

12 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

VIA: Chief, Political and Psychological Warfare

SUBJECT: The possibility of an appeal to Senator McCarthy for investigation of the NCPA.

1. For two years SE division has made intensive efforts to effect a broadening of the National Committee for Free Albania to include representatives of two parties not presently members. One of these parties, the Balli Kombetar Organization led by Ali Klissura, splintered from the Balli Kombetar (Agrarians) late in 1950 but has since sought to be readmitted to the Committee as a party in its own right. During prolonged negotiations within the NCPA, however, it has become evident that further attempts to force a broadening of the Committee against the wishes of its present leadership would be likely to disrupt the Committee altogether. In this connection, the division has recently received information suggesting that the B.K.O. leaders may be contemplating an appeal to Senator McCarthy for an investigation by his sub-Committee.

2. The indications that such an appeal is under consideration by the Ali Klissura group consist only in the following:

a. A letter dated 14 March 1953 from Halim Begeja, Secretary-General of the B.K.O. and its representative in New York, addressed to Ali Klissura during the latter's recent political trip to Greece, was intercepted by the Greek Service and passed to CIA by our liaison. The letter assured Klissura, among other things, that nothing would be done in the matter of forming a "real Committee" of nationalist, anti-Prisren elements (Yugoslav supported) "until the case of the National Committee for Free Albania would be brought before Senator McCarthy and his Senate sub-Committee".

b. In the Fund Monthly Report for March 1953, Halim Begeja is quoted as having expressed to the NCPA his impatience over the continued non-inclusion of the B.K.O. in the National Committee for Free Albania, stating that if his party were definitely not included, they would look "for another way" to continue their fight against Communism.

3. While the above threat may represent merely a nebulous blackmail attempt on the part of the B.K.O., such an investigation might appear sufficiently profitable for the dissident elements in the Albanian emigration

to warrant

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to warrant in their view a dramatic appeal to Senator McCarthy. Somewhat similar threats to solicit the aid of various Congressional leaders against the NCPE have, however, been raised from time to time in the past by other Eastern European leaders in New York, without being actively pursued further.

4. The division is taking this opportunity to bring a potential embarrassment to the attention of the appropriate authorities, in view of the serious consequences to CIA-controlled emigre operations of any active investigation by the Senate Investigating Committee. This would apply not only to the case of the Albanians but also to other Eastern European groupings which may be dissatisfied with their treatment or position vis-a-vis the NCPE.

5. Regarding the specific case in point, a highly-publicized investigation into the composition and activities of the NCPE in Rome would almost certainly reveal our direct operational support of the Committee and critically undermine whatever controls we are now able to exert. Moreover, the unfavorable publicity likely to result from an investigation of this nature into the Committee, both individually and collectively, would probably render it completely ineffective as a political front.

6. In light of the above, the division requests, with the concurrence of DDP, that the Legislative Counsel be alerted to the situation as it now stands. It may also be possible, through his authorized contacts, to ascertain whether any approach has, in fact, been made to Senator McCarthy's committee by the Albanian group in question, and to advise us if and when such a move is made.

[Acting Chief, SE]

SE/ACPP
12 May 1953

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