

PROJECT STATUS REPORT				REPORTING PERIOD October 1953	
1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY	
a. Program	b. Project OBOPUS	SS-1		Target Albania	Base
5. NAME OF CASE OFFICER		ROOM NO. 1311 J	EXTENSION 8366	4. DATE ORIGINALLY APPROVED a. Program b. Project 22 June 1949	
6. TYPE OF PROJECT		SIGNATURE OF CASE OFFICER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PP		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM	
7. STATUS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL		<input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING			
8. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED		9. FY ALLOTMENT TO DATE		10. FY OBLIGATIONS TO DATE	
U.S.	O/S	U.S.			
-----	<u>19</u>	-----			
FOREIGN NAT'L	<u>63</u>	<u>2</u>			
TOTAL	<u>82</u>	<u>2</u>			

11. Summary

Mission and Plan

Utilization of all available covert assets to exploit the resistance potential in Albania, undermines the Soviet power complex, develop a covert offensive in support of U.S. policy aims in the Balkans, and when feasible, to support a coup d'etat to replace the Communist regime with one acceptable to the West.

Summary

Paramilitary

1. The five-man Fig Team, which was infiltrated into Albania on the night of 7/8 September, exfiltrated after two skirmishes with security forces. The team was ambushed on 15 October and again on 20 October. During the fighting, one man was wounded and two became separated from the rest of the team. However, by 21 October, all team members had exfiltrated successfully to Greece. The team reported that a friend who was trusted on previous missions had betrayed it to the authorities. A great number of persons, including police, security forces and a few civilians, were reported involved in the ambushes.

2. The covert aircraft used in the resupply mission to the Apple/2 base team on the night of 23/24 October was forced to make an emergency landing in Brindisi, Italy. The Italian Service reported that the right engine appeared to have been damaged by 20 mm fire. A member of the Athens air staff went to Italy to arrange for repairs to the plane and the security of the crew. The plane's mission included a token supply drop to an alleged resistance leader. On 28 October, the covert air crew returned to Athens and reported encountering intense flak over the D.Z. (presumably that of the alleged resistance leader). Full details of their debriefing are being forwarded to headquarters. The damaged aircraft is being serviced by the Italian Air Force.

Political-Psychological

1. During the successful leaflet raid carried out by the British on the night of 3/4 October 450,000 leaflets were dropped along the Nicaj-kukes-Puke-Tirana route.

2. A regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio transmitter.

3. The NCFA fortnightly newspaper, Shqipëria, was printed in Rome on schedule. The digest version for use in air drops over Albania was printed in Germany.

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