

SECRET*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENTEYES ALONE

TO : 

FROM : Chief, Contact Branch

SUBJECT: Case 2860

DATE: 19 September 1949

REFERENCE: (a) OSO memorandum to OO/C dated 1 September 1949

1. Reference (a) requested this office to contact E. M. Church for information relating to ex-King Zog. Contact has been made with Mr. Church and the following information obtained from him:

- Q. "What assets does Zog have in this country? Elsewhere? In what form are they?
- A. "\$108,000 cash at National City Bank, New York; \$5,000 more or less at Guaranty Trust Company; Land and palace at Alexandria, Egypt valued at L 40,000 Egyptian; Albanian crown jewels worth at a guess, \$100,000 or more; about \$750,000 left of the \$3,000,000 in gold louis which he took with him from Albania.
- Q. "What liabilities does Zog have in this country? Elsewhere?
- A. "Zog has a moral liability to support his wife's grandmother at the rate of \$115 per month. She is 82 yrs. old, is in the U. S. and is known as Madame de Strahl D'Ekna. He has no other liabilities in the U. S. that I know of. Elsewhere he has the liability to take care of his wife's four sisters and her brother John Apponyi who is in a tuberculosis sanitarium in Sicily. Beyond these I do not think that he owes any money. His close friend, King Farouk, would not let him get in debt in Egypt.
- Q. "What sources of income does he have in the United States? What financial support does he enjoy from Albanians in this country? What are the names of any such supporters?
- A. "None except interest on his cash balance. I do not think he gets anything from Albanians in the U. S. or abroad.
- Q. "To whom does Zog make payments, in this country or abroad? In what amounts? At what intervals?
- A. "He pays his wife's grandmother \$115 per month, payments being made every two or three months.

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

SECRET

SECRET

-2-

- Q. "Has Zog made any large withdrawals or deposits recently? To whom paid or from whom received? On what dates?
- A. "No activity in his account since April.
- Q. "Who in Zog's establishment handles his financial matters for him?
- A. "His prime minister and body guard, (fnu) Martini supervises everything. His black market operations are handled by Count Alexander de Villa, a slick article and crooked as a ram's horn. Zog does a lot of managing himself and Geraldine (his wife) does all his translating.
- Q. "How does Mr. Church's firm communicate with Zog? If by courier, who is he and how does he travel?
- A. "Church himself, not anyone else in the firm, handles the Zog business. Most of the communication is done by letter to Geraldine - never to Zog direct. Urgent matters are handled direct by cable. Couriers are never used, though Church has a setup that can be used in an emergency.
- Q. "What contacts does Zog have in the United States?
- A. "Besides his grandmother-in-law, Joseph Blackburn who is married to Geraldine's sister Virginia and is, according to Church an indiscreet sap, Church himself and Church's wife who is a cousin of Geraldine. Church's wife is the daughter of Count Seher-Thoss World War I German military intelligence chief. Her mother was an American who was forced to commit suicide by the Gestapo during World War II. Zog has no other active contacts in the U.S. to my knowledge.
- Q. "Who are his legal representatives abroad?
- A. "He has a lawyer in Alexandria but name is not known to Church. Church has to write Zog's legal papers with the knowledge that they will be scrutinized by the Egyptian lawyer.
- Q. "Does Mr. Church's firm have any connections with Albania at this time? Does it know of any contacts Zog may have in Albania?
- A. "Church and his firm have no contacts in Albania. Zog has constant contact with the Albanian underground. Georges Gog, who runs Zog's palace police goes back and forth to Albania and members of the underground frequently get out to Egypt.
- Q. "Does the present regime in Albania have any legal claims against Zog? If so, in what amounts? Is there any prospect that part or all of Zog's fortune might be adjudged to the Albanian Government if legal action should be undertaken against him?

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

A. "Undoubtedly the current regime in Albania has a claim against Zog for taking out the #3,000,000 of gold which they probably contend is State money. Zog contends that spending it for maintenance of his court in exile is quite proper. There is only \$750,000 left. No one seems to know what is the real status of this situation, legal or otherwise.

Q. "What are Zog's plans for the future?"

A. "Zog plans to take a house in France next summer and return to Alexandria for the winter. His one idea is to get back to Albania and kick the Soviets out. He wants U.S. material and military advice but thinks that he can raise enough Arab man power for form an army. He is very close to Farouk and Ibn Saud. Church says that he can handle Zog but would want to be accompanied by an Army officer of the rank of Colonel or better, who could talk military matters. Zog loves the military angle."

2. Mr. Church is preparing a long memorandum with additional details which we will furnish you immediately that it is received.

[]
X~~U~~ LYMAN A. KIRKPATRICK

SECRET