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8 November 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Conversation with [] [], SIS Representative, on 8 November 1950.

1. [] [] called at my office on 8 November 1950 to discuss the British reaction to the effects of the first BGFRIEND leaflet drop. He stated that his headquarters were concerned by the effect which the Albanian protest to the Italian Government may have on British relations with General Re. [] [] referred to the protest which the Italian Government has received from Albania on the violation of the latter by "three Italian 'planes" which dropped propaganda leaflets over Albania on the night of October 16.) [] [] indicated that the British were anxious to maintain good relations with General Re as matters transcending in importance the Albanian operations were at stake, and he asked whether it would be agreeable to OPC if, when questioned by General Re concerning their knowledge of the leaflet drop, the British were to indicate that it was our operation.

2. I replied to the above question by stating that I felt that in view of the fact that FRIEND and VALUABLE were entirely separate operations, the British could very properly disclaim all knowledge of anything we had done under Operation FRIEND; and that we could not allow them to indicate, either directly or by insinuation, that the leaflet drop in question was ours. I further confirmed, for [] benefit, the understanding that under the principle of operational disengagement each one of us was free to approach a third service in connection with our own operations relating to Albania, and that we could not object to their discussion of operation VALUABLE with General Re, provided it is clearly indicated to General Re that the British operation is being conducted for intelligence purposes. As regards any reference to the Albanian Committee, I stated that we had no objection to their pointing out to General Re that -- as is well known -- the United States takes a benevolent view of the Committee for Free Albania.

3. [] [] said that the British desired to talk with General Re with the following objectives:

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a. To soothe General Re as a result of the impact which the Albanian protest will undoubtedly have on him, and to obtain his cooperation in regard to the elimination of any harassment of the Balli Kombetar by the splinter group and of the Committee by the Italian authorities.

b. To provide for possible collaboration with General Re in future British operations, without disclosure of our joint ultimate aims and intentions regarding Albania.

c. To maintain general relations with General Re on matters which transcend VALUABLE in importance.

4. I stated that within the next couple of days I would give [] a memorandum setting forth the matters which could be mentioned to General Re without objections from us.

5. [] expressed the view that as a result of the Albanian protest the Italian Government may decide to require the removal of the Albanian Committee from Italy. I replied that we had already thought of this, and that we felt that the Committee could undoubtedly be installed in France or in the United States and operations could be carried on from either of these two points and from Western Germany without any difficulty. [] asked whether there would be any objection to setting the Committee up in Western Germany. My reply was that Western Germany would not be suitable as the official headquarters of the Committee, but that undoubtedly Committee members could come to Germany when operationally necessary. I also expressed the opinion that Switzerland would probably prove impracticable because of the Swiss attitude toward foreign political activity in their country. I also expressed the view that the Committee could not be based in Greece because of political considerations.

[]
Chief, EE-1

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