

SECRET

16 April 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT : National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA)

1. [] plans to notify the Executive Committee of the NCFA in Rome some time during the week of 22 April of its termination of active support and the existing relationship with the Committee. Attached is a summary of a statement which will be read to the assembled Executive Committee in Rome.

2. Since the leaders of the NCFA undoubtedly will attempt to protest and appeal the termination of American support to the Committee through letter communications and visits by delegations to the U. S. Embassy in Rome and Athens, to KEYSTONE and possibly to U. S. Congressmen, it is suggested that consideration be given by KEYSTONE to preparing appropriate instructions for its personnel on how to handle such appeals.

3. Further, in view of past Italian Government interest in Albanian emigre affairs and the Committee, it might be advisable for KEYSTONE to be prepared to anticipate Italian queries regarding the Committee inasmuch as the American government in the past has been favorably disposed towards the Committee.

[]

Attachment:

Summary statement

cc: [] , KEYSTONE (2)

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

SECRET

FORMAL

STATEMENT

1. It is with deep regret that I must announce that the American backers are obliged to withdraw from active sponsorship of the NCFCA, effective immediately. However, since the backers realize that they have a moral obligation to honor their financial commitment to the NCFCA, contained in the current budget in the hands of the Committee, the final checks to be mailed from New York upon the return of Mr. Dosti will include payments due the Committee through the month of June 1956. With these payments, the funds committed to the current NCFCA budget will be completely exhausted and financial support by the backers terminated.
2. Termination of active support and the existing relationship with the NCFCA by the backers has been found necessary for budgetary reasons and because of the relative ineffectiveness for political purposes of the existing arrangement.
3. It is hoped that no undue hardships will develop as a result of the termination of the backers existing relationship with the NCFCA. However, you are reminded that American organizations in Italy, such as, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the World Council of Churches, and possibly the Free Europe Committee, will continue to be available to help worthy cases in the event of demonstrated need on an individual basis as in the past.
4. I wish to reemphasize that the backers termination of the existing relationship with the NCFCA does not mean that the Americans are abandoning Albanians. It is only the backers who now are obliged to curtail their activities. The American government and private organizations, mentioned previously, will continue to render moral and other support wherever possible to Albanians everywhere and in the fight against Communism. In this regard, Albanians, as other National groups in exile, are urged by the backers to look to the Free Europe Committee in the future inasmuch as that private organization will continue its leading role in helping exiles in their struggle against Communism.
5. I wish to advise you that any problems remaining after the conclusion of my visit with you should be channeled to Mr. Dosti in New York. It is my understanding that the backers in the U.S. will maintain contacts with Mr. Dosti for a few additional weeks, possibly until the end of June, for the purpose of clearing up any matters that may require their attention in connection with the termination of the existing relationship with the NCFCA. Finally, the backers have instructed me to speak to each member of the Executive Committee and staff present to extend, on behalf of the backers, their personal and warm appreciation for the cooperation rendered by one and all during the many years of collaboration. The backers, gentlemen, will never forget the sacrifices made by the leaders and loyal followers of the Committee for the welfare of the Albanian people and in the fight against Communism.

Comments

Though this action is being taken by the backers with deep regret, it has not been taken, however, before ascertaining that the Free Europe Committee, a private American organization which cooperates with other exile national groups and has supported the NCF in the past, is prepared to lend limited support to an Albanian exile group organized to carry out a specific program of action, collaborate with the Assembly of Captive European Nations, and otherwise promote Free Europe Committee objectives. It is understood, however, that the FEC would not undertake to perpetuate any existing Albanian organization, such as the NCF, or to assume responsibility for any stipends or emoluments heretofore provided. It has been learned that discussions will be initiated by the FEC in the near future with Albanian leaders in exile concerning candidates for the Albanian exile group to be organized by the FEC. According to our information, the FEC will choose candidates for its group on the basis of their working abilities and capacities rather than on political affiliations.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mr. Dosti is being asked to return to New York as soon as possible.
2. We would like to keep the New York office of the NCFA only so long as is necessary to wind up our affairs.
3. In any case, salary payments will be made as usual through the month of June 1956.
4. We would like Mr. Dosti, Mr. Begeja and the Secretary of the New York office to remain on duty if necessary to the end of June, unless affairs can be terminated sooner.
5. Though we have nothing to do with the Free Europe Committee, we will put a good word in on behalf of the Secretary and members of the Executive Committee who have given us their loyal cooperation in the past.
6. Further instructions will be delivered to the Secretary, Mr. Dosti and Mr. Begeja upon the return of Mr. Dosti.
7. The checks for May, already signed by Mr. Dosti, will be mailed by the Secretary only after first clearing with either [] or [] Funds for those checks will be deposited in the Bank before the 3 of May. The Secretary should prepare checks for the month of June and hold them for Mr. Dosti's signature upon his return.
8. [] or [] will visit New York City, probably next week when Mr. Dosti returns, at which time conversations will be conducted with the Secretary.