

TOP SECRET

27 May 1949

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: Col. Pash

SUBJECT: Albania: Possibility of Overthrowing Present Regime'

All my reading shows that Albania is the one country behind the Iron Curtain that is ripe for revolution. The top communist level is split. The country is suffering economically. Because of the TITO split, it is cut off from Russia. It is surrounded by Greece and Italy which favor us, by Yugoslavia, which at the moment is not in accord with the Kremlin.

The people are bitterly anti-communist. The country is wild; guerilla warfare by the mountaineers would be hard to put down.

Enough former leaders of Albania could be gotten together, helped start a "Free, Democratic People's Government" in a corner of Albania near the Greek border. We could supply them with men, money, munitions, food, and still not be involved. They could get logistic support from supplies we give Greece, advice from our U. S. military mission in Greece, help from Greek troops, etc.

It would be successful. It would cause sensations in many directions, all of benefit to U. S. It would:

- 1) Be the first open revolt behind the Iron Curtain.
- 2) Encourage all anti-commies in the satellite countries.
- 3) Knock hell out of the Kremlin's sense of security and its feeling that we can't do things they do (Greek guerillas, fifth column work, etc.).
- 4) Save the situation in Greece and cut off one of the two sources of Russian support for Greek guerillas (Bulgaria is the other).
- 5) Clear the Greek border in that area and Greek troops, concentrating on Bulgarian border, would clean that area up in no time.
- 6) It might cause Bulgaria to dam its flow of men and supplies into Greece lest she get same treatment.
- 7) The country is part Moslem and Russia will run the risk of alienating all Near-East Moslems if she takes undue measures in Albania.

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8) The trial, now starting, of two top communist leaders has further widened the split in Albania and is going to leave bad blood. Any kind of revolt now will even bring in the anti-Stalin communists who are very strong. The men now being tried were top commie leaders and they're accused of conspiring with TITO. Titoism is strong in Albania and maybe even TITO will help the revolution. We could promise him a piece of Albania as a reward.

In general, you'd get volunteers from within Albania, from Greece, from Italy, from Yugoslavia. I'm convinced, Albania could be overthrown in no time. Even if it isn't, the effect that an attempt was made, will be terrific behind and outside of the Iron Curtain.

It could be done at minimum expense and very soon. The summer weather is ideal for starting it, and if the civil war lasts, winter will temporarily end the fighting and we could supply the guerillas through Greece easily and then call in the UN, or like Russia just did about Greece, we could offer to help end the affair.

The beauty of it is that this is the one place Russia can't send troops direct. She'd risk a war if she tried to bull her way through Yugoslavia. For peanuts, the U. S. could get a friendly government in Albania.

What do you think?

We must act while TITO still lives and still opposes Stalin and Enver Hoxha. If TITO "dies" or returns to the Kremlin fold, a golden opportunity is lost.

Aristides G. Lazarus
Aristides G. Lazarus

AGL/vmm

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