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Extract from Monthly Progress Report, EE-1, for April 1951

BGFIEND

1. Operations

a. A meeting of key BGFIEND field officers in Germany called by the Branch Chief on 7 April explored avenues of action in Albania during the immediate future. Present planning indicates that the scope of 1951 operations will be considerably broader than the original plan of infiltrating eight to ten four-man teams plus several smaller teams for special missions. A general plan for infiltration of Albanians over the Greek border has been agreed upon by British, Greeks, and representatives of OPC. In line with this decision, an Albanian leader named Matiani, who has a considerable following in Greece and Albania, has been selected to form several teams to be infiltrated via Greece for special tasks, pending discussions with the National Committee for Free Albania on the desirability of using this man in a wider range of activities.

b. Two of the three members of the Dibra team, dropped into Albania 11 November 1950, previously unaccounted for, have established communication by letter with members of the Guard Company in Germany, indicating that they are now in Yugoslavia, and require assistance to enable them to live.

c. A two-man team recruited and trained in Greece by BGFIEND personnel has been standing by since 17 April to be dropped into Albania by the BGFIEND/QKSTAIR covert aircraft. The team's mission is to establish contact with the team which has been established in the Kukes area since 11 November 1950. A secondary mission is to collect operational information on the situation in Albania. Although the plane was over the target area on two occasions during the week of 22 April, weather conditions have so far prevented the drop.

d. The CIA field assessment team has screened over 200 men in the Guard Company in Germany and has selected 66 individuals best qualified for agent operations.

e. The existing

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e. The existing agent-training facilities in Germany have now - upon completion of the training of Bulgarian agents - become available for the training of Albanian agent personnel. W/T training for Albanians is scheduled to begin in time to provide W/T operators for late summer operations.

f. A new EE-1 training center in Germany, to be used in addition to the Hambuechen estate, was taken over from the contractors on 3 April. This center represents a considerable improvement over the Hambuechen estate.

g. The Lavrion IRO camp in Greece has been canvassed by the Legalitet Party and a list of 117 potential operational Albanians has been compiled. The individuals listed are currently being cleared by security.

2. Propaganda Activities

a. A leaflet covering the Tirana bomb episode was completed in London on 8 April but was not dropped because of the State Department ban on leaflet activities. However, the mission flying the re-supply drop was given permission to drop 50,000 copies of this leaflet in other localities as a deception measure.

b. An additional 500,000 leaflets announcing the opening of the Albanian clandestine radio station arrived in Athens, providing a total of 1,500,000 leaflets on hand to be dropped when the ban is lifted on 3 June 1951.

c. The vessel housing the clandestine radio station has established its base at Patras and a liaison officer between ship and shore has been cleared and will go to Patras sometime in May. The W/T administrative circuit between the vessel and the [redacted] has been activated. The initiation of broadcasts has been held up until approximately the 15th of May as a result of technical and personnel difficulties. In the meantime, repairs are under way on the teletype equipment damaged during the ocean crossing. In addition, assembly of the propaganda staff is being completed in Greece, a new propaganda editor and additional radio technician being scheduled to arrive there in May. Texts of the first broadcasts have been received in Washington.

d. The propaganda sub-committee of the Committee for a Free Albania is increasing its output, and Washington now

issues material

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issues material considerably in excess of current needs (i.e., 500,000 leaflets per month). In addition, the sub-committee is providing a great deal of the material for the Committee paper published in New York.

3. Political Activities

a. It has not yet been possible to solve the considerable internal political problems of the Committee for a Free Albania, although the Committee is still functioning as a unit and is continuing to provide considerable operational support through its military junta and propaganda sub-committee.

b. Both April issues of the newspaper published by the NCFA in New York were published on schedule.

c. Said Bey Kreyziu, a member of the Executive Committee of NCFA and head of the AGRARIAN Party who has been visiting the Guard Company in Germany, is expected in the U.S. on 10 May for a visit intended to improve relations between him and other members of the NCFA.