

ALBANIA

July 1953

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

On 24 July Radio Tirana announced a shifting of top government officials which retained Marshal Enver Hoxha as Premier but transferred his duties as Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs to others. Hoxha's chief rival, Lt. Gen. Mehmet Shehu, remained Minister of Interior but was dismissed as secretary to the Central Committee of the Albanian Labor (Communist) Party. Dr. Gaxir Nishani, President of the National Assembly Presidium, resigned from office for "reasons of health" and was replaced by Haxhi Lleshi. The number of government ministries was reduced from sixteen to ten, and the number of local administrative districts reduced from 26 to 10, the 1944 level. The changes appear to conform to the trend in other Communist states toward lessening the degree of power held by individuals. In the case of Albania, there is the possibility that the new government may represent one more palatable to Tito for the reason that two of the new officials, Haxhi Lleshi, and Tuk Jakova, Minister of Finance, have pro-Tito pasts.

The SOFIBND liaison officer in Rome and his British counterpart continued their efforts to reconcile the differing factions of the National Committee for Free Albania. Some progress was reported but the issues involved remain unsettled.

During July attempts were made to establish with the Yugoslavs a mutually agreeable method of handling operational teams which may infiltrate to Yugoslavia and of conducting teams to Yugoslavia for infiltration into Albania. However, as yet no agreement has been reached.

[] was informed by the Yugoslavs that a letter received by the NCFA in Rome from a member of the League of Albanian Refugees in Prizren, which claimed to speak for the Yugoslav Government and proposed contact between the Prizren League and the NCFA, was a private expression of the personal views of the writer and was in no way inspired by the Yugoslav Government. No reply has been received from the Prizren League to the NCFA response to its letter, which suggested Trieste as a meeting place and inquired concerning persons who would attend such a meeting, and the scope of the discussions. However, it is considered virtually impossible that the letter from the Prizren League could have been sent without prior knowledge of the Yugoslav officials concerned with Albanian affairs.

At the same time, Mr. Saifet Lutfi Yosan, one of the three delegates who represented ex-King Zog at the August 1952 discussions with the Yugoslavs at Skoplje, reported upon his return from a recent visit to Belgrade, that the Yugoslavs showed little interest in either him or Zog, alleging that Zog's representatives at the Skoplje meeting had made promises which they failed to carry out. In April King Zog advised us that the Yugoslavs had made no move to contact him since the Skoplje conference.

On 29 June an Albanian National Front reportedly was formed by the pro-Italian Blloku Kombetar Independent Party and the Balli Kombetar Organization, conservative wing which split from the Balli Kombetar Party in late 1950. Some reports mention Khaser Dova, leader of the

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Second League of Prisen, a Kossovo organization advocating the return of the Kossovo to Albania, in the newly-formed National Front. This has been denied by Deva himself. None of these political organizations is presently represented in the NCFA, although strenuous efforts have been made to induce the NCFA to broaden its membership to include members of the BKI and the BKO. The new National Front claims to be more democratic and more representative of all Albanian refugees than the NCFA, and even may succeed in drawing into it some elements now supporting the NCFA. [] has reported the Greek Government's desire to see some iron formed to counteract both the Yugoslav-sponsored League of Albanian Refugees and the NCFA, which they charge is under British control and perhaps attempting to cooperate with the League of Albanian Refugees. The formation of a new Albanian refugee committee will further complicate dealings with Albanian refugees and make even more difficult any broadening of the NCFA.

2. SYNOPSIS

Albanian project BOFIEND is directed [] the Project [] A [] has been opened to handle the interrogation and screening of Albanian refugees.

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY - (BOFIEND)

A. Paramilitary

(1) On the night of 5/6 July the 5-man Willow Team was infiltrated without incident. The team exfiltrated on 26 July, with useful propaganda material and operational information.

(2) On 22 July a resupply drop to the Apple/2 base team was successfully completed. A previous attempt at resupply on the night of 3/4 July aborted due to weather.

(3) The British five-man Lucid Team infiltrated into Albania on 19 July and exfiltrated 27 July due to the illness of the team leader. The team is reported to have accomplished nothing.

B. Political-Psychological

(1) On the night of 15 July 500,000 leaflets, exploiting the Balkan Pact, were air-dropped over Albania.

(2) The covert radio, Voice of Free Albania, maintained a regular broadcast schedule during the month of July.

(3) The semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed on schedule. 50,000 copies of the miniature edition of the paper were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

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