

111.53

PROJECT STATUS REPORT				REPORTING PERIOD June 1954	
1. CRYPTONYM		2. DIVISION OR BRANCH		3. COUNTRY	
a. Program	b. Project OBOPUS	SE-1		Target Albania	Base Greece
5. NAME OF CASE OFFICER		ROOM NO. 1313 J	EXTENSION 672	4. DATE ORIGINALLY APPROVED a. Program b. Project 22 June 1954	
6. TYPE OF PROJECT		SIGNATURE OF CASE OFFICER			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPORT		DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY			
7. STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPERATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> LIQUIDATING		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY			
8. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED		SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828			
U.S. -----	O/S	U.S.	NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT		
FOREIGN NAT'L -----	17	-----	DATE 2007		
TOTAL	65	-----			
	82	-----			

11. Summary

Mission and Plan

Utilization of all available covert assets to exploit the resistance potential in Albania, undermine 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

1. **Paramilitary**

The 1954 operational season began with the infiltration of the Friday Team on 29 May. The team leader made two attempts to approach the house of the team contact, the first on 30 May and the second on 31 May. During the latter attempt he was challenged by two civilians. The team thereupon retreated to Greece, where they arrived on 1 June. They were not pursued. The field believes that it is improbable that the team's mission was blown or the team members recognized. A full report of the team's debriefing has not yet been received.

2. **Political-Psychological**

a. The members of the General Committee of the National Committee for Free Albania (NCPA), in the elections held from 15 May to 5/6 June, voted to retain as members of the Executive Committee the same persons as made up the Provisional Executive Committee, which was appointed when the NCPA was reorganized in December 1953.

b. Due to the decision that no member of CIA should have direct contact with Mr. George Weller to discuss the article he was reported to be writing on Albania, only members of the Free Europe Committee (FEC) discussed the matter with Mr. Weller. Unfortunately, the members of FEC had not been briefed on CIA's position and were unable to give Mr. Weller facts which would counteract the impression he had received from his conversations with the "Professor Group".

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of the Balli Kombetar Party (BK) in Rome. In addition, it was learned that Mr. Weller had filed a news story on the NCFA prior to his arrival in the United States. The story, as it appeared in the Akron, Ohio, Beacon Journal, follows closely the "Professor's" line on recent developments in the NCFA but it does not contain any sensitive operational material, as was feared it might.

c. Mr. Hasan Dosti, President of the NCFA, returned to New York from Rome on 22 June.

d. [] assigned to the NCFA [] departed for the U.S. on 24 June. In the future all CIA direct contact with members of the NCFA will be in New York and Athens.

e. A successful leaflet mission was flown over Albania on the night of 16 June.

f. The NCFA newspaper Shqipëria was published in Rome on schedule. Due to objections from members of the NCFA to the proposal that one member of the Committee should edit and publish the paper in New York, this matter is still under consideration.

g. A regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the clandestine radio.