

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

AC/26

NO.

memo

DATE

June 30, 1953

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
1. STC/SPB					<p><i>By Hand Only</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>to sign</i></p> <p><i>Pls call SE-1 x671 for hand carry to STC</i></p> <p><i>File</i></p> <p>DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3028 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2007</p>
2. SE/FI/CE		JUN 30 1953	JUN 30 1953	[]	
3.					
4.					
5. CE/EX				[]	
6.					
7. AC/SE			July	[]	
8.					
9.					
10. SYO/SPB		July	July	[]	
11.					
12. SE/SE				[]	
13.					
14.					
15.					

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Security Information

MEMORANDUM FOR: STC/SPB

ATTENTION: []

SUBJECT: Clearance Request for King Zog I

1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Ahmed Bey ZOGU, (King Zog), born 8 October 1895, at Burrel in the Mati district of Albania, was the second son of Qemal Pasha ZOGU, Chieftain of Mati. He was educated at Istanbul until 1911, when he returned and assumed the chieftainship of his tribe. In January 1920, he helped assemble the Lushnje Congress. He then held various posts, including Commander-in-Chief and Minister of the Interior, taking part in or against different short-lived governments until 1922, when he became Prime Minister. In June 1924, ZOGU was expelled from Albania by an armed rising, but in December of that year, he returned, regaining control of the government with Yugoslav backing. Setting himself up as a dictator, he summoned a National Assembly which proclaimed Albania a Republic, and on 31 January 1925 elected ZOGU president. On 1 September 1928, at the invitation of the Constituent Assembly, ZOGU became King, taking the title of ZOG I, King of the Albanians. In April 1938, he married Countess Geraldine APPONYI, who on 5 April 1939, gave birth to a son, Prince Skander. On 7 April 1939, the Italians invaded Albania, and ZOG and his family fled to Greece. He proceeded to Turkey, France and eventually to England, where he spent the remaining years of the war.

2. In the spring of 1946, King Zog moved to Egypt where, through the friendship of King Farouk, he attempted to re-establish his prestige in the eyes of the Western powers and his fellow countrymen in exile, as the guiding and dynamic force in any effort to separate Albania from the Communist Satellites.

3. BACKGROUND OF U.S./CIA INTEREST: In late 1948, Colonel Norman Fiske, the U.S. Military Attache in Cairo, received a memo from Zog concerning the re-establishment of a pro-Western government in Albania. Following receipt of the memorandum, Fiske discussed the proposal in person with Zog, who was convinced that the time had come to effect the overthrow of the Communist regime in Albania, but felt that to do so would require the material and moral support of the United States.

4. It was also about this time that the idea of organizing resistance against Communist Albania through an exile committee took root. In the spring of 1949, the State Department sent Mr. Burton Y. Berry to contact certain Albanians with the purpose of sounding them out concerning the composition and authority of a new national committee. On 5 May, Mr. Berry

spoke with

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Security Information

spoke with Zog stating the U.S. desire to support the formation of an Albanian anti-Communist front and requesting his support. Although the King said he was in favor of such an organization, he preferred to remain aloof from the committee itself, reserving the right to undertake unilateral action.

5. Other than for the moral support of the National Committee for Free Albania, Zog's potential operational assistance, which he had proffered, was not utilized. On 15 August 1951, at the direction of [redacted] then Chief of SE/OPC, called upon King Zog, who was visiting the United States, to discuss various Albanian questions. The King stated he stood ready to do what he could should the U.S. wish to call on him in connection with any Albanian activities. At a further meeting with Zog on 30 August, [redacted] accepted the King's offer and outlined a plan whereby we would provide the material and technical support and King Zog would supply high grade agents for infiltration missions. Both parties were to benefit from the accomplishments of the intelligence networks thus set up. Zog agreed to these arrangements, and on 1 May 1952, the first Zog team was infiltrated. (This team is still within Albania and has successfully maintained W/T contact, received body and resupply drops and has set up an intelligence network in its operational area.)

6. As the Zog-sponsored agents have proved to be of a much higher caliber than those recruited elsewhere, we are anxious to exploit this source further. This has necessitated in the past, and will in the future, discussions with Zog concerning the teams, the objectives to be accomplished and the resultant intelligence out-put.

7. In view of Zog's position as the deposed King of Albania, his "recruitment" by [redacted] the direction of [redacted] and his increased participation in the operational aspects of the BGFIEND mission, (the separation of Albania from the Communist orbit), there has been a question, clearance-wise, as to the status of King Zog. In the past, conferences with Zog have been carried out by [redacted] who has since left the SE Division. As it may be necessary for others connected with SE Division to contact Zog, we are interested in receiving instructions from STC/SPB to make certain that these contacts will be within the framework of the security regulations.

8. In view of the foregoing, we request that STC/SPB take the matter under consideration and advise this office of its conclusions and recommendations.

[redacted signature box]

Acting Chief, SE

Normal clearance procedure warranted OK to [redacted] CFI 5/3