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AIR

OIRA-2775
SGEYELASH

Chief, SE

17 February 1954

INFO: []

SHAM/OBOPUS

Braham Comments on the Mrs. Herbert Anglo-Albanian
Society Activity

1. [] believes headquarters, [], and [] may be interested in his views on the Mrs. Herbert Anglo-Albanian Society activity, which has been reported upon at various times in the past month or so.

2. Here is the way [] sees it:

a. For several years [] had been running the VALUABLE activity as he saw fit. This resulted in a two-faced program under which [], and his subordinates, sought to use KUBARK friendship and financial assistance to gain control over the Albanian exiles and run the VALUABLE/OBOPUS activity for JAVELIN'S rather than for JAVELIN-KUBARK'S Combined interests.

b. When the VALUABLE/OBOPUS meeting was held in London in October, 1953, [] being new on the job, was not fully aware of the situation, particularly the almost fanatical view re the Albanian emigration shared by the subordinates he inherited from []. Thus he agreed with KUBARK proposals, on the basis of good judgment and an examination of the facts at hand.

c. Following the London meeting, AIRCERT, [], Jessica Aldis, etc. were obviously upset by the turn of events and decided to take the Albanian situation into their own hands without regard to [] agreements with KUBARK.

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d. This "scheme" (and [] definitely views it as a "scheme") was put into effect almost immediately following the London conference, and [] would interpret LUMPIT'S behavior and Mrs. Herbert's activity as conclusive proof that such a plot has been undertaken.

e. It is now known, for example, that on 28 November, 1953, JAVELIN held a National Flag Day celebration for the Albanian refugees in London. In addition to other notables, Mrs. Herbert was in attendance, and after the Albanian spokesman for the party expressed the Albanians' concern over the reorganization of an HTNEIGH composed of elements who brought about the Fascist occupation of their homeland--even expressing doubt as to the aims of HTNEIGH'S Free West supporters--Mrs. Herbert took the floor and stated that she wished for the re-birth of an Anglo-Albanian Society to accomplish the true aims of the Albanians as regards the liberation of their country, or words to that effect.

f. [] believes that RNLUMPIT was drawn into this plot more out of ignorance than anything else. After planning to spend his Christmas holiday in Anzio, LUMPIT suddenly announced that he intended to spend the holiday in Portofino so that he might renew the Carnet on his automobile, which was expiring in January. Upon his return to Rome, he let slip to [] the fact that he had spent the holiday with Mrs. Herbert and that Mrs. Herbert was planning to create an Anglo-Albanian welfare society with a reading room in London. (RNLUMPIT now claims that Mrs. Herbert did not mention to him the fact that she attended the 28 November affair in London.)

g. When [] and [] expressed concern over the formation of this committee and advised LUMPIT that Washington would take a dim view of the activity, LUMPIT became quite confused. He "did not think it was anything more than a welfare organization; he hesitated to tell London what to do and what not to do; did we really think Washington would take a serious view; perhaps it would be a good idea for him to bring it to London's attention after all." One week later LUMPIT was still in a confused state and had not advised London but decided, after some more prodding by [] and [], that he "would send off a pouch immediately."

h. There is also evidence that, in spite of the solid

front presented in Rome by LUMPIT and [] in their dealings with HTNEIGH, behind []'s back LUMPIT is encouraging the dissident elements in the reorganized committee to spread their adverse criticism of KUBARK among the Albanian emigration. For example, HTNEIGH was told (when P.E.P. lists were being compiled) that KUBARK hoped to work out some plan whereby maintenance would be given to needy Albanians of present or future value to HTNEIGH but that, under no circumstances, would any money be given to anyone, since KUBARK had found in the past that funds given to the Albanian politicians were not used for the welfare of their unfortunate countrymen. Certain elements in the Committee who are known to JAVELIN have ^{favor} spread the rumor throughout the emigration that very shortly KUBARK funds will be given to the refugees so that they may once again "live like gentlemen." These informers have then claimed in private sessions that, since KUBARK will not disburse any funds, this will make enemies among the emigres, who can be told, "KUBARK never keeps its promises and you should know this--JAVELIN at least never promises anything, but they never misuse or mislead you with false promises."

3. [] believes the plan advanced by field personnel for a curtailment of OBOPUS/Rome activities may throw a big monkey wrench in the plans of the JAVELIN, [] followers. If Preston S. HAPPOLD and Clarence C. KELVIN, and the other intransigents outside the committee, and the dissident elements within the committee (pro-JAVELIN elements who feel that they are in the minority) are depending upon the [] followers, they may find themselves in an awkward position if [] and higher JAVELIN authority interpret KUBARK'S action as a result of KUBARK'S being fed-up with a relationship in which KUBARK has paid out all the money while JAVELIN associates have attempted to sabotage activities aimed toward the liberation of Albania in favor of creating a more favorable atmosphere for Javelin future operations.

4. These are just some thoughts [] has put down on paper on a rainy afternoon, but he believes the thesis advanced might well be worth some investigation on the part of KUBARK personnel maintaining liaison with JAVELIN officials.

Distribution:

3 - Headquarters

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