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21 December 1949

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief, FDP

FROM: []

SUBJECT: OPC Contacts

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2007

1. On 20 December 1949 I visited [] in his office to discuss various questions which had arisen in connection with reports from the field.

2. With reference to [] (IN-48729 and disseminated to OPC as SO DB-20291), a top secret cable describing a meeting between Colonel William MacLean and Prince Mustafa Standa and Ernest Kaldqi on the evening of 11 November 1949, [] made a number of comments. He felt that paragraph 1 a, was probably true. He said that the information contained in paragraph 1 b, was highly likely in view of recent British objections to the OPC position that the Chairman of the Balli Kombeter should, ex officio, be the Chairman of the Committee for Free Albania, to the point where they denied having ever agreed to such a position when conversation on the subject of an Albanian Committee were first initiated, and their now maintaining that they had no single candidate for the position of Chairman of the Committee and that they felt that the Committee members themselves should determine their new Chairman.

3. [] regarded paragraph 1 c, with some suspicion and did not understand why Colonel MacLean would have referred to Sajt Kryeziu as the "kinsman" of the entire Committee. However, he observed that [] who he said frequently reflected the British position, had justified the inclusion of Sajt Kryeziu in the Committee on the ground that this would help the Committee be acceptable to Tito.

4. With reference to paragraph 1 d, [] commented that he was not clear as to the sense in which the term "Marxists" was employed but that he had no reason to believe that Abas Ermeni

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and company were followers of Stalin; in this connection he also mentioned British objection to considering Abas Kupa as the military leader in place of Abas Ermeni, perhaps because of commitments entered into with Abas Ermeni at the time when the British brought him from Greece or, more recently, when he was helping to organize the VALUABLE teams for entry into Albania.

5. With reference to paragraph 1 e., [] said that he had no information that Colonel MacLean had met with Count Sferna.

6. As for paragraph 1 f. (and the first part of paragraph 1 b.), [] said that there had never been any question on the part of the British or the Americans of including the Kossovars in the Committee for Free Albania. At the same time he stated that a recent plan of his to obtain the inclusion of Nedo Marka Gjoni in the Committee had come to naught, partly I understood as a result of divided opinion within OPC itself and partly because of British opposition to this move - however, I am not quite sure as to the latter.

7. With reference to paragraph 3 b., containing the advice of Prince Marka Gjoni that the Committee for Free Albania should be reorganized into a Non-Political Military Action Committee which would take direct orders from the British and the Americans, [] referred to a proposal which had been made at one time (possibly at the instigation of the British or possibly at the wish of Hasan Dosti before his election as Chairman of the Committee for Free Albania, when his choice for that post was still very uncertain); this proposal was that Abas Kupa serve as Chairman of the Committee for Free Albania whenever military matters were under discussion, an arrangement which would have the effect of making him actually a co-chairman of the Committee.

8. With regard to two reports from [] that Amery and MacNeil (presumably MacLean) were in Athens for the purpose of contacting Albanian refugees and possibly enlarging the membership of the Committee for Free Albania, [] had no information, but said that to the best of his knowledge, neither Julian Amery nor Colonel William MacLean had left Italy to go to Greece. As for Colonel Smiley, Mr. Mc Cargar reported that he was in Athens on or about 1 November 1949 for the purpose of picking up the members of the VALUABLE teams which had escaped from Albania into Greece; he did not believe that Colonel Smiley had other reasons for his trip.

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9. [] stated that he had not heard from any other than OSO sources of the report of the death of Bajram Bajraktari.

10. A recent [] report to the effect that ex-King Zog was in touch with General Zervas in Greece and that Zog had recently become much more active with regard to Albanian exiles seemed improbable to [] who said that Zog was very inactive and that it had been some time since they had had any indication of activity on his part or word from "the man camped on his doorstep."

11. [] said that OPC now had copies of the interrogations of members of the VALUABLE teams which escaped from Albania into Greece and which were retrieved by Colonel Smiley at the beginning November; he said that copies of these interrogations would be forwarded to OSO at once.

12. During the course of our conversation [] mentioned that Colonel William MacLean had arrived in this country a week or ten days ago and that he was seeing a good many people, including members of the Committee for Free Europe, Alan Dulles, John Foster Dulles and others. [] suggested that it might be of considerable interest to know what MacLean discussed with the persons in question.