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File

Air Pouch

PGA-A-5035

7 September 1951

Chief, FDP

Operation THUNDERCLAP
THUNDERCLAP/4

Ref - Aths 6851, para 2; PGA-A-4679

1. At the THUNDERCLAP safehouse on 11 August 1951, T/1 asked to have a private conversation with [redacted]. During this conversation T/1 expressed doubt in T/4's ability to perform the difficult tasks required of the THUNDERCLAP mission. When [redacted] questioned T/1 as to why he had not revealed this sooner, T/1 stated that his primary reason (explained below) developed from a conversation which took place on 12 August 1951.
2. On 12 August 1951, while the THUNDERCLAP team members were having dinner, T/4 was asked why he deserted the Yugoslav Army. In answering this question, T/4 revealed that he and two other Yugoslav soldiers had discussed deserting the Yugoslav army and going to Albania. The team members were amazed to hear him say that he would go to Albania, and not to another country like Greece, but they did not say anything to T/4. The team members, excluding T/4, discussed the matter and concluded that T/4 might be a security hazard. They did not think that T/4 would desert them when they dropped into the operational area, but they thought he might reveal the team's mission if he were captured by the Albanian authorities.
3. On 15 August 1951, [redacted] questioned each team member privately. T/1, 2, 3, and 5 were questioned as to how they felt about the other team member. All of them revealed the information outlined in paragraph 2 above and requested that T/4 not be sent into the operational area with the team.
4. [redacted] did not question T/4 specifically in connection with the information in paragraph 2 above. T/4 was questioned concerning his desertion and his reasons for wanting to join a mission into Albania. T/4's answers did not substantiate what the other team members had said in regard to his intention of deserting to Albania.

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5. [] discussed this problem with [] and it was decided to comply with the team's request even though there is no proof that T/4 would be a security hazard. Withdrawing T/4 from the team would not seriously handicap the THUNDERCLAP mission since he had no critical function to perform with the team.
6. [] informed T/4 on 16 August 1951 that he was not going on the proposed mission. Neither [] or the team members have revealed the true reasons for this action. T/4 was told that the THUNDERCLAP mission required only four men and that he was dropped from the team because he was least familiar with the operational area. Upon hearing the decision, T/4 wept because he wanted to go along.
7. T/4 remains at the THUNDERCLAP safehouse. He is in good spirits and has kept himself busy learning the international morse code and studying an unclassified pamphlet (in Albanian) for W/T operators. He was recruited by [] and at no time has he done anything which would cast suspicion on him. He is young and naive, a very willing worker, and well-disciplined. No derogatory information about him has been uncovered locally. At the present time he is taking care of the safehouse. He has completed his parachute training and may be useful operationally in the future.

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