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2 February 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

SUBJECT: Possible British Attitude Toward OPC  
Collaboration with Another Service on  
Certain Aspects of BGFIEND

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. In the process of informing [ ] on 19 January of the decision of which we were apprised from London that the British would not participate in the broadcast ship operation, I informed him (see WASH-7249 (OUT-97496)) that we would have to proceed with "other arrangements" with respect to the ship. [ ] had no comment on the use of this phrase.

2. On 24 January, [ ] amplified to me the instructions which he had received from London as to the extent of British participation in infiltration and propaganda activities. As these were extremely negative in tone, I inquired of [ ] whether this did not suggest to him the necessity of approaching another Service for assistance. He stated that it did suggest that to him inasmuch as British participation in propaganda and infiltration activities seemed highly restricted.

3. On 30 January, [ ] informed me that there were no operational airfields under British control in Austria and that accordingly Klagenfurt would not be available for a staging area for air drops; (this information was subsequently revised to state that a small airfield without any facilities at Zeltweg might be available for this purpose). I inquired of [ ] whether Malta would be available for sea staging operations. He replied in the negative. [ ] then inquired whether in view of this latest information we would be prepared to proceed with another Service on this matter. I replied, "We might", to which [ ] rejoined, "Good. That will probably change London's mind."

4. On 31 January, in the course of a discussion of the airfield which the British had discovered as possibly available in their Zone of Austria, I stated to [ ] that, although I was raising the question in a purely informal and personal fashion inasmuch as I had put nothing on paper to date, I nonetheless wondered whether, in view of our collaboration with the British, he had any thoughts on the mechanism by which we (OPC) might effect collaboration with another Service on an isolated portion of the Albanian operation. [ ] stated that this problem had occurred to him and that he might "have an

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informal thought on the subject in about 48 hours."

5. On 2 February, [ ] mentioned to me inter alia that "it had occurred to him" that the British would in all probability for their part desire such collaboration with another Service to be effected under the guise of some mechanism such as the Committee for Free Europe. [ ] added that he based this thought on the Foreign Office disapproval of para. 7-b-(8) of the basic memorandum. Inasmuch as [ ] had informed that he has had an encouraging message from London stating that a communication on this subject is on its way from the Foreign Office to the State Department, and which suggests that the Foreign Office may have somewhat revised its original view, I suggested to him that possibly this disapproval will have been removed in the forthcoming communication from the Foreign Office to the State Department. He stated this was possible and the subject was dropped.

6. I should like to emphasize that all the foregoing queries were casual and informal in nature in an effort to sound out [ ] on this subject, and that no further inquiries of this nature will be made of him until we have proceeded further in our own thinking on this question.

[ ]

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