

Wash

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. SGAA-6128
~~KAPOK~~ # 1990

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SECURITY INFORMATION
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SEP 22 1953

TO : Chief, SE
Attn: []

DATE: _____

FROM : []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— BGFIEND/PARAM
SPECIFIC— AIBASH

REF: SATHE-4510, 19 August 1953; SATHE-4527, 21 August 1953

1. During Fig's first infiltration attempt AIBASH was assigned to the team as a guide. Though Fig had been successful in 1952 without the services of a guide, the team leader felt that a new route was desirable and therefore it would be necessary to use a guide. AIBASH was assigned to Fig upon request from AIRWISE. AIRWISE was confident that AIBASH was familiar enough with the border area so that a change of route could be effected with little or no difficulty in the event of trouble during infiltration.

2. As reported in first reference, Fig was ambushed on 16 August and forced to return to Greece. It was not known until Fig's return to Athens that AIBASH did not accompany the team on the infiltration attempt. During Fig's debriefing it was learned that:

a. Upon reaching the border AIBASH pretended not to know the proposed infiltration area.

b. AIBASH told Fig Team that he had been promised 40 gold pounds to take the team across and because he had not yet received it he would not guide the team. (In the LOFLUTTER all Fig Team members showed no reaction when asked if AIBASH made the above statement. AIBASH on the other hand denied making such a statement but reacted when questioned about the 40 pounds. AIBASH was not promised anything by BGFIEND operations staff other than his keep when not on operations and \$50. a month while actually inside the country).

c. AIBASH told Fig that if captured on his exfiltration he would "take them upon his neck." (The above statement is a colloquial expression that is very difficult to translate properly but in essence it means that if AIBASH were captured, he would tell all he knew concerning the team). When asked why he would allow himself to fall into enemy hands alive, AIBASH was unable to answer. AIBASH, as all BGFIEND agents, was supplied with an "L" capsule.

d. On the night of 14 August, AIRWISE found 7 or 8 live rifle shells stuck in the ground. AIRWISE questioned all the team members including AIBASH as to who had placed the rounds in the ground. Because no one admitted guilt, AIRWISE asked to examine everyone's ammunition. It was then evident that AIBASH

was the responsible

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was the responsible one, whereupon AIRWISE decided to leave the border area and move back to Pilcatit and place AIBASH in Greek hands. (It is a common belief among many Albanians that when a man places live ammunition in the ground he is so afraid that he would not even defend himself with a weapon). At Pilcatit AIRWISE handed AIBASH over to the Greek border unit commander with a note to this writer explaining the reasons for his action.

3. AIBASH was returned to Athens with Fig Team, but was separated from them upon arrival at the airfield. AIBASH was conducted to a detention area where he was debriefed and given an LCFLUTTER. Because Fig was to attempt its infiltration again at a later date, it was decided to keep AIBASH under constant guard until he could be disposed of. Arrangements have been made with Galatea to place AIBASH on one of the small islands where he will be controlled by Greek police authorities. During his period of confinement BGFIEND will undertake to pay roughly \$20. per month for AIBASH's food and lodging.

4. AIRWISE was very upset at AIBASH's showing on this operation. He explained to this writer that in all the years he has known AIBASH he has had the highest regard for him as a person and for his abilities. (AIBASH was recruited by BGFIEND on AIRWISE's recommendation). This writer believes that because AIBASH turned out to be a "sour apple", AIRWISE will feel more indebted to BGFIEND. On the other hand, if AIRWISE feels that he has lost face with the Fig Team members due to his recommendation, it will be necessary to reassure him in the presence of Fig Team members that he is still held in high esteem by this office.

5. AIBASH was turned over to Galatea's office on 18 September for shipment to one of the islands. AIBASH was removed from the BGFIEND payroll as of 15 August.

21 September 1953

LBR ~~JA~~
LBR/WFH/lgk

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