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21 July 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO: GPP

FROM: PG-1

SUBJECT: Drafts of Recommended memoranda for Mr. Joyce and Col. Yeaton on possible GNA crossings of PIXIE border.

1. Attached are drafts of a memorandum to Mr. Joyce and Col. Yeaton, following up on the action covered in the cable to Athens on possible GNA crossings of Pixie border. The memoranda are for Mr. Wisner's signature.

2. It recommends that strong pressure be brought to bear on Greek Government and Army to prevent possible future crossings on a large scale.

GMP

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MEMORANDUM FOR: ROBERT P. JOYCE, POLICY PLANNING STAFF
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SUBJECT: Danger of GNA continuing pursuit of guerrillas
across Albanian border

1. As you have been informally advised, we have been informed from [] that there is a rapidly mounting feeling in the Greek General Staff that when the Greek Nationalist Army successfully advances to the Albanian border, the Army should continue its pursuit of the guerrillas across the Albanian frontier in order to capture and annihilate them.

2. Such action on a large scale would be very unfortunate from the point of view of the Albanian plan. The invasion of Albanian territory by the U.S.-supported Greek Army would obviously tend to rally some popular support for the Hexha regime, particularly in view of the Albanians' long standing fears concerning Greek claims in the "Northern Epirus." Such military action would also lend credence and support to both Soviet and Albanian Communist propaganda themes that U.S. imperialism is threatening the "peoples' democracies" in the Balkans, particularly Albania.

3. The greatest danger, however, is that these border crossings might coincide with phase four of the Albanian plan. If this should happen, the two events would be linked in the public mind and the onus for both operations would be placed on the U.S. This could be used by the Kremlin as a pretext for direct military intervention into the situation.

4. The minor incidents which are bound to occur will not be too serious. However, we feel that pursuit across the border must not be the policy, either official or unofficial, of the Greek Government or Army and that large scale crossings must not be allowed to occur.

5. For the above reasons, we recommend that whenever it is considered appropriate, strong pressure be brought to bear on the Greek Government and Army to prevent GNA units from crossing into Albania.

FRANK O. WISNER
Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

Dist. #1 - Joyce
2 & 3 - PG-1
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