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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3020
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

17 May 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: []

SUBJECT: OPC Plans and Operations in Albania

1. The original approved project for Albania contemplated, as its ultimate objective, the overthrow of the present Albanian regime by a coup d'etat. This policy, however, was later revised and the "ultimate" objective was eliminated, primarily in order to avoid giving the Kremlin any excuse for action against Yugoslavia.

2. Under the revised policy the project envisaged the following actions:

- a. Infiltration of operational reconnaissance parties.
- b. Propaganda.
- c. Economic warfare.

3. Agreement has been reached with the British for ^{cooperation and} cooperation on a policy level and ~~very limited cooperation~~ ^{the} on operational level.

4. An important factor in carrying out this program was the formation and control of an Albanian Free National Committee under the auspices of the NCFE.

5. Implementation of the operations required for accomplishing the above objectives has now reached the following stage of development:

- a. An Albanian Free National Committee has been formed and is functioning smoothly under U. S.-British guidance. Two members (Hasan Dosti and Nuci Kotta) of the Executive Committee of the

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Albanian Free National Committee are now in the U. S. and it is contemplated to utilize their services for the publication of an Albanian newspaper in the U. S.

b. Preparations are well advanced for the infiltration of agents into Albania by air-drops. For this purpose, a C-47 is available; initial contacts have been made for the hiring of an air-crew; plans have been laid for a holding camp in the U. S. Zone of Germany for Albanian agent trainees, as well as for the establishment of a covert house, also in the U. S. Zone of Germany, for training these agents; the first batch of Albanians are now in the process of selection for shipment to the holding camp; ^{most of the} required ~~camp~~ personnel have been already assigned, and are on their way to their posts, for this operation. The aircraft will be based in Greece; but the agents will be flown to Albania probably from an airstrip in Italy.

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c. Propaganda in and into Albania will be carried out by means of leaflets to be dropped from an aircraft, mailed or carried by agents, and by radio. There will be a joint Bulgarian-Albanian propaganda center in Greece. A C-47, as already stated, is available for leaflet drops. Radio propaganda will be broadcast into Albania by both medium and short wave transmitters based on a vessel cruising along the Adriatic. Arrangements are under way for the purchase of a yacht-type vessel, several such vessels being now under consideration. The vessel is to be operated under Panamanian registry. The Master is now being security cleared. The master will find and propose the other members of the crew. The vessel will be based in Greece.

d. In the field of economic warfare, approval is being

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sought for a plan for a one-time operation to destroy by fire two Albanian ships on the high seas out of Trieste. Practically all details have been worked out, and the plan can be mounted soon after the designated person arrives at Trieste.

e. The establishment of a camp for exfiltrates and other Albanians in Greece is being considered.

6. Present outlook. While operations covering all phases of the BGFIEND project are pretty well on the road to full mounting actions, the activities and probable plans of other forces surrounding Albania, *i.e.* Yugoslavia, Greek, Italian, (alone or in complicity with Albanian refugees, notably Zog and the large Albanian refugee group in Yugoslavia) arouse certain questions which in turn impel a fresh, overall view of the position of BGFIEND.

7. What, for instance, would be the effect on BGFIEND if:

a. Greek designs - with or without the cooperation of Zog - to promote a coup d'etat in Albania were put into execution?

b. The implementation of similar Yugoslav designs, aided by Albanian political refugees in Yugoslavia, were undertaken?

c. Zog embarked into a large scale undertaking in Albania, with or without outside assistance?

8. Furthermore, do we now believe that the reasons for which the "ultimate objective" of the original BGFIEND Project was cancelled are still valid? Or, have new factors entered the picture, and/or new developments taken place which make the time more propitious and, in general, make ^{it} desirable to attempt the accomplishment of that "ultimate objective".

9. A paper covering ~~the~~ present thinking ^{on possible re-evaluation of BGFIEND} outlined above is now under preparation.

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