

TOP SECRET

17 November 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WISNER

SUBJECT: Over-all Objectives of FIEND

1. When the FIEND operation was originally approved it had as its minimum objective the development of internal conflict in Albania sufficient to materially reduce the ability of Albania to support the Greek guerrillas. The maximum objective was the overthrow of the present Hoxha Government. The maximum objective was considered to be desirable because:

a. It would eliminate Albania as a base for the Greek guerrillas;

b. It would deny to the Soviet military, air and naval forces bases in the Mediterranean;

c. It would serve as a considerable psychological stimulus to other Eastern Europeans by demonstrating the possibility of removing a securely entrenched Communist dictatorship.

2. Since the defeat of the Greek guerrillas (at least for the time being) (a.) above is no longer a factor; (b.) and (c.), however, remain as important as they were when the plans were first approved. In addition, a new element has entered the picture. Yugoslavia is increasingly threatened by guerrilla and/or military attacks by the Soviet Union or Satellites. Albania obviously would be one base for launching these attacks, and as long as Albania is held by the Soviets the entire Albanian-Yugoslav border would have to be defended by Yugoslav troops.

3. The present regime in Albania is reported to be in a very shaky condition, and it is quite possible that the regime may go under regardless of whether or not we undertake economic, propaganda or guerrilla operations against it. If it goes under, regardless of the reasons or the extent to which we contribute, the United States will be faced with the same political vacuum in which Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia will all interest themselves. If we are able to establish within Albania a strong political and military underground, it may well be that the possibilities of conflict between

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