing our statements to [] regarding the referenced dispatch. As reported in para. 3. of SGAA-9380, KAPOK-2520, 8 April 1954, we very much appreciate the guidance it contains and we are pleased to note that it closely parallels thinking here on the subject of OBHUNT activities. We would like to compliment Headquarters on the job and to submit comments keyed to the various paragraphs of reference.

Re para 2.

2. Our only comment concerns the fourth general objective. Although we recognize that these are long range objectives, it is felt that if over the next couple of years we can place or procure the services of agent nuclei in the four G/W areas tentatively laid on KUBARK by USEUCOM, we will have accomplished quite a bit. We feel it is unrealistic at this time to consider the establishment of separate E&E nets along classical patterns or at least until such time as the opportunity presents itself to place the above indicated strategic G/W nuclei.

Re para 3.

3. We are in agreement with all the points you have made.

4. We are now down to three projected missions for this season. The Friday Mission plan was forwarded in SGAA-9343, KAPOK-2513, 6 April 1954. Wednesday Mission will have similar type targets in the Identity (1) area. Tuesday Mission will attempt to recruit influential leaders in the Identity (2) area to serve as G/W nuclei.

5. We plan a

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5. We plan a series of short-term infiltrations for Wednesday and Friday Missions should initial attempts to recruit resident agents be successful. Tuesday Mission, however, will be a one shot operation of short duration.

6. Dead letter drops are to be used for Wednesday and Friday Missions, at least initially. If these missions develop, we will consider third party W/T training. We feel that S/W should be used exclusively in any written message links planned at this time as it would be most imprudent to rely exclusively on the reported lack of mail censorship to disguise our communications.

7. We are now convinced that, given the size of our operations staff and our reporting requirements, it would be injudicious to plan more than three missions during the 1954 season. By limiting ourselves to that number, we plan to be prepared to take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities for special missions that may come up.

Re para 4.

8. The criteria you presented for preparing missions have been most useful in writing the Friday Mission plan. We will continue to use this paragraph as a guide.

9. As for agent training, we feel that not only each team but each agent on a team should be trained in accordance with his specific assignment. For example, there is no point in attempting to teach a man like AIRERED the intricacies of clandestine organization. In the first place, he has no contacts that we would send him to recruit and train as a principal agent. In the second place, he is not intellectually capable of absorbing such training. AIRERED's training will therefore consist of such things as how to march at night, how to retreat under fire, general security practice, weapons, etc. The clandestine organization training will be limited to RNDOLLAR, the only team member in this case capable of applying it.

10. We have noted your comments on reporting and will be guided by them.

Re para 5.

11. We do not contemplate any blind drops. The only possible air operation we now foresee is a resupply and token arms drop to Tuesday Mission. We do not anticipate dropping to Wednesday or Friday Teams.

Re para 6.a.

12. Our comments on dead drops may be found in para 6. We have no plans as yet for live letter drops but this device will certainly be borne in mind.

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Re para 6.b. and c.

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Re para 6.b. and c.

13. We have decided against the mounting of Fig or Willow again. At AIRWISE's request AIRBRAKE, AIRERED and RNDOLLAR were removed from his leadership thus disbanding Fig. After a careful review of Willow's assets and liabilities, we decided to dispose of AIRWORTHY and RNDEPLOY and give RNORDAIN AIPUMP and Identity (4) to replace them. These three agents plus AIRSLACK will constitute the Wednesday Team. AIRWISE will lead the Tuesday group to Identity (2) provided he can have AIRBORNE. We are agreeable to this.

14. Wednesday's Mission will include determining through cut-outs which of Fig's and Willow's contacts can be salvaged and attempting to contact Identity (3).

15. Para 6.d. and e. are treated in SGAA-9343, KAPOK-2513, 6 April 1954.

16. Para 6.f. is treated in SGAA-9367, 8 April 1954.

Re para 6.g.

17. With the exception of the ill-suited AIPOET, we were unaware of the possibility of further RNCASTING agents at this time. Can you elaborate?

KYP- 18. Per SGAA-9131, 26 March 1954, we are not considering using Jani Hito at this time because he has been proclaimed a Greek national and denied us by GANGPLANK's office who are using him. As to exploiting Albanian officers he might recommend, we feel that contacts attempted by third parties are all but doomed to failure. This because of the universal distrust engendered by frequent Sigurimi provocations.

19. We have just decided to dispose of AIDEFT, OBATLANTIS W/T operator and replace him with AIRLOCK. Details on AIDEFT will be forwarded separately. Our decision to use AIRLOCK in this capacity is based on his questionable state of health and the fact that no operations are contemplated into his area.

20. We plan to use AIRBLOWN on the Tuesday Mission.

Re para 7.

21. OBOPUS/ [] acknowledges that the problems involved in recruiting and spotting are among the most difficult we have to face. As [] points out on the one hand we can't legitimately run down every lead that comes to our attention using OBOPUS personnel [] had on the other we are derelict, if we fail to meet the problem. Establishing a string of properly qualified, dependable spotters in key areas is a long term solution and is a satisfactory one in [] eyes provided the agents remain in a spotting function and do not get involved in recruiting along the lines of the last sentence of the paragraph. The field encourages Headquarters working along these lines and

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will follow up

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will follow up in any way Headquarters suggests. One point which [] has been insistent upon is that indiscriminate recruiting is taboo. We agree speaking from our experience with disposals and have no intention of loading up just because someone looks good.

a. Greece - Present spotting facilities believed adequate. The field would agree that Lavrion contains primarily support types but it is surprising to find the large numbers who still are ready, willing and able. Possibly the recent trials have chilled the ardor but the fact remains the number of applicants who have passed the word along by the grapevine is large and nearly every prospective agent seen this spring has been enthusiastic.

b. Trieste [] as well as [] have recently been in Trieste and both know the situation. With the departure of AICOMB and [] new arrangements must be laid on, if we are to get any sort of coverage in Trieste. [] reviewed this matter carefully with [] and [] and also brought the situation to the attention of [] and []. It is hoped that an arrangement can be made in Italy whereby OBOPUS personnel can establish a spotting system in Trieste. As for the present it is not felt that there are any Albanians in Trieste who can meet existing needs.

c. Italy - We suggest [] take on this problem as an important part of his duties. With AICOMB circulating in Rome good coverage should result and in a period of time we would expect to get a line on all the refugees in Italy. Bari looks interesting this moment with Peter Gjoni in that city. Future correspondence will consider this possibility. Shortly after [] settled in Rome we tentatively plan to have him visit [] for a few days to have him familiarize himself with our operations and to explore spotting and other activities which he can develop to further OBOPUS agent operations mounted []

d. Istanbul - We certainly agree with [] views on virgin territory and on EXTANGLE. For some months we had dealt with the situation long range through correspondence with [] felt good possibilities existed. However, other operational requirements did not permit him to explore this as we had hoped. Hence we are still without a definite plan and are awaiting [] report on his trip to Istanbul with the GASH operation with which we are already posted under active consideration as a starter.

e. RNCASTING - As you know we are skeptical on the quality of personnel we may expect, and in light of recent developments we fully agree that no action should be taken forthwith. If RNCASTING ever reaches the U.S., we suggest that the liaison be maintained by an individual who is

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fully aware not

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fully aware not only of the operational history as we know it stemming from this liaison, but also one acquainted with the exacting criteria we must arbitrarily place on any future prospects RNCASTING serves up.

f. Munich - Upon receipt this suggestion looked good to OBOPUS but in Munich in late March [] found that [] cable of 20 January (SMUNI-6379) was standing policy and the German Mission is not interested in any exceptions as [] himself permitted in the case of the loyalty oath in February 1954. Hence this field must be considered out for the time being.

22. We will be on the alert for other recruiting possibilities and will expect Headquarters to keep us informed on developments. To close with a [] teaser, how about the famed Syku now in Australia? Are you considering promoting correspondence through AICOMB or someone else?

23. For the record please note para 2. was written by [] as his familiarity with the objectives listed in para 2.d. of reference surpasses ours and that [] contributed the final three paragraphs.

20 April 1954

Attachment under separate cover
Identities

[] gk

Distribution:

- 3 - Washington, w/attachment as noted
- 1 - Washington (Vital Documents), w/attachment (s.c.)
- 1 - Chrono, w/attachment
- 1 - Subject, w/attachment
- 1 - XO, w/attachment
- 2 - OBOPUS, w/attachment

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SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT TO

SGAA- 9695

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Identity (1) - Korçe

Identity (2) - Elbasan

Identity (3) - Shefqet Gega

Identity (4) - Seit Barik

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