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24 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with MI-6 Regarding Albanian Matters

1. On 20 August 1953 I called upon [] MI-6 representative. My primary purpose was to call to his attention reports that [] was about to be removed as VALUABLE representative, [] and to express this Agency's concern at interrupting continuity there at this time.
2. I told [] that our information on [] impending removal was altogether unconfirmed and might well be erroneous. I stated, however, that if such a step were planned, it would be a matter of some unhappiness to us, inasmuch as we felt it highly desirable to maintain the continuity of the relationship among ourselves, MI-6 and the Albanian Committee. I pointed out that this continuity already had been broken once by the British. Although I made clear that we had no personal interest in [] as an individual, we had had very good working relationships with him. I particularly emphasized the necessity of the British and Americans maintaining a common front vis-a-vis the Albanians and that breaking of continuity in our representation was damaging to that effort. I pointed out (with a completely straight face) that the Albanians, being a chronically suspicious and politically sensitive lot, might leap to the erroneous conclusion that [] departure had been brought about because of American pressure. Such a suspicion, I noted, would be most unfortunate in terms of the difficulties it would cause our future relations with the Albanians.
3. [] expressed complete understanding of and sympathy with my view and said he personally would consider it most unwise to remove [] at this point. He said he would relay the gist of our conversation, together with his own view, to his headquarters.
4. I also informed [] of the most recent postponement of the forthcoming BOFIEND/VALUABLE meeting and told him it resulted from a current reconsideration of policy matters with respect to Albania. I also filled him in, in the most general terms, on the recent Hil Shllaku affair and noted that this episode made a

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discussion of Yugoslavia's role in matters Albanian even more pertinent than it had been in the past. I told him we continue to desire that the matter of Yugoslavia be placed upon the agenda of the forthcoming meeting. [] said he thought that made sense and would so advise his headquarters.

5. During the course of this conversation [] re-marked voluntarily that his agency had had no dealings with the Yugoslavs "concerning Albania" up to the time of his departure from London. He slightly emphasized the words "concerning Albania." He did not qualify the statement by any such phrase as "to my knowledge."

SIGNED

[]
Deputy Chief

Political and Psychological Warfare

PP [] bcd
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