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AIR

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SGAW-12137

ATTN

[]
: Chief, SE

INFO: []
Attn: []

: OBLIVIOUS/PSYCH
: National Committee for a Free Albania

REFERENCE : DIR-01708

1. In view of the ACEN meeting scheduled to be held 11 April in Strasbourg, which Hasan DOSTI and a few other members of the Executive Committee of the NCFA will attend, it was decided to postpone the announcement of termination of our support to the Committee until after the ACEN meeting. Inasmuch as DOSTI planned to visit Rome for a few weeks after the ACEN meeting, we instructed him to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee there to meet with [] at the latter's convenience sometime during the week of 22 April. We would like to have [] notify the assembled Executive Committee of our termination of support to the NCFA at the meeting. In this connection, we have prepared a suitable statement, attached, for [] use. [] plans to read a similar statement to AIDART on the same day as [] meets with the Committee in Rome.

2. In order to simplify [] task and have the field sever contacts with the Committee as painlessly and as quickly as possible, we suggest that [] confine his mission in Rome to the following: a) make the announcement to the Executive Committee; b) ascertain what major problems of a commitment nature will require our attention; and, c) express appropriate remarks of appreciation, on behalf of the backers, to individual leaders of the Committee for their past collaboration. We believe that it would be a good idea, for security reasons, to have [] meet only briefly with the Committee to perform the above mission. Other problems concerning termination of the existing relationship can be handled through the DOSTI channel here.

3. In regard to our commitments to the Committee, the attached statement indicates that we plan to honor our financial commitment as contained in the FY 1956 revised budget. Other than this, we have, to the best of our knowledge, no other commitments outstanding except the unresolved question of payments to former BOPIERD agents still in Yugoslavia, about which [] is aware. If there are, however, extraordinary financial obligations of the Committee not covered by the FY 1956 budget and for which additional funds may be required, we would like to have an itemized list of such obligations. We do not anticipate any extraordinary obligations other than those that may develop in connection

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with the Committee's liquidation of its commitments, such as, termination payment of maid, breaking office lease, etc. We suggest that [] try to resolve locally the question of payments, if any, to which former SHAFER agents still in Yugoslavia may be entitled. With regard to extraordinary obligations, if any, not covered by the FY 1956 budget, [] should instruct DOSTI to be prepared to report on such items upon his return to the United States. As a check on the Committee and DOSTI, it would be a good idea if [] obtained PASHLEY's itemized list of any extraordinary Committee obligations which could not be handled by funds already provided in the current FY 1956 budget.

4. If the question of the fate of Shqipëria or HIGHHUBBY should be raised by the Executive Committee, we suggest that [] indicate that the termination of our financial support includes the end of our financial support to Shqipëria. In regard to HIGHHUBBY, [] may state that the question is under study but no longer concerns the Committee. In the event that the question of Abas ERMENJI and his National Democratic Committee for a Free Albania should be raised, we suggest that [] make it a point to mention that ERMENJI has discredited himself through his own misbehavior and has automatically disqualified himself from receiving any future support from American organizations. In any event, it might be a good idea for [] to mention the foregoing concerning ERMENJI in order to spike rumors which ERMENJI and his henchmen undoubtedly will float professing American backing of the NCFCA following the termination of our support to the NCFCA. [] may wish to remind the Executive Committee at this point that the New FEC group, in any case, will choose individuals on the basis of ability and not Party affiliations.

5. If you may be concerned that some former collaborators among the Executive Committee may become destitute following the cessation of our aid to them, we wish to advise you, for your information only, that it will be possible in the future to arrange, with the assistance of BGACTRESS, limited financial assistance to worthy ex-leaders of the NCFCA in exceptional circumstances. However, since we believe that the leaders of the NCFCA have been well taken care of in the past, we do not plan to attempt to place any of them on a dole now, possibly with the exception of DOSTI. If and when, however, it comes to our attention that some other deserving former NCFCA collaborator requires help to tide over a crisis, we will endeavor to seek special assistance for him at such time.

6. When the date of [] meeting with the Executive Committee is determined in the field, we request that headquarters be notified by cable so that we can arrange to have [] meet with AIDART here on the same day. Prior to his departure from Athens, we suggest that [] arrange plans for notifying GROUNDSTOCK and HIGHHUBBY personnel of the announcement, timed, of course, with the disclosure in Rome. In regard to the latter, they can be told of our intentions to continue their employment.

7. In view of the knowledgeability of SMOGH and HBHABDOCK concerning our involvement with the NCFCA we suggest that arrangements be made to advise them locally, as a courtesy gesture, immediately following the announcement in Rome that we are terminating active support to the Committee for budgetary reasons and because of the relative ineffectiveness for political warfare purposes of

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the existing arrangement. We plan to notify [] in another dispatch, concerning our plans to terminate support to the [] NCFA.

8. On the day immediately following the announcement, we would like to have [] sources keep us informed of developments among Albanian circles in Greece and Italy. We leave it to [] and [] discretion whether or not to give AICOMB, [] and possibly DOSTI any advance notice, for their information only, of the contemplated announcement.

SE/A/cgb
11 April 1956

Attachment:
Statement.

Distribution:

3 [] w/att.
2 [] w/att.
2 - SE/A, w/att.
1 - WE/4, w/att.
1 - I/O, w/att.
1 - SE/RI, w/att. (dummy)
1 - CBE, w/att.

[]
(Releasing Officer)

CBE

SE/CP, WE/4, IO []

(Coordinating Officers)

[] SE/A

(Authenticating Officer)

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