

SECRET

MAR 5 1954

ACTION-SELL

Chief, SE

Attn: []

INFO: Chief, KUGOWN, []

Attn: []

OBOPUS/PSYCH

Termination of HTGRUBBY Employees

REF: SQAA-8334, 11 February 1954

1. Para 2. of reference dispatch which was not sent to [] premises a summary of our relationship with the employees involved from the time when HTNEIGH reorganization proceedings got underway until their termination. Though a great deal of correspondence has already been generated which in retrospect appears to have magnified the matter considerably beyond its importance, the following is submitted to fill [] and [] in on details and to advise Headquarters on the course of events. No summary dispatch of this type can be all inclusive, nonetheless, we believe all important aspects are considered.

2. Although we are positively certain these XMALEDICTS knew what was in the wind in November and had their instructions well in advance of the event, OBOPUS was at a disadvantage at the outset in obtaining the support of this trio for Henry R. Malament and the reorganized committee. This arose because the cable [] advising OBOPUS here of the offer to Woodrow B. Guattlebaum was delayed in distribution and by the time Guattlebaum was reached and urged by [] to accept his invitation to the General Committee he and his henchmen had already cabled their refusal and protest and had added that a letter of protest to follow up this cable from all XMALEDICTS in Greece was being forwarded forthwith. That Guattlebaum and his associates did not turn to [] for guidance or even to inform him of their actions is not only discouraging, indicative of their lack of faith in [] opinion, that of his superiors and the backers of HTNEIGH, but characteristic of their attitude throughout the affair. Upon learning of the adamant attitude of Guattlebaum and the other XMALEDICTS, OBOPUS personnel took it upon themselves to sit down with the trio and explain at length what transpired in Rome and why this course of action was being followed. Our obvious objective was to sway their opinion so that Malament could be strengthened and their services retained. Two meetings were held at the very end of November. [] accompanied [] on one occasion and [] on another. The XMALEDICTS in Greece were asked to cable Attachment A. Attachment B. was as far as this group would go and it was airmailed. Of possible interest is the fact that throughout these and subsequent discussions the Athens XMALEDICTS never made an important move without prior instructions from Rome.

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3. In all our

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3. In all our dealings with these individuals the writer and all others concerned attempted to be as fair as possible so no charge could ever be laid against us that we had driven this group out of HTNEIGH. Therefore, instead of requesting resignations when it was apparent this group would not go beyond the statement found in Attachment B., [] with the concurrence of others concerned decided to keep the staff intact until Malament's visit and word from the XNMALED Central Committee which had promised to state their position to their Athens supporters. Retention on the staff, of course, was dependent on loyal support and work during the interim period. Considering Peter H. Wadberg's program of December 19th drawing an all too obvious comparison between Fascist and Communist handling of youth movements, the fact that Guattlebann never volunteered any information on the existence of the letter of protest until we queried him on it when we first learned of it in late December, the attitude the group took in regard to HERRANDY's detention (implying our motives were solely political), their reluctance to publicize the reorganization on HTGRUBBY, we are stretching the point a great deal if we state they lived up to their word. On the other hand, they did keep up on their work and their attitude was about as expected considering their resolute position.

4. The next development of consequence came at the end of December when Attachment C. was presented to [] This was written after the XNMALEDICTS on HTGRUBBY had received word from their Central Committee and the party line was set. [] was advised of their position before it reached us and voiced the opinion that he felt their personal attitude toward HTNEIGH would not necessarily mean they could not work for HTGRUBBY, though he made it clear he was not throwing himself into a concern of ours. The line referred to above was roughly as follows: The XNMALEDICTS were pleased to learn that the backers by showing patience and a willingness to compromise had not let the Albanian emigration and people down in Rome and the XNMALEDICTS regretted their former leader, Henry R. Malament, had run out on his party and the Albanian nation by committing himself and his party without waiting for a democratic decision from the rank and file. The Central Committee on the other hand had no alternative except to bow to the wishes of the party which as a matter of principle could not join with traitors. On this basis the XNMALEDICTS could not go along with broadening though this, of course, did not mean their friendship with the backers suffered. In conclusion sympathy was expressed for poor misguided Malament and derision cast upon those worthless XNMALEDICTS who followed him. Attachment D. which was presented to OBOPUS and VALVABLE after final discharge is in the same vein.

5. Though the die was clearly cast by this expression of their feelings, action was not taken as we had committed ourselves to an on the spot explanation by Malament who was scheduled to visit Athens in January in the company of [] and []. No indication was given to this group that this statement was acceptable or made the situation any better. Not knowing the status of this visit and being very keen for it for this matter and to publicize broadening here, OBOPUS commenced pressuring [] for Malament's grand entrance. When [] arrived on January 25th we learned the reasons why a visit was out of the question and immediately proceeded to effect termination. [] and [].

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[] had the unpleasant job of giving the staff the word on 1 February and were followed on the 2nd of the month by [] who carefully reviewed the basis for action and covered once more the issues involved. Because of the period of time that elapsed between broadening and 1 February or because they felt we would never follow through the staff members dismissed felt more secure in their jobs than circumstances warranted. Therefore their initial reaction on February 1st and 2nd was very strong, marked by disappointment, bitterness and disbelief that the backers would ever take such a step. Great concern was expressed about their fate and the group expected by virtue of past association that we would continue to protect them from Greek authorities [] in particular) who have long charged these XMALEDICTS have gotten away with a great deal of unauthorized political activity thanks to their connection with us. Our position was that we would attest to their character and would give each employee a letter of recommendation (copy of Quattlebaum's is Attachment E), but pointed out they would now find themselves in the role of political refugees and would be treated as such by the Greeks.

6. Previous to dismissal [] had alerted [] to the possibility. Confirmation was passed by [] and [] immediately after termination. At this time [] stated he would authorize exit visas immediately but as the group undoubtedly wanted to stay here he recommended that we subsidize Zeff and Quattlebaum in the Peloponnese. (It was assumed from the start Wadberg would go back to VALUABLE which has been the case). We advised [] we did not desire to make any such expenditure. On learning this [] stated they would have to be removed from Athens and sent to an island. [] stated he had no alternative but would give the matter careful thought before making a final decision when we pointed out an immediate move would be interpreted as persecution which we would like to avoid. The following day he reported the group had been to see him with Quattlebaum acting as spokesman. The former HTGRUBBY employees told [] they all expected to find employment in Athens and requested permission to remain in the city. [] agreed but advised us he maintained reservations and added the group must find work within a thirty day period. At the same time he stated he believed the group would continue their political activity and if that was the case he would have no alternative except removing Zeff and Quattlebaum from circulation. Headquarters and [] will be kept advised of any significant developments.

7. Although this group comprises local XMALEDICT leadership, it is apparent to us now their influence is not as great as we once believed. Their contact with the rank and file in Lavrion depended to a large extent on RNERANDY and their influence in large part stemmed from their association with us. This was particularly noticeable when various team members were asked why they signed the letter of protest. The answer was that the men who worked with you and are still in your employ asked for our signatures. How can we be expected to know this is wrong or go against them as long as they continue to work with you? Another point to be included is to report these men know a considerable amount

about our past operations

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about our past operations including personnel used, areas, and approximate dates of operations. This information has become over a period of time coffee house talk thanks to Albanian insecurity. Nonetheless, it should be reported here as the agent termination sheet did not specifically mention this matter.

Attachments Herewith

A, B, C, D, and E as listed

27 February 1954

WPH/lgk

Distribution: ✓

- 3 - Washington, w/1 cy of each attachment
- 2 - C → w/1 cy of each attachment
- 1 - Chrono, w/1 cy of each attachment
- 1 - Subject, w/o attachments
- 1 - XO, w/o attachments
- 2 - OBOPUS, w/1 cy of each attachment

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Attachment A to SGAA-8754

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We, the undersigned, after careful reconsideration of the whole matter believe it would be to the best interests of Albania and consequently the XNMALEDICTS to remain in the reconstituted committee in spite of our well known strong objections to it. We have full faith in the intentions of our backers in the welfare and liberation of our country. We also have full faith in our party leadership and therefore believe that they will choose the right path and notify us concerning their decision as soon as possible.

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Attachment B. to SGAA-8754

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We, the undersigned, have faith in the intentions of our backers concerning the good and liberation of our country and the future of HTNEIGH. We have full faith that the leaders of our party will select the right road for the good of our country and we will respect their decision. We wish that our leaders and backers reach a satisfactory solution to our mutual problem.

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Attachment C. to SGAA 8754

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"We have decided to stay and go on with our work, as your employees, if you are, of course, satisfied with our work up to now. This is in accordance with our conscience: As free men, we express and keep our opinion that the Committee, such as it is now, is not the right one; but Committees come and go, while the collaboration with our Allies and the fight against the communism is permanent".

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Attachment D. to SGAA-8754

"We the undersigned, wish to express our deep satisfaction for the spirit of mutual understanding and harmony characterizing the period of our cooperation.

We wish to point out that in spite of the actual differences of view, we do consider our mutual goals and aims as unchanged.

We deeply regret the fact of having been forced to discontinue this cooperation. We wish, therefore, to emphasize that we could not have adopted a different attitude without sacrificing our principles.

We are fully convinced of the rightness of the Albanian cause which has met the backing of our Allies, the Great Western Democracies. Based on the principles of freedom and democracy, we want to be considered always ready to join efforts for the promotion of our common ideals."

Sincerely,

(Signed Guattlebaum, Zeff and Wadborg)

Athens, 4 February 1954

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Attachment E. to SGAA-8754

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that _____ served this organization from March 1952 to 31 January 1954. Termination of employment resulted from the fact that his services are no longer required by this office. During his period of service all his superiors and co-workers found him to be a trustworthy, capable, cooperative employee of fine character. _____ knowledge of French and Greek is brought to your attention.

This office does not hesitate to recommend _____ for employment in any position for which he qualifies, and we are confident that he would carry new duties and responsibilities as competently as he has in the past.

Administrative Officer

33.6-1-2472