

<b>TRANSMITTAL SHEET</b>		
DATE _____		
<b>TO:</b> <i>Louise</i>		
<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>ROOM NO.</b>	
<b>REMARKS:</b> <i>Data for Mr. Wrenn's briefing - White Meeting</i>		
<b>FROM:</b> <i>[Signature]</i>		
<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>ROOM NO.</b>	<b>EXTENSION</b>

FORM NO. 36-8  
SEP 1946

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

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27 September 1949

*Prepared by Col. St. Leger for State Dept. Ops*

MEMORANDUM

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1. On 22 June 1949, OPC initiated implementation of a project, whose ultimate objective was, and remains, the overthrow of the Hoxha regime in Albania and the substitution therefor of a representative type government oriented towards the Western Powers. The operation was undertaken with the approval of the Departments of State and Defense subject to the following conditions:

a. that State be kept fully informed of developments in the several successive phases into which the operation was divided and that its guidance be followed on all matters involving political implications of significance, and

b. that the Joint Chiefs of Staff be consulted and approval sought before the initiation of the later para-military phases.

2. In the planning stages of the project, it was determined that the British were developing a limited objective operation directed towards Albania which would inevitably conflict with OPC's plans. As a result, following a series of conferences between OPC and its British counterpart, a fusion of plans was proposed. This proposal was endorsed by the State Department and British Foreign Office respectively and the Albanian operation became a joint one.

3. The first phase of the combined project involved the formation of a national committee or council which would (1) be parallel in structure to other national committees operating in the United States and would include representatives of major and relatively untainted Albanian groups currently in exile, and (2) eventually serve as the organization ostensibly responsible for the conduct of the latter phases of the overall joint US/UN Albanian operation. The main responsibility for the formation of this council was borne by the United States Service (OPC).

a. Initial exploratory conversations were undertaken in the Mediterranean area by OPC representatives in April and included contact with ex-King Zog and Midhat Frasherri. Detailed and complicated negotiations began in early July with the arrival of a full time OPC C

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b. In the ensuing two months the following was accomplished:

(1) Agreement on the composition of the directing element of the council, an Executive Committee, consisting of:

Midhat Frasheri, Balli Kombetar, Chairman  
Abas Kupa, Legalitet  
Zef Pali, Balli Kombetar  
Said Kryeziu, Independent  
Nuci Kotta, Legalitet

(2) Agreement on the composition of the consultative element of the council, a General Committee, consisting of:

Abas Ermenji, Balli Kombetar  
Halil Machi, Balli Kombetar  
Vasil Andoni, Balli Kombetar  
Gago Gogo, Legalitet  
Gani Tafili, Legalitet  
Aslan Zeinelli, Legalitet  
Hyzni Muleti, Nominee of Kryeziu  
Irrem Talhai, Nominee of Kryeziu  
Ihsan Toptani, Independent  
Muharrem Bajraktari, Leader from East Central Albania

(3) Agreement on a proclamation of the aims and responsibilities of the council.

(4) Implied agreement of King Zog that despite his reservations on the institutional question he would not sabotage the council.

(5) Agreement on military questions, involving the establishment of a six-man junta under the Executive Committee and the allocation of areas of command responsibility for future operations.

c. Subsidiary problems included informing the Greek, Italian and French Governments that an Albanian National Committee was in the process of formation and that it was viewed favorably by the United States Government; approach to the Greek Government for re-affirmation of its statements keynoting desire for a pacific solution of the North Epirus area; and basic planning for subsequent operational phases.

4. On 26 August, the Committee for Free Albania was publicly announced in Paris at an arranged press conference, conducted by Midhat Frasheri in his capacity of Council President. The news of the Committee's formation and appropriate commentary thereon were carried by

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the BBC (in their English and Albanian language programs) and by VOA in all broadcasts to Europe and the Near East. (Radio Tirana reacted vigorously to this announcement with denunciations of the Committee members as "fascists, collaborators and war-criminals".) This marked the successful completion of Phase I of the operations.

5. The Executive Committee has recently completed a visit to the U.S., in the course of which they were received by the Committee for Free Europe, officials of the Department of State, and they visited New York and Washington. Frasherri and Kotta have remained in the U.S. to arrange for the establishment of the Committee's headquarters in New York. The other three members of the Executive Committee have returned to Italy.

6. During the period prior to the Committee's public announcement, the British were training on Malta, thirty Albanians as agents for infiltration into Albania as emissaries of the Committee. The first two teams of five persons each departed Malta on September 11 and entered Albania on the night of September 17, and were destined for the areas of Gjinokaster and Velona. Radio contact has already been established with these two groups. A second sortie, also composed of two parties of five men each, left Malta on September 14, destined for Gjinokaster and Berat. A third sortie, again of ten persons, was to leave Malta before the end of September destined for Korca.

7. The introduction of the thirty British trained agents into Albania marks the beginning of Phase 2 of this operation. The training of additional agents to cover the central and northern portions of Albania has been delayed, pending decision of questions as to base sites for training and infiltration of these agents by means of air-drops. As a result of recent discussions with representatives of the British Foreign Office, it has been agreed that the British will maintain the Malta Base until December 1 of this year, and will accept for training at this base up to fifty Albanians. As a result, Said Kryeziu and Abas Kupa are being instructed to recruit twenty-five men each upon their arrival in Italy. These men will be trained on Malta and subsequently infiltrated into the central and northern portions of Albania. The question of bases for staging the infiltrations and for maintaining communications with these agents is still under discussion between ourselves and the British.

8. We are now devoting attention to the propaganda aspects of Phase 2 which will involve both overt propaganda to be disseminated by the Committee from its headquarters in New York and which will presumably include statements by the Committee as well as a small publication, and covert propaganda which it is presently planned will include air-drops of leaflets, dissemination of leaflets by agents within Albania and clandestine radio broadcasting on the radio Tirana wave-length.

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