

AIR POUCH

GIRA- 6423
DGFINTSEC

SECRET

Chief, ME

27 Jan. 1955

Info: []

SHAM/OBLONG

Correspondence from Anton SYRU

1. On 28 December 1954 AICOMB received a letter dated 6 December 1954 from Anton SYRU in Melbourne, Australia. A summary of SYRU's letter was provided by AICOMB on 12 January 1955 and is given below.
2. SYRU states that the 28th of November, Albanian Independence Day, was celebrated by the members and followers of the Balli Kombetar Organization, the Eliza Kombetar Independent and the Legalitet, while those of Balli Kombetar Agrar, in compliance with instructions received, did not participate.
3. SYRU reveals that his cousin Nikoll BIGI, currently at Ulcinj, Montenegro, Yugoslavia, went on a UDB mission into Albania in September-October 1954. BIGI informed SYRU that the latter's mother and cousin Zef had been freed from a concentration camp in Albania, that his brother, Mark SYRU, had married and that all his friends and relatives are well. According to BIGI the economic situation in Albania is still very bad.
4. SYRU reports that his cousin, Dad Zef PUELA, in a letter from Athens, Greece, requested SYRU's aid in emigrating to Australia.
5. SYRU also forwarded to AICOMB a letter received by Isuf DIKOLLI in Australia from his friend Resedan ADEMI, an Albanian refugee in Bitolj, Yugoslavia. ADEMI's letter stated that he took part in a UDB operation into Albania in July 1954 which failed due to discovery by the Sigurimit. In a skirmish with the Sigurimit in the Kuci mountain area in southeast Albania, the UDB mission left two dead, Reshat MULLA and Samin MEXI, while five Sigurimit agents were killed, among whom was Sahidin CHERMERCANI who was well known to DIKOLLI. The writer, ADEMI, and Dervish RILLA, who was wounded, succeeded in escaping to Yugoslav territory. ADEMI requested DIKOLLI to write to his (ADEMI's) home in Albania and to include the sentence "I am well and earned much money this year". ADEMI's family will understand from this that he is

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2F
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET
COPY

-593

safe. ADAMI, lastly, requests BIKELLI to write to him at Titovalec, Macedonia, Yugoslavia.

6. Source Comment.

The envelope of ADAMI's letter was not forwarded by SYRU, but it would appear that it was not censored by Yugoslav authorities. SYRU has requested that BIKELLI's letter be returned to him. The leaf BIKELLI mentioned above, while he was a refugee in Trieste, collaborated with AIGOSB, providing the latter with information on both Yugoslav and Greek-mounted operations into Albania.

7. In a second letter received by AIGOSB on 16 January 1955, Anton SYRU reports having received further news from his cousin Nikoll BICI. According to BICI, Gjon Lok PIRGJLI was hanged at Milot, Albania, and Nikoll Gjak DEDA died; Pasiko Zef HOTI was killed during a UDB mission into Albania; Nikoll Marka DILA, who was also sent on a mission into Albania, is free and is living at home in Albania; Frol SYRU (no close relative to Anton SYRU) was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment. Sali YATA succeeded in escaping to Yugoslavia.
8. BICI requested SYRU to pass the above information on to Abas KUPI, but SYRU has no intention of doing so because of an incident which marred their relations. (Source comment: apparently SYRU's father played host to Abas KUPI and his forces in 1944 in Albania at a time when it was dangerous to do so. When SYRU arrived in Trieste as a refugee, he received no assistance from KUPI and his arrival in Trieste was scarcely acknowledged by KUPI.)

Prepared by:

24 Jan 1955

Distribution:

4 - Wash

2 - . Attn.