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Extract from Monthly Progress Report for EE-1 for May 1951

BGFIEND

1. Support

a. A conference of BGFIEND personnel was held in Athens on 7-8 May to review the present status of activities; concurrently a conference on propaganda activities was also held.

b. Successful training of the Albanian re-supply team in Greece, indicating that emergency training in Greece is feasible, has led to the consideration of the establishment of an emergency training site in Greece.

c. The assessment team on its visit to the IRO Lavrion camp in Greece selected 63 prospects for operations.

d. A list of candidates for the next training class was approved by the National Committee for Free Albania (NCFA), but training has been delayed because of the presence of Bulgarian trainees at the camp.

e. With the cooperation of Greek General Nikelepoulos, a system was established for using the Albanian Welfare Committee to make contact with Albanian refugees shortly after they have crossed the border into Greece. The system is intended to enable OPC representatives to obtain fresh intelligence information from the escapees before they have been exhausted by interrogations of other agencies, and provide a means of recruiting prospects for the Albanian Guard Company in Germany.

2. Subversive Operations

a. On May 18-19, a month's effort culminated in the successful infiltration, by covert plane, of a re-supply team to support the two teams already operating inside Albania. The team displayed recognition lights, indicating a successful drop, but four attempts to establish motorola contact proved unsuccessful.

b. Pending the concurrence of the NCFA, action has not yet been taken on the plan to have Hamit Matiani, who has a considerable following in Greece and Albania, form teams for crossing into Albania to carry on resistance activities there. Abas Kupa, originally enthusiastic for the scheme, cooled somewhat in his attitude.

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Correspondence from [redacted]

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c. Correspondence from the two teams inside Albania to the NCFA indicates that the team operating in the area of Has has been very active.

3. Propaganda Activity

a. The fifth Albanian leaflet, "The People's Revenge," is now in the field ready for dissemination.

b. With State Department permission, a few thousand leaflets were dropped at the time of the re-supply mission as a deceptive measure, but no other leaflets have been dropped in consequence of the general ban imposed by the Department of State. In anticipation of the eventual lifting of the restriction, leaflets for future use are being prepared.

c. The re-supply team infiltrated into Albania carried anti-Communist circulars for mailing inside the country.

d. The "Juanita" cruised 15 days in the Ionian Sea in search for a suitable location for broadcasting, and further progress was accomplished in readying the vessel for broadcasting. (Operations of the vessel were subsequently suspended on the authority of the [redacted] but it is anticipated that difficulties will be ironed out by the contemplated visit of [redacted] and [redacted].)

e. Both issues of the NCFA newspaper "Shqiperia" appeared on schedule.

f. A rotation plan for "Shqiperia" employees nominated by members of the NCFA was adopted at the suggestion of [redacted] the purpose being to heighten the European flavor of the paper.

g. As a result of NCFA propaganda, an Albanian army captain offered to defect with 60 men to join the forces of NCFA. He has, however, been encouraged to remain inside the country where he can be of greater ultimate value.

h. In order to enhance NCFA prestige and take advantage of current rumors in Albania that the NCFA is going to supply food to the people, it was decided to air-drop small packages of staples bearing NCFA stickers.

4. Political Activity

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a. Following the arrival of Said Kryeziu in New York on a visit, a series of meetings was held in New York with Hasan Dosti, Nuchi Kotta and Said Kryeziu to persuade the NCFA to broaden its representation. One plan under study contemplates the addition to the Committee of a representative of the Klissura faction of the BK and of a mutually acceptable independent figure such as Ndui Markadjoni; another plan envisages the broadening of the Committee through the inclusion of six additional representatives.

b. A three-man team of Committee members was formed to recruit candidates for NCFA activities in Turkey during June.

c. Initial action was taken to meet the threat to the NCFA represented by Yugoslav efforts to establish a rival organization, and the whole matter is now under consideration. The Yugoslav instrument for securing a voice in Albanian matters, the League of Albanian Refugees, recently convened a congress under Yugoslav auspices at Prizren, Yugoslavia. The congress was guided in its activities by Dushan Mugosha, Tito's influential representative to the Albanian Communists during the war, and took the line that if Hoxha's regime is to be ousted, the action should be carried out by "democratic" Albanians in Yugoslavia rather than by "reactionary" emigres in Italy, Greece and elsewhere. Prior to the congress, Nik Sokoli, a leader of the League, expressed the belief to Abas Kupa that there was a common ground for action between the Legalitet Party and the League, which claims to maintain 60 agents in northern Albania. No action was taken pending clarification of the League's attitude toward cooperation with the NCFA. With regard to these developments, the NCFA was instructed to adopt an attitude of skepticism, welcoming the establishment of the group as a further example of the bankruptcy of the Hoxha regime, but emphasizing that the NCFA is the sole Albanian organization enjoying the support of the great Western powers. At the request of OPC, the Department of State is considering instructing U.S. Ambassador Allen in Belgrade to attempt to shed some light on Yugoslav intentions regarding Albania by confronting the Yugoslav authorities with the apparent inconsistency of their action in expressing their fear, on one hand, that there is danger of Soviet intervention in Albania as a result of activities conducted by emigre groups and various Western nations, and, on the other hand,

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in permitting the existence of a very active Albanian emigre group in Yugoslavia which has as its objective the overthrow of the Hoxha regime. General Omar Bradley of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was also requested to sound out the Yugoslavs concerning this matter during the course of conversations with Yugoslav military representatives.

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