

DD/P Project Approval Form

Project Cryptonym

~~OBOPUS~~

Amendment No.

Sub-Project Cryptonym

OBLIVIOUS

Originating Division

SE

Approved ~~Disapproved~~



16 July '54

Comments: * Project renewal for FY '55 per CSI 234-1 approved in the

amount of subject to the availability of funds.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

S-F-C-R-F-T

SENIOR STAFF PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

1. Identification

a. Project Cryptonym: OBLIVIOUS

d. Division SE

b. Sub-project Cryptonym:

e. Branch: 1

c. Amendment No.

f. Desk: Albania

2. STAFF COORDINATION

| | Element | Signature | Copy# | Date | Date of Memorandum | |
|----|----------------|---|-------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| a. | DD/P-CM | [Signature] | 1 | 18 June 54 | ✓ | |
| b. | PAPS | [Signature] | 1 | 18 June 54 | ✓ | |
| c. | DD/P-Adm(IR&A) | [Signature] | 1 | [Signature] | ✓ | |
| d. | C-DD/P-Admin | [Signature] | 1 | 24 June | ✓ | |
| e. | DD/P-C/Int | CLOSED OUT BY WINSTON N. SCOTT BECAUSE PROJECT HAS NOT AS YET BEEN EVALUATED BY IPR | | | | |
| f. | PP/P&O/PR | [Signature] | 2 | 18 JUN 54 | ✓ | |
| g. | IOD | [Signature] | 2 | 2 July 54 | ✓ | |
| h. | PP/Press | [Signature] | 3 | 18 JUN 54 | ✓ | |
| i. | PP/Radio | [Signature] | 3 | 18 JUN 54 | ✓ | |
| j. | PP/ICD | [Signature] | 3 | 23 JUN 54 | ✓ | |
| k. | AC-PP/P&O | [Signature] | 1 | 15 July 54 | | |
| l. | | | | | | |
| m. | | | | | | |

3. Concurred in and Forwarded to DD/P by

[Signature]

16 July 54
Date

Conditions: (This space reserved for [Signature] and DD/P-Admin)

SECRET

PROJECT CLEARANCE SHEET

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. | [W/SE-4] | <u>24 May, 1954</u> Date |
| 2. | [SE/CPP] <i>br</i> | <u>24 May 1954</u> |
| 3. | [SE/CAL] | <u>25 May 1954</u> |
| 4. | [SE/DI/CE] | <u>25 May 54</u> |
| 5. | [C/SE] | <u>26 May 54</u> |
| 6. | <i>14/</i> [<i>ryd</i> FI/Plans/Cover] | <u>28 May 54</u> |
| 7. | <i>18/</i> [<i>ryd</i> STC] | <u>9 June 54</u> |
| 8. | PP/OPS | |
| 9. | CPP | |
| 10. | DDP/ADMIN | |
| 11. | DDP | |

SECRET

SECRET

PROJECT OUTLINE

Project Cryptonym or Subject: OBLIVIOUS

Sub-Project Cryptonym or Identification: NONE

Amendment No. None

Originating Division: SE

a. Division Chief: [REDACTED] Ext: 2445

b. Branch Chief: [REDACTED] Ext: 671

c. Case Officer: [REDACTED] Ext: 671

Target Area: Albania

Type of Project: PP

Financial Mechanism: Proprietary Project

Funds Requested: Fiscal year 55 []

Current Status: Approved as BGFIND 22 June 1949 by ADPC

SECRET

SECRET

1. OBJECTIVE

Project OBLIVIOUS has as its aim the maintenance of the National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA) as an overt vehicle for CIA's PP and PM covert activities against Albania.

2. ORIGIN AND POLICY GUIDANCE:

- a. Origin. BGFIEND Project Outline approved 22 June 1949 by ADPC. OPC Country Plan for Albania, Operations Annex B, Tab C-Political Warfare Operations. NSC Directives 10/2; 58; 58/2, 5412.
- b. Whence proposed. Project originated in Headquarters CIA/opc.

3. SITUATION:

Since 1948, when the Tito regime broke with the Kremlin, Albania has been isolated from direct land connection with the other Soviet satellites. This, in addition to the ruggedness of the terrain and the tradition of clandestine activity by the Albanians, particularly the mountain tribesmen in the north, appeared to make Albania a promising target for clandestine activity aimed at the eventual overthrow of the present Communist regime. The presence of a considerable number of Albanian refugees in Europe suggested the development of a political center outside Albania composed of representatives of non-totalitarian elements, sympathetic with U.S. policy objectives in the Balkans, to serve as a rallying point for anti-Communist elements inside Albania. The British and American services in the summer of 1949 were responsible for the formation of the National Committee for Free Albania, a political center of representative democratic Albanian refugees, to serve as cover for covert operations in Albania. Since that time, both PP and PM operations have been conducted in the name of the NCFA.

4. PROPOSAL:

The NCFA is a representative group of Albanian refugees, acting as the focal point for exiles interested in the ultimate liberation of Albania; it acts as the overt agency for covert activities of CIA; it serves to publicize the plight of the captive Albanian people via press media operated by the Committee. The NCFA is jointly controlled by representatives of CIA and MI-6. It has been made clear to the NCFA that it is in no sense regarded as a "Government in Exile".

5. OPERATIONAL OUTLINE:

- a. Sub-proposals or tasks:

- (1) Publication of the NCFA newspaper Shqiperia in Albanian, and a digest of Shqiperia once a month for use in air drops.
- (2) Publishing when appropriate of the Albanian News Letter, a bulletin printed irregularly in English, French and Italian and distributed to the major press bureaus.

* The preparation of a digest of Shqiperia is primarily conducted under project OBTUSE for which OBLIVIOUS provides cover and occasional support.

SECRET

SECRET

- * (3) Preparation of texts for propaganda leaflets and scripts for clandestine radio broadcasts.
- * (4) Operation of a mail campaign of "poison pen" letters to ranking leaders of the Communist regime in Albania.
- (5) Monitoring Radio Tirana; scanning world press for Albanian news and items which can be used in the PW program.
- (6) Liaison with other emigre groups, particularly those associated with the National Committee for a Free Europe (NCFE).
- (7) Research and political studies.

b. Key Personnel:

- (1) A Headquarters case officer will maintain liaison with the NCFE Headquarters in New York.
- (2) All other direct liaison will be maintained by members of the Albanian Branch, except for a contact with the indigent agent publishing the newspaper Shqipëria in Rome, which will be maintained by an SE officer.

c. Indigenous Groups and Leaders:

- (1) The NCFE is composed of representatives of the major Albanian political groups, and of independents. The NCFE Executive Committee is made up of leaders from all groups. The Committee was reorganized in December 1953 to include groups not previously represented.

d. Target Groups:

- (1) The people of Albania are a target group in the sense that all of the PW efforts of the NCFE are directed toward fostering a spirit of passive resistance directed toward the ultimate liberation of these people.
- (2) The Communist Government of Albania is a target for defection appeals and ridicule.

e. Duration. Project OBLIVIOUS will be of indefinite duration, its termination depending either upon lack of success in its objectives or the overthrow of the Communist regime in Albania and the creation of a non-Cominform government friendly to the West.

6. SECURITY:

- a. Cover. The NCFE is an overt organization which provides cover for clandestine activities conducted in its name.
- b. Knowledgeability. Members of the NCFE are aware of official U.S. interest and financial support. The British IS was jointly responsible for the formation of the NCFE. The Greek Government is aware in general of operations conducted from Greece in the name of the NCFE. The Italian Government is aware unofficially of U.S. Government backing and financial support of the NCFE.

* These activities are primarily conducted under projects OBTUSE and OBTEST, for which OBLIVIOUS provides cover and occasional support.

SECRET

SECRET

- c. Operational security. Key American personnel working directly with Albanians use aliases. While the Italian Government has been informed by the State Department that the U.S. is in sympathy with the aims of the NCFE, it has not been informed officially of U.S. backing and financial support. The newspaper and news bulletin are published overtly by the NCFE. Material for air drops over Albania is printed in Frankfurt and/or [redacted] on secure premises. PP and PM activities conducted in the name of the NCFE from Greece are carried out with the knowledge and assistance of the Greek Government. The primary security concern is to ensure that official U.S. participation in the activities of the NCFE not be vulnerable to proof before the UN or other international body or become the object of embarrassing newspaper or other publicity. Present methods of compartmentation of operations are believed to reduce this possibility to a minimum.
- d. Risks. Exposure to the UN or other international body of official backing of the NCFE and substantial direction of its activities by a U.S. Government agency would embarrass the U.S. Government seriously. However, operational security has kept these operations within the requirements of plausible disclaimer.
- e. Personnel Disposal. Project termination would present a personnel disposal problem for the members of the NCFE and attempts at resettlement would have to be made.
- f. Disaster Plan. Key NCFE personnel are included in the over-all disaster/evacuation plan for Italy and the Mediterranean theater but will not be evacuated to the United States.

7. COORDINATION:

- a. Relation to other projects: Project OBLIVIOUS is a PP project under the Albanian Country Program and as such is directly related to the other projects being directed against Albania.
- b. Significance within over-all program in area: OBLIVIOUS is an integral part of the Albanian Country Plan.
- c. Extent of coordination
 - (1) [redacted] are kept advised of NCFE activities in [redacted] and [redacted], and provide guidance.
 - (2) The State Department furnishes policy guidance.
 - (3) Propaganda is jointly approved by the British and American representatives. The British Foreign Office consults with the State Department on policy. The NCFE maintains contact with the NCFE, although it is no longer paid through that organization.

8. CONTROL:

- a. Nature of: Financial backing of the NCFE. Ideological motivation of members of NCFE.
- b. Administrative Plan. See Attached.
- c. The members of the NCFE will be required to submit a monthly report of their activities in compliance with Field Regulation 50-11. In addition, complete fiscal records will be kept at the New York office of the NCFE.

SECRET

SECRET

9. BUDGET DATA:

- a. Total over-all CIA funds required for Fiscal Year 1955: Personnel [] supplies and equipment \$6,000; other operational expenses \$19,910.
- b. Availability of CIA funds required. Funds budgeted for FY 55 and available to SE under the Albanian Country Program.
- c. Non-CIA funds. None.
- d. Foreign currency. Yes, supplied by local stations.
- e. Funding. Funds will be deposited by sterile check to NCFB bank account in New York, administered and accounted for by the Committee.
- f. Financial history. Salaries of HENEIGH members and newspaper publication costs have previously been paid through TPTONIC. The other operational expenses have been paid from OBOPUS (formerly BGFRIEND) funds. See page 4a.
- g. Future requirements. Expenses will continue at the same level through FY 56.

10. SUPPORT DATA:

- a. Total CIA Personnel:
 - 1 Headquarters case officer.
 - [] Albanian operations staff.All personnel available and working on project.
- b. Material:
 - (1) NCFB headquarters office rented in New York.
 - (2) NCFB office in Rome.
- c. Communications: [] provide communications.
- d. State Department provides visa assistance; the Immigration & Naturalization Service provides assistance in the entry and exit of NCFB members to and from the U.S.

11. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- a. Current Status: Project OBLIVIOUS has been operative since 1949 under the parent project OBOPUS (formerly BGFRIEND).
- b. Commitments. Implicit U.S. commitment to the members of the NCFB to pursue efforts toward the successful overthrow of the Communist regime. Implicit commitment to make certain that NCFB members who have loyally supported U.S. policy are not eventually abandoned to their own devices if they should be without other means of support.
- c. Effectiveness: NCFB is known within the country and is generally considered as a major rallying point for Albanian exiles.
- d. Anticipated Results: Harassment of the Communist regime in Albania; fostering the spirit of resistance; when success believed possible, sponsoring a coup d'etat.

SECRET

SECRET

- 4 a -

BUDGET DATA

Total OBOPUS obligations for previous fiscal years:

FY 1949 - 1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

[] []
[] []
[] []
[] []
[] []
[] []

SECRET

SECRET

-5-

- e. Evaluation: Effectiveness is periodically reviewed by the relevant agency staff, by the State Department, and the British Foreign Office.
- f. Policy Questions: Determination of U.S. and British policy toward Albania is made by State Department and Foreign Office.
- g. Congress: NA.
- h. Extra-Agency action: NCFE has in the past provided over administrative support.
- i. Proprietary companies: OBLIVIOUS is a proprietary project. The attached Administrative Plan provides for the incorporation of the NCFE.
- j. Special considerations: Not applicable, except as previously noted.
- k. Liquidation: NA.

SECRET

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

| PROJECT FINANCIAL DATA | | PROJECT CRYPTONYM OBLIVIOUS | | | |
|---|-----------------|--|------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | | FISCAL PERIOD COVERED July 1 195 ⁴ THRU 30 JUNE 195 ⁵ | | | |
| *MAY NOT EXCEED SECRET CLASSIFICATION | | | | | |
| RESPONSIBLE STAFF OR DIVISION SE | | CASE OFFICER [] | | | |
| A. PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS | | | | | |
| Indicate number and type of personnel required and estimated total compensation for salary, allowances, travel and related employee benefits. Include everyone paid from project. | | | | | |
| TYPE | NUMBER | | ESTIMATED COMPENSATION | | |
| | U. S. PERSONNEL | FOREIGN NATIONAL | BASE SALARY | ALL OTHER | TOTAL |
| STAFF EMPLOYEES | | | | | |
| STAFF AGENTS | | | | | |
| CAREER AGENTS | | | | | |
| CONTRACT AGENTS | | 1 | \$5,000 | | \$5,000 |
| CONTRACT CONSULTANTS | | | | | |
| DETAILED PERSONNEL | | | | | |
| FIELD AGENTS | | 44 | \$49,490 | | \$49,490 |
| MILITARY | | | | | |
| ALL OTHER | 1 | | 2,340 | | 2,340 |
| TOTAL A. | | | | | \$56,830 |
| B. SUPPLIES, MATERIEL AND EQUIPMENT | | | | | |
| Indicate amount required in applicable spaces. Attach complete supporting list for each. | | | | | |
| COMMO \$ 15,000 | CHEMICAL \$ | QUARTERMASTER SUPPLIES \$ | OTHER SUPPLIES \$ | | |
| MEDICAL \$ | ORDNANCE \$ | SPECIAL DEVICES \$ | OTHER EQUIPMENT \$ | | |
| TOTAL B. | | | | | |
| C. OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Indicate volume and nature of expenses such as (1) maintenance of two operational houses abroad (2) spot purchase of information, etc. | | | | | |
| Rent on a New York Office; rent for Rome Operational Flat; expenses for New York and Rome offices; travel for members of NCFAs. | | | | | |
| TOTAL C. [] | | | | | |
| D. SUBSIDY OR PROPRIETARY PAYMENTS | | | | | |
| If funds are to be turned over to individuals or groups in large lump sums to be expended by the individuals or groups at their discretion to accomplish an agreed-upon objective, explain the type of financial accounts, factual verification or statements, if any, other than a receipt for the lump sum, which will be obtained. | | | | | |
| This sum will be given to the NCFAs to be used by them for welfare, or support of Albanians believed of use to the NCFAs. It will be accounted for with other funds expended by the NCFAs. | | | | | |
| TOTAL D. [] | | | | | |
| TOTAL FUND REQUIREMENTS (A + B + C + D) \$ [] | | | | | |

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

E. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

APPROXIMATE DATES AND AMOUNTS OF MONEY REQUIRED

All funds to be expended on regular monthly basis.

FORM REQUIRED

U. S. DOLLARS FOREIGN (SPECIFY) NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (SPECIFY)

sterile check

SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OR METHODS OF TRANSMISSION

Funds for salaries and expense of NCF to be deposited on a monthly basis in New York bank by sterile check in accordance with Administrative Plan.

F. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

(Within security limitations, list any other facts or circumstances which will enable Special Support Staff to lend adequate logistical support to this project. Indicate specifically the "RUSH" or "TIME" factors involved.)

SECRET

Financial Data Supporting List

| | |
|--|----------|
| Salary of Contract Agent | \$ 5,000 |
| Salaries of 44 Field Agents | 49,490 |
| Salary of American Secretary in New York | 2,340 |
| Printing and Mailing Newspaper | 15,000 |
| Rome Operational Flat Rent & Expenses | [] |
| New York Office Rent and Expenses | [] |
| Travel | 2,100 |
| Other Operational Expenses | [] |

Total : []